Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, No. 14

Thursday, August 10, 2000
Sravana 19, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. A.K. Pandey
Additional Secretary

Harnam Singh
Joint Secretary

P.C. Bhatt
Principal Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

Sanjay Srivastava
Assistant Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, Fourth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 14, Thursday, August 10, 2000/Sravana 19, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 261-265	2—39
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 266-280	39—69
Unstarred Question Nos. 2862-3091	69—324
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	324
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	
AND	
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID	325
MOTION RE: TWELFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	327—328
RE: EARLY PASSING OF THE BILL PROVIDING RESERVATION OF 33 PERCENT SEATS FOR WOMEN IN LOK SABHA AND STATE ASSEMBLIES	329—342
PUNJAB MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAW (EXTENSION TO CHANDIGARH) AMENDMENT BILL	350—355
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need for construction of over-bridges on railway crossing in Jodhpur Parliamentary constituency, Rajasthan	
Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi	351
(ii) Need to take concrete steps to make the Ganga river pollution free under Ganga Action Plan	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	351
(iii) Need for all round development of North Bengal	
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	352
(iv) Need to declare central road between Trivandrum and Angamaly in Kerala as National Highway	
Shri George Eden	352

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(v) Need to take necessary steps for revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Durgapur Unit, West Bengal	
Shri Sunil Khan	353
(vi) Need for early completion of survey work for laying of new broad gauge railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur in Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
Shri V. Vetriselvan	354
(vii) Need for early modernisation of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Calcutta	
Shrimati Krishna Bose	354
(viii) Need to release adequate funds to Government of U.P. for early completion of construction work of bridge on river Chambal at Sahaso in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.	
Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya	355
REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL	
Motion to Consider	355
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	355
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	356
Dr. Sanjay Paswan	359
Dr. Ram Chandra Dome	360
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	364
Shri K.P. Singh Deo	367
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	368
Shrimati Margaret Alva	369
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	373
Clauses 2 to 7 & 1	378
Motion to Pass	379
MADHYA PRADESH REORGANISATION BIL	
Amendment made by Rajya Sabha—Agreed to	379—383
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL	
Motion to Consider	383
Shrimati Vasundhara Raje	383
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	385
RE: ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS TO DIFFERENT MINISTRIES	389
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings	394

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	394
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	404
Shri Arun Jaitley	417
Shri Tarit Baran Topdar	433
Shri Kirit Somaiya	438
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	451
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah	454
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	456
Shri Prakash Paranjpe	459
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	465
Shri V.P. Singh Badnore	472
Shri T.M. Selvaganapathi	475
Dr. Nitish Sengupta	483
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	490
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	494
Shri Rupchand Pal	495
Shri Arun Shourie	498, 502—503
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	502
Shri Mohan Rawale	519
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Bomb blasts in Jammu and Kashmir	525—528
Shri I.D. Swami	525

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 10, 2000/Sravana 19, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri J.B. Muthyal Rao.

Shri J.B. Muthyal Rao was a Member of the Third and the Fourth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1970 representing Mahbubnagar and Nagarkurnool Parliamentary Constituencies of Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Rao was a Member of the Hyderabad State Legislature from 1952 to 1957 and also a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962.

An able administrator, Shri Rao served as a Deputy Minister in the Union Council of Ministers from 1967 to 1969 and held various important portfolios.

A businessman and agriculturist by profession, Shri Rao was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked relentlessly for the uplift of the backward classes.

A widely travelled person, Shri Rao was a Member of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations in 1962 and was also the Ambassador to Somalia.

Shri J.B. Muthyal Rao passed away on the 26th July, 2000 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 79.

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

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Development of Handicrafts

*261. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Handicrafts Development Corporation of various States have sought assistance for implementation of various schemes relating to promotion of handicrafts, copper articles, glasswares, hand-dyed carpets, saree weaving and earthen wares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received from the State Governments/State Corporations/Apex Societies and voluntary organisations etc. for the above purpose and amount allocated during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(d) the amount utilised by each State Government on such schemes during the above period?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Handicrafts Development Corporations of various States have been submitting proposals seeking assistance under various schemes of the Government relating to promotion of handicrafts, including those of copper, glass, terra cotta, hand dyed carpets, sari weaving and earthen wares. Such proposals are processed for sanction of assistance by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under schemes such as 'Publicity', 'Exhibition', 'Market Development', 'Renovation of Emporia' etc.

The details of the assistance (during the year 1999-2000 and in the current year) under different schemes for the proposals received from Handicrafts Development Corporations of various States and found eligible for sanction is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(c) There is no State wise allocation on schemes for the development of handicrafts. The schemes of the Government for promoting handicrafts also do not envisage any direct assistance to the State Governments. Assistance under the various schemes is sanctioned to the State Corporations/Apex Societies/Voluntary Organisations etc. The details of the assistance for proposals, as received from various State Corporations/ Apex Societies and Voluntary Organisations etc., for the last 3 years and for the current year, and found eligible for sanction is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(d) As no direct assistance is provided to the State Governments, the question of its utilisation by the State Governments does not arise.

Annexure-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State handicrafts Corporation	Schemes-under which assistance sought	Amount Released during 1999-2000	Amount Sanctioned during 2000-2001 up to 31st July, 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	**Andhra Pradesh**			
	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Hyderabad	Publicity	—	6.23
	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Hyderabad	Exhibition	8.40	9.60
	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Hyderabad	Welfare	—	15.66
	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Hyderabad	Training	—	0.57
	Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Hyderabad	Marketing	29.00	—
2.	**Assam**			
	Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation, Ltd. Guwahati	Emporia	—	6.25
	Assam Govt. Marketing Corpon. Ltd. Guwahati	Exhibition	6.40	12.80
	Assam Govt. Marketing Corpon. Ltd. Guwahati	Publicity	2.12	—
	Assam Govt. Marketing Corpon. Ltd. Guwahati	Share Capital Assistance	11.00	—
3.	**Delhi**			
	Delhi Small Industrial Development Corpn. Ltd New Delhi	Exhibition	4.60	7.20
4.	**Goa**			
	Goa Handicrafts Rural and Small Scale Industries Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Panaji	Exhibition	—	2.40
	Goa Handicrafts Rural and Small Scale Industries Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Panaji	Emporia	2.50	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Goa Handicrafts Rural and Small Scale Industries Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Panaji	Share Capital Assistance	5.00	—
5.	**Gujarat**			
	Gujarat Women Economic Dev. Corpon. Ltd., Gandhinagar	Marketing	—	1.12
	Gujarat State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Gandhinagar	Emporia	—	2.50
	Gujarat State Handicrafts Dev. Corpons. Ltd. Gandhinagar	Exhibition	4.10	9.60
	Gujarat State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Gandhinagar	Share Capital Assistance	10.00	—
6.	**Haryana**			
	Haryana State Handlooms & Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Chandigarh	Exhibition	2.69	4.80
	Haryana Tourism Corporation Chandigarh	Marketing	23.00	—
	Haryana State Handlooms & Handicrafts Corpn. Ltd. Chandigarh	Emporia	2.50	—
7.	**Himachal Pradesh**			
	H.P. State Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd., Shimla	Exhibition	5.73	7.20
8.	**Jammu & Kashmir**			
	J&K Handicrafts (Sales and Exports) Corpon. Ltd. Srinagar	Emporia	7.50	—
	J&K Handicrafts (Sales and Exports) Corpon. Ltd. Srinagar	Exhibition	—	2.40
	J&K Handicrafts (Sales and Exports) Corpon. Ltd. Srinagar	Design	0.40	—
	J&K Handicrafts (Sales and Exports) Corpon. Ltd. Srinagar	Share Capital Assistance	12.00	—
9.	**Karnataka**			
	Karnataka State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Bangalore	Emporia	4.22	2.50
	Karnataka State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Bangalore	Exhibition	1.09	4.80
	Karnataka State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Bangalore	Welfare	24.28	18.00
	Karnataka State Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Bangalore	Share Capital Assistance	5.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
10.	**Kerala**			
	Handicrafts Development Corpn. of Kerala Ltd. Trivendrum	Exhibition	3.13	4.80
11.	**Madhya Pradesh**			
	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Emporia	—	17.50
	M.P. Laghu Udyog Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Emporia	2.50	5.00
	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Exhibition	8.40	9.60
	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Publicity	—	0.56
	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Design	7.58	—
	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam Ltd. Bhopal	Share Capital Assistance	12.00	—
12.	**Maharashtra**			
	Maharashtra Small Scale Ind. Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Mumbai	Exhibition	2.81	4.80
13	**Manipur**			
	Manipur Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd., Imphal	Exhibition	1.60	6.40
	Manipur Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd., Imphal	Share Capital Assistance	7.00	—
14.	**Meghalaya**			
	Meghalaya Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Shillong	Exhibition	—	6.40
	Meghalaya Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Shillong	Publicity	—	1.02
15.	**Mizoram**			
	Mizoram Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Aizwal	Emporia	—	2.94
	Mizoram Handlooms and Handicrafts Corpn. Ltd. Aizwal	Exhibition	1.80	6.40
	Mizoram Handlooms and Handicrafts Corpn. Ltd. Aizwal	Share Capital Assistance	5.00	—
16.	**Nagaland**			
	Nagaland Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Dimapur	Emporia	—	7.50
	Nagaland Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Dimapur	Exhibition	8.40	12.80

1	2	3	4	5
	Nagaland Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Dimapur	Publicity	0.93	—
	Nagaland Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Dimapur	Share Capital Assistance	10.00	—
17.	**Orissa**			
	Orissa State Coop. Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Bhubaneshwar	Exhibition	5.29	9.60
	Orissa State Coop. Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Bhubaneshwar	Welfare	—	35.00
	Orissa State Coop. Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Bhubaneshwar	Training	—	3.30
	Orissa State Coop. Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Bhubaneshwar	Marketing	2.25	—
	Orissa State Coop. Handicrafts Corpon. Ltd. Bhubaneshwar	Share Capital Assistance	40.00	—
18.	**Punjab**			
	Punjab Small Industries and Export Corpon. Ltd. Chandigarh	Exhibition	—	2.40
	Punjab Small Industries and Export Corpon. Ltd. Chandigarh	Training	—	0.34
19.	**Rajasthan**			
	Rajasthan Small Industries Corpn. Ltd. Jaipur	UNDP-Wood Project	10.75	16.38
	Rajasthan Small Industries Corpn. Ltd. Jaipur	Emporia	1.94	7.50
	Rajasthan Small Industries Corpn. Ltd. Jaipur	Exhibition	5.79	7.20
	Rajasthan Small Industries Corpn. Ltd. Jaipur	Publicity	7.02	—
20.	**Tamil Nadu**			
	Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Chennai	Publicity	—	1.54
	Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Chennai	Exhibition	7.50	7.20
	Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Chennai	Emporia	23.87	—
	Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Dev. Corpon. Ltd. Chennai	Share Capital Assistance	5.00	—
21.	**Tripura**			
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Exhibition	6.42	9.60
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Design	0.37	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Training	—	0.66
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Emporia	5.00	—
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Publicity	1.74	—
	Tripura Handlooms and Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Agartala	Share Capital Assistance	7.00	—
22.	**Uttar Pradesh**			
	U.P. Export Corpn. Ltd., Kanpur	Design	0.60	—
	U.P. Export Corpn. Ltd., Kanpur	Exhibition	2.61	7.20
23.	**West Bengal**			
	West Bengal Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta	Exhibition	—	4.80
	West Bengal Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta	Publicity	—	2.59
	West Bengal Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta	Share Capital Assistance	10.00	—

Annexure-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		Total No. of proposals Sanctioned
		No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount Released	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20	49.97	23	82.69	19	89.25	22	26.55	84
2.	A&N Islands	3	2.26	—	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	3.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	6.18	2	0.00	3	6.70	3	0.00	16
4.	Assam	74	148.14	40	94.03	23	116.70	65	29.26	202
5.	Bihar	58	19.33	21	12.87	16	66.55	17	0.33	112
6.	Delhi	84	117.75	66	246.19	73	353.18	42	90.47	265
7.	Goa	7	47.65	7	8.22	5	14.80	3	9.28	22
8.	Gujarat	69	94.65	41	78.75	35	76.03	20	27.63	165
9.	Haryana	30	59.52	17	46.18	21	84.09	10	11.05	78
10.	Himachal Pradesh	36	66.93	36	49.89	20	32.08	11	23.78	103

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	55	53.92	36	65.89	31	126.47	21	8.93	143
12.	Karnataka	27	51.29	17	23.07	21	108.41	9	26.01	74
13.	Kerala	20	33.57	12	15.54	15	51.78	7	22.39	54
14.	Madhya Pradesh	45	71.86	20	146.13	31	101.00	17	58.12	113
15.	Maharashtra	46	61.04	19	46.23	25	95.16	8	16.50	98
16.	Manipur	46	42.76	15	59.37	15	58.35	28	21.14	104
17.	Meghalaya	10	1.02	8	95.92	3	9.58	17	7.42	38
18.	Mizoram	4	12.05	8	29.93	5	11.31	12	9.35	29
19.	Nagaland	19	37.27	13	296.22	15	40.68	22	24.56	69
20.	Orissa	133	137.06	79	140.92	81	151.84	90	37.75	383
21.	Punjab	22	20.77	22	79.19	7	25.21	7	5.92	58
22.	Pondicherry	12	2.80	4	49.52	4	17.33	5	17.32	25
23.	Rajasthan	29	31.31	11	79.71	28	53.36	26	25.60	94
24.	Sikkim	6	2.01	—	—	4	24.16	3	4.65	13
25.	Tamil Nadu	41	38.45	30	80.76	31	86.39	19	14.17	121
26.	Tripura	26	65.07	18	31.78	15	29.72	15	14.06	74
27.	Uttar Pradesh	182	224.28	112	309.77	110	332.88	30	35.87	434
28.	West bengal	103	106.44	70	92.71	32	100.60	50	17.66	255
	Total:	1215	1605.35	747	1495.72	688	1529.66	579	585.77	3229

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of 1993 census more than 50 lakh artisan are working in handicraft sector at the village level from which the Government had earned foreign exchange more than Rs. 6 thousand crores during 1999-2000. The artisan working in the rural areas do not get proper financial assistance. Whatever assistance is provided that reaches in the hand of middlemen. It seems after going through the annexure that has been enclosed in the answer given by the Minister that the number of proposals that has been recommended in Gujarat have decreased during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in comparison to 1997-98. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that what are the reasons therefore? The action likely to be taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to promote handicraft in Gujarat?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister that the action being taken to provide the remunerative prices to artisan and to make proper system for sale of handicraft products and the position of export of handicraft products in the last three years?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member wants to know that how we are going to provide employment to the rural artisans and to ensure remunerative prices of their products. We have evolved a scheme called 'urban Haat' to increase the number of our artisans in the handicraft sector and to provide remunerative prices to them and to abolish the middlemen so that if our artisan sell their products direct in urban hatt, they would get remunerative prices. As he has said, that the number of proposals recommended in Gujarat, have declined, he is right. The reason behind it is that we have to see the quality of products. What is financial capacity of the institution which has forwarded the proposals. What is the image of that institution among

the people and after going through this we recommend their proposals.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member have maintained so many things wherein he said that what has been done to promote the handicrafts in Gujarat. We would like to appeal to the Gujarat State Handicraft Board and all other handicraft Boards of the country and the State Governments also that they should send more number of proposals after scrutiny because such proposals are received in lesser number and the State Governments also takes less interest. Bhoomi Poojan has already being done in Gandhinagar for 'Urban Haat' to promote handicrafts. We have set up a marketing centre in Surat and a cluster approach has also been adopted by the Government for Bhuj and we are going to implement the cluster scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one more supplementary from the hon'ble Member was that what is the position of export. I would like to say on this point that the export of handicrafts is increasing day by day and this has been an increased of 12-13 percent. There has been export worth Rs. 3797 crore during 1993-94. There has been an export worth Rs. 8059.63 crore during 1999-2000.

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency in South Gujarat, the carpet industry is going on more than 12 thousand rural artisans are working in it. Some arrangements be made to export the products from Vyara. I demand that a centres be set up in Vyara for the purpose. Whether the hon'ble Minister is considering something about it?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a wide scope in the entire country for the carpet and the serious efforts are being made by the handicrafts centre. As the hon'ble Member has said, his views are right that the traders are exploiting the artisans of the forest areas, remote areas by making them less payment and exporting the carpets on high rates. We will take his suggestions into consideration and if we get good proposals then we will also approve certainly.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present, traders posing as craftsmen, in a possible nexus with officials, predominate at *Dilli Hatt*. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what mechanism the Government are putting in place to protect the genuine crafts people.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, there is a complaint that some artisans are not able to get stalls at *Dilli Hatt*. I will look into this complaint and I would definitely take whatever action is required.

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many proposals sent by the Andhra Pradesh Government for sari weaving community are pending for implementation for the year 2000-2001 and the amount that is likely to be allocated thereof.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I have already mentioned in my reply that so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, in 1997-98, we had sanctioned 20 proposals and the amount released was Rs. 49.97 lakh. In 1998-99, we received 23 proposals from Andhra Pradesh and the amount released was Rs. 82.69 lakh. In 1999-2000, we sanctioned 19 proposals and the amount released was Rs. 89.25 lakh. So far as 2000-2001 is concerned, we have already sanctioned 22 proposals and the amount disbursed is Rs. 26.55 lakh.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister consider reservation as a matter of policy in order to protect the handicrafts sector? I would like to know this from him because the Minister of Textiles is also the Minister of handlooms and handicrafts. Abid Hussain Committee elaborately specified reservation for this sector but it was not adhered to by all the Governments in the past. The Minister may kindly respond to this also.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, though handloom is not related to this question but I will definitely give the answer. So far as the Handlooms Reservation Act is concerned, Satyam Committee appointed by the Ministry of Textiles recommended for the abolition of this Act. We are not going to accept this proposal. Many times I have declared that the Government is committed to protect the interest of the weavers. So, we are not going to accept this proposal and the Handlooms Reservation Act will remain intact.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Are you going to have the reservation policy for handicrafts?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: There is no such recommendation.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that 12 to 13 percent increase in the export of handicraft goods have been recorded and foreign money have been earned from it. I would like to draw his attention through you that the handicraft artisans of Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh

have performed extremely well. The handicraft goods produced in Bastar district have made its mark not only in the country but in the world as well. We are exporting these goods made by them in large quantity.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that his Ministry has not allocated a single penny to Madhya Pradesh Hastashilp Vikas Nigam for designing during the year 2000-2001.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether he would allocate money to Madhya Pradesh Hastashilp Vikas Nigam in the current year for designing so that they could make new designs and increase the export of handicraft goods which would earn more foreign money for the country.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Government is doing its best to keep in vogue the famous crafts of not only the Baster district of Madhya Pradesh but in any such places of all the other States of the country and which are facing the threat of extinction but unfortunately those people do not want that someone else should learn their art or craft.

As the hon. Member has said, if any proposal from the state is received for the craft we would consider it sympathetically.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the State Government have sent a proposal of Madhya Pradesh Hastashilp Vikas Nigam. Whether the hon. Minister would allocate money for the development of designing during the current year?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we would certainly consider it.

Implementation of Acts

*262. + SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether a number of legislations passed by the Parliament and assented to by the President have not yet been notified/implemented;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to notify/ implement these acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Earlier also similar question was asked by a Member of Lok Sabha on 13.12.1999. The question was treated as an Assurance and was replied by the then Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs as follows:

> "Up-to-date information is not readily available, the same is being collected from various Ministries/ Departments and shall be laid on the Table of the House."

The requisite information is still not available and is being collected from the various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the table of the House. However, to the extent the information is available a statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Some of the Acts which have not been brought into force about which information is available are as under:

(1) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 (32 of 1966) and the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) (Amendment) Act, 1993 (41 of 1993)

As per the information given by the Ministry of Labour, these Acts are in the process of being implemented by the concerned State Governments (*i.e.* the beedi producing States, total 14 in number). The date and number of the Notifications enforcement the said Acts are being ascertained from the State Governments.

(2) The Delhi Rent Act, 1995 (33 of 1995)

This Act has not been enforced so far. The Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997 had been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28-07-1997. Parliament had referred the Bill to the then Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development to examine and report. After dissolution of Eleventh Lok Sabha, the Committee stood dissolved and the Bill came back to Rajya Sabha. The Cabinet decided to endorse the decision of the previous Government to process the amendment Bill in its existing form. In the mean time, Twelfth Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill could not be taken up for consideration of Parliament. Again, the present Cabinet has approved the decision of the previous Government to pursue the amendment Bill in its existing form.

(3) The Hire Purchase Act, 1972 (26 of 1972)

A notification was issued on 30-04-1973 to bring the Hire Purchase Act, 1972 into force on 01-06-1973. Later, another notification was issued on 31-05-1973 superseding the notification of 30-04-1973 and proposing to bring the Act into force on 01-09-1973. Since several representations were received from the public against the bringing of the Act into force, it was decided not to enforce the Act and accordingly a notification rescinding the notification dated 31-05-1973 was issued on 23-08-1973. The Banking Law Committee in its report on Personal Property Security Law (1977) has proposed certain far reaching amendments to the Act.

Accordingly, a Bill to amend the said Act was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha in turn referred the 1989 amendment Bill to the Rajya Sabha Committee on Home Affairs. This Committee examined the entire gamut of the 1972 Act and 1989 Amendment Bill and came to the conclusion that the Act even after the Amendment of 1989 would not be sufficient to achieve the desired objectives. The Committee recommended that the Government may consider referring the whole issue of the hire purchase to the Law Commission for an in-depth examination. Accordingly, the matter was referred to the Law Commission of India. The Law Commission has now given its 168th report on the said subject last year and the same is under examination of the Government.

(4) Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 (46 of 1999)

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997. The provisions of the said Bill are based on the recommendations made by Justice Malimath Committee, 129th Report of the Law Commission, Committee on Subordinate Legislation (11th Lok Sabha) in its first Report and the Resolution adopted in the Law Minister's Conference held on 30th June, 1997 and 1st July, 1997 at New Delhi. The said Bill was referred for examination and report to the Department Related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The Committee invited objections and suggestions from various forums including Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils and District Bar Associations etc. The objections and suggestions received from various quarters were considered by the said Committee. The Committee presented its Report to the Parliament on 17.12.1998 which was considered and accepted by the Government. The said Bill as recommended by the said Committee has been passed by both the Houses and become the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999.

This Department has received a number of representations opposing the implementation of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999. In this connection, the then Honourable Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs invited representatives of the Bar Council of India for a discussion on this subject. The Representatives of the Bar Council of India have met the present Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and modalities of ascertainment of views will be finalised soon. The representations received from various Bar Associations and also from the individuals have been categorised are being examined from the angle of the provisions of the Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999.

(5) The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978

The Government has considered the issue of bringing section 3 of the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978 into force from time to time but did not consider it opportune to bring this into force.

(6) The Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961)

Section 30 of the Advocates Act, 1961 could not be brought into force as the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), the Family Courts Act, 1984 (66 of 1984) and certain State laws specifically prohibit appearance of Advocates in the Courts/tribunals.

(7) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 (46 of 1982)

All the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, *i.e.* clauses (a), (b) and (d) to (k) of section 2 and sections 3 to 6, 8 to 12, 14 to 21 and 23 have been brought into force *w.e.f.* 21.08.1984. Provisions contained in clause (c) of section 2, sections 7 and 22 are yet to be brought into force. Section 13 of the said Act was omitted by Act No. 49 of 1984.

Vide section 2(c) of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, the definition of the term 'industry' in section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 was amended to exclude certain activities/establishments from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act. The amendment was to come into force from the date of the issue of the notification to this effect. However, the amended definition of 'industry' has not been brought into force so far in the absence of the alternate grievances redressal machinery for the institutions sought to be excluded from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act. Proposals for amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 including further amendment of section 2(j) are under consideration of the Government.

Section 7 of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 inserts a new Chapter II-B and section 22 inserts clause (ab) in section 38(2) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. These Amendments relate to setting up of Grievance Settlement Authority and references of certain individual disputes to such authority and to make rules for the purpose of giving effect to these provisions. It is proposed to further amend these sections for setting up of Grievances Settlement Authority.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Hon. Speaker Sir I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs who has tried to give correct answer to the question asked, though it was a serious one. I want to say that the hon. Minister should inform as to how many acts are there apart from the seven acts mentioned in the reply, which have not been enforced. Apart from it if the government feels that even after the enactment of the act it would not be sufficient to get the desired results, from it and therefore the government sends the act to the Law Commission or any such agency to make amendments and additions in it. Should we think that those aspects which are noticed afterwards are not take into consideration before the enactment of the act?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I have given a list of the Acts regarding first part of the question which have been provided by different departments. Seven acts have been passed by the Parliament but there are certain acts which have either not been implemented fully or not enforced at all. In addition to it we have written to the departments repeatedly. In addition to different departments, these acts were to be enforced by the State Governments too, they too have been written but full facts in this regard have not been received. Once the act is passed the role of the legislative department ends and it is for the administrative department which have to enforce it. Nevertheless we have tried to prepare such a list. That list contains around 35 acts out of which 11 were passed during the last few months. Therefore, action is being taken to enforce them but there are 24 such acts which have been already passed but not enforced fully.

Secondly, it is not that its related factors are not taken into consideration but certain peculiar circumstances arises in respect of every act, therefore, that particular provision has to be reviewed as per the views put forth by the department or Centre or the State Government which have to enforce the act.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the Government has been considering the question of enforcing section 3 of an important amendment *i.e.* The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978 from time to time but what are the hurdles, constraints that the Government is considering. Please give a detailed answer.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978 was passed in 1978. Many provisions of it have been implemented. Only Section 3 of the Act have not been implemented. Various Governments have come into power since 1978 but they did not find it fit to implement these sections because a provision was made in it as to whether three months detention could be allowed as per Article 22 of the Constitution. The advisory board constituted for this purpose is required to submit its report within three months. One can be detained for three months without the recommendation of the advisory board. It has been proposed that this three months period should be reduced to two months, but many Governments thought that perhaps it would not be proper for the time being therefore it could not be implemented even after considering it time and again.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, democracy has been defined as the rule of law. The Government is doing its business in a hazard manner. ...*(Interruptions)* You please refer to the reply.

[English]

"Up-to-date information in not readily available, the same is being collected from various Ministries".

[Translation]

This reply has been given nine months back. Now the reply has been given as under.

[English]

The requisite information is still not available and the same is being collected from various Ministries."

[Translation]

It means that even though such acts that have been passed by the Parliament and the hon'ble President has assented to them have not been enforced. I want to know the factors responsible for restricting the implementation of those acts. Today the facts have come into light that 24 acts have not been implemented so far.

The written answer regarding such acts have not been provided. We accuse the Government for not being serious. It is not even serious to enforce such acts that have been passed by the Parliament and even the hon'ble President has assented to them. This question was asked 8 or 9 months ago also but the reply did not come. Even today he is saying that the information is being collected.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: His supplementary is that the Government is not serious about it. You have to give a serious reply to that.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker Sir, many of the acts that I was mentioning have been passed during the last few months and action is being taken to implement them. In addition to it, there are many acts that have been passed during the last 20 or 25 years and not in two or two and a half year. Many political parties were in power in Centre during this period and there are certain parts of such acts that have been found not suitable to be enforced by the Government of that time for many reasons. Many provisions of such acts were to be enforced by the State Governments, and they have not enforced them. Therefore the Law Ministry has to Collect information time and again as to which acts have not been enforced and we have received information about seven of them officially, some information has still not been received, even though we have placed the information gathered by us before the House. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, let me ask the second supplementary.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can get the chance in the Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Law Minister is answering as to why the acts that have been passed by the Parliament have not been enforced. Shri Raghuvansh ji has accused the Government for actually not being serious about it. An act such as the Delhi Rend Control Act is being neglected even though you all are aware of the problems of Housing since it is a growing city. Whether the hon. Minister would explain, as he has said in his reply.

[English]

"The Cabinet has approved the decision of the previous Government to pursue the Amendment Bill in its existing form."

[Translation]

How is he going to act in this regard?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, so far as the question of the Delhi Rent Control Act is concerned, it could not be enforced as three Governments of different political parties have been in power since 1995. I have mentioned about the reasons for not enforcing the act because it was provided in the act that the date of its enforcement would be decided by the Central Government. In 1997 the Government felt that some of its provisions should included through amendments. These were placed before the Parliamentary Committee and many rounds of deliberation followed on the decision of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Urban Development is going to take a final decision to pursue the act approved by the Cabinet or the act brought in 1997.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the problem here is not the procedural delay the processes of verification when the resolution is passed and the President has given his assent and once the assent is given, the next process is notification. Between assent and notification, there cannot be any chance of delay at all. It is mostly a physical process and a clerical job. There is no question of big application of mind. What we do in the States is, a particular Bill is followed or tracked by somebody is notified without delay. I do not know whether there is any such system in the Government of India to track and see whether it is notified or not. I do not know whether any time frame has been fixed. Why not we think on such lines so that it can be monitored and notified in a particular time frame?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There is obviously a system in the Government which seriously considers the process of a notification of a law as soon as it is passed and the hon. President gives his assent to the law. I have got a list of various laws or at least sections of some laws which have not been notified and at a particular time, even the entire law is being notified and some parts of it, for some reasons, may not be notified. There are different reasons in relation to different laws.

For example, there were amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act in 1982. From 1982, one part of that amendment, till date, has not been notified because, by that 1982 amendment, certain sections of industries were intended to be excluded from the Industrial Disputes Act. Therefore, keeping the issues raised by the various trade unions in mind, since 1982, the Government has still not notified those amendments. Similarly, the Civil Procedure Code was passed by the Parliament and the hon. President gave assent to it. But subsequently, after an agitation of the Bar Association cutting across party lines, various Members of this hon. House and also of the

other House felt that there must be some discussion with the members of the Bar before the actual notification does take place. Therefore, as per the process of notification, most laws have been notified. It is in some cases that a provision or two has not been notified and for each case, there are specific reasons as to why that has not been done.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, Parliament is supreme and to whatever laws are made and Bills are passed here, the hon. President gives assent and it becomes a law. Have you got any monitoring agency by which you can see that the Bills are implemented? It is because a point has been raised by my hon. friend that between assent and implementation, it takes a long time. Is there any monitoring system?

Secondly, there are a lot of laws which have been passed in the country and they are part of the Statute Book. They were passed in those circumstances but in today's situation, they have no relevance. Have you applied your mind to it that all the previous laws which have become irrelevant would be removed from the Statute Book?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There are two limbs of the question. As far as the first question of Shri Bhatia is concerned, he has asked whether there is any system by which monitoring takes place to see that the laws are notified because the Parliament and its will is supreme. After a law is passed, it goes to the administrative Ministry which has the responsibility of notifying the law. In the law itself, the Parliament, whose will is supreme, gives delegated jurisdiction to the Government, or the State Government in certain laws, to notify it on a date that they consider it appropriate. Most laws have been notified except for the stray exceptions in relation to certain provisions and those Ministries always keep a record of what has not been notified and the reasons for the same. Even with regard to reasons, at times, if there are some agitations or some other viewpoints brought, they keep them in mind and the process is undertaken to notify them from time to time.

The second limb of the question is, how do we deal with obsolete laws which have now become redundant. The Government had constituted the P.C. Jain Committee which has already submitted its report. It has listed a large number of redundant and obsolete laws and, one by one, each one of them has been coming before the hon. House and a repeal of a large number of them has taken place. In fact, some repeals have taken place in this Session also. It is a continuing process by which this exercise goes on. The list of obsolete laws is also available with the Government on the basis of the Committee's Report.

[Translation]

Hike In Freight Rates

+

*263. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently hiked the railway freight rates and have also withdrawn subsidy on essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with its impact on freight movement;

(c) the estimated additional revenue likely to be earned therefrom;

(d) whether the Railways are still short of funds despite increase in the freight rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Railways have increased the freight rates as proposed in the Railway Budget 2000-2001. No increase was however, made in freight rates of Urea and certain essential commodities of mass consumption like Kerosene, Foodgrains, LPG, Sugar, Edible Salt, Edible Oils, Fruits & Vegetables.

(b) The freight rates of other commodities were increased to generate additional earnings to meet the increase in cost of inputs as well as to generate funds for developmental projects. Freight traffic has shown signs of improvement as would be evident from the fact that Railways have loaded about 116.57 million tonnes of revenue earning freight traffic during the period from April, 2000 to June, 2000 which is 8.61 million tonnes more than the loading achieved in the same period of last year. This loading is more by 2.12 million tonnes when compared to the proportionate target for the period from April, 2000 to June, 2000.

(c) The additional revenue was estimated at Rs. 600 cr. (approximately) in 2000-2001, through hike in freight rates, from Goods and Parcel services.

(d) and (e) The Railways expect to generate sufficient revenues to meet all their working expenses including pensionary liabilities arising out of the implementation of 5th Pay Commission recommendations. As has been done in earlier years, Ministry of Finance have agreed this year for deferral of the payment of dividend to the extent of Rs. 1500 cr. which will be paid in later years. They have also agreed to provide a loan of Rs. 249 cr. from the General Exchequer for the Railways' Capital Fund. The Railways propose to meet the emerging requirement of funds through more efficient operation, strict economy and austerity measures and also by making efforts to generate additional resources from non-traditional sources of revenue.

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Minister of Railways that the Department of Railway has set a target of transportation of 45 crores and sixty lakhs tonnes of freight during the year 1999-2000. This is 3 crore and five lakh tonnes more in comparison to the last year. This increase has been possible especially after taking over the charge of Ministry by Hon'ble Mamata Banerjee. But inspite of all, this there has been substantial decrease in the funds of Ministry of Railways. Especially, the economic conditions of the Railway stations of Madhya Pradesh have not improved. The share of the Railway has been consistently declining in the transportation of freight at the national level. The financial index being adversely affected together with construction and renovation activities in the railway. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any curative steps are being taken in this direction.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The hon'ble Member has himself mentioned that we have registered an increase in the transportation of freight last year. However, I could not understand as to where from this queer fact creeped into the second part of the question that it has gone down. In fact, last year we transported a gross of 456 million tonnes of freight and this year, this target has been fixed at 475 gross million tonnes. In all, this has been going up. This is a fact that there was a decrease in it in 1998-99. However, the reason was that there was recession in all over the country, therefore, it decreased, however, it has been ever since going up.

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Sir, my second supplementary relates to the revenue. My Parliamentary constituency is Gwalior. This historical and renowned tourist place has unfortunately been meted out stepmotherly and unjust treatment. A large number of tourists visit this city and there is also huge cantonment situated here. The reservation quota in the super fast trains continuing from past several years at the Gwalior station has been abolished. This quota has been merged with the reservation quota at other stations owing to computerisation. However, why has the reservation quota not been withdrawn from Agra and Jhansi railway stations, which are very near to Gwalior station and why this decision has been, implemented in case of the Gwalior railway station though the department has been receiving the adequate amount of revenue. I would also like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Ministry for restoration of the reservation quota at the Gwalior railway station.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: There was a period when it used to be said that all the facilities were being provided to Gwalior alone. The hon'ble Member stating that injustice has been done to Gwalior none is prepared to accept this proposition at least in this House. As far as your question relating to reservation quota is concerned then you can get reservation to any place from any place under the new reservation system. No injustice has been done to Gwalior. If the hon'ble Member has any specific information on the withdrawal of reservation quota then he should bring in to my notice.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the freight rate is one of the highest rates in our country. There is hardly any scope to increase the freight rate in our country. For the last two or three years, we have been listening to the reply that the Railways are trying to generate additional resources from non-traditional traffic. May I know from the hon. Minister that during the last three months, from April to June, to what extent have the Railways carried the non-traditional traffic so that the earning of the Railways is increased?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The hon. Member has stated about the Budget Estimate of 2000-2001. We have identified the expected realisation of resources from non-traditional areas. Leasting of right of way for optical fibre communication will be around Rs. 500 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am talking of non-traditional traffic. We have traditional traffic like coal, fertilizer, petroleum etc. But what about the non-traditional traffic?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, as far as the non-traditional areas are concerned we have introduced certain new routes. Konkan Railways are one of our experiments. The goods transported by trucks goes from one city to

another city. We are carrying the trucks, loaded with goods, straightaway on trains and the same is sent from one destination to another destination within 48 to 50 hours. We are carrying those goods loaded trucks by Railways. This is being done in Konkan Railways on experimental basis. If this experiment succeeds it would be introduced in other parts of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about other goods? In addition to the traditional goods. I want to know about the other non-traditional goods.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Another effort has been made about the parcels which come under other goods. Parcels have a definite period of delivery so it will have some extra charges...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Has a separate wagon been allotted for this purpose, and what else is being done? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Requirement for the Railways is not confined to your area alone. I shall speak on your issue also. We always talk of potatoes and onions. I am telling Shri Basu Deb Acharia, as he just asked as to what new things have been done by us. First is in the field of parcel traffic. We have made the Railways responsible for it. If the goods are not delivered within the specified period then we would pay compensation for that and would also increase its charges. It is a bit more than the normal parcel. The specified period of delivery is of 48-50-72 hours. And we are ready to accept suggestions from other Hon'ble Members as well...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Hon'ble Minister in his reply categorically stated that the rates for essential commodities have not been increased, and the Indian Railways are satisfied that the transportation this year has been 8.61 million tonnes in comparison to the last year. But I am sorry for this.

[English]

I am having sufficient proof also. This is not the ground reality.

[Translation]

This comparison has been done.

[English]

That is intra-comparison compared to last year only.

[Translation]

When we are talking about revenue generation, the comparison should be with the transport sector only.

[English]

I am having the figures of the last ten years. I am having the Report of the TERI, Tata Energy Research Institute. In this, one thing has been stated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, please put your supplementary. Please understand that there are other questions also.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am putting my supplementary.

[Translation]

During the last three years how much decline has been there in the road and railway traffic?

[English]

What is the percentage of decline in the rail transport? I have got the letter of the Chairman of the Railway Board with me. He has said that a number of steps have been initiated for arresting the declining rate of freight.

[Translation]

The Government had brought FOIS scheme in 1980.

[English]

There are no benefits of the FOIS Scheme. My question is this. What are the reasons for the failure of the FOIS Scheme? What expenditure has been incurred in respect of the FOIS Scheme since 1980? What is the benefit derived from this Scheme for the last twenty years? These are my two questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can answer only one question and not two. he is not entitled to put two questions.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is right that the traffic by road is more than that of the Railways.

In 1950 the transportation by the Railways was around 82 percent. Today it is 40 percent.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: What would be decline?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am coming to that. It has come down from 82 percent to 40 percent. 60 percent is by the road. The way of working has been told to this House and the country from time to time, there is nothing to hide. The reasons for decline include preference and official support to road traffic which was not available for Railways...*(Interruptions)* Rather Railways, have some other jobs as well. We have social obligations for which Rs. 3000 crores are spent. In case of drought, famine and cyclone in the country we provide relief free of cost. Therefore, the Hon'ble Member will have to keep these things in view. Keeping all this in mind, we have effected increase during each of the last two years and this time also the target has been increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: My question has not been answered...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several commercially important stations like Ahmednagar, Shrirampur, Koparagaon, Shahuri, Bhigonda are there on Daund-Manbhau single line of the Central Railway, but during the last 15 years instead of developing it commercially the number of trains has been reduced there. Even a passenger train of that area has been discontinued.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not about development.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: I am speaking from the commercial point of view. Parcel van is attached to that and if the number of trains has been reduced on that account then are the Govt. considering to start and attach it again or not?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railways is a commercial organisation on the one hand and on the other hand it has to shoulder some responsibility. And we do that also. if the Hon'ble Member feels that the Railways have made any particular mistake in respect of the Railway Station in his area and he brings it to our notice then whatever you have said about passenger amenities and parcels etc. will be taken care of...*(Interruptions)* Had there been a big business centre we would not have dropped it, we are always looking for business. So there would be no lacuna on our side. However, if they feel that there is something lacking in their area or station, we would certainly take note of that.

[English]

Status of M.B.T. 'Arjun'

*264. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Main Battle Tank 'ARJUN' has been in the pipeline for the last 15 years;

(b) whether the Army set up new parameters for the tank on joining of a new Army Chief each time resulting in delaying its final design; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to produce a cost-effective and efficient Main Battle Tank and the time by which it is likely to be developed?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The development of MBT Arjun has already been completed and the Army has placed an indent for manufacture of 124 Arjun tanks.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the Main Battle Tank warfare has been conceived in the 20th Century and is likely to be implemented in the 21st Century, after a big gap of more than 15 years. In the meanwhile, there were several apprehensions that the Tank warfare has become redundant in the present day context when there is so much of development in the weaponry, which has been used in strategic warfare. In the meantime, missiles and several other equipment have come up. There are also other apprehensions. For example, over these 15 years, almost the designs of these Main Battle Tanks have been changed from time to time and the cost also has got escalated. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government is still thinking that the Tank warfare is relevant to the present times when there is so much of development in the warfare systems since this particular Tank warfare was conceived some 15 years ago and is being completed now. Is Government still thinking that it is relevant in the present day?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, not just our Government, but, I think, Governments all over the world and the fighting forces all over the world believe that tank warfare has not become redundant. That is why,

there is constant development in tanks, particularly Main Battle Tanks and we are a part of that system.

In so far as the delay is concerned, the fact is that there has been a delay but this was not a delay which was one of those where there was any kind of laxity. It so happened that new ideas came up and various issues, like better fire power, better control and so on and so forth, cropped up and that is what kept on delaying the final acceptance of the tanks that has been suggested by our engineers and scientists.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted that with the change of every Engineer and every Chief of the Army the design is getting changed. So, the Government should come out, at least, now whether these constant changes in the design have been put an end to. Does the Government feel now that there would be no more development as far as the design is concerned?

Sir, if we can just examine the media apprehensions, there are several apprehensions raised as far as the competency of the Defence Research and Development Organisation is concerned in manufacturing these Main Battle Tanks. It has been apprehended that this is the particular reason as to why there is so much of delay in having the final design, which is in the pipeline for the past 15 years. We have to erase these apprehensions from the minds of the people of our country as far as our competency in manufacturing these Main Battle Tanks is concerned. Since the design was changed several times over the past 15 years, there is a huge escalation in the cost of the tank.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the cost effectiveness of the tank. I would also like to know whether the DRDO has competently finalised the design of this tank and as to when these 124 tanks, which have now been indented, are going to be delivered for warfare.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I did not say in the House or anywhere, for that matter and I have not said in reply to the hon. Member's question that every change of the Engineer and every new Chief coming has meant that new changes have been brought about. I do not know where he got it from.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, it has been mentioned by him while answering my first supplementary.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have never said that.

MR. SPEAKER: No; he never said that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: So far as the competency of the DRDO is concerned, I think, the hon. Member need have no apprehensions about that. The DRDO's competence has been proved in various areas of our defence requirements, including the missiles that we have produced and continue to produce. So, we need not question their competence.

So far as the cost of the tank is concerned, it is a little under Rs. 14 crore per tank and in so far as the time schedule within these 124 tanks will be delivered is concerned, the delivery will begin in the year 2002-2003. As of now, the time schedule takes us to the year 2007-08, but we are making efforts to see that this entire order that has been placed is completed by the year 2005-06.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Defence that since his visit to Russia, it has appeared in the newspapers that India is going to acquire T-92 tanks. Has the Ministry of Defence examined the worthiness of the Leopard tank of Germany and the Chieftain tank of Great Britain?

If we have achieved self-sufficiency, why are we importing more tanks?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, T-90 tank was first taken up for consideration in 1994. The process of examining it was initiated some time in 1996-97. The tanks has been not just looked at and examined but has been subjected to trials in the Rajasthan desert and wherever else its trials had to be made. The Army has found it not just satisfying its needs but as a tank that we need in the circumstances.

The House is aware that tanks will have to be used in the event of a conflict with our western neighbour. The terrain where these battles will have to be fought are known to everybody because we have fought a number of tank battles in those areas, in those territories and in those terrains.

The judgement of the Army, which is the ultimate user, would be the last word as far as the Government is concerned in this matter. The Army has not just suggested but has now evaluated and decided that this tank is what it needs.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 265, Dr. Sanjay Paswan. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, the hon. Minister has evaded the answer.

MR SPEAKER: This question relates to the 'MBT Arjun'.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: I had asked whether the 'Leopard' and the 'Chieftain' tanks have been examined.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, there is no 'T-92' tank. The hon. Member has talked about T-92. This is 'T-90'.

MR. SPEAKER: The question also does not relate to 'T-92'.

[Translation]

Security of Sleeper Class Passengers

*265. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no railway personnel are available in the sleeper bogies of the Express Trains at night for security of passengers except the thieves in the guise of vendors;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for protecting the passengers of sleeper class;

(c) whether the Railway Administration conducts surprise checks to watch the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the passengers of sleeper class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The number of checks conducted are as follows:

Year	No. of checks conducted Against ticketless travel	No. of Hawkers apprehended
1998-99	12.12 lakhs	44,106
1999-2000	12.52 lakhs	46,302
2000-2001 (upto May 2000)	2.16 lakhs	10,631

(e) "Policing" being a State subject, the safety and security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). In addition to various measures being taken by the GRP to improve the safety and security of the passengers, the Railway administration is taking the following steps to assist GRP:—

1. A meeting of Chief Secretaries and Director General of States was convened in January 2000 by Minister for Railways. A high level joint Committee of Railways and State Government Officials has been set up to suggest ways and means to improve effectiveness of GRP and RPF in preventing crimes in trains and Railway premises.

2. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.

3. Proper watch is being kept by Coach Attendants/TTEs on the passengers entering/ detraining from the coaches and the coaches are property locked during their run especially in night hours.

4. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Station Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.

5. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.

6. Announcements through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

7. RPF Assistance posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police etc.

8. Periodic high level co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyse the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.

9. Wherever the State Government wants to establish mobile post in the running trains, necessary facilities like accommodation etc. are being provided.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, incidents of theft, dacoity and murders have become a common phenomina in trains and it has become very easy to loot and kill the passengers. These incidents are on rise. There may be various reasons for it, but one particular reason which is apparent is that general ticket holders are allowed to sit in sleeper class after payment of fine. And this comes in conveniences to passengers of this class. It is difficult to judge that the passenger who are paying the fine are looters or killers? This raises two problems. Firstly, this do not get place to sit and if some how they get it the light and quarrel for it. There is possibility that they may come in the form of a thief or any other form to loot or kill. There is quite a possibility of it therefore want to know from the Ministers that what members are being taken for the safety of Railway passengers so that there life and belongings may be safe.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, As hon'ble Members has mentioned, we only get to know about such incidents from news papers and other mediums. There are two basic points to understand and they must be linked with this question. First thing is about the law and order situation in relation to railways it is responsibility of State Governments.

G.R.P. which is known as the State Govts. Police is responsible for the security of the railway.

The second thing is that railway is not an island that it can keep away from such problems. Wherever law and order situation is bad such problem exist but where law and order situation is good there railways is relatively free from such problem. The second thing is that the R.P.F. should be given more powers. There is general feeling that G.R.P. is a railway police. To remove these misunderstandings we had called a meeting of Chief Secretaries of States and D.G.P. In it a separate taskforce of eight chief secretaries and D.G.P. was formed and it had been said that you complete the work which has been assigned to you. We provide half of the amount for G.R.P. and half of the amount to State Governments. Therefore we say that though we pay the money still we get defamed. Therefore committee has been constituted. Report of the Committee has been submitted and that has been sent to the States again. A number of steps have been taken to remove the difficulties of passengers.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, the GRP belongs to the State Governments, but they are placed at the disposal of the Railways.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is not aware of the facts.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fortunate enough that the Minister belonging to Bihar are answering my questions. Many trains goes to Bihar in which labourers working in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab travels. They use to carry their hard earned money with them, which travelling in these trains, they got looted in midway...*(Interruptions)* Trains also got looted in Bihar. What arrangement has been made of security of such people who carry their hard earned money in these trains while on their way back to Bihar what can train administration do. Police security is a governmental issue but we demand from the government that what measures are being taken by the railway ministry for avoiding such incidents. What is the guarantee of security of a passenger travelling in train. What measures have been taken for his protection by the Ministry of Railways. I want to know about it through you from the Minister of Railway.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the question which has been asked through you by the hon. Member is not only for Bihar. As I have said earlier, wherever the law and order situation is bad, these incidents occur normally. It is not so that these incidents do not occer in other parts of the country. We do not want to go in that controversy...*(Interruptions)* Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious question. Therefore, I do not want to give the answer in a political way.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Do you want to say about Uttar Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER: You, please address the chair.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is fully aware about the situation of law and order. All member knows that where these incidents are happening. A committee was constituted keeping in mind all this the report of which has been submitted. ...*(Interruptions)* It was constituted while keeping these

things in mind. When R.P.F. will got some powers, it will certainly perform better. The second thing is about V.I.P. security wherever the security arrangement has been made for V.I.P.s from State Governments or from the Government of India, Railways always permits them to travel.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Replacement of Old Coaches

*266. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that old and outmoded rail coaches are being used in the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to change the design of all types of coaches to make them comfortable; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Coaches have a codal service life of about 25 years after which they are withdrawn from service on age-cum-condition basis. Coaches of different age groups run on trains but care is taken to maintain all coaches in good fettle to ensure safety and comfort of passengers. The coaches presently in service belong to a design adopted in early fifties by importing know-how from Switzerland. The design has been improved and adapted over the years through various indigenous modifications to provide better comfort and safety. Some of the recent design improvements under implementation are given below:

(i) Introduction of Bogies mounted Air Brakes.

(ii) Modern type UIC vestibule for safe and easy movement from coach to coach.

(iii) Polyvinyl flooring & Stainless steel toilet inlays.

(iv) Use of Non-wood materials for coach construction.

(v) Change over from 24 Volts to 110 Volts train lighting system.

(vi) Introduction of Roof mounted Air-conditioning system.

(vii) Introduction of Fire retardant curtains and furnishing, etc.

Railways have also inducted different types of coaches like AC 2-tier, AC 3-tier, Second class Day coach, double decker etc. from time to time to suit changing passenger needs. Realizing that despite these improvements, existing coach technology has reached its limits, Indian Railways have entered into a transfer of technology-cum-supply contract with M/s. ALSTOM LHB, Germany in October, 1995 in order to indigenously manufacture modern, high speed, light weight and longer coaches with state of the art features for improved safety and passenger comfort. This design will be adopted for different classes of coaches in a phased manner. The new technology will completely modernize Indian Railway Coaches. Some of the salient benefits of these coaches are:

- Better and noise free ride at higher speeds of up to 160 kmph with further potential to increase the speed to 200 kmph with suitable inputs.
- Improved passenger safety with introduction of new type of coupler with anti-climbing features. This minimizes the chances of one coach + climbing on another in event of accident resulting in reduction of casualties in serious accidents.
- These coaches have about 16% extra seating capacity which will help railways in clearing increasing passenger rush and also in earning more revenue. The coach is also lighter than existing coaches by about 7 tonnes which results in 27% reduction in energy costs per passenger.
- The coach has brought in new furnishing material like screw-less Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) paneling, Epoxy flooring, ergonomically designed chairs, fire retardant furnishing and upholstery to international standards. The coach also has environmentally friendly controlled discharge toilet system.
- The coach is corrosion resistant with trough floor and roof made up of Austenitic Stainless Steel and Side & end walls and the frame work for side walls and roofs made up of Ferratic Stainless Steel.

Generation of Power through NCES

*267. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the power generated through non-conventional energy sources during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the schemes by which power is generated through non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) the details of the Central assistance/contribution for generating power through non-conventional energy sources in urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various non-conventional energy schemes/programmes for generation of power through Wind Power, Biomass Power/Co-generation, Biomass Gasifiers, Small Hydro Power, Solar Photovoltaics and Urban and Industrial Wastes. The State-wise and year-wise power capacity added from various non-conventional energy sources during the last three years as on 31.3.2000 is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Ministry does not fix State-wise targets for power generation from non-conventional energy sources. The programme-wise physical targets fixed for the country as a whole during the current financial year 2000-01 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The details of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided under various programmes of non-conventional energy sources are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

State-wise and year-wise power capacity added under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Wind Power Programme			Solar Photovoltaic Power			Small Hydro Power		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
			(MW)			(KW)			(MW)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150	6.00	26.25	—	—	—	—	14.01	12.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.20	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04	0.01
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	20.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.13	2.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.00	—
10.	Karnataka	11.17	2.63	14.59	30.00	—	—	7.10	2.75	5.40
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	25.00	—	2.00	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.70	6.16	4.14	—	100.00	—	—	2.41	—
13.	Maharashtra	0.23	23.34	50.35	—	—	—	2.50	0.21	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	6.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.70
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.06	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	2.00	4.50
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	2.00	—	—	—	—	—	0.53
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.15	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	31.14	17.77	45.68	150.00	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	25.00	—	1.50	0.10	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total:	66.83	55.89	143.00	205.00	125.00	225.00	11.10	28.57	33.58

MW=Mega Watt; KW=Kilo Watt.

State-wise and year-wise power capacity added under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Biomass Power			Biomass Gasifier			Energy from Waste		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
			(MW)			(KW)			(MW)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	10.00	1.00	1000.00	2300.00	3630.00	0.25	—	4.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	0.50	—	—	5.00	—	—	2.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	10.00	26.00	860.00	500.00	10.00	—	—	1.00
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	5.00	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	2.70
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	100.00	200.00	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	10.00	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.75	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	33.50	10.00	—	130.00	70.00	120.00	—	—	0.06
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8.00	8.00	24.00	—	—	—	1.00	—	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	500.00	—	30.00	—	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total:	41.50	43.50	51.00	2490.00	3085.00	3990.00	2.00	2.00	8.46

MW=Mega Watt; KW=Kilo Watt;

Statement-II

Details of Programme-wise Physical Targets fixed for Current Financial Year 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Programme/Schemes	Physical Target for 2000-01
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	200 MW
2.	Biomass Power/Co-generation	60 MW
3.	Small Hydro Power	40 MW
4.	Solar Photovoltaic	300 KW
5.	Biomass Gasifier	7 MW
6.	Urban & Industrial Wastes to Energy	10 MW
	Total	317.3 MW

MW=Mega Watt.

Statement-III

The details of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided under various programmes of non-conventional energy sources

Sl.No.	Programmes/Sector	Subsidy
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	For Demonstration Projects upto 60% of the equipment cost subject to certain bench marks
2.	Biomass Gasifiers	30 to 60% on certain bench marks for projects owned by Cooperatives, Panchayats, NGOs, Central/State Agencies, individuals/entrepreneurs etc.
3.	Grid Interactive Solar PV Power	Rs. 2 crores/100 KW (Maximum)
4.	Biomass Power/Co-generation Capital Subsidy	
	(i) Minimum exportable power 45 MW (in Group of Mills through Joint Venture Mode)	Rs. 35 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 31.50 crores/project) for 60 bar and above and Rs. 45 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 40.50 crores/ project) for 80 bar and above project
	(ii) Minimum exportable power 9 MW (Single Mill through Independent Power Producer Mode (IPP).	Rs. 35 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 6.30 crores/project) for 60 bar and above and Rs. 45 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 8.10 crores/ project).
	Interest Subsidy	To reduce interest rate by 1% to 3% subject to minimum interest not less than 11%
5.	Urban Municipal & Industrial Waste	
	(a) Capital subsidy	Upto 50% max. 3.00 crores per MW for innovative demonstration projects.
	(b) Interest subsidy	To reduce interest rate upto 7.5% to be paid to Financial Institutions. Subject to certain limits based on type of projects.

1	2	3
6.	**Small Hydro Power**	
	(a) Capital Subsidy	
	(i) NE Region and Sikkim	Up to Rs. 6.00 crores per MW
	(ii) Middle Himalayas, Ladakh A&N	Up to Rs. 4.50 crores per MW
	(iii) Other Hilly areas	Up to Rs. 3.00 crores per MW
	(b) Interest Subsidy	
	(i) Hilly areas, NE Region and A&N	7.5% to 2%
	(ii) Other areas	5% to 1.5%

MW = Mega Watt.

Oil Exploration and Petroleum Refining

*268. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of various agencies working in the field of oil exploration and petroleum refining;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the emerging trends; and

(c) the policy decision taken to meet growing requirements?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) (i) The performance of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the oil sector is reviewed through the system of Quarterly Performance Reviews. In addition, every year, Government enters into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the PSUs of the oil sector for setting their Annual Performance targets and on completion of the year, targets are compared with the actual achievements and accordingly performance ratings are worked out.

(ii) The performance of Private/JV sector in exploration is reviewed in the management committee set up under various Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), where Government is represented by Director General of Hydrocarbons and other officials of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

(iii) There is no system of review of performance of the Private and Joint venture refineries.

(b) (1) As a result of exploration activities, the estimated reserves of oil and gas added by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and the private sector is given below:—

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Oil+Oil Equivalent of Gas (MMTOE)*	29.59	85.20	63.40

2. PSU Refineries

The actual crude throughput of PSU refineries as compared to their MOU targets for the last three years are given as under:—

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Crude Throughput (MMTPA)**	59.450	61.314	63.705	64.466	67.815	68.835

(c) (1) The following steps are being taken by Government to increase the indigenous production of oil:—

(i) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as: exploration at greater depths in existing fields, extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas, increased private participation in exploration activities through various rounds of bidding for exploration blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy under which 22 Production Sharing Contracts were signed on 12th April, 2000.

(ii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iii) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(2) Government has taken the following measures to increase the refining capacity in the country:—

(i) Permitting refining capacity additions by way of expansion of existing refineries and setting up of new refineries in public sector, joint sector and private sector.

(ii) Delicensing of refining sector in June, 1998.

(iii) Allowing 100% foreign direct investment in the refining sector from June, 2000.

Note:

* MMTOE: Million Tonnes of oil plus oil equivalent of gas
**MMTPA: Million Tonnes Per Annum

[Translation]

Use of Diesel for Power Generation

*269. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has been reached with regard to use diesel for power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this decision is likely to be made effective;

(c) the targeted quantum of power to be generated therefrom;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the cost of generation of power with the use of diesel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its comparison with the generation cost of thermal and hydro power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The liquid fuel policy announced by the Government of India (GOI), Ministry of Power in November, 1995 and as amended till date, while permitting the use of some liquid fuels for generation of electricity, does not allow the use of High Speed Diesel (HSD) for this purpose. However, the policy allows the use of HSD on a restricted basis for power generation only as a special case in inaccessible and isolated areas where small diesel based capacities are sought to be set up and where use of other fuels is not feasible. Government has recently taken a decision to permit the use of domestic HSD as a fuel in power generation. Import of HSD for this purpose would be considered on a case to case basis only if there is a shortfall in the availability of domestic HSD. The Resolution in this regard is likely to be issued shortly.

(c) HSD, like some of the other liquid fuels, would give more options of fuel to power projects as it has some advantages over other fuels and could also be used by the power plants as a bridge fuel on an interim basis, to be eventually replaced by gas, as and when available. So far, no target has been fixed for the quantum of power to be generated by using HSD as a fuel.

(d) and (e) The cost of generation by using any particular fuel depends on various factors such as transportation costs, calorific value, basic cost of the fuel and taxes/duties such as customs duty, Central and State Excise duty and risk element in supply of fuel etc. However, power generation based on HSD is likely to be a costlier option as compared to thermal generation based on coal and also hydro generation.

[English]

Encroachment on Defence Land

*270. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has reportedly sought explanation from the Government in regard to the encroachment on the Defence land by the 'mafia' as published in 'Jansatta' dated July 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated area of land encroached upon by various 'mafias' as on date; and

(d) the steps being taken to get the Defence land vacated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Dr. B.L. Wadehra filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Delhi praying for issue of directions to the Government to take effective steps to recover the encroached Defence lands all over the country. No directions have, however, been received from the Honourable Court in this regard.

An estimated area of 13786.86 acres of defence land is under encroachment/illegal occupation by various individuals/organisations/State Governments. Directions have been issued to Director General Defence Estates and Service Headquarters to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The process of detection and removal is a continuing exercise. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to court orders.

Swindling of Excess Subsidy by Fertilizer Companies

*271. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some fertilizer companies have swindled excess subsidy by showing exaggerated production capacity;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the amount of excess subsidy claimed by them, company-wise;

(c) the details of inquiry if any, ordered in this regard and the action taken against such companies, company-wise;

(d) whether the recommendations of the Committees, constituted earlier, are pending with the Government that relate to removal of anomaly in Retention-Price-Scheme for fixing prices of fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for the removal of such anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Government have taken two-pronged action to address the issue related to understatement of capacity and excess drawal of subsidy by some of the urea manufacturing units in the country : initiation of penal action and the recovery of the excess amount drawn as subsidy. As regards the excess drawal of subsidy by some of the fertilizer companies, the Exact amount of recovery from the concerned urea units will depend on the report of the Committee of Experts headed by Dr. Y.K. Alagh set up by the Government vide Resolution dated 19.5.2000 and the Government's decision thereon. In so far as penal action is concerned, the matter has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation of the available evidence with a view to determining whether a *prima facie* case is made out against the concerned units under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

(d) and (e) Government is formulating a new Fertilizer Pricing Policy for urea units keeping in mind the recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee (HPC) appointed by the Government in January 1997 had noted the aberrations in the existing Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme and had recommended, *inter-alia*, discontinuation of existing unit-wise retention price fixation for urea units.

Fertilizer Pricing Policy

*272. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently prepared a long term fertilizer pricing policy which seeks to phase out pricing and distribution control of urea;

(b) if so, salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) the extent to which the amount of subsidy would be saved in this way;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check impact of the new policy on farmers; and

(e) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) The Government is in the process of preparing a long term policy for the fertilizer sector and a new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee constituted in January 1997 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest an alternative broad based, scientific and transparent methodology. The Government intends to move towards a deregulatory regime in fertilizer sector in a phased manner after taking into account its fiscal capacity on the one hand and simultaneously making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price.

Main features of the 'Long Term Fertilizer Policy' are removal of aberrations in the existing system, feedstock policy, policy, on joint ventures, new pricing policy, policy for creation of new capacity, removal of distribution

controls on urea in a phased manner and long term demand-supply estimates and WTO related matters.

The long term fertilizer policy and the new pricing policy for urea units will be announced after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Reports of Law Commission

*273. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the number of reports submitted by the Law Commission so far;

(b) whether the Government have implemented all the recommendations contained in these reports;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the reports pending for implementation along with the names of the Ministries in which these are pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The number of reports submitted by the Law Commission is 174;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) On receipt of a report of the Law Commission, the same is examined by the Ministry/ Department concerned and only if the Government accepts recommendations of the Law Commission, they are taken up for implementation. Out of the total 174 reports so far submitted by the Law Commission, 170 reports have already been laid on the Tables of the Two Houses of Parliament. Number of reports implemented stands at 91 and number of reports not accepted/requiring no action is 33. Number of reports pending implementation/ consideration including the four reports yet to be laid in the Parliament, is 50.

A statement showing the details of the reports pending implementation/consideration along with the names of the Ministries/Departments in which the same are pending, is attached.

As recommended by the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs in its 56th Report on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) and 61st Report on the Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of this Ministry, that the concerned Ministries/Departments must be pursued and periodical meetings with them might be called once in a month to look into the progress in regard to the implementation of the pending reports, they were pursued through correspondence as well as various meetings were held on various dates in this Department and as a result, the process of consideration/ implementation of the pending reports has been accelerated.

Statement

Details of the Reports Pending Implementation/Consideration

Sl.No.	Report No.	Subject
1	2	3
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT		
1.	6th	Registration Act.
2.	13th	Contract Act.
3.	17th	Trusts Act, 1882
4.	34th	Indian Registration Act, 1908
5.	56th	Statutory provisions as to notice of suit other than Section 80 of Civil Procedure Code.
6.	60th	General Clause Act.

1	2	3
7.	65th	Recognition of Foreign Divorce
8.	69th	The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
9.	70th	The Transfer of Property Act, 1882
10.	83rd	Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and certain provisions of the Hindu Minority & Guardianship Act, 1956
11.	86th	The Partition Act, 1893.
12.	89th	The Limitation Act, 1963.
13.	90th	The Ground of divorce amongst Christians in India: Section 10 of the Indian Divorce, Act, 1869.
14.	94th	Evidence obtained illegally or improperly: Proposed Section 166-A, Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
15.	98th	Sections 24 and 26 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955: Orders for interim maintenance for children in matrimonial proceedings.
16.	108th	Promissory Estoppel.
17.	111th	The Fatal Accident Act, 1855.
18.	113th	Injuries in police custody—suggested Section 114-B, Evidence Act, 1872.
19.	133rd	Removal of discrimination against women in matters relating to Guardianship and Custody of minor children and elaboration of the welfare principle.
20.	136th	Conflicts in High Court Decisions on Central laws - How to foreclose and how to resolve.
21.	148th	Repeal of certain Pre-1947, Central Acts.
22.	150th	Suggesting some amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure (Act No. V of 1908).
23.	153rd	Inter-Country Adoption.
24.	159th	Repeal and Amendment of Laws : Part I.
25.	163rd	The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
26.	164th	The Indian Divorce Act (IV of 1869).
27.	168th	The Hire-Purchase Act, 1972.
28.	170th	The Reform of the Electoral Laws.
29.	174th	Property Rights of Women: Proposed Reforms under the Hindu Law
30.	38th	Indian Post Office Act, 1898.
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS		
31.	11th	Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.
32.	66th	Married Women's Property Act, 1874.
33.	82nd	Effect of nomination under Section 39 of Insurance Act, 1938.
34.	112th	Section 45 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

1	2	3
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE		
35.	67th	The Indian Stamp Act, 1899.
36.	155th	Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (Act No. 61 of 1985).
37.	162nd	Review of functioning of Central Administrative Tribunal; CEGAT and ITAT.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS		
38.	87th	Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.
39.	154th	Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974).
40.	156th	The Indian Penal Code.
41.	172nd	Review of Rape Laws.
42.	173rd	Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2000.
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION		
43.	158th	The Amendment of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951
DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION		
44.	123rd	Decentralization of Administration of Justice: Disputes involving Centres of Higher Education.
45.	160th	Amendment to the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (Act No. 52 of 1987).
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND LITERACY		
46.	165th	Free and Compulsory Education for Children.
DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING		
47.	151st	Admiralty Jurisdiction.
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING		
48.	166th	The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE		
49.	169th	Amendment of Army, Navy and Air Force Acts.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS		
50.	171st	Biodiversity Bill.

[Translation]

Set Back to Textile Industry

*274. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Textile Industry has suffered a set-back as a result of imported fabrics in the Indian market;

(b) if so, whether the imported fabrics pose a threat to the mills already on the verge of closure; and

(c) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Though the import of fabrics have shown an increase, the quantity of imports is not even one percent in comparison with the total quantity of fabrics produced in the country. Besides, a part of import of

fabrics is against advance licences for value added exports.

Government is keeping a watch on the imports and would strive to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. In case any unfair trade practices come to the notice, action, if necessary, under anti-dumping, countervailing measures etc. of WTO could be taken.

Government have been taking several steps from time to time to protect and strengthen the textile industry and to make it internationally competitive. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(2) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(3) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

(4) Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernising the existing ginning and pressing factories.

(5) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(6) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(7) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/ programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(8) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policies announced for the period 2000-2004 to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

Loss Suffered by Konkan Railway Corporation

*275. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on construction of Konkan Railway Project;

(b) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has been suffering a heavy loss at present;

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

(d) the efforts made by the Railways to make Konkan Railway Corporation profitable?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Approximately Rs. 3550 crores were spent on construction of Konkan Railway Project.

(b) and (c) The Konkan Railway is able to meet its working expenses. However, the Konkan Railway is in financial difficulty on account of the need to service debts incurred for carrying out construction. Railway projects, by their very nature, involve heavy capital investment and it takes several years to generate enough traffic to enable the project break even. Financial details of Konkan Railway project for the year 1999-2000 are given below:

(i) Earnings	= Rs. 130.21 crores		
(ii) Expenses	= Rs. 111.67 crores		
(iii) (a) Lease charges	= Rs. 19.96 crores	⎫	
(b) Financing cost	= Rs. 313.99 crores	⎬	Rs. 403.21 crore.
(c) Depreciation	= Rs. 69.26 crores	⎭	
Financial Deficit	= (ii) + (iii)—(i) = 111.67+403.21-130.21 = Rs. 384.67 crores		

(d) Railways are making intense efforts to improve the viability of Konkan Railway. Besides ensuring adequate financial assistance, introduction of a new service called Ro-Ro (Roll on-Roll off) for moving road traffic on rail and the offering of station to station rates, wherever possible, in order to attract traffic, are steps taken in this direction. Aggressive marketing has been launched to contact local industries on the Konkan Railway route, in order to attract more traffic to the System. In addition, the Konkan Railway has also been permitted to utilise their construction expertise for taking up infrastructure projects within the country to mop up further resources.

[English]

Revamping of State Electricity Boards

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 States including Himachal Pradesh have agreed to restructure their State Electricity Boards in collaborations with the Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it would help in improving the power situation in these States;

(d) the total number of States which have not so far given their consent for revamping their State Electricity Boards;

(e) whether the Union Government have been urging upon the State Governments to revamp the State Electricity Boards; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) The States who have agreed to undertake reforms and restructuring in their power sector with technical and financial assistance of Power Finance Corporation are Assam, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur. It is anticipated that reform and restructuring of State power sector would lead to greater accountability, improvement in performance of utilities, reduction in losses and financial viability. This would help in attracting the required investments and improving the power situation.

The Central Government has been playing a pro-active role in accelerating the reform process in the power sector in the country as a whole. Electricity being a concurrent subject, the Government of India has been making a conscious effort to evolve a consensus on the various issues involved in undertaking reforms. As part of this initiative, a series of meetings/conferences with Chief Ministers/Power Ministers have been organised. In the last Chief Ministers/Power Ministers conference held on 26.2.2000, it was resolved that reform must be undertaken with a determination, vigour and sense of urgency. The key elements of the reform strategy as evolved in the Power Ministers Conference are:

(i) Energy Audit at all levels.

(ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

(iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified period.

(iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on priority basis.

If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up, corporatisation/co-operatisation/privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

The response from most of the States has been very encouraging. Fourteen States have established State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). Six States, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have already unbundled their respective State Electricity Boards (SEBs) into separate companies for generation, transmission and distribution. Orissa has completely privatised its distribution network and partially privatised its thermal generation company. Further, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have signed Memorandum of Undertaking/Memorandum of Agreement with Government of India (GOI) wherein the State Governments have agreed to reform their power sector in a time bound manner, and GOI has committed to provide necessary support required to achieve this.

[Translation]

Achievements of Power Finance Corporation

*277. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has achieved any special success in minimising the power imbalances of various States;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the total amount of loan provided during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation was established as a pivotal development financial institution in the power sector. It gives due priority to different types of projects to create a balanced growth of power sector and to provide funds to utilities and power projects throughout the country. Emphasis has been laid on completion of on-going generation projects, missing transmission links to evacuate power, R&M and Life Extension and System Improvement to minimise power imbalances among various States. The Government has been supporting the development of PFC as a nodal agency for expediting reforms in the power sector. PFC will also increasingly cater to the requirements of funds of private power producers in the country.

(c) The State-wise details of loans provided in the last three years by the Power Finance Corporation are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

State-wise Loans Provided by PFC

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	During 1997-98	During 1998-99	During 1999-2000
	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	9023	15026	46497
Assam	—	—	4474
Goa	9	372	984
Gujarat	9500	21542	13620
Haryana	1670	8730	20249
Himachal Pradesh	1599	2922	9686
Karnataka	27198	31063	25439
Kerala	5129	2482	613
Madhya Pradesh	22901	22391	25816
Maharashtra	42347	43023	37453
Meghalaya	3	—	—
Mizoram	—	1171	32
Nagaland	2584	1266	1402
Orissa	10000	16970	11247
Punjab	34133	22060	28378
Rajasthan	27718	35583	29560
Tamil Nadu	10410	14496	17277
Uttar Pradesh	—	5155	4661

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	3403	5232	4563
Total:	207626	249483	281949
Term Loan to Central Power Utilities	—	—	28866
Term Loan to Private Power Utilities	—	15250	29605
Grand Total	207626	264733	340420

[English]

Voting Through Postal Ballot Papers by Armed Forces

*278. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed Forces and para-military personnel enjoy their right to vote through postal ballot papers;

(b) if so, whether these postal papers are issued to them in time;

(c) if so, the number out of them have availed of his facility during the year 1998 and 1999 elections, separately;

(d) whether the Government are thinking of Proxy Voting for Armed Forces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Armed Forces of the Union including paramilitary forces and members of a force to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 have been made applicable, are inter alia eligible to vote through postal ballot.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Election Commission of India has intimated that it is not possible to give the break-up of service voters category-wise and no separate statistics with regard to armed forces personnel, etc. is available with it.

(d) and (e) The Government has decided to provide an additional option to the members of the armed forces, etc., to vote through the proxy system at elections. Accordingly, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.12.1999 which is under examination by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Contract for Floating Storage etc.

*279. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation is back tracking over awarding a contract to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) for the complete floating storage and off loading of oils;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have decided to reconsider the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) To overcome the present lighterage operation *vis-a-vis* the quantity that has to be handled, IOC proposed to keep the Floating Storage and off loading of oils (FSO) of 3,00,000 MT capacity in and around Sandheads in the Bay of Bengal. Initially, the possibility of awarding a suitable FSO system to the SCI on nomination basis was explored. It is a bilateral commercial dealing between the IOC and the SCI in which decisions are taken by the board of the respective companies, on the basis of their commercial prudence and requirements.

OPEC Meetings

*280. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether Government had participated in the Oil Producing and Export Countries (OPEC) Conference held in the month of June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken a stand in the OPEC Conference for the two-tier oil pricing in order to decrease the burden of petroleum prices on developing countries;

(c) if so, the extent to which OPEC have agreed to reduce the prices of petroleum products; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian consumers are likely to be benefited on account of two-tier oil pricing policy of OPEC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The meeting of the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) was attended only by the members of OPEC.

India had participated in the conference of the World Petroleum Congress held in Calgary, Canada, during the period from 11th to 15th June, 2000. During the conference, the Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas had a bilateral meeting with Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, Secretary General of OPEC, in which India suggested the two tier oil pricing in order to decrease the burden of petroleum pricing on developing countries.

Currently, prices of crude oil in international market are volatile and are subject to wide fluctuation. The oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices.

Introduction of 'Post Based Rosters'

2862. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOPT has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reserving system *w.e.f.* July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Defence and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/ Sub-ordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (s) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, the details of excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997;

(e) whether 'Post Based Rosters' are introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' without completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any as prescribed under the above referred O.M.; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) This has been done to bring the policy of reservation in line with the judgement of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as J.C. Mallik Vs. Ministry of Railways, in which the Hon'ble Court has held that reservation of jobs for SC, ST and OBC should apply to posts and not to vacancies.

(c) to (f) Information is being collected.

Performance of Roll on-Roll off Services

2863. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had introduced roll on-roll off services on the Konkan Railway a few years back on experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether the service has been successful;

(c) if so, the details of its performance during the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the roll on-roll off services are likely to be introduced all over the country by other Railways in order to reduce congestion on the highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Financial details from January, 1999 when the services was introduced to 31st May, 2000 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Gross Earning	Rs. 427.53
Total Exp.	Rs. 393.39
Net Surplus	Rs. 34.14

(d) There is no time frame fixed for introduction of this service on Indian Railways. The proposal is to promote this service through private sector. The promoter will be required to invest in wagons and undertake marketing of this service. Indian Railways will provide other infrastructural support including haulage.

[Translation]

Sale of Vacant Land of N.T.C.

2864. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell the vacant and spare land of National Textile Corporation mills;

(b) whether the Government have made any study to ascertain the extent of surplus land alongwith the names of mills;

(c) if so, whether the approval of the concerned State Governments have since been sought therefore;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which the Government are compelled to take this decision;

(e) the estimated amount to be received from the sale of said land, mill-wise;

(f) whether the same amount would be spent on the revival of the concerned mills and for the payment of salaries and dues of the workers of that mill; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government had approved turn around plan for NTC in 1995 and sale of surplus land was identified as the major resource for providing funds for revival of the subsidiaries/ mills. Presently the Government is finalizing its approach towards NTC mills, the resources for which are proposed to be generated out of sale of surplus land of the mills.

(b) Such a study has been made by NTC for all the mills.

(c) and (d) The State Governments of Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat have granted unconditional permission for sale of land. The State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal have granted conditional permission for sale of land. The Governments of Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh have not yet given their response. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has not granted permission for sale of land. The permission of State Governments becomes necessary for several reasons *e.g.* under Urban Land Ceiling Act, terms of original allotment, change of land use etc.

(e) Though mill-wise evaluation of surplus land has been done there is an uncertainty regarding the realizable value from surplus land due to the conditional permission granted by some of the States, particularly Maharashtra where major portion of the valuable land is situated.

(f) and (g) The sale proceeds from the surplus lands will be used in accordance with the scheme approved by BIFR.

Promotion of Powerloom

2865. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment or survey has been conducted by the Government to know the number of powerlooms working in the country at present;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of deteriorating condition of powerloom industry and declining the number of powerloom units;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposed to take special measures to check the declining number of powerloom industries; and

(e) if so, the measures taken or being taken by the Government to promote powerloom industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The number of powerlooms working in the country at present are 15,58,000 approximately. The State-wise

number of powerlooms are given below:

(Provisional)

State/Union Territory	No. of Powerloom
Andhra Pradesh	44683
Assam	2726
Bihar	2870
Delhi	1102
Goa	122
Gujarat	308165
Haryana	9882
Himachal Pradesh	1302
Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
Karnataka	58611
Kerala	3252
Madhya Pradesh	40046
Maharashtra	663059
Orissa	3281
Punjab	22432
Rajasthan	32568
Tamil Nadu	292885
Uttar Pradesh	65366
West Bengal	4339
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	464
Pondicherry	830

Textile sector including the decentralized powerloom sector is passing through the general recessionary conditions prevailing in international and domestic markets. Besides, the powerloom sector has problems of technological obsolescence, hike in power tariff in certain States, etc.

The Government of India has taken the following steps for the development of powerloom sector.

(i) Implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) covering, inter-alia powerloom sector

(ii) Provision of training, consultancy, skills upgradation, awareness creation to the weavers through the 44 Powerloom Service Centres. PSCs.

(iii) Upgradation of textile testing laboratories to provide testing facilities to fabrics made by inter-alia powerloom sector (So far the laboratories of 14 PSCs have been upgraded)

(iv) Group Insurance Scheme for the benefit of workers.

(v) Provision of 15% export quota through the system of Powerloom Exporters' Entitlement to facilitate exports of powerloom to quota markets such as USA/EU.

(vi) Taking up with the State Governments the question of rationalisation of the power tariffs for powerloom sector.

(vii) Taking up research projects through Textile Research Associations benefiting inter-alia, the powerloom sector.

(viii) Keeping periodic interaction with the powerloom sector through the high powered All India Powerloom Board.

Cotton Mills

2866. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of Cotton Cloth Mills in the country and number of employees working therein at present, State/mill-wise;

(b) the mills out of it running in losses/closed/declared sick;

(c) the number of workers affected due to closure of mills;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revive/reopen these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As on 30.6.2000, the details of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile

Mills in the country and the employees working therein, State-wise, are as follows:

State/Union territory	No. of Mills	No. of workers
Andhra Pradesh	98	49169
Assam	8	3322
Bihar	9	3578
Delhi	1	1318
Goa	1	182
Gujarat	149	173819
Haryana	78	23431
Himachal Pradesh	16	16264
Jammu & Kashmir	2	4113
Karnataka	59	36906
Kerala	36	16657
Madhya Pradesh	60	59651
Maharashtra	206	177387
Manipur	1	304
Orissa	16	15710
Punjab	72	58743
Rajasthan	53	58218
Tamil Nadu	860	201247
Uttar Pradesh	74	82418
West Bengal	39	41126
Daman & Diu	3	371
Dadra Nagar Haveli	3	1318
Pondicherry	11	7985
Total:	1855	1033237

(b) and (c) As on 30.4.2000, the number of sick mills which have been registered with BIFR is 445 mills and the total number of mills closed is 356. The number of workers affected due to closure of these mills is 3,40,000 (Approximately).

(d) and (e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the workers affected and to revive these mills are as follows:

The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Besides, in pursuance of the Statement of Textile Policy, 1985, Government have set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sector. The objective of the TWRFS is to provide interim relief to the eligible workers only for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year as per norms of the scheme.

[English]

Officers Sent Abroad for Training In Foreign Institutes

2867. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government nominates officers for training in some reputed foreign Institutions in order to improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capabilities in the field of General/Public Administration and MBA courses at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the officers sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses during the last three years;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SC/ST categories among such officers sent abroad for the said training abroad; and

(d) the reasons for not nominating the adequate number of SCs/STs Officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The officers under the Ministry of Power are nominated to foreign training courses under the Technical Co-operation Programmes such as Colombo Plan, US AID and also to

programmes sponsored by other international agencies. Under these programmes, training costs are borne mostly by the international agencies and in some cases international travel costs are borne by the Government/ Central Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Power.

75 officers from the Ministry, the Central Electricity Authority, and the Central Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Power have been deputed for foreign training during the last three years. Out of these, three are SC/ST officers.

[Translation]

Payment of Claims by Railways

2868. SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are responsible for payment of claims for the goods booked in open wagons under section 104 and for the goods booked in covered wagons under section 93, 99 and 21 (B) of Railway Act, 1989;

(b) if so, whether railway claim offices would be making payments against the claims booked at the risk of railways in future;

(c) whether Varanasi claim office of Northern Railway has decided to withdraw the appeal cases of claims filed in the Allahabad and Lucknow benches of Hon'ble High Court after review; and

(d) if so, the details of cases withdrawn by the Varanasi claim office of Northern Railway during January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Whenever goods are carried in open wagons with the consent of the consignors, responsibility of the railway administration for destruction, damage or deterioration of goods shall be one half of the amount ordinarily admissible. Compensation claims arising out of loss, destruction, damage, deterioration or non-delivery of a booked consignment in covered wagons are carefully verified by the Railways before the claim is settled under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Nagpur Airport

2869. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra seeking approval for upgradation of the Nagpur airport to an international airport and constructing a cargo hub thereby utilising the vacant defence land available there; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A proposal had been received in December, 1998 from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for construction of an international cargo hub at Nagpur, on defence land. The proposal, however, could not be accepted due to operational requirement of this land by the Indian Air Force.

[English]

Establishment of Stabling Lines and Shunting Necks at Nagercoil Station

2870. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagercoil railway station is a junction where trains from three directions congregate and there is a urgent need for two stabling lines and two shunting necks to upkeep the safety levels;

(b) if so, the reasons for not installing two stabling lines and two shunting necks in such a major junction; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Nagercoil is a junction station where trains from three directions are dealt with. In addition to the existing facilities at Nagercoil, need for one shunting neck, one pit line and integrated sick line facilities has been identified. These facilities are under execution and the target date for their completion is 31st March, 2002. No more stabling lines or shunting necks are considered necessary for present and projected level of traffic at Nagercoil.

Generation of Electricity from Naphtha Based Power Plants

2871. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Naphtha based power plants which are generating electricity at present and details of Plant Load Factor (PLF), the cost per unit and price comparison with other types of power plants like hydro, coal or gas based and atomic power generation plants;

(b) whether the prices for Naphtha based power is much higher;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) profit or loss of each of Naphtha based power plants during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Officers sent abroad for training in foreign institutes

2872. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government nominates Officer for training in some reputed Foreign Institutions in order to improve their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capabilities in the field of General/Public Administration and MBA courses at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the Officers sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses during the last three years;

(c) the number of Officers belonging to SC/ST categories among such officers sent abroad for the said training; and

(d) the reasons for not nominating the adequate number of SCs/STs Officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers does not have any training programme of its own but sponsors/ nominates such officers to the training courses circulated by the nodal Ministries/Departments like Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Economic Affairs etc. However, nomination is not called on the basis of reservation but on the basis of suitability and all the nominations received are forwarded to the nodal Ministry/ Department for selection. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers does not have any role in such selection. In the last three years, four officers had gone on foreign training in whose cases, the entire expenditure was borne by the Government and of these, two belonged to the SC category.

On-going Railway Projects in Karnataka

2873. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of on-going railway projects in Karnataka along with the progress made in each case and expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(b) the funds allocated to each project during 2000-2001;

(c) whether the construction work has not been started so far on some of these projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Names of ongoing Railway projects in Karnataka along with the progress made in each case, expenditure incurred upto March, 2000 and funds allocated to each project during 2000-2001 are given in the attached statement.

Status of each project including reasons for not starting the work, where applicable, and the steps taken in this regard are also given in the attached statement.

Statement

Railway Projects in Karnataka

S.No.	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure up to 31.3.2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-2001	Remarks
		(In crores of Rupees)			
1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Lines				
1.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam	225.00	2.00	0.10	The necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey is in progress and would be completed shortly. Land acquisition plans will be prepared once Final Location Survey is over and alignment has been firmed up.
2.	Gadwal-Raichur	100.41	4.22	5.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained, Final location survey, has been taken up. Land acquisition plans will be prepared after Final Location Survey is over.
3.	Gulbarga-Bidar	242.42	1.70	2.10	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey, has been completed and fixing of alignment on the ground has been taken up. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.
4.	Hassan-Bangalore	408.56	45.46	9.00	Land is available between Hasan and Shrawanbelgola (40 km) and Bangalore to Neelamangala (16 km). Earthwork for 30 km out of 40 km completed and construction of bridges have been completed for 30 km length from Hasan end.
5.	Hubli-Ankola	991.91	6.42	6.00	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans for 128 km length have been submitted to the State Government. Rs. 2.3 cr has also been deposited with them. Work would be started as soon as land becomes available. Earthwork and minor bridges is in progress in 1.8 km length where no land acquisition is involved.
6.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Saklespur	157.00	9.69	2.90	80 hectares of land has been acquired. Work is in progress in two reaches and 90% work has been completed. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges have been finalised.
7.	Kottur-Harihar	120.29	0.17	1.00	Final location survey has been completed and preparation of land acquisition plans & pe[illegible]ers has been taken up.
8.	Munirabad-Mehboobnagar	438.96	4.36	4.00	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans for 26 km have been submitted to State Government. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges for doubling portion have been finalised, and work started on these portions.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Gauge Conversion				
1.	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	217.82	129.79	26.00	Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur has been completed & commissioned. Earthwork bridges, ballast collection on the rest of the section are in progress. Formation is ready between Mangalore and Kabakaputtur (44 km) and Kabakaputtur to Subramanya Road will be completed this year. Lowering of tunnels and widening of bank in ghat section has been taken up together with geonet treatment to prevent slip and slope failure in ghat section. The Mangalore-Subramaniaghat section is targeted for completion in 2001-02 and the entire section by December 2002, subject to availability of resources.
2.	Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga	450.90	397.26	2.00	The work on the line from Bangalore-Hubli & between Birur & Shimoga has been completed. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa. Earthwork has been taken up from Shimoga-Kamsi (25 km) and Sagara-Talguppa (15 km) where progress is 90% This section has light traffic and work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
3.	Hospet-Hubli-Goa	569.46	528.44	1.00	The work has been completed.
4.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar	175.00	0.00	0.10	This work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
5.	Mysore-Hassan	212.11	193.72	10.00	The work has been completed except on Lakshman Tirtha bridge, which is being built on a diversion. The bridge will be completed by March 2001.
6.	Solapur-Gadag	265.77	120.09	10.00	The work is being done in phases. The work Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
7.	Yashwantpur-Salem	183.38	175.78	0.10	Work has been completed. Section from Bayyapannahalli to Salem has been commissioned. However Bayyapannahalli-Yeswantpur is not getting commissioned for want of demand of ROB at Hebbal and Lingrapuram from Public. State Government is being approached for its early commissioning.
8.	Yelahanka-Chickballapur and Kolar-Bangarpet	64.69	58.66	0.10	The work as sanctioned has been completed and commissioned.
	Doubling				
1.	Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram	85.00	0.00	0.10	Work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
2.	Bangalore-Kengeri with Elect.	20.72	0.69	0.10	The work has low operational priority, and will be taken up as resource position improves.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Kengeri-Ramanagaram	45.00	0.07	0.10	It has low operational priority, and the work will be taken up as resource position improves.
4.	Vikarabad-Tandur (Wadi Secunderabad Section)	90.56	82.18	1.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
5.	Whitefield-Kuppam	104.93	75.23	4.00	The work is in progress & the first phase from Whitefield to Bangarapet has been completed and commissioned. From Bangarapet to Kuppam work has low operational priority and will be taken up as resource position improves.
6.	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	80.00	2.00	5.00	The necessary clearances have been obtained. Preliminary arrangements are being made for taking up the work including acquisition of land.
7.	Hospet-Guntakal	154.14	17.58	1.00	This doubling will be achieved by Gauge Conversion of parallel M.G. line. Final location survey has been completed. Tenders schedule for earthwork minor bridges and ballast are under finalisation.

Photo Identity Cards in Gujarat

2874 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the voters in Gujarat have been provided Photo identity cards, particularly in Jamnagar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which every voter is likely to be provided the Photo identity card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of the total of 2,96,31,636 voters in Gujarat, the number of persons issued with defect free photo identity cards so far is 2,31,77,051 (78.22%). In Jamnagar district, out of 10,77,594 voters, 8,15,403 have been issued defect free cards. In this connection, it may be noted that the process of registration of voters and preparation of photo identity cards of voters are continuous and ongoing process. It is not, therefore, possible to cover all the voters under the scheme of issue of photo identity cards at any given point of time.

Family Pension to pre-1986 Pensioners

2875. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the family pension scheme, 1972 is applicable to all pre-1986 and post-1986 service personnel of all the three services uniformly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of applications for family pension pending with Air Force Record Office (AFRO)/Dy. Controller of Defence Accounts (Air Force), New Delhi respectively as on July 15, 2000;

(d) the number of applications of pre-1986 pensioners out of the above which were received before January 1, 1998 and are still pending clearance with AFRO/Dy. CDA (AF), New Delhi;

(e) the reasons for such a long pendency;

(f) whether the AFRO, New Delhi has received some complaints/representations from the pre-1986 Air Force personnel in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken thereon and the time by which all the family pension cases of pre-1986 pensioners are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The family pension scheme, 1972 is applicable to Central Civil Pensioners/Defence Civilian Pensioners only. For Armed Forces pensioners, there is a separate scheme of 1964, as amended from time to time. This family pension scheme is applicable to all pre and post-1986 cases of all the three services uniformly.

(c) Number of pending applications is as under:—

(i)	Air Force Record Office (AFRO)	750
(ii)	Dy. Controller of Defence Accounts (Air Force)	50

(d) Number of applications received before 1-1-1998 is as under:—

(i)	AFRO	Nil
(ii)	Dy. CDA (AF)	Nil

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Family pension in all the cases including the 800 cases as above have already been consolidated in terms of Orders dated 24.11.1997. However, further revision is pending in terms of order dated 14.7.1998 and 7.10.1999. All Pension Disbursing Agencies have been instructed to revise the Ordinary Family Pension at the earliest as per the extant instructions issued by Ministry of Defence.

Supply of Grey Long Cloth to Consumers

2876. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of handlooms in the country producing grey long cloth along with the names of their commission agents in Delhi;

(b) whether powerlooms producing 'grey' long cloth do not supply the cloth in the prescribed weight and meterage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government propose to ensure that they do not cheat the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government is not maintaining any data relating to the location-wise production of any type of cloth as well as the details of commission agents.

(b) and (c) Government have not prescribed any specification for production of grey long cloth and therefore there is no need for any Government intervention in this regard.

Handicraft Trade as Industry

2877. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handicraft trade has demanded that handicrafts trade may be declared an industry to boost export;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any study has been made by the Government to find out India's share in the world handicraft market.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Exim Bank in a paper released recently have pointed out that India needed to improve its export penetration in sizeable market where its presence is negligible; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Exim Bank brought out an occasional paper on Indian Handicrafts in May, 2000. The study conducted by them reveals that there is a need to improve Indian export penetration of handicrafts in sizeable market such as France, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Japan and Hongkong wherein the presence of our export is negligible. However, as per the data available the export of handicrafts to these countries is satisfactory and these countries are among the top ten importers of handicrafts from India.

Development of Textile Industry in Daman and Diu

2878. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the enormous potential for the development of textile industries in Daman and Diu;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up some textile based institutions there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken by the Government for the growth of textile industries in the Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The role of the Central Government for the development of textile industry is that of a facilitator and it does not set up the textile industries on its own. At present, there has not been any proposal pending with the Government to set up any textile based institution in Daman and Diu. However, Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, *i.e.*, upto 31.03.2004. Any eligible textile/jute unit can avail of funds within the framework of the aforesaid scheme and normal financial norms of the concerned financial institution/bank. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme. This Scheme is applicable for whole of India including Daman & Diu.

Price of Hepatitis Vaccine

2879. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding high price of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine and also to brought Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine under Drug Price Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the price of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine to make it available to the consumer at reasonable rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Representation on these lines has been received by the Government.

(c) Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine is not subject to price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. However, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is monitoring the price of this vaccine and has noticed that the price of Engirex-B (a major brand of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine) has declined by 24.49% and 10.22% in respect of 0.5 ml Injection and 1.0 ml Injection respectively during the period December, 94 to June, 2000.

[Translation]

Demolition of Educational Institution Building

2880. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had demolished an educational institution building located at KMS 51/13/-14 near Kalyan Railway station on the pretext that it was constructed on railway land;

(b) if so, the total area of the land and the name of the owner of such land;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted to testify the aforesaid land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the compensation proposed to be paid by the Government to the educational institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIG''JAY SINGH): (a) Railway Administration had demolished a structure which was unauthorisedly being constructed on Railway land at the said location.

(b) The total area of the land is 6804 sq.m. and the owner of the land is Central Railway.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The said land is Railway land as testified by the District Inspector of Land Records.

(e) No compensation is paid for removal of unauthorised constructions from Railway lands.

[English]

Hydro-Electric Power Projects

2881. SHRI HASSAN KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given consent under the provisions of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 to NHPC to establish, operate and maintain the Nimmo-Bazgo Hydel-Electric Project and take up the survey and investigation of the same;

(b) whether the Government have also asked the NHPC to take up the Chutak Hydel Project in Kargil after getting a detailed project report from the State; and

(c) if so, the latest position about these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on July 20, 2000 between Ministry of Power, Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir for execution of seven Hydro-electric projects including Nimmo Bazgo (30 MW) and Chutak (18 MW) hydroelectric projects in J&K. In March, 2000 a copy of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Nimmo Bazgo Project was obtained from J&K Government. To consider various aspects of project design, geology and construction including logistic for preparation of revised Detailed Project Report, a team of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) officers visited project site and recommended additional investigation works such as establishment of gauge and discharge site, exploratory drifts for under ground power house, additional drill holes at barrage axis with permeability tests and review of manpower planning, construction equipment planning and construction methodology etc.

Regarding Chutak Hydro-electric project, NHPC has requested the Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Govt. of J&K to provide one copy of the Detailed Project Report of the project.

Sale of Tickets through Credit Cards

2882. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had introduced selling of railway tickets on Bank Credit Cards;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been stopped by the Railways since February, 2000, without any public notice;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is proposed to be re-introduced in a better manner for the convenience of the general public and to increase efficiency in the ticket reservation; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be re-introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the banks did not pay Railway dues to Northern Railway, the Northern Railway Administration suspended booking on Credit Cards in Delhi area in February, 2000. Notices for the same were duly displayed in the concerned reservation offices.

(d) and (e) Northern Railway is coordinating with Banks to modify the existing agreement to ensure timely payment of Railway dues. The facility will be reintroduced after the Agreement between the two parties is signed.

Funds from NRI Through Coupon Rate Bonds

2883. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to permit cash-rich public sector power companies to raise foreign currency funds from non-resident Indians through a fixed coupon rate bonds;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard, indicating the terms of the bonds and the amount in foreign exchange to be raised thereby; and

(c) the details of companies have since issued the bonds and the amount raised by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Power to permit public sector power companies to raise foreign currency funds from Non-Resident Indians through a fixed coupon rate bonds.

Investment by IOC in IPCL

2884. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC offered 25 per cent of equity participation in IPCL at the price mentioned by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for rejecting the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India have so far invited "expression of interest" in respect of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) only.

[Translation]

Performance of GRSE

2885. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited gets its certain work done from outside on contract basis despite of having sufficient staff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) engage subcontractors for carrying out those activities on board ships where expertise is not available in-house. These are air conditioning, ventilation, insulation, hull blasting, zinc spraying, etc. In trades where in-house expertise is available, sub-contracting is resorted sometimes to augment GRSE's own manpower to cope with the increase in workload due to simultaneous working in many ships under construction. The company makes efforts to restrict sub-contracting to the minimum possible.

[English]

Sardar Sarovar Project

2886. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B THAKKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project is fulfilling the required criteria for including the same in the list of project specially exempted from payment of import duty;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat has proposed the Union Government for including this project in the said list; and

(c) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As a pre-existing project, the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarover Project in Gujarat does not qualify for being accorded the status of mega power project and exemption from payment of import duty on the Turbo Generator Sets. The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal to the Union Government for according status of mega power project and exemption from payment of import duty on Turbo Generator sets for the project, as a special case. The State Government have been requested to furnish additional information in connection with their proposal and confirmation from the State Government regarding adherence to all the conditions of the revised mega power policy applicable to public sector mega power projects.

Employees in Handicraft Industry

2887. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge number of persons are employed in the Handicraft Industry;

(b) if so, the latest estimate about the employment generated by handicraft industry in rural and urban areas, separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the employment of this sector has been and likely to be eroded with globalisation and liberalisation; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to protect it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The latest estimate of employment generation in the handicrafts sector separately for rural and urban area State-wise, is as per Statement attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Estimates Handicrafts Artisans based on 1995-96 census

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97372	24508	121880
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14880	855	15735
3.	Assam	92665	7817	100482
4.	Bihar	190913	22202	213115
5.	Delhi	1555	43349	44904
6.	Goa	886	236	1122
7.	Gujarat	115915	26055	141970
8.	Haryana	60728	57205	117933
9.	Himachal Pradesh	48707	308	49015
10.	Karnataka	7497	14282	21779
11.	Kerala	13617	1588	15205
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23664	27459	51123
13.	Maharashtra	52439	60377	112816
14.	Manipur	302547	77441	379988
15.	Meghalaya	50186	3378	53564
16.	Mizoram	2535	2725	5260
17.	Nagaland	69293	10585	79878
18.	Orissa	64050	5306	69356
19.	Rajasthan	202212	205488	407700
20.	Sikkim	2646	7122	9768
21.	Tamil Nadu	89414	35928	125342
22.	Tripura	239031	5464	244495
23.	Uttar Pradesh	927346	249183	1176529
24.	West Bengal	535389	18892	554281
25.	Andaman & Nicobar	854	236	1090
26.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	111	—	111
27.	Daman & Diu	104	174	278
28.	Lakshadweep	126	—	126
29.	Pondicherry	490	1342	1832
	Total	3207172	909505	4116677

The above figures do not include the number of Handicrafts artisans in the State of J&K & Punjab and Union Territory of Chandigarh where the census work is in progress.

Source: NCAER

[Translation]

Funds for B.R.O.

2888. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ABUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major works undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the major tasks assigned to this Organisation by the Government during the above period; and

(c) the funds provided to this organisation during the last three years and the amount spent on the plan work and non-plan work separately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Amount of works undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation during the last 2 years in various States is given in the statement-I enclosed. It will not be in the interest of National Security to give the details of the roads.

(b) The major tasks assigned to BRO are the construction, improvement and maintenance of roads of operational importance.

(c) BRO budget is non plan. BRO also executes agency works on behalf of other Ministries/Departments. Details of funds provided to BRO under BRDB budget and for agency works during last 3 years is given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Amount spent on works in last 2 years in various States

SL. No.	Name of State	Amount Spent (Rs. in crores)			
		BRO Works		Agency Works	
		1998-99	1999-2000	1998-999	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	146.19	150.52	13.10	13.29
2.	Himachal Pradesh	18.93	25.62	—	—
3.	Uttar Pradesh	23.6	18.97	20.07	19.39
4.	Rajasthan	34.6	32.28	4.16	4.62
5.	Goa	2.00	7.27	0.93	8.51
6.	Sikkim	10.77	21.33	0.46	0.25
7.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1.30	2.18	—	—
8.	West Bengal	21.77	6.33	—	—
9.	Assam	5.43	5.40	32.21	30.36
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	74.84	74.56	64.25	61.72
11.	Meghalaya	2.15	3.70	11.94	6.21
12.	Tripura	2.88	4.20	25.07	32.77
13.	Manipur	13.73	14.22	17.84	14.99
14.	Mizoram	24.95	26.53	35.75	31.31
15.	Punjab	7.52	7.45	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Haryana	—	0.08	—	—
17.	Bihar	—	—	19.6	19.2
18.	Orissa	—	2.14	—	1.82
19.	Nagaland	21.75	22.38	12.97	26.74
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1.01
21.	Maharashtra	9.78	3.03	40.36	28.19

Statement II

Funds Provided to Organisation during last 3 years and amount spent on works (includes works in Myanmar, Bhutan and some minor works)

Year	Funds Provided		Funds Spent	(Rs. in crores)
	BRO Works	Agnecy Works	BRO Works	Agency Works
1997-1998	407.89	278.77	407.89	278.77
1998-1999	450.02	335.50	450.02	335.50
1999-2000	444.60	356.12	444.60	356.12

[English]

Counter-Insurgency Doctrine

2889. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army will soon have the first-ever, counter-insurgency doctrine to help the security forces study and evolve long-term-strategies for low intensity conflict as reported in the "Pioneer" dated July 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the exhaustive doctrine likely to be prepared in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which terrorism is likely to be minimised as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) An Army Training Note on counter-insurgency doctrine for the Indian Army has been issued. The note is likely to have positive impact at the field level. It has been issued upto the battalion level in the Army.

(b) and (c) The doctrine includes strategic, operational and tactical level considerations. It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose the contents. Containment of terrorism is determined by the number of factors and it is not feasible to qualify the contribution of any specific measure to such containment.

Kargil's Untold Story

2890. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appeared in the "Indian Express" of May 26, 2000 under the caption "Kargil's untold story: India won a war, lost one at home";

(b) if so, the extent to which the conclusions drawn that the Kargil war left a far more porous and vulnerable LoC and borders with concentrations and heavy influx of armed militants, find accord with ground realities; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to augment the security along the borders and the LoC and to plug the gaps pointed out therein?

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

(b) and (c) It is not correct that the border is now porous. In fact the deployment of troops has since been augmented and all routes of ingress are being guarded or patrolled. All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.

[Translation]

Opinion Poll

2891. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Opinion Poll is conducted by various agencies before and after the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections;

(b) if so, whether the election code of conduct is violated due to it;

(c) if so, whether the Government are seriously contemplating to impose a ban on Opinion Poll; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Road Over-Bridge at Palam

2892. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of level crossings where road over bridges are proposed to be constructed in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct road over bridge at Palam railway level crossing;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith its present status; and

(d) the time by which the proposed road over bridge at Palam railway level crossing is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (c) A Statement is attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) No time schedule can be fixed at this stage.

Statement

Sl. No.	Description of the Proposal	Present status
1	2	3
1.	Road Under Bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 156-B at Km. 8/14-16 on Delhi-Ghazibad section near Vivek Vihar	The proposal is in planning stage. Railways had furnished their details to the Municipal Corporation, Delhi (MCD). After the pre-requisites *i.e.* estimate for the approaches, undertaking for closing of the Level Crossing, provision in the State budget etc., are completed by MCD, action will be taken to include this work in Railway's budget on cost sharing basis.
2.	Road Over Bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 13-A on Delhi-Rewari section at Pankha Road, Delhi	Proposal has been received from DDA on 13.3.2000. Profile sketch and abstract estimate have been accepted by DDA. The proposal will be included in Railway's Budget, subject to availability of funds.

1	2	3
3.	Construction of ROB on road No. 63 at Railway crossing No. 3 at Delhi-Shaharanpur line at Delhi.	This work was initially sponsored by the Delhi Government in the year 1988-89, who also deposited Rs. 1.88 crores with the Railways. In the year 1999, they have revived the project. Revised profile sketch for six lane Road Over Bridge has been approved and revised cost is being worked out and will be advised to the Delhi Government for depositing the balance amount with the Railways. After the amount is deposited, Railway will initiate action for execution of the work in consultation with Government of Delhi.
4.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 15-C at Km. 18.02 on Delhi-Rewari section near Palam Railway station.	The proposal of this work was initially sponsored by the Delhi Development Authority in 1994, but was kept in abeyance. DDA has informed in July 2000 that that project has been revived. Railways had furnished the updated information to the DDA. On completion of the pre-requisites by the DDA *i.e.* estimate for the approaches, undertaking for closing of the Level Crossing, provision in the State budget, advance action for acquisition of land, if any etc., action will be taken to include this work in Railway's Budget on cost sharing basis.

[English]

Import of Aircraft Components

2893. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over Rs. 2000 crore of aircraft components are imported every year of which 60 per cent are imported from Russian manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are trying to explore domestic alternatives for these components; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. On an average aircraft components worth about Rs 300 crores are imported yearly, out of which a little over 75% are imported from Russia and CIS countries.

(b) and (c) Indigenisation of spares like nuts, bolts, screws, washers, some electronic equipments and rubberised items is under progress.

A Committee with representatives of IAF, HAL, DRDO, Defence PSUs and Inspection & Certification agencies like Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) & Director General Aeronautics Quality & Assurance (DGAQA), as members, has been formed to look into the requirement of spares for IAF and feasibility of their indigenous development. IAF has also taken the initiative of cordinating with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to involve private industry for indigenous development, production and supply of requisite items.

LPG Agencies in Mizoram

2894. SHRI PR. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to open more LPG agencies in Mizoram to meet the demand of the public;

(b) if so, the time by which new agencies are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) To meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 6 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for the State of Mizoram.

(b) and (c) The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the oil companies and the selection of dealers/distributors is made through the Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

India Hydro-Carbon Vision 2025

2895. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 has since submitted its report;

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

(c) the time by which Action Taken Report (ATR) is likely to be prepared and presented to Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Group of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 has submitted its report to the Government.

The salient features of the report inter-alia include to assure energy security by achieving self reliance through increased indigenous production and investment in equity oil abroad, to enhance the quality of life by improving products standards, to develop hydrocarbon sector as a globally competitive industry through technology upgradation and capacity building, to have a free market, to ensure oil security for the country keeping in view strategic and defence consideration.

The India Hydrocarbon Vision—2025 report has been Tabled before both the Houses of the Parliament.

Construction of ROBs/RUBs in Tamil Nadu

2896. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works of various road over-bridges and road under-bridges in Tamil Nadu are held up or delayed due to paucity of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project/location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the Southern Railways for allocation of more funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that similarly gauge conversion, doubling of rail lines and new rail lines projects are also held up due to paucity of funds in Tamil Nadu;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir. Works are being progressed commensurate with the funds allotted.

(f) and (g) Do not arise. However, due to large shelf of new line and gauge conversion projects over the Indian Railways of about Rs. 22,000 Cr. & Rs. 9,000 Cr. respectively, all such projects have been prioritised by the Govt. and funds are being allotted accordingly within the availability of resources.

[Translation]

Commercial Flights from Military Airbase, H.A.L.

2897. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether commercial flights have been permitted to land on military airbase at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in Aujhar, Nasik (Maharashtra); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Airport in Aujhar, Nasik (Maharashtra) is not being used for commercial flights, currently.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Merger of Refineries

2898. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge Madras Refinery and Cochin refinery with Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation respectively; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Cannon Shells of Bofors

2899. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cannon shells of the Bofors Guns are being completely manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location of the manufacturing unit;

(c) whether these Bofors shells are also being exported;

(d) if so, the countries to which the exports are being made; and

(e) the extent of the foreign exchange being earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) Five types of shells of Bofors guns are being manufactured in India in ordnance factories.

2. Locations of manufacturing units for various types of shells are as under:

	Shells	Location
1.	Shell 107	Ordnance Factory, Chanda/Bolangir
2.	Shell 77B	—do—
3.	155 Illuminating 18 Km.	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road
4.	155 Smoke 24 Km.	Ordnance Factory, Chanda
5.	Shell 155 HEER	—do—

3. Bofors shells are not being exported.

Panipat Oil Refinery

2900. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panipat Oil Refinery has been given certification by 'The Occupational Health and Safety Management System Series';

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Occupational Health and Safety Management System of Panipat Oil Refinery has been certified by M/s. Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Netherlands under "Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series-18001 (OHSAS-18001)" in May'2000. This certificate is valid for 3 years. It has been given after verification of the Panipat Refinery's compliance on various occupational health & safety management requirements.

(c) Does not arise.

Conditions of 'Dari Weavers'

2901. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of 'dari weavers' in Bihar and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether these weavers in Bihar are neither getting raw material on concessional rates nor loans from banks/financial institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage and provide assistance to weavers in the country, especially in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The earnings of weavers had increased over the period as per handloom census results of 1995-96. NABARD and SIDBI continue to extend refinance facility to the weavers/craftsmen spread all over the country and Rs. 205.32 lakhs was provided to the artisans/weavers in the State of Bihar during 1996-97 to 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Government of India extends financial assistance to State Governments under developmental and welfare schemes for the benefit of weavers/craftsmen. These schemes are applicable to all States including Bihar and their main thrust is on skill up-gradation, design & product development, support for marketing, construction of workshed-cum-House, etc. Further, Government of Bihar had set up 8 weaver's training centres in different districts to impart training to 'Dari Weavers'.

Increase in Power Generation Capacity

2902. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any increase in the power generation capacity has been registered in each power station of Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the power generation capacity of these stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to increase the power generation capacity of existing power stations of Bihar, the following power projects have been sanctioned:—

S.No.	Name of Project/ (Date of Sanction)	Capacity (MW)
1.	Tenughat TPP St. II (2/89)	3x210
2.	Muzaffarpur TPP Extn. (12/95)	2x250

At present, there is no plan to upgrade power plants to increase the capacity of the existing units except Kahalgaon STPP Stage-II (2x660 MW) of NTPC. However, Renovation & Modernisation Schemes are proposed to improve the performance and availability of the following old power stations of BSEB in Bihar;

Thermal Power Station

S.No.	Name of the Power Station	Unit covered under R&M
1.	Patratu	770 MW (de-rated) (4x40+2x90+2x105+2x110)
2.	Barauni	310 MW (de-rated) (2x50+2x105)
3.	Muzaffarpur	220 MW (2x110)
Hydro Power Station		
1.	Subernrekha	130 MW (2x65)

Price Policy of Petroleum Products

2903. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to get reviewed the present price policy of petroleum products by Industrial Costs and Prices Bureau under the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether oil companies have to pay corporate tax of more than two thousand one hundred fifty five crore rupees due to the existing wrong policy; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Most of the petroleum products are deregulated/ decontrolled and their prices are determined by market forces. In case of controlled products, prices are used as a mechanism to subsidise and cross-subsidise the products.

(c) During the year 1997-98 and 1998-99, oil companies paid Rs. 2119 crores and 2483 crores respectively as corporate tax. Company-wise break-up of the corporate tax paid by various companies is given in the attached statement.

(d) All companies including oil companies are required to pay corporate tax in terms of law of the land as passed by Parliament.

Statement

Company-wise Details of Corporate Tax (Exclusive Dividend Tax)

(Rupees in crores)

	1998-99	1997-98
IOC	606	437
HPC	293	272
BPC	272	198
IBP	6	6
MRPL	2	4
MRL	40	7
CRL	113	77
OIL	121	80
ONGC	834	642
LIL	18	20
GAIL	175	370
BRPL	3	6
Total	2483	2119

[English]

Recruitment of Judicial Members

2904. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the Railway Claims Tribunal has been standstill for the last two years for want of recruitment of Judicial members;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for disposal in the Tribunal as on June 30,2000 and the steps being taken to expedite the disposal of the pending cases;

(c) whether the interview for the post of Member Judicial was held in October, 1999 and the appointment letters have not been issued so far to the selected candidates due to the dispute between the Chairman of the Tribunal and the Railway Board over the posting of Vice Chairman (Judicial) in Delhi;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to resolve the dispute; and

(e) the time by which appointment letters are likely to be issued to selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 27,759 cases are pending as on 30.6.2000. For disposal of the pending cases all out efforts are being made by the Tribunal by holding circuit benches by Chairman, Railway Claims Tribunal at Calcutta and Chandigarh. Single Member sittings have been held wherever value of cases so permit.

(c) to (e) The interview for selection for the posts of Member (Judicial) was held in October 1999 and the panel has been approved by the Competent Authority and the offers of appointment are expected to be issued very shortly.

[Translation]

Rail Bus Service Between Halbargaon and Mairabari

2905. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a request in June 1998 to run Rail bus service between Halbargaon and Mairabhari and Senchoa and Silghat in Assam;

(b) whether the Railways have given orders for building of two 4-wheeler rail buses for the purpose;

(c) if so, the time by which this order was given and the name of the company to which orders had been placed;

(d) the time by which rail buses are likely to be available and put into operation; and

(e) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Introduction of Rail Bus services on these sections is not feasible as the sections have been permanently closed due to high costs of restoration and lack of commercial justification.

[English]

Setting up of High Court Benches

2906. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:

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

(a) the details of the benches of various High Courts set up in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more benches of various High Courts in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) A permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court is proposed to be set up at Itanagar with effect from August 12, 2000. The Gauhati High Court (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Itanagar) Order 2000 has been notified on July 18, 2000. Besides this, the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Madras High Court have conveyed that they are agreeable to setting up a permanent Bench at Madurai. Necessary action in the matter will be taken by the Central Government after the infrastructural facilities like Court Buildings etc. are completed by the State Government to the satisfaction of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

No complete proposal has been received from any other State Government for establishing a permanent Bench of the concerned High Court.

Statement

S.No.	High Court	Location of Bench
1.	Allahabad	Lucknow
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—
3.	Bombay	Nagpur, Aurangabad, Panaji (Goa)
4.	Calcutta	Port Blair
5.	Delhi	—
6.	Gauhati	Kohima, Aizawl, Imphal, Agartala, Shillong
7.	Gujarat	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
10.	Karnataka	—
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior, Indore
13.	Madras	—
14.	Orissa	—
15.	Patna	Ranchi
16.	Punjab & Haryana	—
17.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
18.	Sikkim	—

New Drug Policy

2907. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are finalizing New Drug Policy to boost up performance of Pharma sector in the context of liberalization and globalisation; and

(b) if so, the details of major policy changes effected so far/under consideration and likely impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) In March, 1999 the Government had constituted a Drug Price Control Review Committee (DPCRC) to review the current drug price control mechanism and to suggest alternate models, if any, with a view to reducing the rigours of price control where they had become counter-productive. Another Committee, namely, the Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC), was also constituted in March, 1999 to recommend measures to strengthen the research & development capability of the pharmaceutical industry in the country and to identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic research & development. Both the Committees have submitted their reports to the Government. The Government has not finalized its view regarding the policy changes to be brought about in the context of the reports of these Committees.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in U.P.

2908. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agencies are proposed to be set up in Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Varanasi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In the districts of Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, 6, 8 and 13 new LPG distributorships respectively are proposed to be set up.

[English]

Shifting of Electricity from Kayamkulam Thermal Power Corporation

2909. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan for transferring of electricity from Kayamkulam Thermal Power Corporation to the Central pool;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the quantity of electricity produced from Kayamkulam and the percentage of electricity given to Kerala State;

(d) whether the NTPC and the Government of Kerala having any demands for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) Stage-I (350 MW) was dedicated to Kerala on its insistence. However, Kerala Electricity Board (KEB) has not been able to utilise full power from this project. As a consequence, the station has to be backed down occasionally. Further, KEB is also not making full payment for the power generated from the project. As a result, Ministry of Power is contemplating to convert this power station as a regional station and allocate power to the other States in accordance with the formula/guidelines recently approved by the Cabinet regarding power allocation.

(c) 1938.218 Million Units generated from Kayamkulam station during the period from November, 1998 to July, 2000 have been fully supplied to Kerala.

(d) and (e) The supply of full power from this project to Kerala is in accordance with the Power Purchase Agreement signed between KEB and the National Thermal Power Corporation.

[Translation]

Drugs under Drugs Price Control Order

2910. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any authority to keep a check on the prices of the drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decisions are being taken favouring the multinational drug companies and the interest of the Indian companies are ignored while using the right to keep a check on the prices of the medicines;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received complaints in this regard during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), established on the 29th August, 1997 has been entrusted, inter-alia, with the task of fixation/ revision of prices of scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and for monitoring prices.

(c) Decisions on pricing of medicines are taken by the NPPA in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Katihar-Jogbani-Radhikapur Rail Line

2911. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearance has been obtained for gauge conversion of Katihar-Jogbani-Barsoi-Radhikapur rail line;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and funds allocated therefor during 2000-01;

(c) the time by which the conversion work of above line is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) if not, the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The anticipated cost of the work is Rs. 257 cr. Allocation during 2000-01 is Rs. 10 cr.

(c) and (d) The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained, action for which has been initiated. The target date for completion of the project has not yet been fixed. The definite time by which clearance will be available is not possible to be indicated by Railway as a number of Government departments are involved in the process.

Meeting of DGM with MPs

2912. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament are invited once in three months by the Divisional General Managers to discuss and sort out the various probems related to Railways of their areas;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to comply with the said practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Instructions exist that General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers should hold meetings with the Members of Parliament of their area once in every quarter to discuss the railway issues/problems. Some of the railways are holding meetings with the Members of Parliament. These instructions have been reiterated to all the General Managers to ensure that meetings with the local Members of Parliament are held every quarter.

[Translation]

Electrification of Villages in Bihar

2913. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all villages in Bihar specially in Ranchi District have been electrified;

(b) if not, the number of villages in this district yet to be electrified;

(c) the details of the results achieved during the Eighth Five Year Plan as per the target fixed; and

(d) the time by which all the villages of the above State are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA), out of a total number of 67513 inhabited villages in Bihar (1991 Census), 47888 villages have been electrified by the end

of March, 2000. In Ranchi District, out of a total of 2038 villages, (1991 Census) 1409 villages have been electrified as on 31st March, 2000 leaving a balance of 629 villages yet to be electrified.

(c) State-wise details of village electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan is given in the attached Statement.

(d) The priorities for village electrification are determined by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments concerned and the time frame for complete electrification of villages would largely depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating infrastructure systems, availability of power in the State and the demand of the consumers.

Statement

State-wise Village Electrification Status During VIIIth Five Year Plan (1981 Census)

Sl.	States	Village electrified during				
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	@	@	@	@	@
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	134	80	310	121	111
3.	Assam	17	14	170	222	130
4.	Bihar	258	205	59	43	27
5.	Goa	@	@	@	@	@
6.	Gujarat	@	@	@	@	@
7.	Haryana	@	@	@	@	@
8.	Himachal Pradesh	@	@	@	@	@
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	6	50	43	27
10.	Karnataka	@	@	@	@	@
11.	Kerala	@	@	@	@	@
12.	Madhya Pradesh	605	751	1019	503	400
13.	Maharashtra	@	@	@	@	@
14.	Manipur	60	85	71	163	140
15.	Meghalaya	69	23	Nil	Nil	60
16.	Mizoram	50	50	65	45	9
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	200	226	223	740	737
19.	Punjab	@	@	@	@	@
20.	Rajasthan	689	711	699	750	654
21.	Sikkim	@	@	@	@	@
22.	Tamil Nadu	@	@	@	@	@
23.	Tripura	200	200	150	62	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	947	650	428	1305	1422
25.	West Bengal	435	351	310	89	66
	Total (States)	3669	3352	3554	4086	3843
	Total (UTs)	@	@	@	@	@
	Total India	3669	3352	3554	4086	3843

@ Cent Percent villages electrified as per 1981 census.

Survey for Muzaffarnagar-Roorkee Rail Line

2914. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to lay rail line from Muzaffarnagar to Roorkee;

(b) if so, the details of the survey report;

(c) the time by which the laying work is likely to be started; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey has been conducted for a new broad gauge line from Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar via Roorkee with take off point at Deoband. The survey report has revealed that the estimated cost of construction of rail line from Deoband to Roorkee (27.45 Kms.) would be Rs. 61.81 crore and that the project is not financially viable.

(c) Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the line, it has not been possible to consider taking up the work.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of Scrap by Jabalpur Vehicle Factory

2915. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of scrap sold by Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the complaint with regard to selling original spare parts in place of scrap has been brought to light;

(c) whether the ratio of scrap in comparison to production was higher;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) The quantum of Scrap sold by Vehicle Factory Jabalpur during last three years is furnished below:—

1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1060 MT + 7201 Nos. of Loose articles	Rs. 63.55 Lakhs	401 MT + 1643 Nos. of loose articles	Rs. 20.69 lakh	2221 MT + 2940 Nos. of loose articles	Rs. 63.60 Lakh

One firm was caught while attempting to take out some components/parts unauthorisedly alongwith scrap from the Factory in April 1996. A complaint against the firm was lodged with the Police and an enquiry was conducted to investigate into the matter. Consequent to enquiry, penalty was imposed on three employees of Vehicle Factory Jabalpur. The remedial measures suggested by Board of Enquiry to avoid recurrence have been implemented. There was no other incident.

The ratio of Value of Scrap to Value of Production for last three years is appended below:—

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
0.196%	0.038%	0.094%

[English]

High Speed Track between Bangalore and Mysore

2916. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved the proposal of the National Institute of Advanced Studies for a high speed twin track rail system between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of doubling the track;

(c) the share of the Union Government and the State Government for the implementation of the proposed project;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be commenced and completed; and

(e) the amount allocated therefor during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Railways so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, the following works have been sanctioned for doubling the track between Bangalore and Mysore:—

(i) Doubling between Bangalore — Kengeri with electrification (12.5 Km) - anticipated cost Rs. 20.7 cr.

(ii) Doubling between Kengeri - Ramangaram (32 Km) - anticipated cost Rs. 45 cr.

Further, survey for Doubling of Ramanagaram to Mysore has recently been conducted and the report is under examination. State Government of Karnataka has offered to share 50% of the cost of doubling between Ramangaram and Mysore and the proposal is under examination.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, the allotment of funds during 2000-01 for the projects already sanctioned by the Railways are as under:—

(i) Bangalore - Kengeri doubling (12.5 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

(ii) Kengeri - Ramanagaram doubling (32 Km) - Rs. 0.1 cr.

Solar Energy

2917. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the energy produced from Solar in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to develop solar energy as an alternate energy source as it has been found cost-effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Solar energy is currently being used in the country through two principal routes — the thermal route for water heating, drying, cooking etc. and the photovoltaic route for converting the light to electricity which can be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, pumping, communication, refrigeration and power generation. The estimated energy production during the last three years from various solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems installed in the country is given in the attached statement.

(b) Solar energy has been found to be cost effective for applications such as water heating, cooking and for meeting small power requirements in unelectrified areas. The Ministry is implementing several programmes to promote awareness and to support the use of various solar energy products in the country by providing fiscal and financial incentives. Among the steps taken in recent years are:

(i) Soft loan schemes have been introduced for solar thermal systems through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and some banks.

(ii) A World Bank assisted soft loan scheme for photovoltaic market development is being implemented by IREDA.

(iii) R&D projects aimed at improving the efficiency, reliability and economics of solar products are being supported.

(iv) A soft loan scheme for supporting photovoltaic manufacturing activities has been introduced.

(v) Special demonstration projects in new application areas and for developing new markets are being funded through grants.

(vi) A model building bye-law for making solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in several categories of buildings has been drafted and circulated to all State Governments.

(vii) A scheme to involve self employed workers in the promotion of solar cookers has been introduced.

(viii) Certain regions in the country have been designated as high focus areas for the implementation of the solar photovoltaic programme.

(ix) Other Government departments are being encouraged to use solar energy systems wherever they are cost effective.

Statement

The estimated energy production from solar energy in the country during the last three years

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Electrical energy produced from photovoltaic systems installed in the country (in million kWh electrical)	36.45	45.225	51.975
Thermal energy produced from solar thermal systems installed in the country (in million kWh thermal)	429.25	463.80	495.72

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies in Chhattisgarh

2918. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open petrol pumps and gas agencies in Chhattisgarh of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these petrol pumps and gas agencies are likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Apart from the locations pending from the earlier Marketing Plans 89 locations for retail outlet dealerships and 287 locations for LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for the State of Madhya Pradesh including Chhatisgarh region. The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the oil companies and the selection of dealers/distributors is made through the Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

Supply of Low Sulphur Diesel

2919. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been requested to ensure supply of ultra low sulphur diesel with sulphur content of 0.05% (maximum) all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have been receiving requests demanding supply of ultra low Sulphur diesel with Sulphur content of 0.05% maximum in different parts of the country.

Oil Industry has introduced ultra low Sulphur diesel with maximum Sulphur content of 0.05% for new non-commercial vehicles through select outlets in the National Capital Region since 1.4.2000.

In order to supply maximum 0.05% Sulphur content diesel all over the country, modifications in the existing refineries need to be carried out.

Short Supply of Ammunitions

2920. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ordering import of basic howitzer ammunitions from foreign sources when Indian ordnance factories are well equipped to manufacture them;

(b) whether starving these ordnance factories of orders and not placing the orders well in advance is one of the reasons for short supply of ammunitions; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will initiate measures to ensure that these ordnance units do function at their optimum capacity and total potential in order to avoid dependence on foreign suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The 155mm ammunition used with FH-77B Howitzer Guns System is indigenously manufactured by the Ordnance Factories and its import is ordinarily not undertaken if the capacities of the Ordnance Factories and the requirement of Army match. Certain varieties of superior 155 mm ammunition have recently been imported, where indigenous capability was yet to be established or where the Army's requirement of the ammunition was more than the production capacity of the Ordnance Factories. In the case of import of ammunition with superior technology, Transfer of Technology is also obtained to enable the Ordnance Factories to adopt the latest technology for subsequent indigenous production.

Demand and Supply of Oil and Natural Gas

2921. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual demand and supply of oil and natural gas of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of oil and natural gas is sufficient to meet the requirement of the country; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and reduce the import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The information is given in the attached statements I and II.

(b) No, Sir. The gap between demand and supply of crude oil is met through imports. Presently natural gas is not imported.

(c) Steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir behaviour, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

Statement I

Estimated Crude Oil Demand for the Year 2000-2001

(Figures in Million Metric Tonnes)

State	Refinery	Demand
Gujarat	IOC-Koyali RPL	39.27
Maharashtra	BPCL HPC-Mumbai	14.45
Karnataka	MRPL	10.52
Kerala	KRL	7.50
Tamil Nadu	CPCL-Chennai CPCL-Narimanam	7.00
Andhra Pradesh	HPC-Visakh	7.00
Bihar	IOC-Barauni	4.00
Bengal	IOC-Haldia	4.00
Haryana	IOC-Panipat	5.70
U.P.	IOC-Mathura BRPL IOC-Digboi IOC-Guwahati	8.00
Assam	NRI	5.39
Total		112.83

— The Crude oil production in the country is estimated to be 29.63 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) with the following State-wise distribution.

	MMT
Mumbai Offshore	15.16
Gujarat	5.84
Assam	5.34
Andhra Pradesh	2.34
Other States	0.95
Total	29.63

Statement II

Details of allocation and supply including internal use/ shrinkage of natural gas to various consumers State-wise

(in MMSCMD)

State	Allocation as on January 31, 2000	Supply as on June 30, 2000
Maharashtra	17.60	9.81
Gujarat	26.02	15.88
Madhya Pradesh	4.20	3.28
Uttar Pradesh	19.42	16.43
Haryana	2.75	2.96
Rajasthan	4.07	3.61
Assam	10.76	5.25
Tripura	4.8	0.95
Andhra Pradesh	8.68	4.25
Pondicherry	0.20	0.16
Tamil Nadu	2.17	0.13
Delhi	3.08	0.79
Total	103.75	63.5

Foreign Equity in Power

2922. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed 100 percent foreign equity in power sector as reported in 'The Hindu' dated June 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and justification thereon;

(c) whether 100 percent foreign equity permission will have an adverse impact on indigenous private sector power companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision in view of indigenous companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the growing demand for power in the country and the need for more investment in this sector, the Government of India, as part of further liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment regime, has on June 12, 2000, decided to remove the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution (other than atomic reactor power plants).

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

Gauge Conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao Rail Line

2923. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao Railway line;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far and allocation made therefor during 2000-01; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The present status is as under:—

(i) **Earthwork:** The earthwork for 50 Km. length between Luni-Samdari has been completed and on the remaining portion, the earthwork is in progress. The overall progress is approximately 30%.

(ii) **Bridges:** The work on major and minor bridges is in progress. The over-all progress is about 40%.

(iii) **Ballast:** The ballast supply is in progress. The over-all progress is approximately 25%.

(b) (i) The expenditure incurred till 31.03.2000 is Rs. 20.84 crs.

(ii) Allocation made during 2000-01 is Rs. 25 crores.

(c) No target date has yet been fixed for completion of the project.

Low Output of Oil Fields

2924. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of drilling of oil from our existing oil fields is very low in comparison to most of the oil fields of advanced countries;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the drilling rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The rate of drilling (penetration) of a well depends upon factors like geological conditions, depth of drilling, the drilling technology and equipment deployed. The drilling rate is generally better in geologically familiar areas (known-development areas) than for new or unfamiliar areas (unknown-wild cat/exploratory areas). As the conditions vary from place to place, no such comparisons are feasible.

(c) In order to improve the drilling rate, efforts are made to continuously upgrade the technologies and improve operational techniques.

Replacement of Tracks and Bridges

2925. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length and the names of rail routes and bridges due for replacement during the last three years and current year so far, zone/State-wise;

(b) the names of the routes and total length of rail tracks and bridges replaced during the above period along with expenditure incurred thereon so far, zone/State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for the replacement of rail tracks and bridges in the next three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, route-wise;

(e) whether Patna-Gaya, Gaya-Kiul and Patna-Howrah rail lines of Eastern Railway are also to be replaced;

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be replaced;

(g) whether the replacement work is progressing very slowly; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Zone-wise details of track due for renewals for the last three years and current year are given in the attached statement I. Position of track renewal and bridge rebuilding is maintained zone wise and not State-wise or route-wise. With regard to bridges, the information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Zone-wise details of track replaced and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and current year (up to June) are given in the attached statement II. Position of track renewal, bridge rebuilding and expenditure thereon is maintained zone wise and not State-wise or route-wise. With regard to bridges, the information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The target for track renewals are being fixed every year depending upon the extent of track due renewal and funds becoming available in railway budget.

(e) Only those portion of the track on Patna-Gaya, Gaya-Kiul and Patna-Howrah shall be replaced that become due for replacement.

(f) Track is being replaced on programmed basis depending upon the need for replacement and the funds becoming available in railway budget.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement I

Railway wise statement showing track due renewal for the last three years and current year

Railway	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Central	2092	2122	1864	1772
Eastern	1215	1150	1284	1279
Northern	2671	3004	3868	3764
North Eastern	797	635	856	816
Northeast Frontier	420	419	918	539
Southern	583	962	836	1100
South Central	842	1026	1641	1705
South Eastern	2144	3076	2947	2713
Western	2068	1720	3042	2939
Total	12832	14114	17255	16627

Statement II

Railways wise statement showing progress of track renewals and expenditure thereon.

(progress in km. of complete track renewal and expenditure in Rs. in crore)

Railway		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (upto June)
Central	Progress	506	616	596	103
	Expenditure	313.22	394.81	392.47	490*
Eastern	Progress	351	321	236	87
	Expenditure	230.98	173.09	177.01	250*
Northern	Progress	467	510	553	95
	Expenditure	262.23	291.31	348.84	450*
North Eastern	Progress	185	134	71	35
	Expenditure	75	79.18	50.82	90*
Northeast Frontier	Progress	83	69	66	12
	Expenditure	48.88	42.01	37.12	50*
Southern	Progress	221	222	113	33
	Expenditure	122.97	108.43	75.93	140*
South Central	Progress	170	161	263	54
	Expenditure	109.08	107.72	173.39	260*
South Eastern	Progress	—	634	703	189
	Expenditure	417.53	397.87	541.21	600*
Western	Progress	353	300	406	72
	Expenditure	225.34	205.15	236.21	270*
Total	Progress	2951	2967	3007	680
	Expenditure	1805.23	1802.57	2042.0	2600*

* Funds allocated for the year 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Cut in Processing of Crude Oil by Private Refineries

2926. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether a cut was effected some time back in the processing of curde oil in the oil refineries in private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the duration for which this cut was effected along with the losses suffered by the Government therefrom; and

(d) the action taken against those found responsible therefor and the steps taken to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No cut has been imposed in crude processing at Reliance Petroleum Limited, the only oil refinery operating in private sector, after its commissioning in July, 1999 till date.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Jurisdiction of South West Zone

2927. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the detailed territorial jurisdiction of South West Zone has been finalised;

(b) if so, the fate of the merger of Guntakal Division of the South Central Railway with the newly formed South West Zone;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh was against the merger of Guntakal Division with South West Zone; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some representation have been received earlier.

(d) The new Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on ethnic, territorial or linguistic considerations.

Discontinuation of Weavers Schemes

2928. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Market Development Assistance Scheme and Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme for the weavers were discontinued;

(b) if so, whether review has been made and overall assessment has been done;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the present status of other schemes implemented for Handloom Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Market Development Assistance and the Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Schemes have been discontinued *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000 and 1.4.1998 respectively and no review made thereof.

(d) For the development of the handloom sector, the Government is implementing the following schemes:

1. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
2. Group Insurance Scheme
3. Health Package Scheme
4. Thrift Fund Scheme
5. New Insurance Scheme
6. Scheme for Publicity and Exhibitions
7. Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme
8. Decentralised Training Programme
9. Mill Gate Price Scheme.

Expansion of Capacity of Refineries

2929. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

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

(a) whether Madras refinery, Cochin refinery and Cauvery Basin refinery (Tamil Nadu) are being expanded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the capacity of each of them is likely to be increased separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery capacity expansion-cum-modernisation project at Manali, Chennai has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 2360.38 crores, including foreign exchange component of Rs. 333.82 crores and the project is to be completed within 36 months *i.e.* by July, 2003.

The present refining capacity of Cauvery Basin refinery (CBR) at Nagapattinam is being increased from 0.5 to 1.00 MMTPA by in house debottlenecking. CBR expansion will be commissioned by July, 2001.

Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL) has a proposal to expand the refining capacity from the present level of 7.5 to 13.5 MMTPA. The estimated capital cost of the project is Rs. 4320 crores (at September, 1999 price basis) and the period of mechanical completion is estimated at 36 months from the receipt of investment approval.

[Translation]

New Power Projects

2930. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new power projects likely to be started in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the total number of projects cleared by the Planning Commission during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) the stage at which these proposals are lying pending;

(d) the estimated cost of these projects alongwith their installed capacity; and

(e) the steps taken to clear all these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The details of power projects which are targeted to be commissioned during 2000-01 including their estimated cost and other other details are given in enclosed statement. Separately, 39 new thermal power projects in Private Sector aggregating to 22324.14 MW, 5 in State Sector aggregating to 1470 MW and 7 in Central Sector aggregating to 6080 MW are likely to be started in 2000-2001.

During the financial year 2000-01 (till date), no power project in the State sector have been accorded investment approval by the Planning Commission.

Statement

Power Projects which are targeted to be commissioned during 2000-2001

S.No.	Unit Name	Capacity (MW)	Latest Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Commissioning schedule	
				Org.	Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6
THERMAL					
1.	Faridabad CCGT-ST (Har.)	144	99250	10/2000	31.7.2000
2.	Panipat TPS St. IV (Har.)	210	85436	2/2001	2/2001
3.	Khaperkhda TPS U-3 (Mah.0	210)	154500	5/2000	31.5.2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Khaperkhda TPS U-4 (Mah.)	210)	(U-3 & 4)	11/2000	11/2000
5.	Bakreshwar TPP U-2 (W.B.)	210	249039	4/2000	20.5.2000
6.	Bakreshwar TPP U-3 (W.B.)	210	(For U-1, 2 & 3)	9/2000	11/2000
7.	Leimakhong DG U-1 to 6 (Manipur)	6c6	12602	11/2000	12/2000
8.	Kovilkalappal GT+ST (T.N.)	107	(TEC yet to be obtained by CEA)	9/2000, 10/2000	10/2000 11/2000
9.	Kondapalli CCGT GT 1-2 & ST (Andhra Pradesh)	350	US$180.616 Mill.+ Rs. 385254	6/2000 4/2000 9/2000	8/2000 22.6.2000 10/2000
10.	Pillaiperumalanallur GT+ST (T.N.)	330.5	US$ 206.549 Mill.+ Rs. 42980	12/2000 12/2000	12/2000 12/2000
11.	Samalpatti DG U-1 to 4 (T.N.)	60	US$ 61.222 Mill.+ Rs. 15309.8	2/2001 3/2001	2/2001 3/2001
12.	Jojobera TPS U-1 (Bih.)	120	102519	1/2001	1/2001
13.	Cochin CCGT U-1 (Ker.)	38	N.A.	5/2000	8/2000
14.	Bellary DG (Kar.)	27.8	N.A.	5/2000	8/2000
HYDRO					
1.	Doyang U-1 to 3 (Nag.)	3x25	75870	—	6/2000
2.	Ghanvi U-1 & 2(H.P.)	2x11.25	9464	6/2000, 9/2000	—
3.	Upper Sindh-II (J&K)	35	3210000	12/2000	—
4.	Upper Sindh Extn. (J&K)	35	4227	2/2001	—
5.	Sewa-III U-1 to 3 (J&K)	3x3	6000	9/2000	—
6.	Chennai-III U-1 to 3 (J&K)	3x2.5	4623	9/2000	—
7.	Pahalgam U-1&2 (J&K)	2x1.5	N.A.	12/2000 (Under MNES)	—
8.	Ranjit Sagar U-1 to 4 (Punjab)	4x150	302000	7/2000, 8/2000, 1/2000, 2/2001	— —
9.	Upper Indravati U-3 & 4 (Orissa)	2x150	87542	8/2000, 2/2001	—
10.	Srisailam LB Power House U-1 (A.P.)	150	232455	12/2000	—
11.	Sharavathy T.R. (Kar.)	60	40857	9/2000	—

[English]

Development of Major Stations

2931. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Railway stations in big cities *viz.* Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Kanpur etc. are not able to cope with the present day traffic needs;

(b) if so, the programme chalked out by the Government to improve them in terms of entries and exists from two sides of the station, separation of pedestrian movements from light vehicular traffic, separation of light vehicular movements from heavy vehicular traffic, integration with 'Urban Rail', if it is there and adequate parking of different modes of vehicles; and

(c) the total funds required to provide such facilities and different sources of funding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Problems of capacity exist at some of the large Railway terminals particularly during peak hours.

(b) and (c) Action taken to deal with the problem is a need based and continuous exercise depending upon the characteristics of each terminal. Availability of resources also determine action taken in such cases.

Measures like double entry at stations, separation of pedestrian movements from vehicular traffic, adequate parking for different modes of vehicles, integration with urban rail transport system as in the case of Calcutta and Chennai etc., are adopted in order to improve the flow of traffic at the terminals.

These measures are implemented on a continuous basis and funds are made available accordingly. These funds are sourced from the internal generation of the Railways.

Post Based Roster in Place of Vacancy Based Roster

2932. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the categories of Class, I, II, III and IV where post based rosters have been introduced in place of vacancy based rosters under your Ministry and its undertakings; and

(c) the reasons for introducing post based rosters in place of vacancy based rosters in those categories of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Supreme Court in R.K. Sabharwal's case (AIR 1995 SC 1371 at page 1375), has held that the operation of the roster and the running account is to be permitted till the prescribed percentage of reservation is reached and the vacancies arising thereafter in the cadre are to be filled from amongst the category of persons to whom the vacancy belong.

(b) The Post-Based Roster was introduced *w.e.f.* 2.07.1997 in all categories of services as per Department of Personnel & Training's guidelines.

(c) The Post-Based Roster was introduced to implement the Supreme Court's decision in R.K. Sabharwal's case.

LPG Agency for Belur (Karnataka)

2933. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the LPG consumers in Belur are put to great hardships as they have to get LPG from Sakleshpur, Arasikere and other places;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to appoint LPG dealers in Belur; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) LPG facility to the customers in Belur in Hassan district, Karnataka is being provided through the distributors at Sakleshpur and Arasikere.

(b) and (c) One LPG distributorship has been included in the Marketing Plan for setting up LPG distributorship for the location Belur. Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the oil companies and the selection of dealers/distributors is made through the Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

Model Code of Conduct

2934. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has sought the intervention of the Government regarding implementation of the Model Code of Conduct from the date of declaration of elections outside the court; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Chief Election Commissioner desires that the Model Code of Conduct should be applicable from the date of announcement of the elections as held in Harbans Singh Jalal's case by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

(b) The issue is under discussion with the Election Commission.

Electronic Voting Machine

2935. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of voters who have voted through voting machines in each State during the recent election of Lok Sabha, Assemblies and Panchayats;

(b) whether the Government are considering to make mandatory use of Electronic Voting Machine in the elections;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide voting through machines in all the States so that fair election can take place in the country; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred for the purchase of voting machines for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A statement containing data regarding the number of voters who voted through Electronic Voting Machines in recent elections to Lok Sabha and States' Legislative Assemblies is laid on the table of the House. Elections to Panchayats is a State subject, conducted by the State Election Commissions, and not by the Election Commission of India and hence no information is maintained by the Government in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A proposal to purchase additional 1,50,000 Electronic Voting Machines for use in the elections to certain States' Legislative Assemblies scheduled to be held during the next year has been received by the Government from the Election Commission of India and the same is being examined. A total expenditure of Rs. 150 crores has been estimated by the Election Commission of India for the purpose. State-wise estimate of expenditure has not been made by the Election Commission in this regard.

Statement

Data Regarding the Number of Voters who voted through Electronic Voting Machines

Name of State	No. of Parliamentary constituencies where EVMs were used	No. of polling stations	No. of electors	No. of voters who voted through EVM
1	2	3	4	5
(1) General Elections to Lok Sabha 1999				
Andhra Pradesh	02	3,705	3,336,830	2,054,469
Goa	02	1,135	909,800	409,944
Gujarat	02	3,121	3,152,817	1,269,027
Haryana	02	2,837	2,070,082	1,405,429
Karnataka	03	5,351	4,615,119	2,732,896
Kerala	02	2,475	2,378,669	1,534430
Madhya Pradesh	02	3,139	2,854,795	1,593,427
Maharashtra	04	5,156	4,672,305	2,130,043
Orissa	01	1,566	1,318,541	625,351
Punjab	03	4,122	3,636,383	2,248,492
Rajasthan	02	3,464	2,861,070	1,402,963
Tamil Nadu	04	6,373	6,340,218	3,178,037
Uttar Pradesh	04	6,508	5,642,291	2,680,735
West Bengal	03	3,449	2,830,782	1,908,051
Chandigarh	01	644	584,656	282,879
NCT of Delhi	07	8,539	8,707,436	3,793,697
Pondicherry	07	778	702,176	444,174
Total:	45	62,362	56,612,969	29,694,044
(2) General Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies 1999				
Goa (June 99)	40 (entire State)	1,135	908,849	577,308
Andhra Pradesh	14	3,705	3,336,830	2,054,469
Karnataka	24	5,351	4,615,119	2,732,896
Maharashtra	24	5,156	4,672,305	2,130,043

1	2	3	4	5
(3) General Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies 2000				
Haryana	45	8,077	5,826,607	3,917,946
Orissa	10	2,339	1,964,225	1,054,013

[Translation]

Production of High Quality Silk

2936. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of production of high quality silk as is being produced in other countries like China and Japan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Government through the Central Silk Board (CSB) has taken up a project for promoting bivoltine sericulture technology development in the country. The project which began in 1991 and successfully developed certain technologies is in its second phase of five years from April 1997, and is engaged in transferring the technology to the field, adopting it to Indian conditions, and finding the correct set of extension practices. So far, the results are encouraging. The commercial exploitation of the bivoltine races is expected to result in production of raw silk of international standard in the country.

Share of Power Projects between M.P. and Rajasthan

2937. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of power supplied to Madhya Pradesh from the Power Projects situated in Rajasthan and vice versa;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Electricity Board is not regularly paying for its share of maintenance of Satpura Thermal Power Station Unit No. 1 situated in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the amount outstanding of Madhya Pradesh against Rajasthan Electricity Board and the action being taken for the payment of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have the following Joint Venture Power generating projects and the shares of power of M.P. and Rajasthan in these projects are as follows:—

Name of the Power project	Location	M.P.'s share	Rajasthan's share
Rana Pratap Sagar HPS (99 MW)	Rajasthan	50%	50%
Jawahar Sagar HPS (172 MW)	Rajasthan	50%	50%
Gandhi Sagar HPS (115 MW)	M.P.	50%	50%
Satpura Thermal Power Station No. 1 (312.5 MW)	M.P.	60%	40%

(b) to (d) M.P. is consuming the Rajasthan's share of energy generated at Satpura Thermal Power Station No. 1 and Rajasthan is making adjustment of the cost of energy consumed by M.P. out of Rajasthan's share against the O&M expenditure of Satpura Thermal Power Station No. 1.

According to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board, the outstanding of Madhya Pradesh against Rajasthan is Rs. 181.71 crores as on 30th June 2000, taking into consideration the O&M expenditure of Satpura Thermal Power House No. I, Gandhi Sagar, Ranapratap Sagar and Jawahar Sagar Hydel Power Stations and the power overdrawn by MPEB from Satpura Thermal Power House No. I (RSEB's share). MPEB is overdrawing power from Satpura Power House No. I out of Rajasthan's share for realisation of the outstanding dues. The States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have different assessment of dues outstanding against each other. The matter was also discussed in the meeting of Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan Inter State Control Board held on 3.6.1999 wherein it was decided that O&M expenditure of the above mentioned projects should jointly be reconciled and audited figures taken as final. There has been no agreement on the reconciled figures of outstanding dues so far.

Conversion of Gas Based Power Projects into Diesel Based Power Projects

2938. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is being considered to convert the gas based power generation projects under the National Thermal Power Corporation into diesel based power generation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of this conversion;

(c) the additional expenditure likely to be incurred on each project due to this conversion; and

(d) the estimated increase/decrease in the cost of power generation after this conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) All gas based combined cycle power plants (except Gandhar) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are capable of operating with liquid fuel which is a substitute fuel used when there is shortage of gas. These are designed and capable of firing high speed diesel (HSD).

NTPC have considered providing liquid fuel firing facility at Gandhar also at a later date which would have negligible effect on the capital cost of the project. However, at present Gas Authority of India Limited is laying a pipeline to connect Gandhar Plant with Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline to supplement the gas supply to Gandhar Plant that would to utilize its maximum generation capacity.

[English]

Handloom Development Centre and Quality Dyeing Units

2939. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units exist in the country, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the new units set up during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken to provide employment to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A statement showing State-wise number of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units sanctioned in the country including Gujarat State is attached.

(b) and (c) The Scheme was in operation upto 1997-98. During the terminal year of operation of the Scheme, 260 new Handloom Development Centres and 78 Quality Dyeing Units were sanctioned. The Government of India continue to extend financial assistance under developmental and welfare schemes to the State Governments including Gujarat for the benefit of handloom weavers.

Statement

Number of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units sanctioned in the country including Gujarat State

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of HDC	No. of QDU
1.	Andhra Pradesh	397	151
2.	Assam	103	—
3.	Bihar	53	19
4.	Gujarat	7	—
5.	Haryana	1	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	11	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	—
8.	Karnataka	30	4
9.	Kerala	72	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	28	6
11.	Maharashtra	20	3
12.	Nagaland	142	7
13.	Orissa	214	40
14.	Rajasthan	1	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	324	36
16.	Tripura	13	10
17.	Uttar Pradesh	89	51
18.	West Bengal	197	40
19.	Pondicherry	5	—
	Total	1710	382

Defect in Konkan Rail Line

2940. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the defects in Konkan Railway line due to heavy rain;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) in this regard; and

(c) the number of trains cancelled so far thereby and losses suffered by the KRC therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Unprecedented heavy rains had caused landslides thereby disrupting traffic during June/July, 2000.

(b) The Konkan Railway organised restoration on a war footing by organising men and material for repair.

(c) A total of 190 trains, 67 between 11.6.2000 to 15.6.2000 and 123 trains between 6.7.2000 to 19.7.2000, have been cancelled during the year on account of land slides due to heavy rain. A loss of earnings of Rs. 6.43 crores and a loss of property valued at Rs. 0.63 crores his incurred on this account.

[Translation]

Railway Catering System

2941. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that sub-standard and unhygienic food is supplied to passengers through railway catering service in trains, particularly in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of catering services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in order to bring further improvement in standard and quality of catering services, Railway has taken various steps *viz.* introduction of three-piece casserole packed meal in place of thali meals, introduction of eco-friendly packaging materials, supply of curd in kullarhs, ensuring quality of mineral water, review of menu and services of Rajdhani/Shatabdi and other superfast trains. Regular inspections are carried out by divisional/ zonal and Board's officials. Besides special drives are being organised from time to time. Senior railway officers conduct surpirse checks/inspections to ensure improvement in catering services. Complaints received are investigated and strict action taken against the defaulters. A "Catering Monitoring Cell" has also been set up in Board's office to deal with public complaints.

[English]

Revival of Madras Fertilizers Limited

2942. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) has been revamped with active participation between the Government of India and AMOCO, USA and NIOC, Iran;

(b) if so, the details of shareholding pattern till last month, and its performance in as far as shares are concerned;

(c) the performance of MFL during the last three years in the production selling and income earned, expenditure incurred;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to have an expansion project of MFL to produce more biofertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) A revamp of the plants of Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Chennai, has been completed in March, 1998, at a total cost of Rs. 601.43 crore. The project was funded with an equity component of Rs. 133.32 crore (22%) and debt component of Rs. 468.11 crore (78%). The promoters (Government of India and NIOC, Iran) together contributed Rs. 92.63 crore of the equity portion and the remaining was raised through issue of shares to the public and internal accruals of MFL. The debt portion was raised through loans from financial institutions, Government of India, other corporates and debentures.

(b) As on 31.7.2000, the Government of India held 59.15%, NIOC, Iran 24.92% and public 15.93% of the paid up share capital of MFL.

(c) Details of performance of MFL during the last three years in production, sales, expenditure and profit/loss are given below:

Sl.No.	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
1.	Urea ('000' MT)	63.71	327.98	403.76
2.	NPK ('000' MT)	458.68	732.91	811.26
3.	Net Sales Income (Rs. Cr.)	546.77	1161.17	1230.04
4.	Expenditrue (Rs. Cr.)	602.12	1186.91	1205.06
5.	Net profit/(loss) (Rs. Cr.)	(55.35)	(25.74)	24.98

(d) and (e) There is a central scheme for providing grant-in-aid for setting up/expanding bio-fertilizer production facilities, under which, MFL has requested the Government for a grant-in-aid of Rs. 7 lakh for increasing the capacity of its bio-fertilizer plant at Manali, Chennai from 100 tonnes per annum to 150 tonnes per annum.

Rehabilitation of Persons Affected by NJHPP

2943. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper rehabilitation has not been done for the persons affected due to construction of Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Power Project in Himachal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cracks have appeared in large number of houses due to blasting in the area; and

(d) if so, the actions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Project authorities, namely, the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation (NJPC) has confirmed that proper rehabilitation has been done for the persons affected due to the construction of Nathpa Jhakri Hydro-electric Project (1500 MW) in Himachal Pradesh.

NJPC had got a study conducted by the National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) during August, 1996 to September, 1997, which revealed that the damages caused to the structures were not attributable to blasting in the project area alone but there could be many other

reasons. NIRM study identified the radial zone of influence of blasting work in which the structure could have been affected. Based on the findings of NIRM, the HP Government had carried out assessment of the damages caused to the villages falling under the zone of influence. A sum of Rs. 52.40 lakh have been disbursed by the State Government authorities to the affected villagers in the villages falling under District Shimla. Based on further re-assessment of damages by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, additional funds to the extent necessary would be provided by the project authorities for disbursement to the affected villagers.

Amendment in Indian Evidence Act

2944. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in Indian Evidence Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Power Projects in Kerala

2945. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects submitted by the Government of Kerala for approval during the last two years; and

(b) the number of projects cleared so far and the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The following thermal power projects were received in Central Electricity Authority for grant of techno-economic clearance during the last two years *i.e.* from July 1998 to June 2000:

Name of Project	Date of receipt
1. Kozhikode Heavy Fuel (128 MW)	July, 1999

Status: The project was originally accorded TEC by CEA in October, 1994 and approved by Planning Commission in October, 1995. Subsequently, Kerala SEB shifted the site of the project from Edakkara to Nallalan based on techno-economic consideration. Kerala SEB has now submitted Detailed Project Report for the revised proposal at Nallalan in Kozhikode. The proposal was discussed with the representatives of KSEB in a meeting held in CEA on 3.11.1999. The details/clarifications sought in the meeting are awaited from Kerala SEB.

2. Kannur CCGT (513 MW)	November, 1999

Status: The DPR for this project was originally received in January, 1997. This was, however, returned for want of necessary inputs. The revised proposal recommended by Government of Kerala was received in November, 1999 for clearance of CEA. This proposal has been accorded TEC on 28.1.2000.

No hydro electric scheme has been received in Central Electricity Authority from the Government of Kerala for approval during the last two years.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Refinery at Allahabad

2946. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a proposal for setting up of a refinery in the Dhokari area of Shankar Gadh Block of the Vara Tehsil, District Allahabad; and

(b) if so, the time by which the refinery is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the powers delegated to Navratna Public Sector Undertakings, the Board of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has approved the proposal to set up the 7 million metric tonnes per annum grassroot refinery at Lohgara near Shankargarh in Bara tehsil of Allahabad district.

(b) The project is scheduled for completion within 48 months from the receipt of all statutory approvals and financial closure.

Introduction of DMU Trains on Delhi-Rewari Section

2947. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding over-crowding of passengers on Delhi-Rewari section of Northern Railway;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce DMU services between Delhi and Rewari for the convenience of daily passengers;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to resource constraints including lack of spare coaching stock.

[Translation]

Installation of Power Plant

2948. SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sanctioned Rupees one thousand crore for the installation of 200 MW power plant in the Bhadunda Khurd Village of district Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan by Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited;

(b) if so, the extent to which the work on this project has been completed and the time by which this plant is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Deptt. of Fertilizers) had informed the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 27.2.1997 regarding setting up of a 200 MW power project at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan by Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO). CEA raised certain queries regarding the details of the project, but no response has been received from the Deptt. of Fertilizers.

[English]

Study on Power Subsidy

2949. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a panel to study power subsidy for poor;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and terms of reference of panel;

(c) whether the panel has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the panel is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Constitution of Oil Selection Boards

2950. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Oil Selection Boards in various States;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the tenure of the Oil Selection Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have constituted Dealer Selection Boards (earlier known as Oil Selection Boards) with the following composition:

(i) A retired High Court Judge or a retired District Judge — Chairman

(ii) An officer of the rank of Deputy General Manager/ Chief Manager, depending on availability, of the concerned oil company — Member

(iii) An officer of the rank of Deputy General Manager Chief Manager, depending on availability, of Another oil company. — Member

The Chairmen of the DSBs hold office during the pleasure of the Government and their tenure is for a period not exceeding two years.

[English]

Oil Refineries in Orissa

2951. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some Oil Refineries in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is setting up a refinery of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity at village Abhayachandrapur near Paradip in Orissa and the project as per present schedules, is likely to be completed in August, 2003.

In addition, Letter of Intent had been issued to M/s. Ashok Leyland Ltd. for a 2.0 MMTPA Lube Refinery at Paradip in Orissa.

[Translation]

Trains of British Company

2952. SHRI ANANTH GUDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trains of the British Company are still running on some narrow gauge lines in the country;

(b) if so, the amount paid by the Government to them in the form of royalty every year;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the said narrow gauge rail lines into broad gauge ones and to run the trains under the Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, the following narrow gauge railway lines, including the rolling stock running on them, are owned by private companies from pre-independence period:

1. Ahmedpur-Katwa, and
2. (i) Murtajapur-Yavatmal,
   (ii) Murtajapur-Achalpur, and
   (iii) Pulgaon-Arvi.

The owning companies are The Ahmdedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd. for item (1) and The Central Provinces Railways Company Ltd. for item (2). These are not British companies but Indian companies incorporated under the then Indian Companies Act.

(b) No royalty is being paid to these companies. The financial terms as per the Agreements for these lines being operated by Indian Railways are as shown in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Financial Terms Governing the Agreements with Private Railway Companies

(1) *The Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd.*

As per the Agreement with the Company, if the net receipts in a year are not sufficient to pay a return of 3.5% on the paid-up capital, the deficit shall be made good by the Government. If such receipts exceed 3.5% but do not exceed 5% of the paid-up capital, the amount will be retained by the Company. In the event of net receipts exceeding 5% of the paid-up capital, the surplus will be divided equally between the Company and the Government. The Company is presently being paid only an amount equivalent to 3.5% of the paid-up capital per annum.

(2) *The Central Provinces Railways Company Ltd.*

As per the Agreement with the Company, 45% of the gross earnings are retained by Central Railway towards operation and maintenance expenses. If the balance remaining is insufficient to yield a return of 5% per anum on the Company's capital of Rs. 94 lakhs, plus Rs. 21,000/- per annum towards management expenses, the deficit shall be made good by Central Railway to the Company. In the event of the balance exceeding the guaranteed return as above, the same is shared equally by Central Railway and the Company.

[English]

Promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

2953. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented by the Government to promote non-conventional energy sources in the States during the Ninth Plan period together with allocation;

(b) the details of the schemes implemented in Gujarat together with financial allocation during the first three years of the Ninth Plan;

(c) the details of schemes proposed to be implemented during the next two years of the Ninth Plan; and

(d) the details of the proposed allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Wide-ranging non-conventional energy programmes/schemes in areas such as biogas, solar energy, wind energy, biomass and small hydro power, are being implemented throughout the country. Details of various programmes/schemes, together with financial allocations for the Ninth Plan period, are given in Statement I.

(b) The status of various programmes/schemes implemented, and funds released, during the first three years of the Ninth Plan in the State of Gujarat, are given in Statement II.

(c) and (d) All the existing schemes/programmes are proposed to be continued during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan throughout the country, including in the State of Gujarat. The details of programme-wise financial allocations and physical targets set for 2000-01 are given in Statement-III. Allocations and physical targets for 2001-2002 have not yet been finalized.

Statement

Details of Programmes/Schemes being implemented, alongwith Budgetary Allocations, during 9th Plan Period

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Programmes/Schemes	9th Plan Allocations	9th Plan Physical Targets
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas	286.00	10 Lakhs
2.	Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants	30.00	800 Nos.
3.	Improved Chulha	84.00	150 Lakhs
4.	Biomass/Gasifier	25.00	40 MW
5.	/Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	53.00	660 (Old Blocks) 200 (New Blocks)

1	2		3	4
6.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme		219.00	
		SPV Home Light		2 Lakhs
		SPV Lanterns		3 Lakhs
		SPV Power Plants		1.6 MW
7.	SPV Pumps		46.50	4000 Nos.
8.	SPV Research & Development		25.00	
9.	Solar Thermal (ST) Energy		34.00	
		Solar Water Heating Systems (M. sq. collector area)		1.5 Lakh
		Solar Cooker		1.5 Lakh Nos.
10.	Wind Pumps & Hybrid Systems		8.00 250 KW	1000 Nos.
11.	Wind Power		63.00	100 MW
12.	Small Hydro Power (SHP)		187.00	
		(SHP)		130 MW
		(Water Mills)		700 Nos.
		(Repair & Maintenance)		65 MW
13.	Biomass Power		226.00	314 MW
14.	Solar Power		63.00	141.5 MW
15.	Urban & Industrial & National Bio-energy Board		62.00	42 MW
16.	Research & Development and other support activities		150.64	

MW = Mega Watt; KW = Kilo Watt; M. sq. = Meter Square Collector Area.

Statement II

Status of various programmes/schemes implemented, and funds released during the first three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 of the Ninth Plan, in the State of Gujarat.

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Schemes/Programmes	Physical Progress	Funds released
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas Plants	32,333 Nos.	11.04
2.	Community/Institutional/ Night-soil-based Plants	26 No.s	0.26
3.	Improved Chulhas	2.56 Lakhs Nos.	10.03
4.	Energy Parks	4 Nos.	0.08

1	2	3	4
5.	Wind Power	20 MW	0.54
6.	Biomass Power	0.5 MW	0.20
7.	Biomass Gasifiers	650 kW	0.03
8.	Solar Photovoltaics		1.93
9.	(i) Solar Lanterns	2212 Nos.	
	(ii) Home Lighting Systems	7000 Nos.	
	(iii) Street Lighting Systems	3350 Nos.	
9.	Pumping Systems		
	(a) SPV Pumping	3 Nos.	0.37
	(b) Water Pumping Windmills	149 Nos.	
10.	Waste to Energy (MW)	2 MW	2.22

Statement-III

Details of programme-wise financial allocations and physical targets set for 2000-01

Sl.No.	Programme	Budget Estimates 2000-2001	Physical Targets
1	2	3	4
1.	Biogas	62.00	1,80,000 Nos.
	Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants	7.00	400 Nos.
2.	Improved Chulha	21.00	25 Lakh in Nos.
3.	Biomass/Gasifier	5.20	7 MW
4.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	9.00	
5.	Special Area Demonstration Park (SADP)	1.50	36 Nos.
6.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme	52.00	
	SPV Home Light		50000 Nos.
	SPV Lanterns		70000 Nos.
	Street Lighting Systems		3000 Nos.
	SPV Power Plants & other systems		275 kWp
7.	SPV Pumps	9.50	7.00 Nos.
8.	SPV R&D	3.00	
9.	Solar Thermal (ST) Energy	4.00	
	Solar water Heating Sys. Domestic		35000 M.Sq. collector area

1	2	3	4
	Solar Cooker		35000 Nos.
10.	Solar Energy Centre	2.00	
11.	Wind Pumps and Hybird Systems	1.50	200 Nos.
			60 kW
12.	Wind power	12.00	200 MW
13.	Small Hydro Power (SHP)	34.00	40 MW
	R&M		20 MW
	Water Mills		200 Nos.
14.	Biomass Power	34.80	60 MW
15.	Solar Power	8.00	30 kW
16.	Urban & Industrial & National Bio-energy Board	20.00	10 MW
17.	Research & Development and other support activities	22.16	

MW = Mega Watt; kW=Kilo Watt; M. sq. = Meter Square Collector Area.

Gas available in Lakwa Project

2954. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the GAIL Lakwa L.P.G. Recovery Project was approved and completed;

(b) the projected gas availability from ONGC's Lakwa region at the time of approving the project;

(c) whether there is a shortfall in the availability of gas for the plant as on date;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the financial impact on the Plant due to short-fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government approved the GAIL's LPG recovery project at Lakwa on September 25, 1992, and the plant was commissioned on October 19, 1998.

(b) The projected gas availability from the ONGC's fields for Lakwa project at the time of its approval was 2.0 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD).

(c) Presently, ONGC is supplying at an average of 0.85 MMSCMD feed gas for the Lakwa LPG plant.

(d) Major oil fields of ONGC at Lakwa, Geleki and Rudrasagar, etc., entering the natural declining phase, environmental problems and irregular power supply are the main reasons fro shortfall in gas suply.

(e) GAIL incurred a loss of Rs. 16.13 crores in the year 1999-2000 on LPG plant operation due to shortfall in gas availability.

Demands of Truck Unions

2955. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether some demands of Truck Unions whose vehicles carry cooking gas from refineries to the cylinder filling units are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil Industry has floated a tender for LPG Bulk Transportation on all India basis, last year. Some of the transporters have made representations to the Ministry against the induction of proposed tank truck from certain transporters. Induction of tank trucks is made as per the terms and conditions of the tender.

Construction of Bridge Over River Baitarani in Orissa

2956. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for construction of a Railway bridge over river Baitarani between Jakhapura and Jenapur in Orissa;

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

(c) the amount sanctioned and released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Fertilizers

2957. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and type of fertilizers imported during each of the last three years and proposed for year 2000-01 along with the name of the countries and expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the rate at which fertilizers imported alongwith the names of agencies granted permission for the import of fertilizers, type-wise;

(c) the present cost of imported urea per tonne and the cost of domestic urea per tonne; and

(d) the reasons for the difference in cost, if any, and the measures to be taken to minimise this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price and movement control and whose imports are made on Government account to bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availability through designated canalizing agencies namely M/s. MMTC Ltd., M/s. State Trading Corporation Ltd. (STC), and M/s. Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL). The quanity of urea imports in the last three years along with the expenditure incurred thereon is as under:

Year	Urea (LMT)	Expenditure (Rs. crores)
1997-98	23.89	729.36
1998-99	5.56	125.00
1999-2000 (P)	5.33	74.07

LMT = Lakh MTs
P = Provisional

The agency-wise imports and the C&F prices at which these imports were made in the last three years is indicated below:

Agency	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Quantity (LMT)	Weighted average C&F Price (US$)	Quantity (LMT)	Weighted average C&F Price (US$)	Quantity (LMT)	Weighted average C&F Price (US$)
MMTC	11.04	151.30	2.58	100.54	2.33	86.43
STC	9.98	153.37	1.50	100.67	1.02	86.43
IPL	2.87	139.66	1.48	99.60	1.98	85.50

LMT=Lakh MTs

The countries from where import of urea were made during last three years were Libya, CIS, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E and Iran.

The other major fertilizers namely DAP and MOP have been decontrolled since 24.8.1992 and their imports decanalized with effect from 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993 respectively. The imports of these fertilizers are made freely on private trade account within the parameters of the concession scheme of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). As these fertilizers are decontrolled, Department of Fertilizers does not maintain details regarding the prices, expenditure and sources of imports. On the basis of available information, quantities of DAP and MOP imported in the last three years were as under:

Year	DAP (LMT)	MOP (LMT)
1997-98	14.60	19.00
1998-99	21.05	25.70
1999-2000 (P)	32.68	28.98

LMT=Lakh MTs
P=Provisional.

DAP imports were from Jordan, USA, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, C.I.S, South Korea, South Africa and Senegal and that of MOP were from Canada, Jordan, Germany, Israel and C.I.S.

(c) and (d) No imports of urea have been made so far in the current year. However according to details appearing in the Fertilizers Market Bulletin and other weekly bulletins, prices of prilled urea have firmed up and are being quoted currently in the range of the US $133-136 (Rs. 5985-620 per tonne) by C.I.S. producers on FOB basis and US$ 130-140 (Rs. 5850-6300 per tonne) by the AG producers on FOB basis. Against this, the weighted average retention price of domestic urea is Rs. 8218 per tonne as on 1.4.2000. Administrative Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum sector has been dismantled with effect from September 1997 and the prices are governed by import parity prices. The supply of gas in the country, which is the preferred stock for fertilizer production, is dwindling. Hence the Government have limited control on pricing of feedstock, which is the major constituent in the cost of production of indigenous urea, to minimize the difference in the price of indigenous and imported urea. The weighted average cost of production of domestic urea is high because nearly 40% of the indigenous urea capacity is based on naphtha and fuel oil.

[English]

Payment of Rent of Properties in Possession of Army in J&K

2958. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of immovable properties under the possession of army in Jammu and Kashmir and the date since when these are occupied by the Army;

(b) whether the rent is being paid to the owners; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Land measuring 21119.993 acres is held on hired/requisitioned basis in Jammu and Kashmir by the Army from different dates. The total number of hired buildings is 26. Rent is being paid for the land and the buildings regularly.

Inquiry into H.D.W. Scam

2959. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Ministr of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has reportedly failed to gather evidence against the accused in the Rs. 420 crore HDW scam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of efforts made by the CBI in regard thereto so far;

(d) whether CBI has requested the Government to negotiate with the German Government to get the evidence;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction; and

(f) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The case registered by CBI on 5th March, 1990 relating to HDW Submarine deal, is still under investigation. The CBI have informed that a large part of investigation was required to be carried out in Switzerland and Germany. Letters Rogatory issued by the Court of Special Judge, Delhi on 20th January, 1998 were presented to the competent authorities in Switzerland

and Germany on 23rd February, 1998 and 3rd February, 1998, respectively. While the German authorities have expressed their inability to accede to CBI's request for assistance in view of European Human Rights Convention and their constitutional law, the results of Letter Rogatory from Switzerland are still awaited. The execution of Letter Rogatory at Germany and Switzerland is being pursued by the CBI directly as also through the Ministry of External Affairs/Embassy of India in Germany.

Status Report on the progress of investigations is also being submitted by the CBI to the Delhi High Court regularly in the context of pending/Public Interest Litigation Petition filed on 9th May, 1997.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps on G.T. and Eastern Express Highways

2960. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few petrol pumps have been set up on Grand Trunk Road between Mughal Sarai and Calcutta and on Eastern Express Highway between Patna and Farakka in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to set up more petrol pumps at places on both the highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, there are 256 retail outlets in operation on the Grand Trunk Road between Mughal Sarai and Calcutta and 20 more retail outlet dealerships are proposed to be set up on this road.

However, there is no road by the name of Eastern Express Highway between Patna and Farakka in Bihar.

For making early selection of dealers/distributors, new Dealer Selection Boards have been set up all over the country.

[English]

Import of Fertilizers

2961. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed a number of private parties/firms to import fertilizers, drugs and chemicals of which the sale/distribution is controlled by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such private parties/firms to whom permission to import the above items has been given during each of the last three years; and

(c) the total number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total such parties/firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Urea is the only item which is under statutory price, movement and distribution control. The imports of urea are made on Government account. However, some of the fertilizer companies have been allowed to import urea for manufacturing of complex fertilizers, details of which in the last three years are as under:

(Quantities in MT)

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Corromondel Fertilizers Ltd.	30,000	90,000	75,000
Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	50,000	1,50,000	2,40,000
Zuari Industries Ltd.	Nil	Nil	60,000
Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	Nil	Nil	20,000

The imports of other major fertilizers namely DAP, MOP are free and so is the case in drugs and chemicals.

[Translation]

Repeal of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987

2962. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDILKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from sugar and cement units to repeal Jute Packaging Material (compulsory use in packaging commodities) Act, 1987; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Considering all aspects, Cement was excluded from the purview of Mandatory Jute Packaging Orders issued under Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) *w.e.f.* 1.7.1997. The Standing Advisory Committee constituted under the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 (JPM Act) recommends, from time to time, the commodity or class of commodities or percentage thereof to be compulsorily packed in Jute material. Keeping in view the strike in Jute mills in West Bengal during March-April, 2000 and shortage of B twill bags thereof, a relaxation upto 10% for Sugar and foodgrains was given vide order dated 31.3.2000. This Order is valid upto 30.9.2000. There is no proposal to repeal the JPM Act, 1987.

[English]

Vacancy Based Rosters

2963. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancy based rosters can operate only till the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the categories of Class I, II, III and IV where post based rosters have been introduced in place of vacancy based rosters under her Ministry and its undertakings; and

(c) the reasons for introducing post based rosters in place of vacancy based rosters in those categories of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per the Supreme Court judgement dated 10.2.1995 in the matter of R.K. Sabharwal and others Vs. State of Punjab and others. "once the posts earmarked for the Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Backward Classes on the roster are filled the reservation is complete. Roster cannot operate any further and it should be stopped. Any post falling vacant due to retirement etc. in a cadre thereafter is to be filled from the particular category—reserved or general—to which the earlier incumbent of the post belonged." Vide para 1 of their O.M. No. 36012/2/96 Estt. (Res.) dated 2.7.1997, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (DOP&T) also reiterated the judgement as under:

> "the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time as the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories, in a cadre, reacbes the prescribed percentages of reservation."

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the policy directive contained in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions' OM dated 2.7.1997, Ministry of Railways adopted the same instructions and replaced Vacancy Based Rosters with Post Based Rosters in direct recruitment as well as promotional posts in Group C and Group D categories and for promotion from Group D to Group C. So far, no instructions have been issued for promotions from Group C to Group B.

521 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Projects

2964. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government (C.R.L. Project) to establish a 521 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Project at Ambalmugal, Kochi, based on Asphaltene;

(b) if so, the details of the Cochin Refineries Limited's projects; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) In March, 1998, a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up a 522 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plant by M/s. Cochin Refineries Limited (CRL) using vacuum residue/asphaltene as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 2994 crores at an exchange rate of Rs. 35.8/US$, was received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

Comments of CEA have been sent to M/s. CRL with the request to submit the Detailed Project Report after tie-up of all necessary clearances for Techno-Economic Clearance. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is yet to be received in CEA.

Construction of Over Bridge at Mustafabad Railway Station

2965. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to construct over bridge at Mustafabad Railway Station in district Yamuna Nagar, Haryana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Koldam Power Project

2966. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had laid a stone for construction of a power project at Koldam in June, 2000;

(b) the details of the cost of expenses involved therein and the time by which construction work on this project is likely to be started; and

(c) the time by which this power project is likely to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Koldam project on 5th June, 2000.

(b) and (c) The project will be firmed up after updation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). The tentative cost based on preliminary estimates is about Rs. 3900 crore. Work on pre-development activities/studies have commenced. The project is expected to be commissioned during 11th Plan period.

Identification of Places for Petrol Outlets in Orissa

2967. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to identify the places for appointment of retailers for petrol and diesel in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps, so far, been taken for the appointment of retailers;

(d) whether any special consideration for super cyclone affected areas of Orissa has been envisaged for finalising the new retailers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Oil Industry conducts periodic surveys in different parts of the country, including Orissa, to identify feasible locations for setting up retail outlet dealerships. The locations found feasible, based on Volume-Distance Norms, are included in the Marketing Plans. In addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 30 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Orissa.

For making early selection of dealers/distributors, 2 Dealer Selection Boards have been set up in the State of Orissa.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Pending Power Projects in Karnataka

2968. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects of Karnataka pending at present with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA);

(b) the reason for the delay in the clearance of those projects; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) A list of projects which are under examination in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for grant of Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) as on 31.7.2000 and schemes returned

to project authorities or which are expected to be re-submitted are given in the enclosed statement. The schemes under examination in CEA would be considered for accord of TEC as soon as the pending inputs are tied up by the concerned project authorities.

Statement

Schemes under examination

	Name of Scheme	Comments
1.	Nanjangud CCPP(T) (96.7 MW)	Pending inputs are Resolution of water availability by CWC from inter-state angle and finalisation of hard cost.
2.	Mandya CCPP (T) (164.4 MW)	Pending inputs are Compliance of Sec. 29 (2), revalidation of various clearances such as Environment clearance, transport clearance, fuel linkage, water availability etc.
3.	Hassan CCPP (T) (189 MW)	Pending inputs are Resolution of water availability from inter-state angle by CWC.
4.	Telgi TPP (T) (1x350 MW)	Note recommended by SPAC for TEC as cost is not properly structured and equipment and service costs are not indicated in the reasonable proportion.
5.	Raichur TPP (T) (1x210 MW)	Pending inputs are Compliance of Sec. 29(2), Ministry of Environment and Forests clearance, no objection from Airports Authority of India.

Schemes returned/submission of DPR expected

1. Yelahanka DGPP Extn. (T) (2x23.4 MW)
2. Alamatti DPH (H) (5x50+1x18 MW)
3. Shivasamudrum HEP (H) (2x135 MW)
4. Mahadayi HEP (H) (2x10+150+2x12.5 MW)
5. Upper Krishna HEP (H) (1107 MW)
6. Bangalore TPP (T) (2x250 MW)
7. Vijaynagar TPP-I (T) 1x500 MW)
8. Mean Shivapur Konnur LNG based CPP (T) (500 MW)
9. Tattihalla Augmentation HEP (H) (410 Gwh).

Promotion of Renewable Energy Projects

2969. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to promote renewable energy projects;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide 130 million dollar loan therefor and 5 million dollar grant from the Global Environment Facility;

(c) if so, whether India's second renewable energy project provides a line of credit channelled through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

World Bank Second line of Credit

The India Second Renewable Energy Project comprises of a loan of US$ 130 million from World Bank and a grant of US$ 5 million from Global Environment Facility (GEF). The credit line aims at promoting investment in Small Hydro and Energy Efficiency projects. The source and sector wise details are as follows:

(In million US$)

	Small Hydro	Energy Efficiency	Total
International Development Association (IDA) loan	30	20	50
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan	80	—	80
Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant	—	5	5
Total	110	25	135

Present Status: The World Bank executive board has approved the loan on 27th June 2000. The loan and other agreements for operationalising the line of credit are yet to be signed.

Supply of Silk Garments to Jammu and Kashmir

2970. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been roped in by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for supplying silk garments to resurrect ailing State run silk factory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission in October, 97 forwarded for evaluation and vetting two preliminary project profiles received from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir seeking assistance to modernise their silk filature and silk weaving factory. Jammu & Kashmir Industries Ltd. (a J&K Govt. undertaking) also requested for assistance to enable them to engage an organisation to prepare a feasibility report on the 2 proposals. The services of Technical Consultancy Service Organisation of Karnataka (TECSOK) were engaged to draw up a techno-feasibility report for the projects. The report of the TECSOK was received and forwarded to J&K Government.

[Translation]

Power Plants for Renewal and Modernisation

2971. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to hand over power plants which have very low Plant Load Factor to private sector for renewal and modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) To encourage private sector for undertaking Renovation and Modernisation of old power plants, the Government of India have issued comprehensive guidelines for their participation. The policy *inter-alia*, envisages three options for private participation for R&M activities *viz.* (i) LROT (lease, rehabilitate, operate and transfer) (ii) Sale of Plant and (iii) (JV) Joint Venture between State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and private companies. However, the choice and initiative rest with the States/SEBs/Power Utilities to involve private sector in renewal and R&M of power plants.

[English]

Test Fire of 'Akash' Missile

2972. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indigenously built multi target surface to air missile 'Akash' was test fired twice on July 5 and July 8, 2000;

(b) if so, the extent of success achieved therefrom indicating its special features; and

(c) the reasons for repeated testing thereof?

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

(b) and (c) These tests were a part of the number of flight trials, which need to be conducted during development, for providing various sub-systems. Valuable data has been obtained from these tests for use in development of the system.

Export of Textiles

2973. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of textiles especially readymade garments exported along with the name of the countries during each of the last three years and current year, item-wise and country-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned during the said period, item-wise;

(c) the name of companies and States from where these items are exported, item-wise;

(d) the percentage of increase/decrease in export during 1999-2000 in comparison to 1998-99;

(e) the target fixed for the export of textiles/readymade garments during each of the last three years and current year;

(f) the steps taken to increase the export along with the market explored in the world by Apparel Export Promotion Council during the above period; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate infrastructure and other facilities to the industry to face overseas competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of garments exported during the last three years and the current year are given below:—

Year	Quantity (in Million Pcs)	Value (in Million US$)
1997-1998	1314.2	4910.3
1998-1999	1390.8	5269.4
1999-2000	1440.6	5524.5
2000-2001 (April-June)	370.1	1444.7

Source: Apparel Export Promotion Council.

The USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., C.I.S. countries, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, South Africa etc. are the major importing countries of our readymade garments.

(c) State-wise, company-wise export figures are not maintained.

(d) Exports of readymade garments during 1999-2000 have increased by 6.1% in US$ term compared to 1998-99.

(e) The target fixed for the export of textiles (including ready-made garments) during the last three years and current year are given below:—

(In US Million Dollars)

S.No.	Items	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Readymade Garments	5200.0	5900.0	6000.0	6500.0
2.	Sub-Total (a+b+c) (Cotton Textiles)	4320.0	4175.0	4500.0	4750.0
	(a) Cotton Fabrics & Made ups (MM/PL)	2100.0	1975.0	2400.0	2400.0
	(b) Cotton Farbics & Made-ups (HL)	520.0	600.0	600.0	650.0
	(c) Cotton Yarn	1250.0	1600.0	1500.0	1700.0
3.	Man-made Textiles	1150.0	1200.0	1100.0	1150.0
4.	Silk	315.0	300.0	265.0	330.0
5.	Wool and Woollens	300.00	365.0	300.0	315.0
	Total (Textiles)	6085.0	11940.0	12165.0	13045.0
6.	Handicrafts	1835.0	2035.0	1990.0	2240.0
7.	Jute	180.0	230.0	153.0	170.0
8.	Coir	60.0	70.0	77.0	77.0
	Grand Total	13360.0	14275.0	14385.0	15532.0

(f) The Apparel Export Promotion Council had participated in Buyer-Seller-Meets in Latin American countries, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and had participated in International Menswear Cologne Fair, Germany, and Hong kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong. In addition above, the Council has taken delegation to Latin American Countries for exploring the new avenues. The Council has been organising India International Garment Fair and India Knit Fair for direct marketing and exposure to overseas buyers in respect of garments for Autumn, Winter and Spring Summer sessions separately each year. The Council has established Apparel Training & Design Centres in various locations throughout Country for providing skilled manpower for the Garment Industry.

(g) The Government has been taking a number of measures such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; product development and quality Upgradation through appropriate training programmes, providing comprehensive testing facilities through network of laboratories etc. to upgrade readymade garment industry and to accelerate exports. Government has also been taking a number of measures to improve infrastructure facilities for exports including assistance under the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) and Critical Infrastructure Balancing (CIB) Schemes,

Loan for IOC

2974. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian banks have refused to join syndicate of loans for Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make an indepth study of I.O.C.;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether I.O.C. has consumed the loans taken during the last three years from International Financial Institutions; and

(f) if so, the extent to which I.O.C. has increased its business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

(e) During the last three years, the IOC has not taken any loan from International Financial Institutions.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of LPG (Domestic) for Commercial Purposes

2975. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to ban the commercial use of LPG (domestic) to reduce the burden of subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal tp provide any alternative facility to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, the use of domestic LPG for commercial purpose is not allowed, in terms of LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000.

(c) and (d) Commercial LPG connections are provided by Oil Marketing companies separately for the commercial purpose.

[English]

Setting up of Cargo Stations in Andhra Pradesh

2976. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish a special railway cargo station in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh for export of fruits and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mangoes, coconuts and other agro products are transported through railways in huge quantities from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to establish separate cargo facility or station for such exports in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mango traffic is offered in large quantities from Vijayawada area during mango season. There is no significant movement of coconut traffic. All items like mangoes and other fruits and various agro based products are booked either as goods or parcels.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of IDPL Plants

2977. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of plants of IDPL are lying closed;

(b) if so, since when and the locations thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount being spent on these plants including the salaries etc. annually after their closure;

(d) the reasons for delay in taking a decision; and

(e) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The operations in the three plants of IDPL at Rishikesh (UP), Hyderabad (AP) and Gurgaon (Haryana) are closed since October, 1996, except for some limited production of formulations.

(c) The amount spent on the three plants including Corporation Office and Marketing Division is given below:

October, 1996 to March 1997	Rs. 15.95 crores
April, 1997 to March, 1998	Rs. 50.10 crores
April, 1998 to March, 1999	Rs. 66.34 crores
April, 1999 to March, 2000	Rs. 61.59 crores

(d) and (e) The future of the company, including revival, would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

[English]

O.T.I. Pension to D.S.C. Personnel

2978. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide One Time Increase (OTI) in pension to D.S.C. personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether any retired D.S.C. personnel have been getting One Time Increase in pension presently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the orders granting One Time Increase (OTI) in pension to pre 1.1.1986 service pensioners, the re-employed service pensioners were eligible for proportionate OTI if their period of re-employment was less than 10 years. Those service personnel who were re-employed in DSC and had rendered less than 10 years service were also eligible for grant of OTI. However, as per the orders revising pension of pre 1.1.1996 pensioners, the OTI has been merged in the revised pension with effect from 1.1.1996. At present no service pensioner is in receipt of OTI as a separate element.

[Translation]

Impact of Fall of Rupee on Oil Import

2979. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

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

(a) whether a heavy impact on the oil import is estimated owing to the fall of rupee against the dollar in the last few months;

(b) if so, the additional amount likely to be paid for importing oil during 2000-2001; and

(c) the extent of impact likely to be on the oil pool account due to this reason?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Due to recent variations in exchange rate of rupee in relation to US dollar there has been some impact on the oil import bill in terms of the Indian Rupee for the quantities contracted. The exact increase in the import bill for the year 2000-2001 and its impact on the oil pool account will depend upon the quantities to be imported and the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market for the remaining period of the year 2000-2001.

Survey for Pune-Surat Rail Line

2980. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey has been conducted for laying of Pune-Surat via Nasik railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of a new line from Pune to Nasik has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available. Railways have no proposal at present to conduct survey for Nasik-Surat new line as already there is a large shelf of new line projects requiring over Rs. 22,000 cr. for their completion and Railways are facing acute constraint of resources.

[English]

Performance of Ordnance Factories

2981. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff has expressed its serious concern on the functioning of ordnance factories and stressed the need for involving private sector in major armament programme;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in that regard and to ensure that these factories produce all advanced surveillance system and weapon locating radars etc. indigenously;

(c) the performance of each of these factories during 1999 and 2000 till date in physical and financial terms;

(d) the steps to improve the functioning of Ordnance factories and to modernise them along with the allocation of funds made therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to involve private sector for manufacturing of advance weapon system;

(f) if so, the details of items to be manufactured in private sector; and

(g) the steps being taken to ensure that defence preparedness is not leaked out as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (g) The Chief of the Army Staff has expressed concern in respect of some specific items/stores, *viz.*, T-72 Tanks, T-72 Tank Barrels and Grad rocket ammunition. Whilst appreciating the significant role played by Ordnance factories in meeting important requirements of the Army, he has made constructive suggestions on their cost effectiveness and optimal use of the capacities of ordnance factories, Defence PSUs and the Private Sector. He has not specifically identified areas which could be opened up to the Private Sector and his ideas relating to advanced systems is in the context of the entire defence industrial complex in the country.

Ordnance factories neither produce surveillance system or any type of radars including weapon locating radars nor there is any plan to produce these items in the ordnance factories.

Improvement in functioning and modernisation is an on-going process. It encompasses upgradation of technology, augmentation of capacities and replacement of old and obsolete plant and machinery, which has outlived its life as well as installation of new plant and machinery with a view to productionise various defence related items of newer technology in keeping with the requirement of services.

Turn over in ordnance factories during 1999-2000 was higher by 34.6% compared to the turn over in the previous year. The financial performance of each of the ordnance factory during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has been furnished in the enclosed statement. As regards physical performance, these factories produce a wide variety of items, which include small arms and its ammunition, transport vehicles, armoured personnel carrier, tanks, artillery and tanks ammunition etc.

An amount of Rs. 1,241 crore has been earmarked in the IX plan period for modernisation of ordnance factories. Till 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 512 crore has been invested and the balance Rs. 729 crore is planned for investment in the remaining period of two years.

There is no proposal to hand over production of advance weapon system to private sector.

Statement

Financial Performance Achieved Value of Sales/Issues

(Rs. in crores)

SL.	FY	1998-1999		1999-2000	
		Army	All Indentor (excl. IFD)	Army	All Indentor (excl. IFD)
1	2	3	4	5	6
M&C					
1.	OFKAT	—	3.52	—	3.12
2.	OFA	—	15.73	—	23.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	MSF	0.05	2.93	0.39	4.66
4.	OFM	—	0.02	—	0.05
5.	OCFC	16.13	21.24	35.11	39.37
6.	OFBH	—	1.22	3.60	4.18
7.	OFAJ	6.58	10.95	3.18	7.43
8.	MPF	2.25	3.13	1.18	1.55
9.	HAPP	—	0.65	—	4.59
	Sub-Total:	25.01	59.40	43.46	88.55
	WV&E				
1.	RFI	140.35	194.47	192.62	251.68
2.	SAF	19.76	75.09	38.32	88.61
3.	OFT	12.73	67.32	9.67	42.54
4.	GSF	5.56	12.05	11.13	19.9000
5.	OFC	1.01	5.67	2.72	5.8500
6.	FGK	0.71	10.87	2.73	15.6100
7.	GCF	5.05	12.96	27.04	54.0900
8.	OFDC	2.57	5.89	1.33	5.8300
	Sub-Total:	187.74	384.30	285.56	484.1100
	B-Vehicle:				
9.	VFJ	545.13	546.11	572.86	574.6200
10.	GIF	—	4.21	—	3.6200
	Sub-Total:	545.13	550.32	572.86	578.2400
A&E					
1.	CFA	30.22	38.29	30.48	36.30
2.	HEF	2.65	16.00	4.27	14.86
3.	OFI	0.79	4.37	10.14	14.71
4.	AFK	190.34	259.96	194.85	268.90
5.	OFV	55.36	119.67	115.86	222.55
6.	OFK	390.32	483.48	702.85	855.34
7.	OFCH	460.36	518.97	812.75	895.19
8.	OFDR	31.41	50.18	78.57	102.07

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	OFBA	—	10.74	39.82	52.05
10.	OFBOL	72.49	72.69	164.52	168.52
	Sub-Total:	1233.94	1574.36	2154.11	2630.4900
AV					
1.	AVF	338.91	658.52	691.40	694.0600
2.	OFPM	278.96	291.67	325.35	335.6700
3.	EFA	11.47	12.09	8.37	8.6700
4.	OFDUN	11.73	17.97	14.02	29.1200
5.	OLF	1.51	1.85	7.00	7.3500
	Sub-Total:	942.59	982.10	1046.14	1074.8700
OEF					
1.	OEFC	132.67	146.21	166.82	179.1900
2.	OCFS	124.54	139.44	167.63	182.0400
3.	OCFAV	53.45	74.84	64.40	82.3300
4.	OPF	70.63	74.61	68.52	73.2900
5.	OEFHZ	23.76	26.49	22.21	27.5500
	Sub-Total	405.05	461.59	489.58	544.4000
	Grand Total:	3339.46	4012.07	4591.71	5400.6600

Imports/Exports of Drugs

2982. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and type of drugs including life saving drugs imported and exported during each of the last three years and proposed for the current year, separately, alongwith the name of countries and expenditure incurred thereon, type-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure production of these drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) All the bulk drugs except a few are under free list of imports and can be imported without an import licence. Values of India's total import and Export of drugs and medicines during the last three years as per Foreign Trade Statistics of India - March, 1998, 1999, 2000 published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta are as under:

Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Import of Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Products	144711.68	161519.91	150230.30
Exports of Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals	541931.34	625606.68	663145.07

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals are being imported mainly from China, USA, Germany, U.K., France, Switzerland, Belgium, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Russia and Ireland. The exports from India are mainly to USA, Russia, Germany, Hong Kong, U.K., Nigeria, Singapore, Netherlands, Iran, Brazil, Vietnam and China.

(b) Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and formulations cleared by Drug Controller General of India has been abolished except in very few cases. Higher return for basic stage production and exemption from price control for production based on indigenous R&D have been provided in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Roll Back of Power Tariffs for Textile Industry

2983. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged all the State Governments to roll back the power tariffs for the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also urged the States to bring down the charges to reasonable level and called for rationalisation of the power tariffs for the textile industry on the lines of the sales tax throughout the country to prevent unhealthy competition among the States;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard, State-wise; and

(e) the further steps likely to be taken by the Government to boost the textile industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All the Chief Ministers of States (except the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Sikkim and the 7 North Eastern States) have been requested on 14th July, 2000 to bring down power tariffs for the textile industry to reasonable level as the textile industry is under tremendous pressure due to high costs of production as a result of unusually higher power tariffs in different States. State Governments have also been requested to rationalise the power tariffs for the textiles sector on the lines of sales tax.

(d) Response of State Governments has not yet received.

(e) Government has also taken following steps to boost the textile industry:

(i) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton, ensuring the availability of quality cotton to the textile mills.

(ii) For modernisation of textile and jute industries, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched *w.e.f.* 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years.

(iii) A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help the industry in assessing the quality of textiles.

(iv) For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified.

(v) Import of cotton is also under OGL to help industry to import requisite quality of raw cotton.

Distribution of LPG

2984 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in privatisation of production, import, bottling and distribution of LPG (domestic and commercial); and

(b) the cost and pricing structure of the private sector in comparison to that of the public sector oil companies from production/import to the consumer stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Government have allowed private parties to import and market LPG in the country at market determined prices under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS) since 1993. Up to 30th June, 2000, 23 parties have imported about 787.7 TMT of LPG (Bulk) under PMS.

(b) The LPG (domestic) marketed by Public Sector Oil Companies is under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), whereas parallel marketeers are free to fix the price of LPG marketed by them.

[Translation]

Production of Cloth by Mills

2985. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector mills producing cloth in the country;

(b) the quantity of cloth produced by each mill annually; and

(c) the names of mills earnings profit alongwith those running in loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Central Public Sector Undertakings producing cloth in the country are—

1. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) Group of Companies.
2. The British India Corpn. Ltd., Kanpur.

(b) As far as National Textile Corporation (NTC) Group of Companies are concerned, the names of the mills which are producing cloth alongwith the quantity of cloth produced by them for the period 1998-99 & 1999-2000 are given in the statement enclosed as statement I.

In BIC the production made during 1999-2000, mill-wise is as under:—

(i) New Egerton Wollen Mills 2.13 Lakh mtrs

(ii) Cawnpore Woollen Mills 2.79 Lakh mtrs

(c) The names of the NTC mills alongwith profits/ losses for the last two years are enclosed in statement II. BIC Woollen Mills (New Egerton Woollen Mills and Cawnpore Woollen Mills) are incurring losses.

Statement I

Name of the NTC Mills Producing Cloth and the Quantum of Cloth Produced

(Lac. Mtrs.)

S.No.	Name of Subsidiary/Mills	Production of Cloth			
		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Own	Job Work	Own	Job Work
1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (D.P.R.) Ltd.					
1.	Panipat Woollen Mill	2.89	—	3.21	—
NTC (M.P.) Ltd.					
2.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mill	8.29	—	0.41	—
3.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	25.79	—	13.28	—
4.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	8.52	—	6.24	—
NTC (S.M.) Ltd.					
5.	Apollo Textile Mills	10.10	—	15.35	1.33
6.	Bharat Textile Mills	9.43	0.45	4.62	5.67
7.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	4.77	—	13.40	—
8.	Dhule Textile Mills	1.05	1.44	4.52	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Mumbai Textile Mills	0.86	0.23	1.15	0.38
10.	Nanded Textile Mills	8.79	—	11.13	—
11.	New Hind Textile Mills	1.09	2.88	2.50	2.36
12.	Finlay Mills	22.86	—	25.89	—
13.	Gold Mohur Mills	16.27	—	17.79	—
14.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills **NTC (M.N.) Ltd.**	45.04	—	37.57	—
15.	India United Mills No. 1	24.57	—	29.87	0.03
16.	India United Mills No. 2	0.21	0.85	1.37	2.10
17.	India United Mills No. 3	10.99	12.87	14.30	24.62
18.	India United Mills No. 5	19.37	0.14	11.32	5.27
19.	Tata Mills	8.12	3.58	13.16	8.75
20.	Jam Mfg. Mills	1.46	1.06	—	2.36
21.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1	3.93	0.02	1.98	4.54
22.	Podar Mills	7.19	1.96	12.05	6.54
23.	Model Mills	1.04	0.01	2.40	—
24.	R.S.R.G. Mills	1.09	—	1.02	2.48
25.	R.B.B.A. Mills	20.71	—	21.04	—
26.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills **NTC (APKK&M) Ltd.**	0.38	—	—	—
27.	Minerva Mills	38.30	3.91	37.50	2.01
28.	Parvathi Mills **NTC (TN&P) Ltd.**	44.29	—	52.00	—
29.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	40.58	—	37.84	—
30.	Somasundaram Mills	20.39	—	15.28	—
	Total	408.37	29.40	408.19	68.44

Statement II

National Textile Corporation Limited

Statement Showing State-wise and Mill-wise Net Profit (+)/Loss (-) 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. Crs)

S.No.	Name of the Mills	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
	NTC (DPR) Ltd.		
	Punjab		
1.	Dayalbagh SPG. & WVG. Mills	-5.40	-6.01
2.	Kharar Textile Mills	-3.89	-5.03
3.	Panipat Woollen Mills	-7.30	-7.67
4.	Suraj Textile Mills	-4.66	-4.57
	Rajasthan		
5.	Edward Mills	-4.99	-5.14
6.	Mahalakshmi Mills	-4.30	-4.82
7.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	-3.74	-3.81
8.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	-3.81	-4.24
	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.		
9.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	-16.34	-20.36
10.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	-11.00	-13.05
11.	Hira Mills	-10.02	-10.89
12.	Indore Malwa United Mills	-15.35	-18.47
13.	Kalyanmal Mills	-13.71	-16.10
14.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	-10.86	-12.50
15.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	-8.84	-10.35
	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.		
16.	Atherton Mills	-10.40	-11.35
17.	Bijli Cotton Mills	-2.66	-4.34
18.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	-13.71	-16.12
19.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	-7.33	-7.79
20.	Muir Mills	-16.30	-18.40
21.	New Victoria Mills	-17.54	-18.93
22.	Raebareli Textile Mills	-3.25	-5.61
23.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	-4.15	-4.40
24.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	-4.27	-4.89
25.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-19.72	-22.47

1	2	3	4
26.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini **NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.**	-14.95	-19.91
27.	Apollo Textile Mills	-9.79	-12.64
28.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	-2.82	-2.44
29.	Barshi Textile Mills	-1.33	-1.40
30.	Bharat Textile Mills	-10.93	-12.03
31.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	-5.19	-5.45
32.	Dhule Textile Mills	-7.93	-6.99
33.	Digvijay Textile Mills	-16.86	-15.77
34.	Elphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-10.08	-11.42
35.	Finlay Mills	-13.73	-15.09
36.	Gold Mohur Mills	-9.76	-10.01
37.	Jupiter Textile Mills	-13.92	-16.23
38.	Mumbai Textile Mills	-13.07	-14.74
39.	Nanded Textile Mills	-7.28	-6.75
40.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	-11.55	-11.21
41.	New Hind Textile Mills	-13.26	-15.35
42.	Podar Processors	-6.71	-7.90
43.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	-7.01	-8.02
	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.		
44.	India United Mills No. 1	-19.48	20.50
45.	India United Mills No. 2	-13.45	-13.78
46. & 47.	India United Mills No. 3 & 4	-21.07	-22.14
48.	India United Mills No. 5	-10.94	-11.73
49.	India United Mills Dye Works	-8.66	-9.57
50.	Jam Mfg. Mills	-9.16	-9.09
51,52 & 53.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1, 2 & 3	-13.51	-13.96
54.	Podar Mills	-12.96	-11.01
55.	Model Mills	-18.44	-21.73
56.	R.B.B.A. Mills	-7.29	-8.59
57.	R.S.R.G. Mills	-6.30	-6.60
58.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	-4.57	-4.67
59.	Shri Sitaram Mills	-9.53	-6.60

1	2	3	4
60.	Tata Mills	-18.15	-16.55
61.	Vidharbha Mills	-6.37	-6.62
	N.T.C. (Gujarat) Ltd.		
62.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	-12.56	-15.22
63.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	-12.49	-14.80
64.	Himadri Textile Mills	-8.33	-10.99
65.	Jehangir Textile Mills	-14.97	-18.19
66.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	-9.55	-11.95
67.	New Manek Chowk Textile Mills	-10.01	-11.85
68.	Petlad Textile Mills	-5.10	-5.99
69.	Rajkot Textile Mills	-3.49	-4.30
70.&71.	Ranjangar Textile Mills ! & 2	-15.22	-17.30
72.	Viramgam Textile Mills	-7.96	-9.38
	N.T.C. (APKK&M) Ltd.		
	Andhra Pradesh		
73.	Adoni Cotton Mills	-1.44	-1.60
74.	Anathapur Cotton Mills	-3.77	-4.20
75.	Azam Jahi Mills	-7.32	-8.49
76.	Natraj Spinning Mills	-3.58	-4.00
77.	Netha Spinning & Weaving Mills	-1.77	-2.20
78.	Tirupati Cotton Mills	-2.99	-3.85
	Karnataka		
79.	M.S.K. Mills	-9.51	-10.34
80.	Minerva Mills	-11.61	-13.27
81.	Mysore Spg. & Mfg. Mills	-7.33	-8.41
82.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	-4.24	-4.90
	Kerala		
83.	Alagappa Textile Mills	-4.43	-3.74
84.	Cannanore Spg. & WVG. Mills, Can.	-0.58	-0.92
85.	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	-3.09	-2.29
86.	Parvathi Mills	-10.25	-9.25
87.	Vijaymohini Mills	-2.73	-3.07
	Pondicherry		
88.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	-1.82	-1.19
	NTC (TN & P) Ltd.		
	Tamil Nadu		
89.	Balaramavarma Textile Mills	-2.58	-1.78
90.	Cambodia Mills	-3.60	-3.59

1	2	3	4
91.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	-3.49	-3.43
92.	Kishnaveni Textile Mills	-3.00	-3.23
93.	Om Parasakthi Mills	-2.74	-1.97
94.	Pankaja Mills	-2.57	-2.94
95.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	-1.37	-1.39
96.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills	-2.60	-2.40
97.	Somasundaram Mills	-4.13	-3.30
98.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	-1.89	-1.61
	N.T.C. (WBAB&O) Ltd.		
	Assam		
99.	Associated Industries	-4.26	-3.42
	Bihar		
100.	Bihar Co-op. Weavers Spg. Mills	-3.39	-4.58
101.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	-5.40	-6.77
	Orissa		
102.	Orissa Cotton Mills	-3.87	-5.24
	West Bengal		
103.	Arati Cotton Mills	-3.42	-4.13
104.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	-3.04	-3.85
105.	Bengal Fine S.&W. Mills No. I	-6.60	-6.85
106.	Bengal Fine S.&W. Mills No. II	-1.78	-2.46
107.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	-7.94	-8.51
108.	Manindra B.T. Mills	-4.94	-5.92
109.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory	-3.06	-3.59
110.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	-4.82	-4.79
111.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	-8.12	-8.57
112.	Central Cotton Mills	-10.55	-11.65
113.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	-8.16	-9.21
114.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	-2.66	-3.13
	NTC (Holding Company)		
	Pondicherry		
115.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	-6.98	-5.85
116.	Sri Bharati Mills	-6.95	-5.78
	Coimbatore		
117.	Sri Sarda Mills	-6.41	-5.03
118.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-12.48	-11.40
119.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit	-9.08	-9.91

Conversion of Handloom Based Industry into Powerloom

2986. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Handloom Weavers Unions in regard to conversion of handloom based industry into powerloom industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Trains

2987. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI DAHYABHAI VILLABHBHAI PATEL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has fixed certain norms for providing stoppage of a train at a particular station;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of trains station-wise provided stoppages during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax these norms in view of increasing passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Nature of train, pattern and quantum of traffic offering at the station, availability of alternative services etc. are taken into account for providing stoppage of trains.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Construction of Angamali-Sabarimala Rail Line

2988. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in construction of Angamali-Sabarimala railway line along with the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(b) the funds allocated therefor during 2000-2001 along with total estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Final Location Survey has been completed for 116 km length and for the balance length, it is in progress. Expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 46 lakhs.

(b) The budget outlay for 2000-2001 is Rs. 1 cr. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 550 cr.

(c) No target date has yet been fixed.

Reduction of Tax on LPG

2989. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

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

(a) whether price of LPG has been raised a number of times during the past three years on the plea of high subsidy cost allowed by the Government;

(b) whether the total taxes on the LPG is about 40% of the price offered by the oil companies;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the taxes on LPG that are accounted for the subsidy at present; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government, in November, 1997 had decided that subsidy on domestic LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-2001 and the subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002-2003 onwards. Accordingly, the 'ex-storage point price" of Domestic LPG was raised by Rs. 14/- per cylinder with effect from 1st February, 1999 and by Rs. 30 per cylinder with effect from 23rd March, 2000. The subsidy on Domestic LPG is met from the oil pool account.

(b) The various duty and tax components *i.e.*, duties of customs and excise, sales tax and other statutory levies, which are included in the retail selling prices of Domestic LPG in Delhi come to about 23.5 per cent. Some of the taxes such as sales tax are administered by the States under their respective statutes.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

500 M.W. Power Projects

2990. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Cochin Refineries to set up a 500 MW power project at Kochi using vacuum residue as fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) In March, 1998, a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up a 522 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plant by M/s Cochin Refineries Limited (CRL) using vacuum residue/asphaltene as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 2994 crores at an exchange rate of Rs. 35.8/ US$, was received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

The comments of CEA have been sent to M/s. CRL with the request to submit the Detailed Project Report after tie-up of all necessary clearances for Techno-Economic Clearance. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is yet to be received in CEA.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plant in Cuttack

2991. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the National Thermal Power Corporation to set up a Thermal Power Plant near Athgarh in Cuttack district;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the said Thermal Power Plant is likely to be set up and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There is no proposal pending with National Thermal Power Corporation to set up a Thermal Power Plant near Athgarh in Cuttack district.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a), do not arise.

[Translation]

Marketing Policy

2992. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway department has not formulated an effective marketing policy to earn more revenue; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Railways do have a well defined marketing strategy to increase its revenue.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement between NHPGC and Madhya Pradesh

2993. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Bargi, Mann and Jovat projects of Madhya Pradesh Government have been entrusted to the Union Government with the commitment of 51% participation;

(b) if so, whether the agreement has been reached between National Hydro Power Generation Corporation and Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the amount required to complete above projects expeditely as per scheme;

(d) whether employees of Madhya Pradesh Government working under said projects would be posted in National Hydro Power Generation Corporation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed on May 16, 2000 between National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and Government of Madhya Pradesh for executing Indira Sagar and Omkareshwar Projects as a joint venture project with a commitment that NHPC shall have the major share *i.e.* not less than 51% of the share holding in the joint venture.

(c) Taking the present day approximate cost of Hydro-electric projects @ Rs. 5.5 crores per MW, the expected amount required for Indira Sagar will be approx. Rs. 5,500 crores and on Omkareshwar Project will be approx. Rs. 2,500 crores.

(d) and (e) As per the MOU signed between NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh, personnel working in Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB), Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA), Water Resources Department (WRD) and other Departments of GOMP shall be taken on deputation in the joint venture subject to suitability and merit.

[English]

Non-Availability of Medicine for Rabies

2994. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that life saving medicine 'rabies immunoglofulin' for rabies is not available for quite some time in the market resulting in great difficulty to rabies patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make this life saving medicine available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The shortage of some medicines of 'Rabies immunoglobulin' used for treatment of rabies was reported by Drug Controller, Delhi for the month of April, 2000. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers to send supply and as confirmed by the Drug Controller, Delhi, there is no shortage of these medicines at present.

[Translation]

Construction of Administrative Office at Bilaspur

2995. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of Administrative office at Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh is likely to be completed;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be made functional; and

(c) the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) It is not possible to indicate any time-frame at this juncture as the entire issue of reorganisation of Zones is presently under review in the light of the resource crunch faced by the Railways.

[English]

Special Dispensation Fund

2996. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 6405, on May 8, 2000 regarding Special Dispensation Fund and state:

(a) the further developments made with regard to the setting up of special fund for Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP);

(b) the details of the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/State Utilities, which have formulated viable projects for availing assistance under the above scheme; and

(c) the steps proposed to expedite the formulation of viable projects for those who had not formulated, as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government have provided Rs. 1000 crores in the BE 2000-2001 as Central Loan Assistance for creation of a special fund for Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). The modalities for release of fund as grant and loan is being worked out in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. After finalisation of the modalities, the States will be asked to formulate projects for funding under APDP.

Modernisation of Ammunition Depots

2997. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts was sent to Europe in 80s to study the method for storing ammunition and to build cost effective store houses;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by it in that regard; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing its recommendations?

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

(b) and (c) The team had, *inter-alia*, recommended construction of Igloo pattern of ammunition store houses, on trial basis, at some Ammunition Depots. On investigation it was found that the soil bearing capacity at these stations was not suitable for construction of store houses on the Igloo pattern. Moreover, the initial cost of construction of Igloo type store houses was higher than that of the cost of conventional type of construction, but it was considered economical in the long run because of its longer life. Government has, therefore, decided to construct a mix of both Igloo and conventional type of store houses, keeping in view the operational requirements, availability and suitability of land and cost justification.

Foreign Equity in Oil Sector

2998. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed 100 percent foreign equity in oil sector in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether 100 percent foreign equity would have any adverse impact on oil sector PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) With a view to attracting foreign investment, Government have allowed 100 percent foreign equity in the exploration and refining activities in oil sector in the country which are highly capital intensive. Consumers would eventually benefited due to induction of better technology, improved productivity, quality products, better business practices, competition, etc. Government have initiated a number of measures to improve their performance. These, *inter-alia*, include improvement in production and productivity, upgradation of technology, product developments, reduction in input cost, various cost control measures, research and development activities, etc. Government is constantly monitoring their performance. The process of review by the Government is a continuous one.

Additional Lines between Kurla-Thane

2999. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Authority have finalised the completion schedule of Kurla-Thane (Mumbai) additional lines project;

(b) whether the resettlement programme of hutments near Vikhroli and Bhandup has been finalised;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay of above project;

(d) the budgetary provision made for this project during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the amount released so far; and

(e) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The project is likely to be completed by March 2002.

(b) The project is a part of Mumbai Transport Project II (MUTP-II). Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) of hutments of MUTP projects is being handled by Project Monitoring Unit set up in Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. They have tentatively finalised the R&R programme of shifting the hutment dwellers in transit accommodation by December 2000 and in permanent tenements by December, 2002.

(c) The time taken in resettlement of hutment dwellers has delayed the completion of the project.

(d) During the year 1999-2000, Rs. 40 crores was provided and out of that Rs. 27.90 crores was utilised. In the current year *i.e.* 2000-2001, a provision of Rs. 24 crores has been made.

(e) The project has been sanctioned in two phases:—

(i) Kurla-Bhandup (10 kms) phase-1 Physical progress of the project at the end of March, 2000 was 50% and financial progress was 48.87%.

(ii) Bhandup-Thane (7 kms) phase-II Physical progress of the project at the end of March, 2000 was 22% and financial progress was 20.51%.

Progress of work has been affected due to time taken in acquisition of land and removal of encroachments.

Development of 'Saras' Aircraft

3000. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present development stage of the Light Transport Aircraft 'Saras' being developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the time by which the transport aircraft is likely to make its flight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Light Transport Aircraft 'Saras' is being developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, which is an Institution of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). According to the information received from CSIR, progress has been achieved in building the first prototype of 'Saras'. The actual cash expenditure of the project so far is Rs. 67.49 crores and the first prototype flight is expected to take place by August 2001.

Oil Reserves in Western Rajasthan

3001. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of Oil reserves have been found at Sanchor and Gulmalani on the border of Barmer and Jalore districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether this area was given to Shell for exploration and now they brought in a Dubai based Company call Karen as their partner;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of work to be undertaken by each of the firms; and

(d) the time by which the production of oil is proposed to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil has been discovered in the exploration block RJ-ON-90/1 in Gudamalani in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Initially, the block RJ-ON-90/1 was contracted to M/s. Shell India Production Development B.V. (SIPD), Netherlands. Since 22.12.1999, M/s. Cairn Energy India Limited, with registered office in Australia, has been assigned 50% participating interest in the block and has become the Operator with the approval of the Government of India. Remaining 50% participating interest continues with SIPD.

Operator is carrying out 2D/3D seismic survey. About 1000 Line Kilometer of 2 D and 200 Square Kilometre of 3 during the year 200 are to be carried out. Based on the results of seismic surveys, drilling of one well as also planned during 2000-2001.

(d) As the commercial viability of the discovery is yet to be established by the Operator, no time frame has been set up for start of production.

[Translation]

Import of Land Mines

3002. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to plant land mines to check intrusion in Kargil and some other border areas;

(b) whether land mines are proposed to be imported and if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the reasons for not utilising indigenous land mines by the Army;

(d) whether the production of land mines in the country is not upto the mark; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to bring about the required improvement in the quality of the indigenously manufactured land mines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Government continue to take all necessary measures to take care of our national security requirements. It would not be in public interest to disclose further details in this regard.

[English]

Vacancy Based Roster

3003. SHRI SURESH PASI:
DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the categories of Class I, II, III and IV where post based rosters have been introduced in place of vacancy based rosters under your Ministry and its undertakings; and

(c) the reasons for introducing post based rosters in place of vacancy based rosters in those categories of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The post-based rosters have been introduced in place of the vacancy based rosters as per the directives contained in the Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res)dated 2.7.1997. The post-based roster is a mechanism to ensure that the reserved categories get their due share of posts upto the prescribed percentages of reservation for the concerned categories in line with the principles enunciated in the Supreme Court Judgement in R.K. Sabharwal case.

As a result, all the organisations including PSUs except Bhakra Beas Management Board (which follows Punjab State Government's reservation rules) under the administrative control of Ministry of Power have introduced post based reservation rosters in Groups A, B, C and D services.

Hyderabad Metro Rail Project

3004. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposed to undertake a Joint Venture with the Andhra Pradesh Government for Hyderabad Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Railways for developing a Multimodal Urban Transport System for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

The draft MOU is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Construction of Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line

3005. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the work of laying of railway line from Jammu to Udhampur was started;

(b) the length out of the total length on which the work has been completed so far and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the original time schedule for completion of the project along with the reasons for delay, sector-wise;

(d) the present status of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line along with the expenditure incurred thereon;

(e) the time by which the whole process is likely to be completed, Sector-wise;

(f) whether any decision has been taken to finalise the survey reports of Jammu to Poonch, Baramulla to Kupwara and Udhampur to Doda-Bhaderwah submitted during 1999; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The work was started in September, 1981.

(b) 11 Km. (Jammu to Bajalta) out of total length of 53.2 Km. between Jammu to Udhampur has been completed. The expenditure incurred on this project is Rs. 307 crores upto 31.03.2000.

(c) The project was sanctioned in 1981-82 and as per the survey report, the completion period of the project was five years. However, the work could not be completed as per time schedule due to constraint of resources, Geo-technical problems and adverse law and order situation.

(d) The work between Udhampur-Katra and Qazigund-Baramulla has been started and the planning for work between Katra and Qazigund is being done. The expenditure incurred on this project upto 31.3.2000 is Rs. 191.82 crores.

(e) The work on Udhampur-Katra and Qazigund-Baramulla sections is expected to be completed by December, 2003 subject to availability of resources. Katra to Qazigund was earlier targeted for completion by August 2007, but due to constraint of resources, this target date will not be feasible to be realised. Fresh target date has not yet been fixed.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The survey for a new broad gauge line from Jammu to Poonch via Akhnur Rajaori has been completed and the survey report is under examination. The survey for a new BG line from Baramulla to Kupwara (60 Kms.) and Udhampur to Bhadarwah via Doda (85 Kms.) and a branch line from Doda to Kishtwar (55 Kms.) is in progress and is targeted for completion by October, 2001.

[English]

Installed Capacity of NCES

3006. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which are rich in generating wind power and the position of wind power in comparison with Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear Power;

(b) whether the wind power is comparable in terms of cost of production, transmission, distribution with other type of power;

(c) the details of the present installed capacity of Non Conventional Energy, State-wise in public and private sector; and

(d) the expected increase in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have emerged as potential States for wind power generation on this basis of wind resource assessment studies carried out so far. A wind power capacity of 1183 MW has been installed as against 23816 MW, 70186 MW and 2680 MW of Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear capacity respectively.

(b) The levelised cost of wind power generation is quite comparable with conventional power, taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects.

(c) A Statement on State-wise installed capacity of Non Conventional Energy Power Projects in public and private sector, is given in the attached statement.

(d) The target for power generation from NCES for the 9th Plan is 1685 MW. The target for the next Plan period is yet to be finalised.

Statement

State-wise Installed Capacity of Non-Conventional Energy Power Projects (as on 31.03.2000)

Sr. No.	State	Public Sector (MW)	Private Sector (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.8	142.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	21.2
3.	Assam	0.0	2.2
4.	Bihar	0.0	0.1
5.	Goa	0.0	0.1
6.	Gujarat	17.3	158.0
7.	Haryana	0.0	5.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0	11.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.0	8.5
10.	Karnataka	7.3	94.0
11.	Kerala	2.0	6.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.6	39.8
13.	Maharashtra	11.0	87.7
14.	Manipur	0.0	4.1
15.	Meghalaya	0.0	1.5
16.	Mizoram	0.0	11.8
17.	Nagaland	0.0	3.9
18.	Orissa	0.0	1.3
19.	Punjab	0.0	21.3
20.	Rajasthan	2.0	5.1
21.	Sikkim	0.0	9.3
22.	Tamil Nadu	19.4	853.0
23.	Tripura	0.0	1.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.0	83.4
25.	West Bengal	0.0	8.5
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.0	0.2
27.	Chandigarh	0.0	0.0
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.0	0.0
29.	Daman & Diu	0.0	0.0
30.	Delhi	0.0	01
31.	Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0
32.	Pondicherry	0.0	0.0
33.	Others	1.6	0.3

Request of Karnataka Government for Petrol Pumps

3007. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation has requested the Government to set up 1400 petrol pumps in various towns and cities of the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation has sent requests for award of retail outlet dealerships in its favour at various locations in the State of Karnataka. Currently, retail outlet dealerships are awarded through a selection process by the Dealer Selection Boards.

[Translation]

Defence Engineering Academy

3008. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up some Defence Engineering Academy in order to attract more persons for Defence Services;

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

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of manpower particularly technical manpower in the Army; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to fill up the gap?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a s rtage of officers to the extent of 28.1%.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

An Image Projection Campaign of the Army was launched during 1997-98 with assistance of a professional advertising agency. The campaign has made a positive impact in that the number of eligible youths opting for a career in the Army has increased. On this consideration, the campaign is continuing.

Apart from the above, the Government have approved, in principle, short term, medium and long term measures to tide over the problem of shortage in Army. This includes reduction in training period of officers by six months at Indian Military Academy (IMA) for ex-NDA, Ex-ACC and Director Entry cadets for a period of two years from January, 2000 to December, 2001 besides constitution of a high level Committee to recommend feasible options to make Short Service Commission more attractive.

[English]

Criminal Justice System

3009. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that criminal justice system has become obsolete in the present day and needs radical changes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make the system more relevant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the need for radical and continuous changes in the administration of criminal justice system. Periodically the Law Commission and various other Bodies like Arrears Committee have been conducting studies on various issues regarding existing criminal justice system, judicial system and Criminal Codes from time to time. Keeping this in view, Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission undertook a comprehensive review of Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Penal Code and submitted its 154th Report and 156th Report making several recommendations with regard to speedy disposal of cases and for making the Penal Code more effective.

Various measures have been taken by the Government including increase in the number of posts of judges/magistrates, appointment of Special Judicial/ Metropolitan Magistrates for the disposal of petty criminal cases, establishment of special courts, increasing use of Information Technology in courts, and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution such as mediation and negotiation by establishing of Lok Adalats.

In addition, the Supreme Court and High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, *viz.;* grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerisation of listing of cases, etc.

The Law Commission has recommended setting up of Directorates of Prosecution in every State and that State Governments should prescribe guidelines to ensure coordination between the Director of Prosecution and the Investigating Agency of the Police for efficient prosecution of cases. The recommendations have been conveyed to the State Governments for implementation.

[Translation]

Use of Engine in Rajdhani Express Trains

3010. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the types of engines used in Calcutta and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Trains;

(b) whether the engines which were used for above Rajdhani Express Trains have now been replaced with an other type of engines which are instrumental for delay in trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Calcutta Rajdhani (2301/2302) via Dhanbad is worked between New Delhi & Howrah by WAP5 Electric loco having three phase propulsion system. Calcutta Rajdhani (2305/2306) via Patna is worked by WAP5 Electric locomotive between New Delhi and Mughalsarai and by WDM2 type diesel

locomotives between Mughalsarai and Howrah. Bhubaneswar Rajdhani via Dhanbad is worked by WAP5 Electric locomotive between New Delhi and Howrah and by WDM2 diesel locomotives between Howrah and Bhubaneswar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds Allotted for Energy Parks

3011. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the energy parks, sanctioned during each of the last two years, location-wise and State-wise especially in Tamil Nadu and the funds allocated for each of the energy parks;

(b) the status of the energy park projects sanctioned for the year 1998-199 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether any energy parks were sanctioned earlier in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether there is any proposal to set up more energy parks in Tamil Nadu in the coming years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A total of 50 energy parks have been sanctioned in 18 States/UTs including Tamil Nadu during the last two years *i.e.* 1998-99 and 1999-2000. State-wise, location-wise and year-wise energy parks sanctioned, energy park-wise funds allocated and their status are given in the attached statement I.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. A total of 9 energy parks have been sanctioned in Tamil Nadu so far, out of which 8 energy parks have already been installed. Location-wise details of energy parks is given in the statement-II. Efforts are being made in association with State Government of Tamil Nadu for taking up more energy park in the State.

Statement I

State-wise, location-wise and year-wise Energy Parks sanctioned, energy park-wise funds allocated and their status during the last two years i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000

S.No.	Location	Year of sanction	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakh)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Agri-Horticultrual Society, Public Gardens, Hyderabad	1998-99	4.026	Completed
2.	Andhra University Visakhapatnam	1999-2000	3.67	Under Implementation
Assam				
1.	School of Life Sciences, Assam Univ., Silchar	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
2.	Cotton College, Guwahati	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
3.	Diphu Govt. College, Diphu, Karbi Anglong	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
4.	Dibrugarh H.S. Kanoi College, Dibrugarh	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
5.	Nalbari College, Nalbari	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Girls Polytechnic, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati, Kamru	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
7.	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
8.	Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati	1999-2000	7.916	Under Implementation
Bihar				
1.	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	1998-99	2.03	Under Implementation
Delhi				
1.	Indraprasthra University, Delhi	1999-2000	5.247	Under Implementation
Gujarat				
1.	Van Chetna Kendra, Distt. Navsari	1999-2000	1.675	Under Implementation
2.	Sahyadri Srusti Centre, Dabkhal, Distt. Valsad	1999-2000	1.675	Under Implementation
3.	District Institue of Education and Training, Gandhi Nagar	1999-2000	4.057	Under Implementation
4.	Tribhuvandas Foundation, Anand	1999-2000	4.15	Request received from GEDA for cancellation
Haryana				
1.	Hansraj Public School, Panchkula	1999-2000	7.78	Under Implementation
2	Ahir College, Rewari	1999-2000	4.617	Under Implementation
3.	Guru Jambheshwar Univ., Hisar	1999-2000	5.445	Under Implementation
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Govt. Polytechnic, Kangra	1999-2000	3.1397	Under Implementation
2.	H.P. Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Palampur, Distt. Kangra	1999-2000	4.3397	Under Implementation
3.	Govt. Polytechnic, Kandaghat, Distt. Solan	1999-2000	3.102	Under Implementation
4.	Govt. Degree College, Rekong-Peo, Distt. Kinnaur	1999-2000	1.50	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Govt. Degree College, Kaza Distt. Lahual Spiti	1999-2000	1.50	Under Implementation
6.	Govt. Degree College, Keylong, Distt. Lahual Spiti	1999-2000	1.50	Under Implementation
Jammu & Kashmir				
1.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Jammu	1999-2000	3.5976	Under Implementation
2.	Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science, Srinagar, Kashmir	1999-2000	0.9776	Under Implementation
3.	Sri Pratap College, Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar, Kashmir.	1999-2000	0.9716	Under Implementation
4.	Govt. Degree College, Rajouri, Jammu	1999-2000	0.9716	Under Implementation
Karnataka				
1.	Academy of Sanskrit Research Melkote, Distt. Mandya	1998-99	3.87	Completed
Maharashtra				
1.	Amravati University, Amravati	1999-2000	4.114	Under Implementation
2.	Chalkewadi Wind Form, Distt. Satara	1999-2000	5.12	Under Implementation
Manipur				
1.	Hundred Flowers Higher Secondary School	1999-2000	2.924	Under Implementation
2.	Govt. Deaf and Mute School, Takyal	1999-2000	2.785	Under Implementation
3.	Officers' Club, Lamphelpat	1999-2000	3.414	Under Implementation
Mizoram				
1.	Saiha Govt. College, Saiha	1999-2000	1.734	Under Implementation
2.	Kolasib Govt. College, Kalasil	1999-2000	1.734	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Govt. College of Champai	1999-2000	1.734	Under Implementation
4.	Lunglei Govt. College, Lunglei	1999-2000	1.734	Under Implementation
Nagaland				
1.	Don Bosco Youth Centre, Kohima	1999-2000	4.453	Under Implementation
2.	Holy Cross School, Dimapur	1999-2000	1.253	Under Implementation
3.	Japan-Riba Govt. High School, Chozuba, Phek	1999-2000	1.223	Under Implementation
4.	School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Dev. Medziphema, Dimapur District	1999-2000	5.6018	Under Implementation
5.	Don Bosco Higher Secondary School Mon, Mon District	1999-2000	2.3318	Under Implementation
Rajasthan				
1.	College of Technology and Agricultural Engineering (CTAE), Udaipur	1998-99	1.34	Under Implementation
Tamil Nadu				
1.	PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore	1998-99	3.80	Completed
2.	Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Gandhi Gram	1998-99	4.25	Completed
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	DAV Centenary Public School, Meerut	1998-99	1.779	Under Implementation
Andaman & Nicobar Islands				
1.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair	1999-2000	2.47	Under Implementation
Chandigarh UT				
1.	Gandhi Smarak Bhawan, Chandigarh	1999-2000	3.0684	Under Implementation

Statement II

Location-wise details of Energy Parks sanctioned in the State of Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Location	Year of sanction	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakh)	Status
1.	Madurai Kamraj Univ. Palkalai Nagar, Madurai	1995-96	1.215	Completed
2.	Deptt. of Mech. Engg. Centre for New & Renewable Sources of Energy, Anna Univ. Madras	1995-96	0.76	Completed
3.	Dalit Liberation Edu. Trust, 46 Main (Buth Road), St. Thomas Mount, Madras	1995-96	2.13	Completed
4.	Tamil Nadu Science & Tech. Centre, Gandhimandapam Road, Engg. College Port, Madras	1995-96	2.07	Completed
5.	Regional Engg. College, Tiruchirapalli	1995-96	4.26	Incomplete
6.	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu	1997-98	1.598	Completed
7.	Vellore Engg. College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu	1997-98	4.79	Completed
8.	PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore	1998-99	3.80	Completed
9.	Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Gandhi Gram	1998-99	4.25	Completed

Supply of Power at Concessional Rate

3012. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been finalized with Usha Martins Company in regard to supply of power at concessional rate by Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has finalised an Agreement with M/s. Usha Martin Special Steel Limited (UMISSL) for supply of power at a concessional rate but M/s. UMISSL is yet to revive its operation and avail of the concession.

(b) BIFR in their revival package, recommended some concessions/reliefs from DVC for M/s. UMISSL. The plant of M/s. UMISSL is located at Patratu, a backward area in the district of Hazaribagh, Bihar and future of more than 1000 employees working there is involved. Re-opening of M/s. UMISSL was, therefore, considered desirable.

[Translation]

Construction of Pit Line at Katihar Railway Junction

3013. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pit lines at Katihar Railway Junction have not been constructed in proportion to the number of long distance Express trains for their maintenance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps in this direction; and

(d) if so, the time by which the pit lines are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the inadequate pitline capacity at Katihar, a project for construction of a new pit line of 24 coaches capacity was sanctioned during the year 1998-99. The construction work has since been completed.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Narnaul-Ringus-Phulera Rail Line

3014. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Narnaul-Ringus-Phulera rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A survey for gauge conversion of Narnaul-Phulera MG line has been completed and the survey report is under examination. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the results of the survey are finalised.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Rail Lines in Rajasthan

3015. SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for gauge conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge in Rajasthan which are under consideration of the Government along with the number of projects being implemented so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to convert the railway line from Delhi-Rewari-Mahendragarh-Loharu-Surajgarh-Chidava-Jhunjhunu-Nawalgarh-Sikar-Ringus-Jaipur into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the time by which the work on above project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Work on conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur, Bhildi-Samdari-Jodhpur, Luni-Barmer-Munabao, Agra Fort-Bandikui MG lines into BG is already in progress.

Work on conversion of Sri Gangangar-Sarupsar and Rewari-Sadulpur MG lines will be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances, for which necessary action has already been initiated.

The work of gauge conversion of Pipar Road-Bilara has been sanctioned as material modification to Phulera-Jodhpur Gauge conversion work. However, due to low operational priority and very light traffic on Pipar Road-Bilara section and acute constraint of resources, the work could not be taken up so far. The work will be taken up once some of the ongoing projects get completed and the resource position improves.

(b) to (d) Survey for gauge conversion of Jaipur-Ringus-Sikar-Nawalgarh-Jhunjhunu-Chirawa-Surajgarh-Loharu and Ringus-Rewari MG lines has been completed and the survey report is under examination. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the results of survey report are finalised.

Work on conversion of Rewari-Mahendragarh-Loharu MG lines as part of Rewari-Sadulpur project will be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances, for which necessary action has been initiated.

Gauge conversion of Delhi-Rewari 2nd line is already in progress.

Pharmaceutical Companies

3016. MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the Government owned Pharmaceutical companies functioning in the country and the investment made therein, company-wise;

(b) the names of drugs being manufactured in each of these companies;

(c) the total production of bulk drugs and formulations made during the last three years;

(d) whether any of the Public Sector units are being closed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) IDPL, HAL, BCPL, BIL & SSPL are the Government owned Pharmaceutical companies and the Government equity therein as on 31.3.2000 is Rs. 116.8 crores, Rs. 44.41 Crores, Rs. 13.96 Crores, Rs. 40.67 Crores and Rs. 24.52 Crores respectively. In addition an amount of Rs. 149.84 Crores, Rs. 29.90 Crores and Rs. 1.93 Crores is pending allotment towards equity in IDPL, BCPL and HAL respectively.

(b) Of these, IDPL has discontinued production of bulk drugs whereas HAL produces various forms of Penicillin, Streptomycin, Aureofungin etc., BCPL produces Anti-Venom serum (in bulk) and BIL produces various types of Sera and Vaccines (in bulk). SSPL does not produce any bulk drug.

(c) The total value of the drugs and formulations produced by these companies during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is about Rs. 88 Crores, Rs. 98 Crores and Rs. 104 Crores respectively.

(d) and (e) All the companies have been referred to BIFR. The future of these companies would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps Allotted Under COCO Scheme in Rajasthan

3017. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted under the COCO Scheme in the Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi, Jalaur, Badmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to continue the COCO Scheme; and

(c) if so, the extent to which it has been useful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During the last three years, 18 retail outlets have been commissioned under the Company Owned Company Operated basis which include Jubilee retail outlets also, in the districts of Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi, Jalaur, Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The details are as under:—

District	Number of retail outlets
Jodhpur	3
Pali	2
Sirohi	3
Jalaur	5
Barmer	2
Jaisalmer	3
Total	18

(b) and (c) The scheme is consumer friendly, therefore, the Industry proposed to continue it.

[English]

Generation of Hydro Power in Orissa

3018. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a possibility for generating hydro-power from Sanghagara, Bada Ghagara and Khandhadhar waterfall in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Bada Ghagara Micro Hydel Project [1x50 MW] is an existing scheme developed by Orissa Renewable Development Agency. Sanghagara identified as Canal based hydroelectric Scheme for possible generation of 100 KW and Khandhadhar Hydel Scheme site identified for generation of 1200 KW are yet to be developed by the State Agencies.

Subsidy Saving

3019. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state amount of subsidy saved annually if gas was made available to the gas-based fertilizer units and Naphtha for Naphtha based units at international prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

While natural gas is not internationally traded, prices of gas in natural gas producing countries differ from country to country. Naphtha is, however, an internationally traded commodity where also the prices differ from time to time depending on the international demand and supply position and other factors. In fact, the prices of gas and naphtha to fertilizer companies within the country also differ depending on the location, international prices and other factors from unit to unit. It will be, therefore, difficult to make a reasonable assessment about savings in subsidy if these commodities could be made available to Indian fertilizer units at international prices.

Export of Cotton

3020. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of cotton exported during each of the last three years and proposed for the current year, country-wise;

(b) whether export of cotton as in (a) was according to the target fixed;

(c) if so, the details of target fixed for each year;

(d) the reasons for not achieving the target set for cotton export, if any; and

(e) the steps taken to boost the export of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Though no target is fixed for export of cotton, Government releases quota for export. The quota released and actual exports during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows:—

Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Quota Released (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)	Actual Export (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)	Value in Rs. crore
1996-97	14.42	16.82*	1655.00
1997-98	8.2	3.4937	316.85
1998-99	5.00	1.01253	86.71
1999-2000 (upto 31.7.2000)	5.00	0.50946	39.83

*Inclusive of 4.69 lakh bales of 1995-96 spill over.

The major countries to which cotton is exported from India are Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherland, Oman, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arab, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey and U.K.

(d) The quantum of export, *inter alia*, depends upon the price and quality parameters. In recent years, cotton prices in international market have come down considerably and are at par or lower than the prices in domestic market.

(e) The Technology Mission on Cotton Development has been launched with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of Ginning and Pressing Factories for over all improvement in the productivity and quality of cotton.

Use of Information Technology

3021. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken any project for the use of Information Technology and computerisation in its operation during the last three years;

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

(c) the names of railway stations computerised and to be computerised in Maharashtra during the current and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Railways have already computerised Passenger Reservation Services. A blueprint for computerisation of Freight Operation Services has been made and one of

the two important applications has been operationalised on Northern Railway. Pilot projects in the areas of personnel management, procurement and inventory control, workshop managements are at different stages of implementation at the Divisional and Zonal levels. Use of computer telephony integration in the passenger interface areas is being increasingly introduced.

(b) 507 projects have been executed/under execution by Indian Railways during last 3 years in the area of computerisation and Information Technology as detailed in statement I.

85 Projects have been executed/under execution in the State of Maharashtra as indicated in statement II.

(c) The names of computerised reservation centres in Maharashtra are given in statement III. The names of locations in Maharashtra which have been included in Annual Plan 2000-2001 for provision of computerised reservation facilities are givne in statement IV. Decision for computerisation of Stations in the next financial year will be taken at the stage of finalisation of Annual Plan 2001-2002.

Statement I

Details of Projects executed/under execution on Indian Railways during the last three years

S.No.	Nature of Project	No. of Projects
1.	Passenger Reservation, Unreserved & Season Ticketing and other related works	382
2.	Freight Operation Information System (FOIS)	1
3.	Divisional and Zonal, Production Units, Headquarters Computerisation	53
4.	Workshop and Stores Computerisation	56
5.	Management Information System	1
6.	Railnet	1
7.	Others	13
	Total	507

Statement II

Details of Projects executed/under execution in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years

S.No.	Nature of Project	No. of Projects
1.	Passenger Reservation, Unreserved & Season Ticketing and other related works	71
2.	Divisional and Zonal, Production Units, Headquarters Computerisation	5
3.	Workshop and Stores Computerisation	4
4.	Management Information System	1
5.	Railnet	1
6.	Others	3
	Total	85

Statement III

Names of computerised reservation centres in Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Railway	Location
1	2	3
1.	CR	Ahmadnagar
2.	CR	Ajni
3.	CR	Akola
4.	CR	Ambarnath
5.	CR	Amravati
6.	CR	Balharshah
7.	CR	Belapur CBO
8.	CR	Bhusaval
9.	CR	Chandrapur
10.	CR	Chembur
11.	CR	Chinchwad
12.	CR	Deccan Gymkhana
13.	CR	Deolali
14.	CR	Dhule
15.	CR	Dombivli
16.	CR	Ghatkopar
17.	CR	Jalgaon
18.	CR	Kalyan
19.	CR	Khadki
20.	CR	Kurla(T)
21.	CR	Lonavala
22.	CR	Manmad
23.	CR	Mulund
24.	CR	Mumbai CST
25.	CR	Nagpur
26.	CR	Nasik
27.	CR	Nasik CBO
28.	CR	Panvel
29.	CR	Pune
30.	CR	Pune Cantonment
31.	CR	Raviwar Peth
32.	CR	Santhra Market
33.	CR	Shankar Seth
34.	CR	Shardi
35.	CR	Solapur
36.	CR	Thane
37.	CR	Vashi
38.	CR	Wardha
39.	KR	Chiplun
40.	KR	Kudal
41.	KR	Thivim
42.	KR	Ratnagiri
43.	SC	Aurangabad
44.	SC	Jalna
45.	SC	Kolhapur
46.	SC	Miraj
47.	SC	Nanded
48.	SC	Parbhani
49.	SC	Sangli
50.	SE	Gondia
51.	SE	Itwari
52.	WR	Andheri
53.	WR	Bandra Terminus
54.	WR	Bhayandar
55.	WR	Borivili
56.	WR	Churchgate
57.	WR	Malad
58.	WR	Mumbai Central
59.	WR	Sahar Airport Mumbai
60.	WR	Vasai Road
61.	WR	Virar

Statement IV

The names of locations in Maharashtra which have been included in Annual Plan 2000-2001 for provision of computerised reservation facilities

1. Navy Nagar, Collaba
2. Byculla
3. Belapur
4. Daund
5. Kopargaon
6. Maharashtra Assembly
7. Yavatmal
8. Satara

Provison of Terminal Facilities at Yesvantpur Railway Station

3022. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide terminal facilities at Yesvantpur railway station as the nearby Bangalore railway station has become congested;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The work for provision of Second Coaching Terminal for Bangalore area at Yeshvantpur was sanctioned in the year 1999-2000. Estimated cost of the work is Rs. 1513.35 lakhs.

(ii) Terminal facilities proposed to be provided at Yeshvantpur area as follows:—

1. Three additional platform lines with 24 Bogie capacity each;
2. Two pit lines with 24 Bogie capacity each;
3. Two stabling lines with 24 Bogie capacity each;
4. Integrated coach maintenance facilities;
5. Two spare coach lines of 10 Bogie capacity each;
6. Shunting neck of 24 Bogie capacity;
7. Additional passenger amenities;
8. Service building for operating and maintenance departments.

(iii) In Phase-I, the following facilities are proposed to be commissioned:

1. One high level platform of 24 Bogie capacity;
2. Extension of existing high level island platform to 24 Bogie capacity;
3. One stabling line of 24 Bogie capacity;
4. One pit line with 24 Bogie capacity;
5. Sick line facilities.

(c) Allotment of funds for this work for 1999-2000 was Rs. 10.00 lakhs and for 2000-2001, it Rs. 60.00 lakhs.

Delicensing in Power Generation Sector

3023. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought Cabinet's approval to delicensing the power generation sector in the country;

(b) whether the views of the State Governments and other Power Generating PSU's have been obtained on the subject;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether delay in according approval to delicense power generation sector has affected several projects which are ready to sign Power Purchase Agreements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Under the existing law, there is no requirement of license for power generation. New power projects need techno-eccnomic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority. With a view to facilitating investment in generation, the limit of capital expenditure of the schemes exceeding which techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority is required was last enhanced in June, 2000 as under:—

(i) Rs. 5000/- crores for thermal projects on the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route and conforming to the amendment dated 23rd May, 1997 to the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992.

(ii) Rs. 1000/- crores for other thermal generating stations on the ICB route.

(iii) Rs. 20000/- crores for the identified mega projects in the private sector whose scheme is approved by any agency or body authorised by the Central Government.

(iv) Rs. 1000/- crores for hydro-electric generating station on the ICB route.

(v) Rs. 500/- crores for R&M schemes.

(vi) Rs. 250/- crores for all other schemes.

All hydro-electric schemes utilising water of inter-State rivers shall be submitted to the Authority for its concurrence (irrespective of the cost).

[Translation]

Doubling of Barauni-Katihar Rail Line

3024. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for doubling of railway line between Barauni and Katihar which is main line for connecting North-Eastern States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Doubling of single line sections/providing multiple lines on double line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on the suggested section has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. Doubling will be considered once the traffic warrants the same subject to availability of resources.

Reservation Quota at Jahanabad Station

3025. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reservation quota allotted at Jahanabad Railway Station, train-wise;

(b) whether the quota cater the requirement of the people; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The following Sleeper class reservation quota is available in various trains at Jahanabad Station:

Train Number	No. of berths
Ex. Jahanabad	
3330 Ganga Damodar Express	8
8623 Patna-Hatia Express	4
3348 Palamau Express	9
Ex. Patna	
3232 Danapur-Howrah Express	3
2391 Patna-New Delhi Magadh Express	3

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Renewal of Basic Structure

3026. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have planned to renew their old and outdated basic structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the wagons, coaches and signal systems would also be modernised apart from railway lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of railway lines selected for renewal during the current financial year; zone/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Ninth Plan it was planned to renew 19250 km of track for which the requirement of funds during the Ninth Plan was projected as Rs. 13200 cr.

(Gross). Due to resource constraint, target has been reduced to 13922 km. by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Modernisation of coaching stock and wagons is a continuous process. A number of design improvements have been continuously incorporated over the years, to make the coaches and wagons more comfortable, reliable and safe. As regards modernisation of signalling system, the following measures are being taken depending upon the availability of funds:

(i) Modern Signalling systems, like Track circuiting, Interlocking and telephone at level crossings;

(ii) Multiple Aspect Colour Light Signalling (MACLS);

(iii) Centralised operations of points and signals;

(iv) Auxillary Warning System, Second Distant Signal;

(v) Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter.

(e) Position of Track renewals is maintained zone-wise. During the current financial year the zone-wise track targeted for renewal are given below:

Railway	Kms. of Complete track renewal targeted to be done
Central	630
Eastern	310
Northern	530
North Eastern	130
Northeast Frontier	65
Southern	170
South Central	300
South Eastern	715
Western	400
Total	3250

Missing Drilling rigs of ONGC

3027. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of missing of drilling rigs are often reported in the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) if so, the number of drilling rigs found missing during each of the last three years alongwith the cost thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No incident of missing of drilling rigs has taken place in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

External Market Assistance on Jute Bags

3028. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to give 10% external market assistance scheme (EMA) on hydrocarbon free and environment friendly jute bags;

(b) if so, the specialities of such bags on which external market assistance is to be given; and

(c) the extent to which the export of such bags to be made during the current and the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Jute Manufactures Development Council has been providing 10% external market assistance (EMA) on FOB value of export of hydrocarbon free jute bags with effect from 14.09.1998.

(b) The bags on which the external market assistance scheme is given are made conforming to international specifications. These bags are manufactured without using mineral oil and are suitable for packaging of food materials.

(c) Estimates are not available at present. It is however expected that the demand for these bag will increase in the international market.

[English]

Setting up a LNG Terminal at Cochin

3029. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from M/s. Petronet LNG, a joint venture company in Kerala, to set up a LNG Terminal at Cochin in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regrad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), a joint venture of Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, is setting up an LNG Terminal at Cochin (Kerala). PLL has signed a long term LNG Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s. Ras Gas of Qatar for supply of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) LNG from January 01, 2005 for the Cochin Terminal. The estimated cost of the terminal is US$360 million. PLL has completed pre-project activities including land allocation and environment clearance. Bids have been invited for pre-qualification of EPC contractors for construction of LNG terminal on BOOT basis.

Wind Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3030. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has agreed to provide assistance to Andhra Pradesh Government in implementing the wind power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of wind power projects in operation at present in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(c) 25 wind power projects aggregting to 88 MW capacity are in operation at present in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Construction of Over Bridge at Mysore Railway Station

3031. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct second over bridge at Mysore railway station since the existing over bridge is not able to serve the need of the large number of passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Arrest of Army Officer's kin for spying

3032. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the son-in-law of a senior Army official was reportedly arrested recently for leaking sensitive defence information to Pakistani officials;

(b) whether intelligence officials are perturbed on penetration of ISI agents in the depth of Indian Security set-up;

(c) if so, whether involvement of some other officials have also come to light; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Five cases of espionage in which low/medium level sources in defence establishments allegedly indulged in passing military information of a general nature have come to Government's notice since June, 1999. Government have initiated suitable preventive measures from time to time to thwart such efforts by hostile intelligence agencies.

Reduction in Import Duty on Crude Oil

3033. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce the import duty on crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government, in November, 1997, had decided to bring down the import duty on crude oil to 0-5% by March, 2002, in phases. In the fiscal budget for the year 2000-2001, import duty on crude oil was reduced from 20% to 15%.

New Hydrocarbon Reserves

3034. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has found seven new hydrocarbon reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the locations thereof alongwith the expected quantity of the reserves;

(c) whether commercial drilling is expected to be commenced soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made seven new hydrocarbons finds during 1999-2000 as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the find	Basin	Initial inplace O+OEG (in MMT as on 1.4.2000)
1.	Akholjuni	Combay	1.00
2.	Sadra	Cambay	0.26
3.	Safrai	Upper Assam	5.60
4.	Tichna	AAFB-Tripura	3.98
5.	TP	Mumbai Offshore	Under assessment
6.	Lakshmaneshwaram	Krishna-Godavari	0.71
7.	Srigattapalle	Krishna-Godavari	0.41

MMT = Million Metric Tonne, O+OEG = Oil plus oil equivalent gas.

(c) and (d) The evaluation of geo-scientific data and delineation drilling of some of the finds is underway. Assessment drilling in Akholjuni, Tichna & Safrai, subsequent to the find, has commenced. Location have been lined up for drilling in Sadra, Lakshmaneshwaram & Safrai and data are being assessed for TP and Srigattapalle for deciding upon the future plan.

Construction of Road Over Bridges in Andhra Pradesh

3035. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to construct road over bridges (ROBs) across the National Highways in different parts of the country;

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

(c) the number of road over bridges are likely to be built during the current financial year;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct ROBs at various level crossings in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(f) the present status of on-going works regarding construction of ROBs and expenditure incurred thereon so far along with allocation made therefor during 2000-2001; and

(g) the time by which these ROBs likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is not maintained Highway-wise. State-wise number of works of Raod Over/Under Bridges being carried out on cost sharing basis are given in the statement I attached.

(c) and (g) Railways Plan to complete the work of Road Over/Under Bridges simultaneously with the work of approaches to be done by State Government. Hence, Completion of bridge depends upon the completion of approaches.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A Statement II attached.

Statement I

Raod Over Bridges under construction on cost'sharing basis—State-wise

Sl.No.	State	Number of Road Over Bridges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30
2.	Assam	04
3.	Bihar	13
4.	Gujarat	03
5.	Haryana	04
6.	Karnataka	45
7.	Kerala	33
8.	Maharashtra	19
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11
10.	Nagaland	01
11.	Orissa	08
12.	Punjab	07
13.	Rajasthan	06
14.	Tamil Nadu	44
15.	Uttar Pradesh	26
16.	West Bengal	25

Statement II

Works on cost sharing basis in Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Name of work & locations	Allocation during 2000-01 (Rs. in thousands)	Appropriate Expenditure incurred upto March' 2000 (Rs. in thousands)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	ROB at Timmapur-Shadnagar in liew of L.C. No. 23-A.	2,00,00	28,50	Substructure of piers and abutments completed. Concrete work for superstructure is in progress. PSC girders cast & pre-stressed RCC portion to be done.
2.	ROB at Palakollu-Gorintada in lieu of 'B' class level crossing	3,25,46	25,80	Consolidated modified estimate for bridge proper and approaches Sanctioned. Tenders invited and under process.
3.	ROB at Fatehnagar in lieu of LC No. 23	2,00,00	1,72,20	Work completed and opened to traffic.
4.	ROB at Jamia Osmania in lieu LC No. 2-E	75,00	37,00	Modified Civil Engg. estimate for 2 lane road width of Railways portion has been verified. Estimate for road approaches awaited from Municipal Corporation Hyderabad.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	ROB at Ghatkesar in lieu of LC No. 16	35,00	1,02,65	Construction in railway portion completed. CRS papers for closure of level crossing are under process. Approaches by State Govt. Completed but not yet commissioned.
6.	ROB at Kazipet Yard in lieu of level crossing No. 59-A at Km. 324/1-2	3,00,00	13,01	State Govt. was advised on 26.8.98 that Road Over bridge will be constructed at Km. 324/1-2. Further action will be taken in consultation with State Government.
7.	ROB at Chirala in lieu of L.C No. 244	2,00,00	71,30	Concreting for all the 27 piles in P1, P2, P3 & P4 completed. P4 pile caps is in progress.
8.	ROB at Zaheerabad in leiu of L.C. No. 30-B	1,00,00	13,00	State Govt. has revised the design of approaches by providing viaducts instead of earthern embankment. The General Arrangement Drawing of the bridge proper has been revised and the revised estimate is under process for sanction.
9.	ROB at Ramakrishnapuram Gate in lieu of LC No. 252	1,00,00	51,60	Level crossing closed. Work of laying foundation and raising pillars upto bed block completed. The bed blocks have been cast.
10.	ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 1 near Sitafalmandi	2,00,00	1,34,80	General Arrangement Drawing of Railway portion approved by State Govt. Detailed estimate for approaches, yet to be received from State Govt.
11.	ROB in lieu of existing L.C. No. 101 at Km. 251/13-14 at Kuppam of Jolarpettai-Bangalore city section	1,30,00	72,01	General Arrangement Drawing approved. Approach estimate received from PWD. Combined estimate is under process.
12.	ROB at Elamanchili Narsingapalli in lieu of LC No. 475	1,00,00	13,00	Trial bore done. General Arrangement Drawing is under preparation.
13.	ROB at Guntur-Tenali in lieu of LC No. 250	1,00,00	17,35	General Arrangement Drawing sent to State Govt. for approval State Govt. wants 4 lane bridge.
14.	ROB at Pithapuram in lieu of LC No. 429	1,14,54	90	Joint inspection with NHAI completed Trial bore done. General Arrangement Drawing is under finalization.
15.	ROB at Khammam in lieu of LC No. 104	2,50,00	90	General Arrangement Drawing under preparation.
16.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 105 at Km. 92/9-10 between Tirupathi town on Tirupathi-Renigunta section	2,00,00	6,75	Plan and estimate under process.
17.	ROB at Mahboobabad in lieu of LC No. 82	1,00,00	90	ENC/R&B/HYB's approved drawing is under site verification.

1	2	3	4	5
18.	ROB at Bayyavaram in lieu of LC No. 480	1,00,00	90	Joint inspection with NHAI completed. Trial bore done General Arrangement Drawing is being prepared.
19.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 487 on Anakapalli-Tadi	1,00,00	—	New work of 2000-2001. Field particulars collected. Joint inspection with road authorities to be conducted.
20.	ROB at Haripuram Km. 664/5-7 on NH-5 on Mandesa Road-Sumandevi Road	1,00,00	4,00	Soil investigation completed. General Arrangement drawing prepared & detailed structural drawing to be prepared.
21.	ROB near Palavalasa between Baruva-Mandaso on NH-5 at Km. 635/6-9	75,00	4,00	Soil investigation completed. General Arrangement drawing prepared & Detailed structural drawing to be prepared.
22.	ROB at Km. 664/6-7 on NH-5 between Baruva-Sompeta	60,00	Nil	Soil investigation completed. General Arrangement drawing prepared & Detailed structural drawing to be prepared.
23.	Widening of Road Under Bridge No. 251 at Rail Nilayam and Station yard at Secunderabad	3,00,00	1,17,22	Work for box portion and preliminary arrangements completed & casting of thrust bed completed, casting of 2 boxes in progress.
24.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 122 at Km. 528/32-34 near Madhira Station	1,00,00	—	General Arrangement Drawing under checking.
25.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 306 at KM 10/8-9 near Perecherla station	1,00,00	—	In Planning stage.
26.	ROB in lieu of L. No. 285 at KM. 630/6-7 near Nasarapet Station	1,00,00	—	In planning stage.
27.	Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 18-KK at KM 54/8-10 at Bhadrachalam road yard	1,00,00	—	In planning stage.
28.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 62 at Km. 237/8-10 near Bellampalli station	1,00,00	—	In planning stage.
29.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 26 at Km. 165/13-14 near Hafizpet station.	1,00,00	—	In planning stage.
30.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 99/A at Km. 135/2-4 between Gudur-Oduru station & L.C. No. 99/B at Km. 0/3-4 between Gudur-Kondagunta stations.	1,40,00	—	In planning stage.

LPG Agencies in Meghalaya

3036. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of LPG agencies in District Khasi Hills and Jantia Hills in Meghalaya are not sufficient as per the demand and the population ratio;

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

(c) whether advertisement for opening more LPG agencies was made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to open more LPG agencies there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) As on 1.4.2000, 22 LPG distributorships are in operation in the State of Meghalaya which covers the areas of Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills where LPG connections are released across the counter.

In addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 8 locations have been included for setting up of LPG distributorships for the State in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98. Locations included in the Marketing Plan are advertised and selection of the distributors are made through Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure.

For making early selection of dealers/distributors, a Dealer Selection Board has been set up for the States of Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya.

LPG Agency and Petrol Outlets in Nasik

3037. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG and Petrol outlets in Nasik (Maharashtra);

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a new LPG agency and petrol outlet in Nasik during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, 37 LPG distributorships and 88 retail outlets are in operation in Nasik district in Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) 19 new LPG distributorships and 21 new retail outlet dealerships are proposed to be set up in Nasik district.

Amendment in adoption laws

3038. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in adoption laws with a view to simplification of formalities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Dealership of Fertilisers

3039. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dealerships of fertilisers given to the SCs, STs, OBCs and others during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the percentage of reservation given to above categories in dealership of fertilisers;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the quota of dealership to SCs/STs/OBCs; and

(d) the other concessions given by the Government while granting dealership to SCs/STs/OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The Government has issued instructions in September, 1978 to fertilizer manufacturing public sector undertakings (PSUs) to reserve 25% of all future appointment of dealers for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs). There are no such instructions for reservation of dealerships for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

State-wise and category-wise details of fertilizer dealerships given to the SCs/STs and others by public sector undertakings during the last three years and for the current year till date are given in the attached statement.

There are no concessions being given by the Government. However, fertilizer manufacturing PSUs have been giving concessions/incentives of the following kind while granting dealership to SCs/STs:—

(i) No security deposit or nominal security deposit compared to general candidates;

(ii) Assistance in coordination with the banks, financial institutions to ensure that they get requisite banking finance;

(iii) Preference in supply of fast moving material for the first three years only;

(iv) Supply of material during peak season irrespective of the fact whether he has taken material during the lean season or not; and

(v) Additional margin of Rs. 15 per tonne for Factom Phos; Urea and DI-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) up to 50 tonne in Kerala and 100 tonnes for outside Kerala is given by Fertilisers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACt) every year for a period of three year.

Statement

State-wise and category-wise details of fertiliser dealerships given to the SCs, STs and others by public sector undertakings during the last three years and for the current year

S.No.	State	1997-98				1998-99			
		SC	ST	Others	Total	SC	ST	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52	10	636	698	29	7	474	510
2.	Karnataka	16	7	157	180	7	2	82	91
3.	Karela	40	0	56	96	16	3	115	134
4.	Tamil Nadu	12	0	95	107	8	0	171	179
5.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	52
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
8.	Maharashtra	0	0	67	67	4	1	113	118
9.	Rajasthan	0	0	17	17	1	2	98	101
10.	Goa	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
11.	Haryana	0	0	23	23	0	0	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Punjab	0	0	6	6	0	0	8	8
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	29	30	6	2	254	262
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Bihar	1	0	133	134	14	0	68	82
18.	West Bengal	1	0	27	28	52	9	28	89
19.	Orissa	0	0	54	54	9	1	105	115
20.	Assam & NE States	0	4	1	5	0	3	7	10
	Total	123	21	1305	1449	146	30	1590	1766

S.No.	State	1999-2000				2000-2001			
		SC	ST	Others	Total	SC	ST	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	1	113	122	1	0	73	74
2.	Karnataka	6	0	99	105	1	0	31	32
3.	Kerala	9	3	137	149	0	0	53	53
4.	Tamil Nadu	7	0	159	166	1	0	14	15
5.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	33	33	0	0	0	0
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	8	8	0	0	1	1
8.	Maharashtra	11	1	154	166	0	0	41	41
9.	Rajasthan	0	0	26	26	3	0	61	64
10.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Haryana	0	0	19	19	0	0	2	2
12.	Punjab	2	0	28	30	0	0	1	1
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4	5	28	37	1	0	39	40
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	11	11	0	0	3	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Delhi	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
17.	Bihar	1	0	174	175	10	1	8	19
18.	West Bengal	0	0	14	14	0	0	11	11
19.	Orissa	1	0	2	3	0	6	8	14
20.	Assam & NE States	0	4	2	6	0	0	0	0
	Total	49	14	1008	1071	17	7	346	370

[Translation]

Jute Mills

3040. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and location of mills of National Jute Manufacturing Corporation in the country and number of employees working there at present, mill-wise;

(b) the names of closed/sick mills out of them;

(c) the details of the revival package recommended by the Government and names of mills covered by it;

(d) whether the Government have decided to sell all units of National Jute Manufacturing Corporation;

(e) whether the Government held discussions with employees to ensure protection of their interests before the sale of these units;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the effective steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of workers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) NJMC has six Jute Mills as follows:—

Sl.No.	Name	Location	Numbers of Employees as on 30th June, 2000
1.	National	Located in West Bengal	6807
2.	Kinnison	—do—	4171
3.	Khardah	—do—	3468
4.	Union	—do—	1385
5.	Alexandra	—do—	2172
6.	RBHM (Katihar)	Located in Bihar	1054
	Total		19057

(b) Non of the six Jute Mills under NJMC are closed. However, all the mills have been declared as sick and referred to BIFR.

(c) BIFR has directed the Operating Agency (IIBI) to update the revival package and submit the same to BIFR.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Infrastructure Status to Oil Industry

3041. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil industry has sought the infrastructure status for all the Liquefied Natural Gas import terminal project in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is an urgent need for the effective fiscal policy to encourage investments in the oil sector;

(c) if so, whether the Government have so far granted the infrastructure status only to those LNG projects which were coupled with the power projects; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to provide infrastructure status to the remaining LNG terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Group of Secretary-level Officers constituted by the Government to examine all aspects of LNG Sector has recommended amongst others, that infrastructure status be accorded to LNG import terminal projects. The recommendations of the Group of Officers have been submitted to the Committee of Secretaries.

Committee for LNG Policy

3042. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any high power committee for LNG policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The Government has set up a Group of Secretary-level Officers to examine all the issues involved in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector with a view to arriving at an integrated LNG policy for the country. The Group of Officers has given its recommendations on various aspects including Regulation, LNG Shipping and fiscal regime etc. The recommendations have been submitted to the Committee of Secretaries.

Deteriorating Conditions of Weavers in Orissa

3043. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether position of weavers in Orissa is deteriorating day by day due to non-availability of funds provided by the Union Government;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering to provide sufficient funds to weavers for introduction of modern technology in weaving; and

(c) if so, the details of the schemes being considered by the Union Government in this regard and financial assistance provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Government of India extends financial assistance under developmental and welfare schemes to the State Governments for the benefit of handloom weavers. Based on viable proposals received from the State Governments including Government of Orissa, funds are released for skill upgradation, purchase of looms, improvement in weaving techniques, construction of workshed-cum-house, etc. under the schemes to enhance productivity and thereby income of handloom weavers. During 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 5.02 crores and Rs. 6.14 crores respectively was released under different schemes to the Government of Orissa for the benefit of handloom weavers.

[Translation]

Setting up of Freight Terminals in Private Sector

3044. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to set up Freight Terminal in the private sector was formulated during the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not having commenced the work thereon so far; and

(d) the name of the company accepting the responsibility to set up Freight Terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for private terminal was considered.

(b) In order to provide value added service to rail customers and in view of scarcity of resources for funding terminal infrastructure, it has been decided, in principle, to invite private parties with sound credentials to set up freight terminals. The Terminal Service provider will provide all facilities for booking, loading/unloading, delivery, storage etc. of goods to the customers. The Railways will give him suitable financial incentive.

(c) The work will commence on finalisation of terms and conditions.

(d) A proposal has been received from one private company M/s. Continental Warehousing Corporation Limited for setting up such a freight terminal at Garhi Harsaru, near Gurgaon.

[English]

Problem faced by Passengers

3045. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bedding provided in trains is of very poor quality and not properly washed and ironed;

(b) whether the coach attendant/A.C. operator is generally not available in the coaches;

(c) whether the quality of food served to passengers in trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi is stale and of inferior quality;

(d) whether majority of the trains are running behind schedule, are dirty both from outside as well as from inside and the cushions in majority of the trains need replacement; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken to give the passengers the desired services of the money charged from them by way of increased cost of tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Regular steps are taken to ensure supply of good quality, clean, properly washed and ironed linen. Some cases of supply of poor quality linen have come to notice and in such cases appropriate remedial measures including punitive action is taken.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Improvement in standards of catering is a continuous process. Regular inspections are conducted for monitoring the quality of food served. All complaints received are promptly attended to.

(d) No, Sir. The punctuality of trains is regularly monitored on day to day basis. All trains are cleaned both from inside and outside in the washing line before commencement of journey including regular disinfection against pest control. High-pressure jet plants are also used at stations enroute for quick and effective cleaning. All defective or worn-out cushions are replaced from time to time.

(e) All efforts are made to offer the best services to the passengers by regularly monitoring the On-Board services on trains. Remedial action is promptly taken to rectify the deficiencies.

Infilteration through River 'Satluj'

3046. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the military intelligence has received any information from any State Police regarding infilteration of Pak militants through 'Satluj' river as reported in the Hindi daily *Jansatta* dated January 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Western Command Headquarters has completed the investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the facts revealed therefrom and the follow-up action taken thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Textile Industry

3047. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to tackle the problems faced by Textile Industry on the whole;

(b) the details of the textile mills registered with BIFR and their status with BIFR, State-wise; and

(c) the textile mills recommended by BIFR for the scheme sanctioned under Section 18(4) of the SICA 1985, Section 17(2) of the SICA 1985 and by the AAIFR, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government has taken a number of steps to tackle the problems faced by textile industry. Some of these are as follows:

(i) In order to improve the production of cotton textiles in the country, the Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton, ensuring the availability of quality cotton to the textile mills.

(ii) For modernisation of textile and jute industries including cotton textile industries, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched *w.e.f.*, 1.4.99 for a period of 5 years.

(iii) A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in assessing the quality of textiles.

(iv) For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified.

(v) Import of cotton is also under OGL to help industry to import requisite quality of raw cotton.

(b) The Textile Mills Registered with BIFR (State-wise) as on 30.4.2000 are as follows:

State	No. of Cases
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	33
Assam	4
Bihar	3
Gujarat	76
Haryana	22
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	22
Kerala	6
Madhya Pradesh	19
Maharashtra	85
Orissa	4
Punjab	12
Rajasthan	22
Tamil Nadu	72
Uttar Pradesh	36
West Bengal	17
New Delhi	8
Chandigarh	1
Dadra Nagar Haveli	2
Total	445

(c) As on 30.4.2000, under SICA 1985, in 56 cases scheme had been sanctioned under Section 18(4); in 3 cases scheme sanctioned are Section 17(2) and in 7 cases the scheme was sanctioned by the AAIFR.

Construction of Jhargram-Purulia Rail Line

3048. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for the construction of a new rail line between Jhargram and Purulia has been completed;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to sanction this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Survey Report for Jhargram-Purulia new line has revealed the cost of this 136.24 km. long line as Rs. 267.65 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of the acute constraint of resources as well as unremunerative nature of the line, it has not been found possible to consider taking up the work.

Encouragement to Wooden Handicraft

3049. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage Wooden Handicraft from Peninsula/India for export;

(b) if so, the details of the export of Wooden Handicrafts in both quantity and value, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve and encourage Handicraft Development in Kerala; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of people engaged in production of handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Quantity-wise/State-wise export data are not maintained. However the export of wooden handicrafts during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Year	Exports
1.	1997-98	218.70
2.	1998-99	286.04 (Provisional)
3.	1999-2000	348.95 (Provisional)

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government to improve and encourage handicrafts in Kerala and to protect the interests of artisans in the country include: assistance to Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi (Kerala) under UNDP assisted cane & bamboo project; setting up of wood seasoning plant at Thiruvananthapuram, identification of craft clusters for Integrated Development; publication of international catalogue on wood & wooden handicrafts by Export Promotion Council for handicrafts; design and technical development; setting up of common facilities centre/crafts development centre and emporia; training; exhibition and publicity; workshed-cum-housing and group insurance etc.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Plant in Bihar

3050. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have acquired land to set up a power plant on banks of river Koshi at Kursela in Katihar district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up power plant on acquired land;

(c) whether the Government intend to consider seriously on setting up the said plant in current financial year;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a feasibility report for setting up of 2x250 MW Power Station at Kursela, Distt. Katihar (Bihar) by Bihar State Electricity Board was received in the Central Electricity Authority in January 1994 for techno-economic clearance but was returned to Bihar State Electricity Board on 3.11.1995 suggesting tie up of all inputs/clearances such as compliance of Sec. 29 (2) of E(S) Act, Environmental and Forest clearance and clearance from the State Pollution Control Board etc. Further response from Bihar State Electricity Board has not been received.

[English]

Requirement of LPG for Mandavi (Gujarat)

3051. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of LPG for Mandavi in Gujarat at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the steps Government have taken to meet the full requirement of LPG;

(c) whether rural areas of the Mandavi district are being neglected for supply of LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There are two Mandavi talukas, in Kutch and Surat district of Gujarat State. The LPG requirement of existing customers registered with the LPG distributors of Public

Sector Oil marketing companies in both the talukas are being met by and large in full. The LPG distributros of both the locations of Mandavi are supplying LPG in their trading area.

Gauge Conversion of Delhi-Rewari Rail Line

3052. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in gauge conversion of meter gauge line between Delhi and Rewari to provide double broad gauge line between the two cities;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the funds earmarked therefor during 2000-2001; and

(d) the time by which the double broad gauge line is likely to be provided between Delhi and Rewari?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The position is given as under:—

(i) 90% of the earthwork is over.

(ii) The work on major and minor bridges is in progress. 11 out of 19 major bridges and 20 out of 80 minor bridges have been completed.

(iii) Full quantity of ballast has been procured.

(iv) Modification/extension of platforms at 13 stations is in progress.

(b) (i) Estimated cost of the project - Rs. 69.54 crore.

(ii) Expenditure incurred till date - Rs. 40 crore (approx.)

(c) Rs. 2 crore.

(d) Target date has not yet been fixed.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Rail Line

3053. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia rail line is likely to result in route diversions at some places;

(b) if so, whether some railway land is being spared at some places due to the diversion of route;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware of the incident of encroachments of said rail land; and

(d) if so, the schemes formulated for utilisation of said land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, land will be spared only where the route diversion actually takes place.

(c) and (d) Since the narrow gauge line is still existing, there is no encroachment on the railway land on account of proposed route diversion. Land expected to be rendered surplus due to route diversion will be utilised or disposed of in consultation with the State Government.

[English]

Power Generation from Waste

3054. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a prviate company in Andhra Pradesh has begun converting the city's garbage into fuel pellets and now plans to establish a 10-MW power plant;

(b) whether the Union Government have been providing help to the State Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hyderabad plant has a capacity to produce 500 tonnes of fuel pellets per day; and

(d) the extent to which power be generated from this unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Selco International Limited, Hyderabad has set up a plant to convert about 350 tonnes of garbage of Hyderabad city into 105 tonnes fuel pellets against a sanctioned capacity of producing 210 tonnes of fuel pellets from 700 tonnes of city's garbage per day. The company also has a plan to establish 10 MW power plant using these pellets as fuel.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has sanctioned a capital subsidy of Rs. 84 lakh.

Besides, Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) have provided loan assistance of Rs. 455 lakh and Rs. 200 lakh, respectively, to M/s. Selco International Ltd., Hyderabad.

(c) The sanctioned capacity of the project is 210 tonnes of fuel pellets per day.

(d) The extent of power generation will depend upon the actual quality and quantity of the fuel pellets to be utilised in the power plant.

Purchase of Pilotless Aircraft from Israel

3055. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase Hermes-450s and the Searcher III models pilotless planes from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with other bilateral defence and security agreements reached between both the countries recently;

(c) whether demonstration flights have since been carried out of these planes;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether development of the indigenous "Lakshya and Nishant" pilotless target Aircraft has been running behind schedule;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) 'Lakshya'—(Pilotless Target Aircraft): The development project has already been completed successfully.

'Nishant'—The development program has suffered some delays.

(f) and (g) The main reasons for the delay of Nishant Project are technological problems associated with indigenous developments. The project is now expected to be completed in 2001.

Doubling of Surat-Bhusawal Rail Line

3056. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the doubling of railway track between Surat and Bhusawal is likely to be taken up and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the doubling work of above track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Double BG line already exists on Surat-Udhna and Bhusawal-Jalgaon sections. Further, the survey for doubling of Udhna-Jalgaon section is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Signalling System at Level Crossings

3057. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether signalling System on all the manned railway crossings in the country is available;

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

(c) the time by which all the remaining manned railway crossings are likely to be covered under the Signal System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are 16,280 manned level crossings on Indian Railways. Out of which, only 6,120 are already provided with Signalling System. Based on density of rail cum road traffic, classification of level crossings and location etc., level crossings are identified for being equipped with signalling system. Signalling of these level crossings is progressively being done as per availability of resources.

(c) There is no plan to signal all the manned level crossings on Indian Railways. An Action Plan for interlocking of 1063 busy level crossing gates has been drawn. The same is being taken up progressively subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Defence Personnel Deployed in Peace Keeping Missions

3058. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) the number of Indian Defence Personnel deployed in various UN peace keeping missions, country-wise, as on date;

(b) the number of defence personnel died/lost in such operations during the last three years; and

(c) the details of compensation given to the affected families?

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

(b) Four personnel of the Indian Army died while serving in U.N. peace keeping missions abroad, during the last three years. Of them, one died of natural causes in Lebanon during 1999 and three (two, of natural causes and one, in action) in Sierra Leone during the current year.

(c) The next of kin of the deceased soldiers who died in action are given a lumpsum grant of US$ 50,000/- by the UN in addition to what is given by the Government as pensionary entitlements on death while in service. The other cases are granted pensionary entitlements as per norms applicable to casualties while serving in India.

Statement

Country/U.N. Mission-wise deployment of defence personnel from India:—

S.No.	Country	Mission	No. of Defence Personnel
1.	Lebanon	UNIFIL	618 all ranks
2.	Sierra Leone	UNAMSIL	3162 all ranks
3.	Congo	MONUC	12 Officers
4.	Kuwait	UNIKOM	7 Officers
5.	Iraq	UNGCI	1 Officer

MNC's Offer to ONGC to Reduce Cost of Oil Exploration

3059. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multi National Companies dealing in oil have offered bilateral tie up with ONGC to reduce the cost of oil exploration;

(b) if so, the details of the companies alongwith the name of the country;

(c) whether the ONGC has examined these proposals;

(d) if so, whether ONGC lacks adequate technical expertise to go into deep water exploration; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve deep water exploration by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Laying of New Railway Lines in Haryana

3060. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new railway lines laid during the last three years in Haryana and expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the details of the surveys conducted for laying of new railway lines during the above period and expenditure incurred threon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct new railway lines from Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) to Paonta Sahib (Himachal Pradesh), Yamuna Nagar to Chandigarh and Yamuna Nagar to Kurukshetra; and

(d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No new railway line has been laid in Haryana during the last three years.

(b) The details of the surveys conducted are as under:—

(i) New broad gauge line from Rewari to Rohtak.

(ii) New broad gauge line from Kalka to Parwanoo.

(iii) New broad gauge line from Panipat to Meerut.

(iv) Linking Bijwasan with Bahadurgarh via Gummanhera-Hasanpur-Jaffarpur.

Total expenditure incurred on these surveys was Rs. 9.96 lakhs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for a new broad gauge line from Chandigarh to Dehradun via Jagadhari (Yamuna Nagar) and Paonta Sahib is being carried out.

Interim Report by CBI on Defence Purchases

3061. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASOK N. MOHOL:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigations probing defence purchases by the Indian Government since 1989 has submitted its interim report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main points made in the report;

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon;

(d) whether the C.B.I. has registered cases against some senior officials of his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the basis therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Defence has requested the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to get all defence procurement cases, since the time presence of agents in such cases was banned by the Government, investigated through the CBI or any other agency considered appropriate. At present cases are under scrutiny in the CVC and are not under investigation by the CBI.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of CAD Centre for Craftsmen

3062. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for setting up of CAD Centre for Baluchari craftsmen of Bishnupur in the District of Bankura, West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether this project has been sanctioned and necessary funds have been released for the project; and

(c) if so, tho details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However during the year 1995-96, National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS) New Delhi submitted a proposal for setting up of Computer Aided Design Centre (CAD) for development of Baluchari Sarees Bankura District, West Bengal. The project was sanctioned accordingly for the total cost of Rs. 5.37 lakhs. so far, a sum of Rs. 4.37 lakhs has been released to NISTADS under the Project.

Projects Under NTPC and NHPC

3063. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of on-going projects being run by National Thermal Power Corporatioin and National Hydro-electric Power Corporatioin in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the capacity of those power projects, costs involved and production during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any new projects under survey in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the private sector participation in the power sector in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is no on-going power project being executed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) NTPC/Government of India has identified a 1500 MW capacity power project at Cheyyur in Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu as a mega project to be implemented by NTPC. NTPC is examining the feasibility of setting up Stage-I with a capacity of 1000 MW for which various pre-feasibility studies have been taken up.

NHPC has not so far been entrusted with any project in Tamil Nadu.

(e) The details of private sector power projects in Tamil Nadu which have been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the project/capacity	Name of the Promoter
1.	Nevyeli Zero TPS-(1x250 MW)	M/s. ST-CMS Electric Co.
2.	Pillaiperumalanallur CCGT (330.5 MW)	M/s. PPN Power Company
3.	North Madras TPS Stage-II (2x55 MW)	M/s. Videocon Power Ltd.
4.	Basin Bridge DGPP (4x50 MW)	M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corp. Ltd.
5.	Tuticorin TPP St.-IV (1x525 MW)	M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corp. Ltd.
6.	Samayanallur DGPP (106 MW)	M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.
7.	Samalpatti DGPP (106 MW)	M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.
8.	North Madras TPP-III (1x525 MW)	M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Pvt. Ltd.
9.	Cuddalore TPP (2x660 MW)	M/s. Cuddalore Power Co.
10.	Vembar CCGT (LNG) (1873 MW)	M/s. India Power Projects Ltd.

Note:
TPS — Thermal Power Station
CCGT — Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
DGPP — Diesel Generated Power Plant
TPP — Thermal Power Project

[Translation]

Generation of Funds by GAIL from Domestic Market

3064. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is formulating a scheme to generate funds from the domestic market during the current year for financing their various projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Depending upon the availability of internal

resources and market conditions, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is planning to mobilize upto Rs. 300 crore under debt instruments during the current financial year—2000-2001 for its projects, namely, Kandla/Jamnagar-Loni LPG pipeline and LPG processing complex at Gandhar.

[English]

Utilisation of Loco Sheds

3065. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway is not utilising the Loco sheds that were closed after removing of Steam locomotives;

(b) whether there is any plan to utilise these loco sheds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the theft and encroachment of Railway assets reported so far at these loco sheds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Most of the closed steam loco sheds on Central Railway have been put to alternative uses as per Railways' requirement such as Carriage & Wagon activities, diesel/electric locomotive sheds, stabling of Accident Relief Trains, crew booking etc. Some other steam sheds, which could not be put to any alternative use, have been abandoned.

(d) No instances of theft of Railway assets and encroachments of Railway land have so far been reported from these loco sheds over Central Railway.

[Translation]

Setting up of High Voltage Sub-Station by PGC

3066. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has accorded approval to set up additional high voltage sub-station in Meerut, Allahabad and Bhiwadi;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up additional high voltage sub-stations in the backward and rural areas in Maharashtra for uninterrupted supply of power;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) POWERGRID is establishing 400/220 kV Extra High Voltage sub-stations at Meerut under Tehri Transmission System and 400 kV sub-stations at Allahabad and Bhiwadi as part of the system improvement schemes in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively.

(b) to (d) POWERGRID generally constructs a bulk power transmission system upto a place from where State Electricity Boards can construct their transmission lines for supply of power to different areas. The location of its sub-station is decided in consultation with the beneficiary SEBs. POWERGRID proposes to construct a 400 kV sub-station at Bhandara in Maharashtra for transmitting its share of power from Seepat Super Themral Power Project being constructed by NTPC in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Suitable lines for supply of power from Bhandara sub-station to different areas will be constructed by MSEB.

Exploration of Curde Oil

3067. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) whether the exploration of crude oil has suffered a set back following the Government's policy of liberalisation and globalisation;

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

(c) the quantity of crude oil being imported every year; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the import of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Crude oil imports during last 3 years are as under:

Year	Crude oil Imports (MMT)
1997-98	34.49
1998-99	39.81
1999-2000*	44.99

MMT: Million Metric Tonne
*Provisional

(d) Government is taking following steps to increase the indigenous production of crude oil which would help to reduce imports.

(i) Optimizing production from existing field through better reservoir management and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(ii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploratioin activities such as:

- Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
- Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.
- Increased private participation in exploration activities through various rounds of bidding for exploration blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy under which 22 Productioin Sharing Contracts were signed on 12th April, 2000.

[English]

Officers Sent Abroad for Training

3068. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government nominates officers for training to the reputed foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines at the cost of the public exchequer and by way of sponsorships;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad both the short term and the long term training courses from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during the last five years;

(c) the number and the percentage of officers out of them belonging to SCs/STs category; and

(d) the reasons for not sending adequate number of SC/ST officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) This Ministry has not nominated any officers for training abroad by itself. However, as per the procedure nominations are sent to the Department of Personnel and Training against their circulars, as and when received, inviting nominations for training abroad.

(b) No officer from this Ministry was sent abroad for any training course during the last five years.

(c) to (d) do not arise.

Construction of ROBs in Kerala

3069. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there are 47 locations in Kerala where level crossings are to be replaced by the road over bridges (ROBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ROBs for which sanction is accorded;

(d) the number of ROBs for which permission is given to construct on cost sharing basis;

(e) whether the Government are considering to construct more road over bridges in Kerala; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, with reference to Tanur level crossing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The locations identified are 62 instead of 47. 50 nos. qualify on Cost Sharing basis and in case of 12 nos. work can be taken up on deposit terms.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) 33 nos. on cost sharing basis.

(d) 50 nos. qualify on cost sharing basis, out of which 33 have already been sanctioned.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. depending upon the availability of funds and sponsoring of the proposal by State Govt. assigning due priority and fulfilling preliminary pre-requisites.

Regarding Tanur, the level crossing qualifies for construction of Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis but State Government is yet to sponsor the proposal assigning due priority.

Statement

Sl. No.	LC No.	in Km.	Sectioin	Whether the work is sanctioned on 'Cost sharing' or not	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	159	531/8-10	Podanur-Shoranur	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
2.	28	46/9-10	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
3.	73	105/5-6	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
4.	69A	101/10-11	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
5.	11	17/16-17	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
6.	31	49/2-3	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
7.	67	95/7-8	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
8.	13	21/5-6	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
9.	26	39/13-14	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
10.	17	28/10-11	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
11.	54	67/13-14	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
12.	64	80/12-13	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
13.	48	62/9-10	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
14.	71	102/13-14	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
15.	43	56/9-10	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Sanctioned	
16.	CRL	8/15-16	CRL-Tirupunithura	Sanctioned	
17.	2	EQ3/19-20	Ernakulam-Quilon	Sanctioned	
18.	76	111/10-11	Ernakulam-Quilon	Not Sanction	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
19.	76T	1/9-10	Ernakulam-Quilon	Sanctioned	
20.	8	8/17-18	Ernakulam-Quilon	Sanctioned	
21.	1	EQ1/11-12	Ernakulam-Quilon	Sanctioned	
22.	561	179/13-14	Quilon-Trivandrum	Sanctioned	
23.	543	157/5-6	Quilon-Trivandrum	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
24.	541	156/8-9	Quilon-Trivandrum	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
25.	201	688/2-3	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	228	731/13-14	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
27.	261	787/15-788/1	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
28.	172	629/11-12	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
29.	276	825/15-826/1	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
30.	229	732/9-10	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
31.	202	688/13-14	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
32.	171	626/10-11	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
33.	174	A 639/14-15	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
34.	185	666/3-4	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
35.	177	660/4-5	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
36.	271	807/6-7	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
37.	186	666/11-12	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
38.	232	738-7-8	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
39.	215	713/10-11	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
40.	199	686/1-2	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
41.	272	810/1-2	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
42.	192	673/8-9	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
43.	196	679/1-2	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
44.	239	749/2-3	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
45.	206	695/12-13	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
46.	238	743/3-4	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
47.	269	805/5-6	Shoranur-Mangalore	Sanctioned	
48.	49	53/10-11	Pollachi-Palghat	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
49.	52	56/4-5	Pollachi - Palghat	Not Sanctioned	Qualifies on cost sharing basis
50.	50	54/12-13	Pollachi-Palghat	Sanctioned	
51.	23	34/10-11	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
52.	160	533/8-10	Podanur-Shoranur	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
53.	68A	97/12-13	Shoranur-Ernakulam	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
54.	75A	108/6-7	Ernakulam-Quilon	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
55.	9	15/6-7	Ernakulam-Quilon	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
56.	75B	108/6-7	Ernakulam-Quilon	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
57.	577	208/6-7	Quilon-Trivandrum	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term

1	2	3	4	5	6
58.	174	B 642/8-9	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
59.	176	655/3-4	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
60.	174C	647/7-8	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
61.	183	665/2-3	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term
62.	178	662/5-6	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not Sanctioned	Can be taken up on deposit term

*For works at Sl No. 51 to 62, the level crossings were provided on deposit terms and therefore, their replacement with ROB/RUB can be taken up on deposit terms *i.e.* at the cost of the road authority as per extant rules.

Filling of SCs/STs Posts on Deputation Basis

3070. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the DOPT order all the Ministries/ departments are directed to duly consider the candidates belonging to the SCs/STs while filling posts/assignments;

(b) if so, the total staff sent on deputation to man various posts/assignments belonging to class I, II, III & IV category in various foreign assisgnments from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers alongwith the details of SCs/STs amoing them, category-wise;

(c) the reasons for not giving adequate representation to SCs/STs categories on the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers forward applications of all employees, including those belonging to SC/ST category, who apply in response to the circulars for foreign assignments. The selection is made by the organization which needs the services of such personnel. Three Group 'A' employees have, after such selection, gone on foreign assignment from the Department of Fertilizers. There was no SC/ST applicant from that Department for the assignments circulated.

Payment of Employees of Fertilizers Units

3071. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether payments to the employees of Durgapur unit of H.F.C. and the units of F.C.I. has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointment/posting of SCs/STs in Public Sector Undertakings

3072. SHRI BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint/post persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional Directors, Part-time Chairman and Official/Non-Official Members of the Board of Management of Public Sector Undertakings and Enterprises under Government of India;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the above referred post in various Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, Autonomous, Statutory Bodies, Attached/sub-ordinate Organizations falling under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers during each of the last three years; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) The policy as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public

Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendation for appointment to Board level posts in PSUs) is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Caste is not one of the criteria of selecting persons for appointments to the Board level posts of PSUs. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to Board level posts in the PSUs falling under the Ministry is neither available nor is it maintained.

Vacancy Based Roster

3073. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vacancy based roster can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, the categories of Class I, II, III and IV where post based rosters have been introduced in place of vacancy based rosters under your Ministry and its undertakings; and

(c) the reasons for introducing post based rosters in place of vacancy based rosters in those categories of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) As per the order of Supreme Court and in terms of DOP&T's OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997.

Posting of SC/ST in Foreign Assignments

3074. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation regarding posting of persons from SCs and STs category in foreign assignments under UNO/its affiliated organizations;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of persons from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and affiliated organizations deputed to UNO, its affiliated organizations/other International Organisations to the above assignments as on January 1, 1996 in different grades and persons belonging to the SCs and STs among them; and

(d) the reasons if no satisfactory actioin has been taken on the above demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a), (b) and (d) The nodal Ministries for calling for nominations for the UNO posts/its affiliated Organisations, are Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce & Industry etc. The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, when the occasion arose, had forwarded nominations to the Ministry/Department concerned for selecting suitable candidates. The criteria for selection, as laid down by the concerned Organisations, is merit and suitability. A former Deputy Advisor (Fertilizers) and now Joint Advisor (Fertilizers) belonging to the reserved category (SC), had made a representation on December 6, 1995 against not sponsoring his name for foreign assignment in 1995. This was examined and the officer was subsenquently deputed to participate in the second module of the short-term course under Colombo Plan on Environmental Audit and Industrial Pollution held in U.K. from March 2, 1998 to April, 9 1998. Four officers from the Department of Fertilizers, including the Fertilizers Industries Coordination Committee, an attached office of Department of Fertilizers, were deputed for foreign assignment in the financial year 1995-96. None of the officers belonged to SC/ST.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Urea Scam

3075. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI team Investigating Urea Scam returned empty handed from the foreign countries;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on said visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

(a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team had recently visited Ankara, Turkey from 18.5.2000 to 24.5.2000 for collection of information from the Investigating Agency of the Republic of Turkey against accused Mr. Tunacy Alankus and Mr. Cihan Karanci of M/s. Karsan Limited, Ankara, Turkey who are being prosecuted in India in the urea scam case.

(c) During the visit to Ankara, Turkey, Rs. 3,65,832/- were spent exclusive of accommodation and transport which was provided by the Indian Embassy.

Base Rates of Concession for Fertilizer

3076. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised base rates of concession for fertilizers recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase in the retail rate of fertilizers as a result thereof;

(d) whether the changes is applicable to the imported diammonium phosphate; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The base rates of concession for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under:

(Rs. per MT)

Product	1.4.1999 to 28.2.2000	29.2.2000 to 31.3.2000	From 1.4.2000
DAP (Indigenous)	4500	3900	2800
DAP (Imported)	3050	900	950
MOP	3250	2695	2800
Complexes	2531-4204	2192-3613	1577-2800

(c) The maximum retail prices of DaP and MOP were increased by 7.2% and 15% respectively *w.e.f.* 29.2.2000. This along with a fall in the international price of DAP and its intermediates necessiated revision in the base rates of concession.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Encroachment at Jodhpur Railway Station

3077. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether encroachment of railway property has been made in front of Jodhpur Railway station in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details threof and since when these encorachments have been made;

(c) whether any case is pending in the court;

(d) if so, since when; and

(e) the efforts made by the Railways to get this railway property vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A license was given by the Railway for a STD/ PCO Booth. As per rules, an area of 30 sq. ft. is allotted for such telephone booths. However, the licensee was occupying an area of 200 sq.m. since January, 1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Since 27.7.1999.

(e) Railway has filed a suit in the Court of Addl. Civil Judge, Jodhpur.

Encroachment of Railway Land in Delhi

3078. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been encroachment both sides of the rail tracks from Subzi Mandi Railway Station to Khera Kalan railway station on Delhi-Panipat rail line and from Old Azadpur to Rampura railway crossing on Delhi-Rohtak rail line and thousands of jhuggis and pucca houses have been constructed on these lands;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to evacuate these lands;

(c) whether Jhuggis have been removed by the Railways near Badli railway station in June, 2000 have again come up with the connivance of railway officials and the Delhi Police; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government would remove the same from there and action taken against officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are approximately 4600 number of encroachments on Railway land on both sides of the railway track from Subzi Mandi Railway station to Khera Kalan Railway station on Delhi-Panipat railway line, and approximately 6300 number of encroachments on railway land on one side of railway track between Azadpur and Rampura Cabin.

(b) Removal of encroachers from Railway land is a continuous process which is being undertaken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) and (d) Approximately 200 number of unauthorised constructions, including pucca structures, were removed near Badli Railway station in June 2000. Subsequently, some encroachers are repeatedly pitching their tents in the area. These are removed by the Railway as and when these come to notice. However, the policy of rehabilitatioin of unauthorised occupants of Government land is presently under review by the Central Government. No connivance of Railway officials in the matter has come to notice.

Foreign Investment In Power Projects

3079. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements have been signed with some foreign companies and World Bank for investment in some of the power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of such projects; and

(c) the quantum of foreign aid provided to each of the power project for which agreements have been signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In regard to power projects in the Central and State Sector, no agreement has been signed with the World Bank during the last 2 years for investment and implementation of these projects. So far as the private sector power projects are concerned, it is the responsibility of the project developer to tie up the funds required for implementation of the project and no agreement in this regard is signed between the Government of India and financial institutions including the World Bank. However, the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is signed between the State Governments/State Electricity Boards with private sector power projects. As per the information available as in April, 2000, out of a total of 59 private power projects involving investment by foreign companies, which require the Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), PPAs have been signed by State Governments in respect of 20 projects during the first three years of the 9th Plan period (1997-2002). The State-wise details and salient features of these 20 projects are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of signing of PPA	Date of TEC	Commissioning Schedule	Estimated cost in millions as per TEC of CEA (Foreign Exchange rate @ Rs. per US$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power), Maharashtra	1072	3.8.1998	29.12.1994	42-48 months from FC	Rs. 51870

	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Ms/. Kalinga Power Corporation), Orissa	500	20.11.1997	29.4.1999	33-36 months from FC	US$ 313.596+ Rs. 9528.3 (39.5)
	Gouripore TP (M/s. Gouripore Power Company), West Bengal	150	15.10.1998	19.4.1999	32 months from FC	US$28.07 M+ Rs. 5485.66 (39.5)
	Rosa TP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilisers), Uttar Pradesh	567	24.9.1998	19.9.1997	40 months from FC	US$ 280.7267 +Rs. 14355.284 (35.5)
5.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.), Uttar Pradesh	330	28.8.1998	26.11.1999	62 months from FC	US$ 95.054 M+ Rs. 12998.9 (42.00)
6.	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply (Comp.), Madhya Pradesh	574	17.11.1997	3.10.1997	39 months from FC	US$ 419.699 +Rs. 9997.81 (35.5)
7	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shaporji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.), Madhya Pradesh	119.7	18.11.1997	10.2.1998	14-17 months from FC	US$ 68.729+ Rs. 1740.53 (39)
8.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power [Ratlam]), Madhya Pradesh	118.63	-do-	-do-	-do-	US$ 73.88+Rs. 16.31.62 (39)
9.	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL), Andhra Pradesh	1040	15.4.1998	25.7.1996	38-44 months from FC	US$ 943.75 -Rs. 13249.93 (35)
10.	Ramagundam Extn. (BPL Group) Andhra Pradesh (on ICB route)	520	29.1.1999	26.6.1997	33-39 months from FC	US$ 369.30+Rs. 10735.60 (35.5)
11.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam (CO), Andhra Pradesh (on ICB route)	520	9.7.1999	16.6.1998	36-42 months from FC	US$ 355.131 -Rs. 9606.14 (35.5)
12.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.), Karnataka	1015	23.7.1999	29.4.1999	38-42 months from FC	US$ 273.795+ GBP277.4+ FFR907.19 +Rs. 17926.85 (Rs. 42/US$, Rs. 68.50/GBP, Rs. 7.20/FFR)
13.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power), Karnataka	107.6	22.10.1999	20.9.1999	19 months from FC	US$56.577+ Rs. 1529.69 (42)
14.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power), Tamil Nadu	1050	2.2.1998	3.4.1996	42-46 months from FC	US$ 585.96+Rs. 24022.40 (34.5)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC), Tamil Nadu	525	12.2.1998	31.7.1998	39 months from FC	US$ 321.779+ DEM 145.893+Rs. 8753.89 (Rs. 35.5/US$ & Rs. 21/DEM)
16.	North Madras TPP-III (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited), Tamil Nadu	525	19.7.1999	31.7.1998	37 months from FC	US$ 147.915+ GBP 122.927+ FFR 458.023+ Rs. 7365.60 (Rs. 35.5/US$, Rs. 57/GBP & Rs. 6.21/FFR)
17.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power), Tamil Nadu	106	21.5.1998	10.2.1998	14-17 months from	US$ 58.84+Rs. 1508.45 (39)
18.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co. Ltd.), Tamil Nadu	106	22.5.1998	—do—	—do—	US$61.222+Rs. 1530.98 (39)
19.	Jayamkondam TPP (M/s. Jayamkondam Lignite Power Corporation Ltd.) Tamil Nadu (On ICB route)	500	15.6.1998 (Date of award)	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to CEA for Techno-Economic Clearance		TEC not yet accorded.
20.	Ennore CCGT (M/s. Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium), Tamil Nadu (on ICB route)	1884.64	18.12.1998 (Date of award)	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to CEA for Techno-Economic Clearance		TEC not yet accorded so far.

Abbreviations:
FC = Financial Closure

(c) The actual details of investment made in these projects including quantum of foreign loans will be known only after completion of the project and approval of the firm financial package by CEA.

[English]

Appointment/Posting of SCs/STs in Autonomous Bodies

3080. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SARDAR BUTA SINGH:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINGAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to post/appoint adequate number of persons from Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous, Statutory Organizations/Attached Offices of the Ministry;

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

(c) the total number of posts in the rank of Heads/CMD, Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils in different autonomous bodies such as organizations under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles and toal number of persons from SCs/STs community working against such posts as January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration, Sir.

(c) Information is being collected & will be laid on the table of the House.

Capacity of Oil Refineries

3081. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the oil refineries both in public and private sectors, refinery-wise;

(b) the quantity of crude oil being explored from on shore and off shore; and

(c) the areas where positive signs have been found for the oil and gas reserves in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Present capacities of the various refineries in the country are given in the attached statement.

(b) the total production of crude oil in the country during 1999-2000 was 32.005 MMT.

(c) During the last 3 years positive signs of oil and gas discoveries have been found in the basins of Uppar Assam, Cauvery, Krishna Godavari, Cambay, Rajasthan and Mumbai High.

Statement

Refining Capacity

(Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum)

A.	*Public Sector*	
1.	IOCL, Digboi	0.65
2.	IOCL, Guwahati	1.00
3.	IOCL, Barauni	4.20
4.	IOCL, Haldia	3.75
5.	IOCL, Mathura	8.00
6.	IOCL, Panipat	6.00
7.	IOCL, Koyali	12.50
8.	BPCL, Mumbai	6.90
9.	HPCL, Mumbai	5.50
10.	HPCL, Vishakh	7.50
11.	KRL, Kochi	7.50
12.	CPCL, Chennai	6.50
13.	CPCL, Narimanam	0.50
14.	BRPL, Bongaigaon	2.35
15.	NRL, Mumaligarh	3.00
	Sub Total	75.85
B.	Joint Sector	
1.	MRPL, Bangalore	9.69
C.	Private Sector	
1.	RPL, Jamnagar	27.00
	Total Capacity	112.54

Wind Mills in Tamil Nadu

3082. DR. A.D.K. JEYASEELAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wind mill power projects in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up some wind mill power projects based on tidal waves at Tiruchenlur in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) An aggregate wind power capacity of 771 MW has been set up in Tamil Nadu, which includes 19 MW demonstration projects in public sector and 752 MW commercial projects in private sector.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

Power Projects in West Bengal

3083. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for installatioin of Power Projects in West Bengal are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by whcih the said power projects are proposed to be cleared and set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As on 31.7.2000, no power project of West Bengal is under examination in Central Electricity authority (CEA) for Techno-economic Clearance. However, the following power projects in the State of West Bengal have been returned to the project authorities for want of certain essential inputs:

1.	North Bengal	4x60 MW
2.	DPL Unit 7	1x110 MW
3.	Santaldih Extn.	2x120 MW
4.	Murshidabad	4x500 MW
5.	Ramman St. III HEP	3x20 MW

Companies Engaged in Exploration of Oil in Orissa

3084. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the oil companies which have been engaged in exploration of oil in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether ONGC have given adequate funds and assistance to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the erstwhile Oil and Natural Gas Commission, and Oil India Limited had been engaged in exploration of hydrocarbon in the State of Orissa, from their own budgets.

Action Against Vanished Companies

3085. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has initiated action against 142 just vanished companies;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Company Affairs along with SEBI have chalked out an action plan against the unscrupulous directors, promoters;

(c) if so, whether the Department has planned to get back the money of small investors/depositors;

(d) if so, whether the Department included the plantation, non-banking finance, and software companies in their investigation;

(e) if so, the total amount suspected duped, siphoned away by these companies; and

(f) the corrective actions taken for the future and the amendment proposed to be made by the department on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRTY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Out of 142 companies, prosecutions have been initiated against 93 companies, under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956. No prosecutions have been initiated against 37 companies which are regular in filing their statutory documents like Balance Sheet and Annual Returns. 08 companies are under liquidatioin. The assets of 03 companies have been taken over by the State Governments of Punjab and Karnataka (2 companies and 1 company respectively) and 01 company is under Board of Industrial Finance and Rehabilitation (BIFR) proceedings.

(b) The Department has constituted Seven Task Forces regionwise viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Hyderabad with Regional Directors/Registrar of Companies as convenors and the representatives of SEBI and Stock Exchanges as members. The primary responsibility of these Task Forces is to identify the vanishing companies of their region by going through the informatioin available with these agencies. These Task Forces are monitored by a Central Coordinating Committee with Secretary, Department of Company Affairs (DCA) and Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as its Co-Chairman.

(c) Out of the 93 companies as mentioned at (a) above, 24 companies are identified as non traceable even after due enquiries. Instructions have been issued to the field organisations to initiate winding up proceedings u/s 433/439 of the Companies Act, 1956 against these 24 companies so that amount can be realised from the assets of these companies by the Liquidator for payment as per Court's orders under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) The list of 142 companies received from SEBI contains the names of companies with various types of

business. The DCA has not included names of any Plantation/Non Banking Finance and Software companies in the aforesaid list.

(e) The total amount involved in these 142 companies is Rs. 668.61 crores.

(f) The primary responsibility to monitor the working of all listed companies which come with public issue vests in SEBI/Stock Exchanges. However, to protect the interest of the investors, a new section 205 C has been inserted in the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999 to establish a fund called as "Investor Education and Protection Fund". To make laws more stringent against the defaulting companies, a provision has also been made in the said bill introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.12.1999 that a director of a public company which fails to file the annual accounts returns for continuous three financial years or repay the deposits will not be eligible to be a director of a public company for five years besides facing prosecution etc.

[Translation]

Thermal and Hydro Power Generation

3086. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to improve the position of thermal and hydro power generation keeping in view the requirement of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sanction has been accorded to some new power projects in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of these projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) For the Ninth Plan, a capacity addition of 40245.2 MW was planned. However, during the mid-term review, conducted in July, 1999, a capacity addition of 28097.2 MW was considered feasible. This comprises of 8399.2 MW of hydro, 18818 MW of thermal and 880 MW of nuclear projects.

The details of the actual capacity addition during first three years of the Ninth Plan is as under:—

1997-98	3226 MW
1998-99	4267 MW
1999-2000	4507 MW

(c) and (d) In addition to the capacity addition of 28097.2 MW during 9th Plan, the list of projects which have been sanctioned (*i.e.* investment approvals given) and whose benefits would accure during the Tenth and Eleventh Plan is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Project-wise Details of Capacity Addition-Sanctioned/Ongoing

S.No.	Name of Project	Installed capacity (MW)	Benefits	
			2002-07	2007-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shahpurkandi-A (Punjab)	160.0	0.0	160.0
2.	Shahpurkandi-B (Punjab)	8.0	0.0	8.0
3.	Jakham (Rajasthan)	5.0	5.0	0.0
4.	Suratgarh-II (Rajasthan)	500.0	500.0	0.0
5.	Global B. CCGT (Rajasthan)	130.0	130.0	0.0
6.	Katapathar (U.P.)	19.0	19.0	0.0
7.	Chamera-II (H.P.)	300.0	300.0	0.0
8.	Dulhasti (J&K)	390.0	390.0	0.0
9.	Dhauliganga (U.P.)	280.0	280.00	0.0

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Tehri St. I (U.P.)	1000.0	500.0	0.0
11.	Sardar Sarovar (Guj.) 16%	192.0	128.0	0.0
12.	Dhuvaran CCPP (Gujarat)	110.0	110.0	0.0
13.	Bansagar IV (M.P.)	20.0	20.0	0.0
14.	Narmada Sagar (M.P.)	1000.0	1000.0	0.0
15.	Sardar Sarovar (M.P.) 57%	684.0	456.0	0.0
16.	Ghatghar PSS (Mah.)	250.0	250.0	0.0
17.	Sardar Sarovar (Mah.) 27%	324.0	216.0	0.0
18.	TAPP U-3&4 (Mah.)	1000.00	1000.0	0.0
19.	Balimela-DPH(A.P.)	60.0	60.0	0.0
20.	Rayalseema (A.P.)	420.0	420.0	0.0
21.	Srindaban (Kar.)	12.0	12.0	0.0
22.	Sarapadi HE (Kar.)	90.0	90.0	0.0
23.	Kutiyadi T.R. (Ker.)	3.8	3.8	0.0
24.	Malankra (Ker.)	10.5	10.5	0.0
25.	Pykara Ult. St. (T.N.)	150.0	150.0	0.0
26.	Simhadri TPS (A.P.)	1000.0	500.0	0.0
27.	Kaiga U-3&4 (Kar.)	440.0	0.0	440.0
28.	Neyveli FST Extn. (T.N.)	420.0	210.0	0.0
29.	Muzzafarpur Extn. (Bihar)	500.0	500.00	0.0
30.	Tenughat Ex. U-3 to 5 (Bihar)	630.0	630.0	0.0
31.	Balimela St. 2 (Orissa)	150.0	150.0	0.0
32.	Bargarh (Orissa)	9.0	9.0	0.0
33.	Rathongchu (Sikkim)	30.0	30.0	0.0
34.	Rolep HE (Sikkim)	9.0	9.0	0.0
35.	Purulia P.S.S. (W.B.)	900.0	900.0	0.0
36.	Ramman St. I (W.B.)	36.0	36.0	0.0
37.	Koel Karo (Bihar)	710.0	0.0	710.0
38.	Teesta St. V. (Sikkim)	510.0	510.0	0.0
39.	Dhansiri HEP (Assam)	20.0	20.0	0.0
40.	Karbi-L. Borpani (Assam)	100.0	100.0	0.0
41.	Lakwa W.H. (Assam)	47.5	47.5	0.0

	2	3	4	5
42	Amguri CCGT (Assam)	90.00	90.00	0.0
43	Serlui-B (Mizoram)	9.0	0.0	9.0
44	Kopili HE St. II (Assam)	25.0	25.0	0.0
45.	Loktak D/S Manipur)	90.0	90.0	0.0
46.	Tuirial (Mizoram)	60.0	60.0	0.0
47.	Neyveli TPP (T.N.)	250.0	250.0	0.0
48.	Talchar TPS II (Orissa)	2000.0	2000.0	0.0
49.	Rihand TPS II (U.P.)	1000.0	1000.0	0.0
50.	Ramagundam TPS III (A.P.)	500.0	500.0	0.0
51.	Sipat STPS (M.P.)	1980.0	1980.0	0.0
52.	Anta GPS II (Rajasthan)	650.0	650.0	0.0
53.	Auraiya GPS II (U.P.)	650.0	650.0	0.0
54.	Kawas GPS II (Gujarat)	650.0	650.0	0.0
55.	Gandhar GPS II (Gujarat)	650.0	650.0	0.0

Utilisation of Railway Property

3087. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sizeable area of residential property of Railways is lying unutilised in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are taking any measures to bring the said property into use;

(c) whether the loco-shed constructed on thousand acres of railway land at Gangapur in Rajasthan is not being used at all; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take any proper decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) Buildings/structures released due to closure of steam Loco Shed at Gangapur City, Western Railway have been put to alternative use such as stabling of Accident Relief Train etc. Some other structures are in a highly dilapidated condition and cannot be put to any alternative use.

[English]

Procurement of Sleeping Bags for Army

3088. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ignoring the report of the DG Quality Assurance in relatioin to the procurement of 8588 sleeping bags valuing over Rs. 7 crores which could not be used for troops at Siachen due to their inferior quality;

(b) whether the above decision was taken in May, 1993 which cost the nation heavily and put our troops at high risk;

(c) if so, the level at which the decision for its procurement was taken;

(d) the action taken against those found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No instance of ignoring any report of the DG Quality Assurance in relation to the procurement of 8588 sleeping bags has come to the notice of the Ministry of Defence.

A Contract Purchase Order for supply of 8588 Nos. of sleeping bags with cover was placed on M/s. Moncler

of France on 11.5.1992, after the samples submitted by the Vendor had been approved by Army Headquarters during trial evaluation.

Even after supplying 6255 Nos. sleeping bags out of the total contracted quantity of 8588 Nos. sleeping bags, the Vendor could not claim any payment as they did not submit Performance and Warranty Bond as required under the contract. The Vendor had made a request for amending the Letter of Credit (LC) to allow them to furnish Bank Guarantee for 10% value for each consignment. The payments against the Letter of credit were, however, not released to the Vendor as the documents submitted by them to their Bankers had become stale. The Vendor had been making repeated reminders to the Ministry of Defence for instructing the bank to revalidate the stale documents to enable them to receive payments.

On the advice of Finance Division, a meeting associating the representatives of the Army Headquarters, Director General Quality Assurance and Defence (Finance) was arranged on 21.5.1993 to decide the issue. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the then Joint Secretary (Ordnance) and was attended by the representatives of Defence (Finance), Director General Quality Assurance and the Army Headquarters.

It was stated by the representative of Army Headquarters that the store which had already been supplied by the Vendor was acceptable except for a superfluous central stiching which was to be avoided in future supplies. It was also reported by him that the User Directorates had no objection for release of payment for the store already supplied.

It was also confirmed by the representative of Director General Quality Assurance that visual inspections were carried out on the consignments received and the same were cleared for issue noting minor discrepancies.

After detailed discussions and taking note of the contract conditions and payment clauses, it was decided in the meeting to release the payment against the Letter of Credit.

All the sleeping bags, which had a central stitching on the back side of the outer cover, have been utilised, on the recommendations of a Board of Officers convened under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General Ordnance Services (Clothing, Necessaries & Administration). The bags were recommended for utilisation in lien of sleeping bags Indian authorisation as part of Extreme Cold Clothing and Equipment (ECC&E).

In order to satisfy the full claim of the Ministry of Defence, it was decided to encash the Bank Guarantees amounting to 20% of the contract value, given by the Vender towards Performance Bond as well as Warranty Bond. The Ministry of Defence, has already received an amount of FF 2,268,393.20 (about Rs. 1.57 crores) representing the principal amount of the Bank Guarantees less the Administrative Charges. The matter regarding payment of the balance amount is also under consideration of an appropriate French Court in Paris. In addition a claim for FF 7,984,149.20 has also been filed by the Ministry of Defence before the Sole Arbitrator at New Delhi. The arbitration proceedings are under progress.

A Court of Inquiry has also been ordered by the Army Headquarters to pinpoint responsibility for lapses in the acceptance of the sleeping bags under reference and the same is in progress. After receipt of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry appropriate action will be taken against all those found responsible for lapses in the acceptance of the sleeping bags supplied by M/s. Moncler, France.

Shortfall in Power Generation

3089. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is 30% shortfall in the power generation target in the country;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(d) the details of States/SEBs with whom Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) have not been finalised so far; and

(e) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. The actual energy generation during 1999-2000 was 480.011 MU against the target of 469.000 MU, which represents an increase of 2.3% over the target.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a contract between the State Electricity Board (SEB) and the Independent Power Producer (IPP) in which the modalities for purchase/sale of power and allocation of various risks are negotiated between the two parties. Monitoring of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) comes under the preview of the respective State Governments.

Normally the Government of India does not monitor the progress in finalisation of these agreements. To assist the State Governments/State Electricity Boards in the formulation of these agreements, Government of India circulated guidelines in respect of PPAs in 1994. The Ministry of Power also circulated a draft model PPA to enable the State Governments to formulate their own PPA and also organised training workshops on PPA.

Officers Sent Abroad for Training in Foreign Institute

3090. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government nominates officers/ persons for training to the reputed foreign training institutions for improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capability in various fields and disciplines;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad for both the short and long terms training courses during the last three years;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SCs/STs categories among such officers sent abroad for the said training; and

(d) the reasons for not nominating the adequate number of SCs/STs officers for the said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The Central policy on all kinds of foreign training programmes, to which officers of various services of Central Government are nominated/deputed, such as these under the Colombo Plan programme in U.K. and Japan; and the India-Australia Training in capacity Building Project in various bilateral/multilateral arrangements between the donor countries and Govt. of India, is formulated and administered/conducted by Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievance (Department of Personnel and Training) and Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs).

During the course of last 3 years, only 6 officers belonging to Ministry of Textiles attended short term/long term training in foreign institutions. Of these, 1 officer belonged to SC category & 1 officer belonged to ST category.

Introduction of Trains Between Bandra and Gandhidham

3091. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new train services from Bandra (Mumbai) to Gandhidham and Mumbai to Kutch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these train services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) it is proposed to introduce Bandra-Gandhidham Express by merging 2963/2964 Bandra-Vadodara Sayaji Nagari Express and 9103/9104 Vadodara-Gandhidham Express during the year 2000-2001.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATIOIN AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Company Law Settlement Scheme, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 529 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2000, under sub-section 93) of section 637 of the Companies Act, 1996.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-2191/2000]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 658 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2000 seeking to make amendment in the Schedule X of the Comapanies Act, 1956 under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-2192/2000]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) for the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 2000-2001 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-2193/2000]

(2) A copy of Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Hydroelectic Power Corporation Limited and Ministry of Power for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-2194/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Textiles Committee (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notificatioin No. G.S.R. 608 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2000 under sub-sectioin (3) of section 22 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-2195/2000]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

2. I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 2000, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 2000, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on 9th August, 2000, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on 9th August, 2000, with the following amendments:—

CLAUSE 5

1. That at page 3, line 4, *for* the figure "27" the figure "26" be *substituted.*

CLAUSE 12

2. That at page 3, *for* line 45, the following be *substituted* namely:—

1_____5

"5 Chhattisgarh.....90.."

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

3. That at page 23, *for* lines 9-15, the following be *substituted* namely:—

"(2) Of the five sitting members whose term of office will expire on the 30th day of June, 2004, namely Shri O. Rajagopal, Shri Dilip Singh Judev, Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia, Shri Balkavi Bairagi and Miss Mabel Rebellow; Shri Dilip Singh Judev and Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia both shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other three sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill three of the seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh."

4. That at page 23, *for* lines 16-22, the following be *substituted* namely:—

"(3) Of the six members whose term of office will expire on the 2nd day of April, 2006, namely, Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Kailash Joshi, Shri Bhagatram Manhar, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Vikram Verma; Shri Bhagatram Manhar, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill one of the seats allotted to the State of Chattisgarh and other five members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh."

THE THIRD SCHEDULE

5. That at page 31, *for* lines 4-5, the following be *substituted* namely:—

In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXII", the figures "XXIII" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXII, the following shall be inserted, namely:'

I am therefore to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Coduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.

Sir, I lay on the Table the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000 as returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments which was passed by Lok Sabha on 31st July, 2000.

12.04 hrs.

MOTION RE : TWELFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twelfth report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th August, 2000."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th August, 2000."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an amendment to move to this motion of the hon. Minister.

My amendment is "that the Report of the Business Advisory Committee be referred back to the Committee to consider allotting a specific date for discussion under rule 193 on atrocities on linguistic and religious minorities in the country, which could not be taken up on 27th July, 2000 as recommended by the Committee under its Tenth Report presented to the House on 26th July, 2000."

Sir, my amendment is very explanatory itself. We had the Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to us on 26th of July, and in that Report, the Business Advisory Committee had recommended a discussion under rule 193 on atrocities on minorities. The recommendation was that it will be taken up on 27th of July, but then it could not be taken up on that date for obvious reasons. After that, the discussion has simply been lost. This is one of the parliamentary hazards, I know, but then the discussion is not coming up again.

Sir, you will remember that on the very first day of the sitting, I had sought your leave to move an Adjournment Motion on atrocities against the minorities. Sir, you were pleased not to allow that motion but you told me in the House that a discussion would be there on this motion. Sir, 19 Members of this House, including myself, have given a notice for a discussion on atrocities on minorities under rule 193. But then, third week is coming to an end and we are told nothing. This discussion on minorities is a victim of the parliamentary procedural hazards.

Now, I want that this Report be referred back to the Committee so that the Committee specifies a particular date and time as to when the discussion on atrocities on minorities will be taken up here in the House.

Sir, this Report be referred back to the Committee for this purpose.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I hope, the Government will accept this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, this a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation from the Chair. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: (Tirunelveli): Sir, I have also given a notice for a discussion under rule 193 on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this?

As the hon. Members are aware, the item under rule 193 on the subject of atrocities against linguistic and religious minorities in the country was included in the List of Business in the name of Sarvashri Abul Hasnat Khan and Moinul Hassan on 27, 28 and 31st July and 1st August, 2000 but it could not be taken up for discussion due to paucity of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this running commentary? What is this? I could not understand the behaviour of some of the Members in the House.

The matter was discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee meeting held yesterday (9.8.2000) and it was agreed that the date and time for holding a discussion on the subject might be decided in the next meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the position.

The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th August, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In the next BAC meeting, we will fix the date. Please take your seat.

12.07 hrs.

RE: EARLY PASSING OF THE BILL PROVIDING RESERVATION OF 33 PER CENT SEATS FOR WOMEN IN LOK SABHA AND STATE ASSEMBLIES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour.'

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I have given a notice.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, 34 of our workers had been injured yesterday when they were coming back from a public meeting at Chamkaitolla. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, with your permission, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the position of the Women's Reservation Bill. I wanted to bring to the notice of the House that actually it is an atrocity and an unconstitutional measure as far as the Women's Reservation Bill is concerned. It is like match fixing against the women's rights. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, in the next Business Advisory Committee, we will fix up the date and time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Under Rule 296, I will speak in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: In the next BAC meeting, we will decide.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: It is reported in a section of the Press quoting the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the Bill is not going to be taken up in this Session. We would like to know the reason. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill was already introduced in the House. Please understand.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: It was introduced but it is not going to be taken up in this Session. We would like to know why this is so. So many other Bills are taken up, and it is a double speak on the part of the Government. They have taken up many Bills and passed without any consensus. This is an important Bill. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that there is an unconstitutional and unpardonable delay.

Sir, there is a *Dharna*, a rally now going on at the Parliament Street organised by the All India Democratic Women's Association and many other Women's organisations. We wanted to know from the Government categorically when this Bill will be taken up. So, we want the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond now. We want an explanation from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We want to know categorically when this Bill will exactly be taken up. It is a farce to say that the Bill has been introduced. ... *...(Interruptions)* There is an unconstitutional and unpardonable delay. Many other Bills are taken up....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please sit down.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We want the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the submission of Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Madam you have raised your point. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the submission of Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a railway section of 297 kms. between Looni Barmer—Munabab is a very important and sensitive section from strategic point of view. Its gauge conversion

---

*Not recorded.

[Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi]

had been approved in the 1997-98 Budget for which an allocation of Rs. 40 crores had been made. An allocation of Rs. 30 crores had been made during the year 1998-99 and during the year 1999-2000, an allocation of Rs. 20 crores had been made in the Railway Budget. During the current year of 2000-2001, an allocation of Rs. 30 crores has been made for it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir Nunabab is a strategically important railway station on Pakistan border where trains always carry arms and ammunitions at the time of war. But due to the carelessness of some officers. The amounts of proposals approved during these years could not be used for gauge conversion and this got lapsed. As a result thereof, the work of gauge conversion of this important and sensitive railway station of Munabab is still lying incomplete. I would like to urge upon the Minister of Railways through you to take action against the guilty officers and this incomplete work of gauge conversion should be completed immediately. Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please understand. You have given a notice. I have called your name also. You have raised your point also. Please understand. Take your seat. Please give a chance to others also.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is going to reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is going to reply. Do you not want to get a reply from the Government?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want to get a reply from the Government? Please take your seat.

Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. You have raised a matter asking for the Government's response. The Government is going to respond. You are not allowing the Minister to give a reply. What type of attitude is this, I do not understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want any response from the Government? Normally, the procedure in the zero Hour is, I think, whenever Members raise an issue if the Government is going to give a reply we allow the Government also to give a reply. What is this?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, they have taken much time. From my party, I will take only one minute.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: (Tirunelveli): Every time the Government is saying this.

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Government has not discharged its constitutional obligation. Why is Parliament being treated like this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say, Shri Yerrannaidu?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: If the Government is ready to take up the consideration of the Women's Bill, the TDP is ready to support it to pass it in this Session. From the beginning we have been requesting and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also has been categorically stating it in the Lok Sabha.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai): I also endorse the views of the other Members that it should be taken up in this Session.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. What is this? Since the hon. lady Member has given a notice, I called

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

her. Everybody wants to participate in the debate. What about the matters of others? Are they not Members of this House? You are not allowing others to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Government should give a commitment that they are going to pilot this Bill in this Session.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): This is a very important issue. The Congress has always been emphasising that one-third reservation in the local bodies and Panchayats must be extended to Vidhan Sabha and Parliament. The Congress also adds its voice that this Bill must be brought as early as possible and that it must be possible as soon as possible so that one-third reservation can be given to women in Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so long as the issue of reservation for the women belonging to Muslims, Scheduled Cates, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes is not settled, women reservation bill can not and should not be introduced. We will oppose it if it is introduced *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so long as the reservation issue for Muslim women and women belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is not settled it would not be fruitful to introduce the women's reservation bill in the House. Our party will oppose that bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that this issue has been discussed before the leaders. Consultations have also been made with the Election Commission in this regard. Election Commission was of the opinion that no amendment is required in it. Add just one sentence and introduce the amended Bill. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister had said that they would discuss the matter with the Election Commission. Our Samajwadi party and several other colleagues are of the opinion that this bill would not be introduced in the House unless separate reservation for the Muslim women and the women belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes is provided. *...(Interruptions)*. It has been our persistent demand. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, on behalf of AIADMK Party, we had urged the Government on so many occasions about this Bill. We have also participated in all the discussions. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please understand that this is not a debate. This is 'Zero Hour'. Whatever submissions you want to make, you can make.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: They have not honoured their commitment. The hon. Prime Minister has not honoured his commitment. We are for piloting the Bill during this Session itself. Let them first pilot the Bill, pass it and then they can think about the reservation about the backward classes and minorities. *...(Interruptions)* Let them grant one-third reservation by passing the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, please give me a chance. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, your Member has already raised the point. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will say something about the commitment. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mayawati. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I will call you afterwards.

...(Interruptions)

---

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, women's reservation Bill is a very important Bill. This bill has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha earlier. I request Hon. Minister that before passing the bill, it should be amended and separate provision for reservation of women belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and religious minorities should be made in the bill.

When you bring forward this bill for amendment in the Parliament...*(Interruptions)* otherwise, if you bring forward it in as it is form, we shall oppose it. So far as reservation for women is concerned, they are very backward in politics whether they are from Bahujan Samaj, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and from minorities. If the Govt. are genuine about giving benefit of reservation to women in politics, first of all, you will have to make a separate provision for them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What to say, it happens in the Zero hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: I request you to lay this bill in the Parliament after that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few years back, Union Government of Congress, materialised the dreams of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi by making a provision of reservation for women in local bodies, panchayats and municipalities. Congress is clear about its opinion that this reservation should be provided in the Parliament also. The provision of one-thirds reservation should be made in the Parliament also. Yesterday only, Congress party launched a movement and organised a demonstration and the leader of opposition had addressed it. It is the responsibility of the Government to establish coordination and we demand and request the same. But, we are not ready to tolerate its avoidance in the name of coordination. Therefore, we demand it from the Government that the bill be brought and passed in this session itself so that women could get one-thirds reservation in the Parliament. This is Congress party's demand and we reiterate it with full might here. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Prime Minister repeated it again and again that the bill would be presented after consensus only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: All party meeting was held but they could not reach at any consensus. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no justification of bringing this bill without making a provision of reservation to women belonging to backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities. Therefore, there should be consensus. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no justification whatsoever...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Banatwalla says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Please ask the lady Member to resume the seat, Sir.

Sir, there is no justification whatsoever for the exclusion of the OBCs and the Minorities from the reservation. Therefore, the OBCs and the Minorities must get reservation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there should not be any fight between the male Members and the female Members in the House on this subject, please.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I want to point out only one thing. The Prime Minister was kind enough to call the meeting of the leaders of the parties. We were all there. The matter was discussed and if there was any broad consensus in that meeting, the consensus was that the various parties have no objection whatsoever to the inclusion of the OBCs and the Minorities. This has to be respected by the Government. But if the Government still sticks to the Bill, then we will not be able to associate ourselves with the Bill. Let the OBCs and the Minorities have adequate reservation, which is their right.

---

* Not recorded.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, in the recently concluded Panchayat elections in U.P., it has been projected that women candidates have secured the maximum number of seats. This is a new dimension and direction in the present political scenario in our country. So, it is a proper reflection that people are accepting the women candidates. Trinamul Congress is of the opinion that the Women's Reservation Bill should be tabled at the earliest possible time. We do not blame the Government because the Government from the very beginning...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is being misled. ...*(Interruptions)* A provision of reservation to th women belonging to backward class has been made in the panchayat elections...*(Interruptions)* why not you say that scheduled castes and backward classes have been included in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Shri Mulayam Singh, you are a senior Member ...*(Interruptions)* If you do it, then I will also oppose.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Scheduled castes and backward classes have been included in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, please let him complete.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, the Government was very keen from the very beginning to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in the House but due to chaos, it could not succeed. So, we are categorically of the opinion that the Trinamul Congress is in favour of the Women's Reservation Bill as it stands now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you have raised a very important subject. Unnecessarily you are wasting the time of the House.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, we firmly stand by the assurances and commitments which we made in our election manifesto *vis-a-vis* the election manifesto of the NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bharatiya Janata Party is in favour of giving reservation to women and that should be passed in the House and we support it. But if any reservation is made on the basis of religion, we oppose it strongly. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: We seek reservation on the caste basis and not on the basis of religion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: We have been demanding 33 per cent reservation for women for the last five years, in the House. I request the Government to honour the feelings of all the Members of the House. Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia now cited late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I would like to ask from the members of treasury benches that when Lok Sabha elections were held, 33 percent reservation was provided by you. ...*(Interruptions)*

If not as much, than how much please tell us.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will tell...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please do not talk without experience, I request you that we will submit our party's opinion. The Government have presented the bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha enact legislations, but it is not the function of Panchayats. You should differentiate between the two. Do not put them together. We have provided for reservation in Panchayats to the people of scheduled castes and backward classes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, has your party given more seats to women?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Honourable Sir, Panchayats do not enact legislation. You should differentiate between the two. Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha enact legislations. Do not put both together. We have provided reservation to the persons of scheduled castes and backward classes in Panchayats ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, on behalf of the D.M.K. Party we support the move of the Government. We have already introduced the reservation for women in the local bodies and it is very successful there.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): It is tough to work under a woman. It is a matter of great surprise that after such experience you are demanding this.

[English]

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai): Sir, on behalf of the MGR ADMK I request the Central Government to bring the Bill in this session itself. It is a very important Bill. This is our commitment also. You must pass it in this session itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Our party supports it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a general debate. You please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Pramod Mahajan, there should be provision of reservation for the women belonging to SCs, STs, OBC and minorities in the bill, otherwise our party will oppose it. There should be a support to the people of SCs, STs, OBC and minorities in it. Are you doing accordingly?

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the members should listen to me. I cannot speak like this ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh): This is improper.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members to listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, it is a very important issue raised by all sections of the House and I will seek the cooperation of the House to listen patiently the Government's response to it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We will listen very patiently.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You are not doing it. This is not the sign of it ...*(Interruptions)* Even saying it is not a sign of it.

Sir, we have already introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in this House. We would like to pass it as early as possible in the present form. But, Sir, you have seen that every section of this House wants the Women's Reservation Bill to be passed on its own terms and conditions ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: We have not imposed any terms or conditions to pass it. It is the general approach ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, the hon. Minister is dividing the House. ...*(Interruptions)* He is very cleverly pushing everything under the carpet ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Banatwalla says I am right. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is better to be right at least once, but Shri Banatwalla is not right at all. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you have seen that as far as the present form of the Bill is concerned, there is no consensus in the House. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav wants to change it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI: We are in agreement with you. This bill should not be brought unless consensus is reached.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mayawati, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Mulayam Singh wants changes in it, Kumari Mayawati wants changes in it, Shri Banatwala wants changes in it, Mr. Raghuvansh wants changes in it, Mr. Vijay does not want changes in it and Shiv Sena has different opinion about it...*(Interruptions)* You must have seen that the women's reservation bill is a constitution amendment bill. It should be passed peacefully with two-thirds majority. When there is consensus on such a major issues and it is passed peacefully, then only it can be useful.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: O.K. There should be consensus...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We did not agree with the Bills relating to reorganisation of States also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: They were not Constitution (Amendment) Bills.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, this is a different issue. Now, we are discussing about Women's Reservation Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take it seriously.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, they passed the Bills relating to reorganisation of States. ...*(Interruptions)* Was there any consensus in the House? Now, he is talking of consensus. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government does not want to pass this Bill. They have only introduced the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I want to answer. He cannot interrupt me like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why did they introduce the Bill?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? When the Minister is replying, you are interrupting him. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, do you not want any reply from the Government?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can ask him to sit down, if you do not want any reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Let the Bill be placed before the House. Let there be a debate. Let there be voting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia cannot hijcak the House. Is this a democratic system? He is not listening to me. Every time, he wants to force his opinion on others. He has raised an issue and he does not want to listen the answer. ...*(Interruptions)* Whatever I may be talking, it is my right to talk. ...*(Interruptions)* He cannot dictate me what I should talk. This is surprising. If he wants to tell me what I should talk, then, he should join this Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper behaviour in the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I cannot be interrupted like this every time I want to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You were also a Presiding Officer once.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, the Government is not serious in its approach.

MR. SPEAKER: You were also a Presiding Officer once. Please understand. Your behaviour is not proper in the House.

* Not recorded.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: When I was the Presiding Officer, I directed the Government to place a Bill before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Speaker can ask the Government to place a Bill before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am very happy to work under you Speakership and not under Shri Pandiyan's otherwise, everyday he would have directed me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I was saying that honourable Members have made several important suggestions regarding the Women's Reservation Bill. These are at variance with the Women's Reservation Bill introduced in the House today. Each suggestion is important. I can not comment on behalf of the Government as to which suggestion are important and which are not. But, the Government is of the view that providing reservation to the women is important and it is finding it difficult to introduce the Bill in the House until there is a consensus and peace in the House. There is nothing wrong with our intention but this is my difficulty. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, our endeavour would be to arrive at a consensus, and if it eludes us, then we would consider about majority and the minority views in this regard. But, as of now we are trying to arrive at a consensus. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: My request is that a time and date should be decided...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is very unfortunate. We are walking out.

12.37 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

(At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House.)

(At this stage, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan and some other hon. Members left the House.)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I represent Chandni Chowk of Delhi...*(Interruptions)* Madhav Raoji, I seldom get a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the context of what you have said concerning the Women's Reservation Bill, my only submission is that a date be decided. You continue your efforts till that date. In case there is a consensus, then at least the Bill can be introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a request. Thereafter, I will speak. ...*(Interruptions)* It would result in a mass agitation. ...*(Interruptions)* Lakhs of people would come out in the streets...*(Interruptions)* You have spoken your mind, I will also speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: First, introduce the Bill. Decide on a date. ...*(Interruptions)* And try to achieve a consensus before that date. If consensus is not achieved by then, introduce the Bill and according to the views of all ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We would try to achieve a consensus on this issue at the earliest.

12.39 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say through you to declare Chandni Chowk as a heritage city. I represent Chandni Chowk, where New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Bus stand, town hall, Old Secretariat, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Gauri Shankar Mandir, Gurudwara Shisganj, haveli of Mirza Galib and inumberable old havelis and historical and cultural places are located.

Today, Chandni Chowk is in a very bad shape. There is too much traffic, illegal constructions are taking place apace there which is a historical city with historical buildings. Inspite of this, the Government is not taking care of them. I would request the Central Government to declare it as a Heritage City. In a country like Rome, tourism is being marketed with the help of its ancient culture. Similarly, thousands of tourists visit Chandni Chowk and stay in the Hotels of Paharganj area. Therefore, my request to the Government is to declare Chandni Chowk as a Heritage City. Jagmohanji is Urban Development Minister who had dreamt about the Shahjahanabad. Special funds should be provided for this area. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): Sir, you might be aware that out of the total Plan allocation of Rs. 4,34,905 crore, the Eleventh Finance Commission has allotted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Venugopal, just one minute. This matter has already been raised and the Minister also has replied to it

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Sir, it is a matter of great importance. ...*(Interruptions)* The dates for discussion has not been fixed by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The matter regarding the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission was raised last week and the Minister also has replied to it....*(Interruptions)*

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Sir, kindly instruct the Government on this...*(Interruptions)* Our State Government has been totally deprived. We already are launching a number of socio-economic programmes. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that at least let the Government fix the date for the discussion Till that time, I would like to request that this matter should not be sent for a Cabinet decision...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, we cannot go on fixing dates for different discussions in the House ...*(Interruptions)* We are here for a discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Sir, please direct the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to fix the dates for the discussion...*(Interruptions)* The dates would have to give by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Venugopal, time has to be fixed in the BAC meeting.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government exchequer has suffered a huge loss due to oil drilling tender in connivance with the officials of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and that of the Great Eastern Shipping Company (GESCO). The officials of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation have tried to award the tender for oil drilling under the sea to the Great Eastern Shipping Company in violation of all the rules and without going through the proper procedure of scrutiny. Great Eastern Shipping Company has two under sea drilling rigs—Badrinath and Kedarnath. The maximum drilling capacity of Badrinath rig is 400 feet under the sea. Whereas the officials of the Great Eastern Shipping Company made false promises to the officials of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation that they have the drilling capacity of 600 feet. The officials of the Corporation accepted this assurance without investigating this claim. The officials of Great Eastern Shipping Company have been successful in obtaining the extension of their contract

for three years clearly in 1996. However the rig's success in this work can be gauged from the IADC report. According to this report, the rig remained inoperative for six months in a year and the Great Eastern Shipping Company received a payment of Rs. 140 crores from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. Whereas the said company spent a mere ten crores in repairing of the rig. In this way, a scam involving crores of rupees has taken place in connivance with the officials and the company. My request is that this should be properly investigated and strict action should be taken against the officials and the company.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, there are several places worth visiting in Nasik district such as Sapt-Sarungarh in Tehsil Karvad, Hadgarh in Tehsil Sapunar, Karanji in Tehsil Dindori, Dawleshkar in Tehsil Trumbakeshwar, Trumbheshwar in Tehsil Trumbakeshwar etc. It is my request to the Government to declare these places as the places of tourist importance.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Hon. Speaker, Sir, despite reminders and discussions at higher levels on the issue of increasing the royalty on lignite coal at Neyveli, the case is yet to be decided by the Ministry of Coal.

Sir, royalty on lignite at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu was fixed by the Government of India in the year 1990 at rates applicable to Group-V coal, that is, non-coking coals. For Grades F and G, and lignite coal the rates were fixed a' Rs. 2.50 per metric tonne. Subsequently, royalty on Group-V coal was increased to Rs. 50 per metric tonne in October, 1994. However, royalty on lignite coal is yet to be revised. As per rules, revision of royalty on major minerals is to be decided once in three years. It is due from 1997.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of Dr. Kalaingar, is implementing many welfare measures for the upliftment of downtrodden and poor people. To augment the resources of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I urge upon the Government to fix the royalty on lignite so that payment can be made. Neyveli Lignite Corporation is earning about Rs. 400 crore as profit every years. The Government of India need not pay the royalty. The Corporation can itself pay it. I, therefore, would request the hon. Minister of Coal as well as the Prime Minister to immediately intervene and see that royalty is revised and payment of arrears is to be made immediately, with retrospective effect.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir,*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am raising a very important issue concerning Kerala Hitech Industries Limited (KELTEC).

12.49 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

They are manufacturing the hardware for ISRO and DRDO. The company has been running in losses. There were some negotiations between the State Government and Union Ministry of Defence. It was agreed that an advance of Rs. 10 crore would be provided to KELTEC by the Ministry of Defence for its revival and the rest would be contributed by the Kerala Government. The Kerala Government had given its due share but the share of the Ministry of Defence is yet to come. I understand that the matter is still pending with the Cabinet. So, I request the Government to consider the issue. An early decision may kindly be taken so that this very important concern can be revived without difficulty. I would request the Government's intervention as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision of setting up a Navodaya School in every district of the country was taken by the Government. Navodaya School has not been opened in Rohtas district of Bihar State despite lapse of so many years. This has forced the brilliant and the poor students of the district to go out of the district for continuing their studies. This causes a lot of problems and difficulties for them. Therefore, I want to request through you to the Human Resource Development Minister that a Navodaya School should be opened in the Rohtas district.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, as per the new Education Policy of the Government of India, the higher secondary education has to be de-linked from the colleges and has to be given to the schools. But this has not been implemented in some of the States.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

Recently, it was implemented in Kerala. But in the process of implementation, a lot of corruption had been alleged there. In this regard, the hon. High Court has also said that the process of implementation which has been taken up by the Government is in such a way that it has been against the provisions of the Constitution, and it has been done arbitrarily, without any proper procedure.

So, Sir, this is a very serious matter which concerns the education of students in India. Since this is about implementation of the new Education Policy, I would submit that the grand allegation of corruption which has rooted and which has gone from the schoos down to the lowest level may please be investigated by a team from the Government of India.

Sir, there is a lot of agitation going on in Kerala with regard to this matter and the Government of Kerala has not even taken heed to that and has not accepted the demand that a judicial commission should inquire into the matter.

So, Sir, I would submit that if the Government of Kerala is not going to take any action in this regard, the Government of India should interfere and take action in this regard.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, this is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... I associate myself to what Shri Thomas has submitted.

SHRI K. FRANCES GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I also associate myself to what Shri Thomas has said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, geographically Rajasthan is the largest State even now despite the formation of three new States and Rajasthani is spoken throughout India. Crores of people speak this language. The Rajasthanis are there in every State of India. So, I request that Rajasthani language be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, on the last Thursday, the 3rd August, 2000 at 10.00 pm, *Aaj Tak* telecast a programme in the Doordarshan about Orissa that a couple in the district of Devgarh has sold their child out of sheer poverty. But, Sir, this is a very misleading and baseless information they have telecast in the Doordarshan's metro channel. It is an imaginary information.

Then, another Oriya producer by the name *Sanket* also visited that place. There, they found that the couple had gone to their maternal in-laws with the child, where this child expired out of disease. They disposed of the dead body and came back to their village.

I appeal to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, through the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to inquire into the matter and take appropriate action against the producers of this programme so that it does not give a bad name to Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the workers employed in the N.T.C. Mills of the country are anxious. This is the news in the newspapers that out of 119 mills 100 mills are going to be closed down. There are 18 such mills in my constituency of Mumbai and the Cabinet Minister Shri Joshi ji has got 7 such mills in his constituency. The policy of the Government regarding the number of the mills to be closed should be clear. How much land the Government is going to sell and the amount likely to be earned therefrom? Whatever amount is earned therefrom, should be distributed amongst the workers of NTC Mill, Mumbai. There are 82,113 N.T.C. employees throughout the entire country. Out of them 28,828 workers are in Mumbai itself. I want to know from the Government as to how many employees are going to be retrenched by the Government. The assurance about their modernisation had been given in the House. For this purpose it had been said that the raw material, cotton and working capital would be provided to the N.T.C. workers. I want to know from the Government why it is not providing all those facilities. Whatever may be the policy of the Government about it, should be clear. I reqeust the Government to give a statement in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question that was raised by Shri Rawale ji is serious and important. I will convey his views to the Minister of Textiles Ministry. A textile policy has been formulated in this connection. I would request Shri Rawale ji to convey his viewpoints to him.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nikobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu; all these are Union territories. The Government should bring ..

forward a Bill regarding providing status of statehood to these Union territories. There is system of democracy in the country and representatives elected by the people are the Chief Executives in the Government of India. But as far as the Union Territories are concerned, the elected members have no such right over there. These parts are existing as separate entities. All the people there want themselves to be associated with this system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Government of India for bringing forward a historic Bill for the formation of Uttaranchal, Zharkhand and Chhatisgarh. I demand that in the same way respecting the feelings of the people it should bring forward a Bill regarding the Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nikobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu Union territories. People want to be linked with this same system. As a movement was started by the people of Uttaranchal, Zharkhand and Chhatisgarh do you want such an agitation from us too.

13.00 hrs.

The Government of India should try to understand this before the people start any agitation. The system of democracy should be introduced in all the Union territories by introducing a bill in this regard immediately. So, the Government should bring forward a bill regarding this in the Lok Sabha immediately. This is my demand, through you, to the Government.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Maharashtra, Karnataka border dispute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, drinking water in Delhi ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Jadhav, please don't interrupt. You stand on your feet to speak without any permission.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: The Maharashtra-Karnataka border controversy has been lying pending since a long time. The people of Belgam-Karawad are involved in this controvery, and they are harassed. Belgam is inhabited especially by the Marathi speaking people. The controversy has not been resolved so far and this is still lying pending. The Government of Maharashtra is making efforts for its solution. But the Central Government is totally indifferent to it. Through you, I want to tell the Centre that this is a long pending controversy. The people are protesting it by dharanas, marches and other forms of agitation. When we were in the 11th Lok Sabha, agitation was made and the marchs were led at Jantar-Mantar. Through you, I want to demand the Central Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, this is a very serious matter. Sixty-nine agitators were killed in Mumbai while protesting against it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Jadhav's speech.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I reqeust the Government, through you, to solve this dispute at the earliest by giving up its trend of apathy.

13.01 hrs.

PUNJAB MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAW (EXTENSION TO CHANDIGARH) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, on behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I introduce the Bill.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

---

* Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, datd 10.8.2000.

14.06 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock)

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(I) Need for construction of over-bridges on Railway crossings in Jodhpur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, people of my Parliamentary constituency, Jodhpur have been demanding for the construction of railway bridges at railway crossings for the last several years; especially the bridges at the Industrial Area Phase-II of Faishsabni, at Mandore Krishi Mandi, Bharwasia crossing, Pawta Rasala Road and the bridge at Jaipur Road nearby Kalyan Singh's Pyao. These five bridges should soon be constructed in the public interest because of the heavy rail-traffic at all these crossings resulting in the hours-long jams which causes difficulty for the common people. Many a time seriously injured or sick persons breathe their last on the way due to traffic jam.

I would like to request the Rail Minister to get the above-said bridges constructed immediately in the public interest.

(II) Need to take concrete steps to make the Ganga river pollution free under Ganga Action Plan.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ganga Action Plan was initiated by the beloved leader of the Nation Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and billions of rupees for this cause were allocated. But, despite spending billions of rupees, the Ganga has got more polluted instead of getting clean. Residues of big factories in form of contaminated water in the urban areas being dumped into the Ganga. As far as I know, the first phase of Ganga Action Plan has been completed and the Government is going to initiate the Second Phase of it. It is noteworthy that many irregularities have been there in the first Phase and the pollution of Ganga has, by no way, been reduced.

I would like to request the Government to thoroughly review the works done during phase-I before initiating the second phase and also to apprise the nation of its achievements made/irregularities committed. With this, solid and realistic action be taken in the phase-II to make Ganga pollution-free in a phased out way and a persuable punitive action be taken against the guilty persons committing irregularities in Phase I.

(III) Need for all round development of North Bengal.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the industrial growth in entire North Bengal is almost nil and since 5th Five Year Plan could not stabilise the basic industrial infrastructure in North Bengal, including the Agricultrual Marketing Network, the unemployment is on the rise there, excepting the job of primary teachers in a limited fashion and small trading in the village *mandi.*

Hardly there is anything for the young unemployed to survive. Educated unemployed youth, the uneducated people and working youth are rushing to North India for any kind of work for their survival. Due to import of tea from Sri Lanka, the tea industry of North Bengal is also at a stage of decline and banking industry is not responding to their practical needs. Jute growers are crying for not having any remunerative price. Flood management programme is also negligible.

Chuka Hydel Power from Bhutan is being transmitted over North Bengal keeping North Bengal villages unelectrified. Tista canal project completion target is not yet known. I, therefore, demand that a White Paper from Planning Commission should be released immediately to identify the shortcomings and economic imbalances. Raj Banshi Scheduled Caste community, and their aspiration to flourish their language to preserve their socio-cultural identity should be given more support by Ministry of HRD in entire North Bengal. Scheduled Tribe population also are deprived in tribal sub plan programme for lack of resources in North Bengal. Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council should also get the plan assistance from the Centre directly without being processed through State Government.

(IV) Need to declare central road between Trivandrum and Angamaly in Kerala as National Highway.

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (Ernakulam): The Main Central road is one of the important roads in the State of Kerala. This road starts from Trivandrum and ends at Angamaly. This road touches Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts. Since the vehicular traffic is fast increasing and there is very little road facilities available in the State, the conversion of main central road into a National Highway is highly needed.

The development of State is adversely affected due to lack of proper roads and other infrastructural facilities. It is learnt that Central Government is going to invest more money in the construction of new roads for the proper development.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Surface Transport to consider the request to declare main central road as National Highway.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only it will stand a part of the proceedings, which is on record.

(v) Need to take necessary steps for revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Durgapur Unit, West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): To save the farmers of West Bengal as well as Eastern Zone, the Union Government should come forward and assure the House for the revival of H.F.C.L., Durgapur Unit. The total annual requirement of urea in the State is little more than 10 lakh tonne. After stoppage of production in Durgapur Unit from June, 1997, the State has become totally dependent on the external supply of urea. Haldia was not allowed to run. Now, both the plants along with other plants of H.F.C.L. at Barauni, Bihar and Namrup, Assam, stand referred to B.I.F.R. since 1992.

Average consumption of fertiliser in West Bengal at present is 120 kilograms per hectare against the national average of about 90 kilograms per hectare. So far as the demand of fertiliser is concerned, West Bengal occupies the sixth position in the country. West Bengal consumes 16 per cent of the extra amount of fertiliser which is required at the national level to cop up with the increasing demand and in this respect, West Bengal occupies the fourth place.

I urge upon the Union Government to switch over to natural gas for their efficient viable running than naphtha and oil-based.

The major gas reserves which are being developed for converting NG to LNG for export lie in the North West Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and countries all along Gulf Coast, namely, Oman, Qatar, etc.

On consideration for identifying the source is the location of terminal. Any Eastern Coast terminal will be well served by the source of supply from Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia as it will have lesser ferrying time and cost. The terminal based on the Eastern Coast near Haldia can cater to the needs of inland fertiliser plants such as Durgapur, Haldia, Barauni, Sindri, Gorakhpur and others.

I request the Union Government to ensure that HFCL, Durgapur Unit, starts its production very soon and others will be revived.

(vi) Need for early completion of survey work for laying of new broad gauge railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur in Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): Sir, a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for a new broad gauge line between Jolarpettai and Hosur has been sanctioned and the survey is in progress. The survey is expected to be completed by December, 2000.

This proposed line touches six segments of Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency, namely, Bargur, Krishnagiri, Balakode, Kaveripattinam, Ozur and Talli. Due to educational, agricultural and industrial developments, many people prefer to travel by this route. This railway line will give the public easy access to Bangalore. Moreover, this is a long-pending demand of the public. Further, this railway line was in use during British period.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Railways to expedite the survey, and start the work immediately.

(vii) Need for early modernisation of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Calcutta.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, there is an urgent need to expedite the modernisation of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Calcutta.

The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Calcutta was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India in the centenary year of Netaji in January, 1997.

The domestic side of the airport was newly built and has modern amenities like aerobridges and also elevators and escalators. Since then, we have been hearing that the international side is being modernised and restructured. Nearly four years have passed since then. But for want of aerobridge, passengers by international flights have to get down at a distance, get into a bus and arrive at immigration. The space for immigration is very restricted. There are long waiting queues. There is one conveyor belt and passengers have to wait for a very long time for luggage clearance.

[Shrimati Krishna Bose]

I urge upon the Minister for Civil Aviation to look into the matter and see how the work can be expedited and International passengers have better amenities.

(viii) Need to release adequate funds to Government of U.P. for early completion of construction work of bridge on river Chambal at Sahaso in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Centrally sponsored scheme, the construction of a bridge over Chambal river at Sahson in Etawah has been pending for the years due to the lack of funds. When the concerned authorities were contacted in this regard, it was said that the work would be completed only after receiving funds from the Central Government. People of this area are agitated because of this delay in the construction of the bridge.

Therefore, hon'ble Chairman, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you to issue direction with regard to timely construction of this bridge and also provide the funds so that the people may be benefited.

14.20 hrs.

REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 9.—Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment Bill) 2000. The hon. Minister to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 31st July, 1993. The main functions of the RCI include standardisation of training courses at different levels, regularisation of standards of training in all the training institutions throughout the country, recognition of institutions/universities for their training courses within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis and maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register for professionals possessing recognised qualification in the area of rehabilitation.

The experience gained by way of implementation of the RCI Act has brought out the need for making certain amendments in the Act with a view to making its implementation more effective and broad-based and to bring it in consonance with the Persons with Disabilities Act. We have proposed to strengthen the activities of the RCI by adding promotion of research in rehabilitation and special education within its ambit.

I would like to thank the hon. Members of the Standing Committee of Labour and Welfare for their valuable suggestions and support given to this Bill. We have considered the suggestion of the august Committee regarding inclusion of the definition of 'Special Education' in consultation with the Ministry of Law (Legislative Department). We have been advised that since the expression 'Special Education' is finding a place only in the Long Title of the Bill and in the context of the quaiifications of the Chairperson of the RCI and as it is a well-known and well-understood expression, we feel it is not necessary to insert the definition of the expression 'Special Education' in clause 3 which relates to the definitions.

I request the hon. Members to support this Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the Standing Committee had a detailed discussion on this Bill. It was very excellently placed. I think it can be considered. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that in the BAC meeting, we had taken a decision that we would pass it within one hour. If Parliament, which is a great forum of the nation, considers not to discuss at all the issue of rehabilitation of the handicapped, I think we will do more injustice and assault in respect of their very emotion and sentiment. Therefore, I rise to support the amendment as proposed by the Government and initiated by the hon. Minister Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

I would like to highlight only two or three points and nothing more than that. This concept is not merely a

concept of law but it is a concept of human sense and values of the country. No law can decide the fate, future and the process of rehabilitation of the handicapped—whatever definition we may give. It is the social awareness campaign throughout the nation that makes the society strong. I think in the recent census—the hon. Minister may correct me if I am wrong—it was pointed out that we have the largest handicapped population in the whole world now. Being the largest in the whole world we have the larger responsibility towards these people. I am ashamed to say that in spite of being a citizen and a man who is in public life, we do not give, in the real sense of the word, the proper treatment that they expect from us and the society.

Sir, you may go to any part of the world. Even if you go the smaller nations of Asia, in a bus, a train or everywhere, at the entry point, a seat is reserved for them to be seated without interference from any quarter. That has not been done in India till this date. The public transport system of our country does not recognise this issue at all. For hours together, without any help from anybody, they simply stand. Unless somebody asks such a person to sit, he or she has no room to sit in the present transport system. This is my first point.

Second, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is this. She can make a revolutionary approach in this matter. All of us, who are elected by the people in our respective constituencies, do have to meet a number of people of this nature every day. I tell you, Sir, that there are two kinds of cases. Ten or eleven or fifteen years back, the country had not a total immunisation programme on polio, especially in the villages.

Due to that, there are communities; there are groups; and there are villages where in every family there are no less than two or three physically handicapped children. There are, of course, aged boys or girls and the rehabilitation process is literally nil. This is about physically handicapped persons.

Hon. Minister, if you could visit a place called *Bangya Unmad Ashram,* near Dumdum railway station, you can find a terrible situation and you can see as to what kind of treatment is being meted out to the inmates. Even if they want to have lunch, they cannot express that they are hungry. I have seen in one inspection, on a compliant from a locality, that people who are engaged there, they eat the food prepared for the mentally-handicapped persons. During lunch-time, when they cry and when they cannot express that they are hungry, there is no one to come to their rescue. Persons who are deployed there, they must be good human beings. It is not that they should work only for their salaries, more than salaries, they should have a good human heart. This type of cruel treatment is meted out to the mentally-handicapped persons staying in *Ashrams.*

I will give the third example. Recently it was reported as to what has happened in Uttar Pradesh Blind School. It was a big news in the newspapers—as to how they are tortured, and as to how they are harassed. Even some of them were sexually harassed. This kind of thing add more problems to the society.

Five years back, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and myself used to organise a kind of identification camp for the physically handicapped persons. It used to be a big show. After doctors have identified the physically handicapped persons, they are then given limbs, chairs, support, and all the affection. Could hon. Minister, plan something so that each MP from the Lok Sabha, once in a year, conduct one identification camp? In this regard, there should be mandatory guidelines from the Social Welfare Ministry and Labour Ministry. In the identification camps organised by the public representative, the Social Welfare Ministry should extend total cooperation and support. This type of identification camp should be conducted once in a year. I am not saying that it should be conducted more than once in a year. Rajasthan may be doing it in April; West Bengal in May; and Gujarat in June. You prepare the schedule. It should be conducted with the total involvement of the public representatives, and with the people of the respective area in this regard, we could build up a much more social awareness campaign.

I may also suggest to the hon. Minister that please try to see that the Ministry enlists more genuine voluntary organisations which are not utilising the funds for their own purposes. The Ministry should divide the voluntary organisations area of activity in respective district of each State. Monitoring report should be sought for every six months to know as to how they are going to do it, and as to how they are working.

Now, let me come to the Rehabilitation Centres. How many Rehabilitation Centres are there in India? We ask for the budgetary support of Defence. Of course, we talk of Defence; and we talk of every other department. But in Parliament, we never talk that the Ministry of Finance should give substantial support, budgetary support to this programme, to this Ministry. We never talk of that. If possible, hon. Minister can do it in the Cabinet. The hon. Minister can set up a Special Fund for the Rehabilitation Centres expansion programme—almost in every district of India or some nodal districts. We should select some nodal districts. I know that in the entire North Bengal, we do not have any opportunity to take a physically

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

handicapped person for his further progress to the Rehabilitation Centre. Now, some limbs in Siliguri are manufactured with great difficulty. I would even tell the House with sadness that they are paying a little bribe to get the limbs. We have to send them there to get the limbs. Earlier, we used to send them to Pune or Rajasthan or any other part of India. Now, this situation is coming up every day. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to plan, to make a proposal in the Cabinet for more or greater budgetary support and involve the voluntary organisations, who are recognised for their reputation, distribute them a time-bound programme, tell them that they have to do this or that, in this zone or that zone, with regular audit, etc.

Then, there should be monitoring. If you involve us in the monitoring process, we will do it with great pleasure by even spending a little from our own pocket for this cause and the entire Parliament will be unanimous on this issue. Unfortunately, the largest population of handicapped persons is in India and the smallest awareness campaign is also there only in India.

Therefore, I think, the entire Parliament will agree with my suggestions. If the hon. Minister can consider my suggestions favourably, I think, the purpose of this Amendment will be further glorified and we can reach the object without any problem.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to congratulate this Government and discerning Minister Smt. Maneka Gandhi for making timely amendment. There is no doubt that Rehabilitation Council tried its best to fulfil the objectives for which it was set up but during the period many laws were changed, the definition of disability changed. Due to these changes there were many difficulties to run this council. With these changes and amendments, this council will definitely progress in true sense.

Sir, the word "Punarwas" is quite comprehensive we used to listen this word "Punarwas" in our State, Bihar, which is called 'Relief and Rehabilitation'. Relief measures used to be taken after flood and displaced were to be rehabilitated. But, here, definitely it is related to various diseases, patients, handicapped. It is a subject of Department of Health. Presently it comes under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. So, I would certainly wish that Department of Health, Ministry of Labour, Minsitry of Tribal Affairs, and Department of Women and Child Development of H.R.D. should also be taken into confidence on this issue because disability is generally found in weaker section of the society and women and children are worst affected.

Mr. Chairman Sir, as mentioned in the Bill there is a provision to appoint members from the departments of Welfare, Health and Finance. I want that one member each from the Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and H.R.D. should be there in this council. Centainly the word Rehabilitation has vast meaning and connotations.

Sir, I welcome the mention made in the Bill for maintaining a register in this regard. Register should be maintained for Central Regulation. Persons from villages, who have never been to school, college or university, work on the basis of their experience. There are many who reset the broken bones. Similarly there are many having various skills but they could not be registered any where. But now I want that they would be registered after this amendment. Traditional and hereditery professionals, who have been working for years are doing good job but do not hold any degree, should also be included in this register. It is a good step. I would like that they should be registered as a rehabilitation practitioner. They should also be involved and registered.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present it is purely doctor's ambit. Whenever there is a talk of R.C.I., doctors are involved therein. Some people came to me and said that they want to be the members of R.C.I. who were they, they were doctors. The monopoly of doctors should end. It is right that doctors are needed there but despite that I want that others involved apart from doctors should also be engaged if we want to do justice with the word rehabilitation. That's why we want that rehabilitation should be undertaken properly and it should not be limited only to department of Health, Social Welfare or Welfare. Justice should be done with this word by consulting and taking the opinion of concerned departments and ensuring their participation.

So, I thank the Hon. Minister and this Government on my behalf for introducing an important Bill and intervening in an important area. I have full confidence that passing of this Bill will open up new dimensions and ways and we will discover the real interpretation and importance of this Bill. I expect the hon. Chair and this House to pass this Bill and certainly passing the Bill will add a new chapter for the handicapped of India.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank You, Mr. Chairman. I rise to support the Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000. The Standing Committee, which examined this Bill thoroughly, have conscientiously recommended this Bill. So, I do not differ much from their recommendations. But I would still like to point out two things about the new provision regarding the

constitution of the Executive Council where the number of Members from the Ministries has been increased. Earlier, it was debated that a chance of over-bureaucratisation is there. The same possibility is still here. So, I am still maintaining my reservations on this point. It would have been better to avoid the chance of over-bureaucratisation.

The Minister in her initial spech told us about the definition of special education for personnel, particularly, the Chairperson. The Standing Committee has made specific observations on this point. But the Minister did not accept those observations. I still maintain that this should be defined categorically for better functioning of the Council and to fulfil the main objective of formation of the Council.

Having made these two observations, I must say something more on this occasion. You must know that our population has reached 100 crore.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is 100 crore and 38 lakh.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Let us say 100-plus crore. Recently, a mid-term Central Survey was conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. According to their estimate, about 5 per cent of the Indian population are suffering from various types of disabilities. Just imagine it. Five per cent means five crore people. In our country, the people are disabled partially or completely due to various reasons. They are visually handicapped, auditory handicapped, physically handicapped or mentally handicapped. The dimensions of the problem are so severe that we cannot ignore their problems. We know that the disabled people in our country are very much helpless.

Even today the Government has no definite programme for these hapless and helpless segment of the society. So, some relief or welfare work will not help them to get rehabilitation. According to these figures, I must point out, the programme of rehabilitation is not entirely based on the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is the integrated or coordinated approach of various Ministries, both in Central and State Governments, to help the disabled people in country to get their rights and privileges to live in this society, and to live in the mainstream of our society.

Sir, in respect of education also, they are neglected. It is because some technical difficulties are there. Yet today we cannot say that the identified Disabled Specific Education system is foolproof. It is not totally sponsored by the Government. Majority of them are dependent on the non-Governmental and voluntary organisations. So, my specific suggestion is that Disabled Specific Education system should be in the Government's programme and it should be totally sponsored by the Government.

Sir, many of the disabilities are due to socio-economic reasons. So, if we do not eradicate these reasons, we cannot prevent the disabilities in the coming days. We know that blindness in our country is mainly due to malnutrition only. Vitamin A can reduce the risk of blindness in the children if given at an early age. The programme for that is there but even today we cannot say that every child who is born in this country is getting a single drop of Vitamin A. This right has not so far been established today. Nobody is there to look after them and just some welfare programmes cannot solve these problems. A definite commitment of the Government and also of the society is very much necessary to eradicate the cause of disabilities like blindness. Still it is existing mainly due to lack of awareness of the society and the Government, and lack of commitment of the Government and society also.

Similarly, Shri Dasmunsi has also pointed out about Polio. Though, a massive drive has been launched to eradicate polio from the whole world and programmes of mass polio vaccination has also been going on in phases, we cannot say that the programme is taken wholeheartedly; that there are no loopholes. I cannot say that there is no difference between paper reporting and reality, being a medical person. If we depend on this sort of paper reporting then we will be disabled. Therefore, these sorts of programmes should be monitored stringently.

Sir, I now come to employment. In the process of rehabilitation, employment is a very important question, particularly, for the disabled persons though our Constitution has some provision for reservation to the disabled persons. Earlier, as per the percentage of the population, three per cent government employment had been reserved for the disabled persons. But what is the state of affairs? What is the attitude of the society? What is the attitude of the Department? Could we say that this three per cent employment reservation has been achieved in every Government Department, either Central or State? We cannot say that. Everywhere, their constitutional rights are being denied in various ways. This sort of attitude is still existing. So, my specific suggestion to the Government is that they should form a National Commission to assess the exact status of employment of the disabled persons in our country in different Government Departments, either Central or State. This should be done with all sincerity.

Sir, as per mid-term Central Survey, the percentage of disabled population has been increased and it has

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

touched five per cent of the total population. So, reservation for the disabled persons in Government employment should be increased from three per cent to five per cent accordingly. This should be done with all sincerity.

Sir, one very important programme for rehabilitation and also prevention of disabilities is creating awareness—awareness among the people, awareness among the professionals, and awareness among every section of the society. Our media, both print and electronic, can play an important role in this regard. Even in Government media, we cannot say that they are playing the desired role in creating the awareness among the whole society about the reasons for the disability, prevention of disability, and rehabilitation of the disabled persons. We cannot say that. So, to create awareness, the role of our media should be monitored and re-assessed so that they can do justice.

Sir, regarding the role of NGOs—Shri Dasmunsi has also pointed it out—many of the genuine NGOs are doing a commendable job in this area but these days, floating of NGOs has become the order and many ghost NGOs have come up. In the name of service to the disabled persons and in other areas, they are creating many troubles and wasting the public money. They are exploiting the programmes. So, the Government should be alert and monitor the role of NGOs.

I want to highlight another important point. This is my suggestion. These days, in the matter of rehabilitation programme for the disabled persons, we cannot bypass the local bodies. Without involving the local bodies like *Panchayats* and Municipalities, these programmes cannot be implemented; the target cannot be achieved; and the success of the programmes cannot be achieved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: I will conclude within one or two minues.

So, *Panchayats* and local bodies should be involved in this programme actively. Last but least in many of the States, we, the elected MPs and MLAs, are getting Local Area Development Fund for doing various schemes under our jurisdiction. In this case, we, the MPs, are getting Rs. 2 crore every year for the development of our areas but we cannot say that, at least, one per cent of our fund is going to help the disabled persons. So, my specific suggestion is that let us resolve that at least five per cent of our total allocation be given for the programme of disabled persons so that they can think that development means development of the disabled persons also. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily support the Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. Actually this Rehabilitation Council was a society in 1986 but it was not recognised as a constitutional body. Later on the Rehabilitation Council of India Bill was moved in the House in 1992 by the Government of India and this Bill was enforced on 31st July, 1993. Later on another Bill had been passed for education, professional education and rehabilitation for handicapped people on 22nd December, 1995. By moving this Bill equal opportunity, protection to equality, full participation and protection in these three matters for handicapped was provided. I think that the amendment which has been moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi aims at making these principles more effective and inculcating more social awareness. The society, State Government, the Union Government and non Government organisation should realise their responsibility in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I remember an instance in this regard. In ancient time, Ashtavakra ji went to the court of King Janak where eminent scholars were seated. The body of Ashtavakra ji was curved in eight sides. The scholar in the court laughed a bit on seeing him. Ashtavakra ji got a bit anguished in purity and he told that he did not want to sit there because he had been invited as a scholar and so, he had come in a gathering of scholars. He further said that these people were laughing on his physical ugliness and it seemed that those people had evaluated him outwardly and not his talent, efficiency and wisdom. The society will have to understand through this instance that while disability is a curse for handicaped people, it is society's duty to pay them respect and treat them as common people. Give them opportunity and education to go ahead. It is society's duty to help them get rehabilitated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the great poet Surdas was blind, but then he rose to great heights. Rishi Dayanand was the pioneer of Indian renaissance and leader of revolution. His spiritual guide Swami Virjanand was blind but was a great seer. He created an excellent world. So being disabled is not an indicator of inefficiency.

So, I, through you, would like to praise the Government and particularly Smt. Maneka Gandhi for the fact that she is constantly striving under the leadership of Shri Vajpai. It is a matter of deep regret that we do not have exact number of handicapped in our country who are most neglected class of society in view of higher

education, general education and rehabilitation. Someone says it is one crore and twenty five lakhs. The population of our country in 1991 was 84.4 crores and at that time population of handicapped people was calculated at 1.6 crores. But several persons are of the view that now this figure is six crores. Someone says, it is ten percent of the population while someone calls it six percent of population. We do not have exact figure in this regard. So I would like to request the Government through you that along with other things the number of disabled persons should be counted in the coming census of 2000-2001 should be counted whether they are visually, orthopedically, mentally or physically handicaped. Thus if all the figures related to disability are available, the Government would be in position to go in for proper planning. I hope, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi will write to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director and Commissioner of Census for this purpose so that exact figure could come before us.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): During the census of 2001 we have already made arrangements for having census of the handicapped also.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: If it is being done then it is very good but some days back it was published in the newspapes that it is being neglected. Dedicated efforts should be made for that purpose today there are institutions for welfare of blind, dumb and deaf and mental hospitals etc. all in cities while 80 percent of population live in villages. So whenever question of rehabilitation arises then by making constitutional body like National Rehabilitation Council, the professionals, staff are appointed for rehabilitation and maintaining records of disabled. They should be given proper and uniform training. I request Maneka ji that these facilities should also be provided in rural areas and population as it is done in cities. There is not so much awareness and information in villages so that the blind can get educatioin through Brail script in blind schools in cities or about the availability of schools for dumb and deaf persons. Today PCO booths are being provided to disabled persons. Several disabled people are excellent in the field of music. They are experts in singing and playing musical instruments. They got recognition there. However today's is the age of computers and it is the responsibility of Technology, Rehabilitation Council to provide opportunity of technology and training for disabled in the field of computer education. This service should also be extended to the rural areas that the village folk could get benefited.

[English]

To serve the suffering humanity is our primary duty.

[Translation]

To serve the suffering humanity is real praying of the God.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been a doctor and professor and you can well appreciate it. Kabir has said to the effect that according to Kabir he is the real enlighted seer who can feel other's agonies and demand are those who are unable to do so.

The true enlightened seer is one who feels pain of others and one who does not feel for others...

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Vaishnva Jan to tene kahaye je pir parai jane re". which means that only they are the real God seekers who can feel the pain of others.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: "Parhit Saris Dharam Nahi Bhai Par Pira Sam Nahi Adhmai." It means, there is no service equal to the service to others and causing pain to others is the basest of the acts.

These disabled persons of our society are not being treated properly and it need adequate attention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one thing more that the disabled persons want respect in society not alms. so there is necessity to create self confidence in them. There is three percent reservation for disabled in the Government but the jobs are not filled. They are being neglected. Therefore this bill will be able to realise its objective of providing them employment according to their physical and mental ability, this is the objective with which National Institute has been set to provide vocational education in the field of handicrafts. Higher education is the foundation stone of rehabilitation of disabled but it is most neglected.

15.00 hrs.

Maneka Gandhi would have thought that now it is an age of higher education, technical education and information technology. Our Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology is sitting here. These days, it is in lime light. A revolution is coming in the field of telecommunication. It is foundation stone. On the one hand there is necessity of technology and subsidiary resources and on the other hand there is neccesity to provide education to them like common citizens. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion. I would not take much time.

Sir, I deem it a privilege that I stand up to support this amendment to the very comprehensive piece of legislation which is giving rehabilitation as a right rather than a welfare measures for people who are being denied opportunities of development to reach their full potential.

Sir, I support this Bill with all emphasis at my command, with my heart and soul. I congratulate and compliment the Minister and the successive Governments who have brought this Bill. Now, you are trying to strengthen it. You are legalising a very important segment, which was not legal so far, and for that you deserve to be complimented. But, at the same time, successive Governments have brought in Finance Development Corporation for the National Handicapped, National Trust for welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities. But, at the same time, persons with disability although there are reservations of three per cent, but there is lot to be desired as far as its implementation is concerned. If one goes by the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Empowerment, it points out because of the multiplicity of organisations, State Governments, Central Government, public sector undertakings, private bodies, non-governmental organisations and a plethora of bodies who are responsible for implementing this, I think, a very strict and effective monitoring system ought to be evolved and developed to monitor it strictly because 75 per cent of our people live in the rural areas.

15.03 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

If the National Sample Survey of 1991, which on a cursory and as a random sampling, is seen we will find that no systematic or scientific survey has been done so far. It has brought about that 50 million people, that is, five crore out of 1,000 million are disabled, either they cannot hear, see, express themselves their anguish or cannot express to get any help. Therefore, a systematic and scientific data base is the essence of any planning, otherwise all these legislations will flounder because the implementation will remain unfulfilled and the legislation will not see the order of the day. Therefore, in such a thing, the convergence of all the policies and programmes is a very welcome thing and for that a very effective monitoring and convergence of attitude of minds as well as implementation should be there.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are six crores of handicapped and helpless people in the country and they are called disabled. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has rightly said that they got disability from God or Nature but it is the duty of civilized society that they should initiate such measures so that they could get respect in the society and may not be neglected and a special facility should also be provided to them for the livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, sir, I welcome this bill, which has been moved here. The Government have claimed that the new bill enacted in 1992 after the Societies Registration Act, and the law enacted in 1995 have been defined in a simple manner. A clear definition shall have been made in health related matter in this bill and now disabled will not be disturbed, as it used to be earlier. So that definition has been made easy through this bill. I welcome the Government's initiative.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this bill the provision of providing training and facilities have been made for the intelligent people, who work in this field. The facilities will be given to them on priority basis but due to all these things and disability massive crisis arises in the villages. When we go to villages some disabled persons are brought in front of me who are orthopaedically handicapped, visually handicapped or polio patients. The pollo disease is maximum among poor people, as they do not have any means of employment and they bring some one in front of me in villages and request me to help him. We face a great dilema as to what we should be done to help them.

There is welfare department in the district but that is not able to help them. They face a lot of problem in getting certificates. No paper or pen is available there. There is not proper arrangement in the office of Block Development officer so that they could get help.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that definition has been made simple in this bill. My submission is that the improvement should be made in their working style because there are six crores disabled persons in entire nation who are visually, orthopaedically and mentally handicapped and deaf or dumb. Special attention should be paid to help all types of handicapped to these people.

There is no arrangements to know about the number of the handicapped or their registration in the villages. when we go to the village, we see that there are atleast one or two handicapped persons almost in every village. They are produced before us asking help for them. We

are caught in a fix as to how they can be helped. To solve this problem, it is necessary that there should be some arrangements to help all the handicapped persons.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are some N.G.Os who are doing some good work in the field of social service but there is no dearth of fake N.G.Os too. I would like that these fake N.G.Os, working for the rehabilitation work should be detected and their aid should be stopped. It is my request that the Government should encourage those N.G.Os who are doing good work. The N.G.Os who are doing real service to the neglected, suffering and handicapped persons should be provided aid. Simultaneoulsy, there is a need that the welfare departments of the States and the Central Government should work properly. The procedure should be easy and simple to allow the smooth functioning of the N.G.Os so that the handicapped in the villages could be identified and ways and means to provide them help could be demised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, despite the provision of 3 percent reservation for the handicapped persons in the Government service, they are not getting their due representation. It is often seen that the handicapped do not even get the Government service because everybody hates them. Therefore, we would consider our society as civilised one only if all the neglected, suffering and exploited people are honoured, provided equal status, all the handicapped persons of the country are provided and the provisions of this Act are applied in the society practically and put it use. With these words. I thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity given to me. Sir, I stand to support the Bill, but with a certain concern. I do understand that when we come with a legislation and with such amendments, our intentions are very good. But I have found from long experience of both dealing with the handicapped as the President of an organisation for deaf women for eight years, and as a Minister, I have seen over the years that all institutions set up by Government—and we have also been in Government—tend to be rehabilitation committees or rehabilitation commissions for retiring bureaucrats. All the definitions and the qualifications that are stipulated are meant to rehabilitate them after retirement. Here also I see in this amendment that there has to be administrative experience to the Chairman of the Council. Most often, working with the handicapped or with those with disabilities, I think, requires more involvement, an emotional commitment which is from the heart rather than administration and, if I may say so, purely thinking from the mind and the brain.

What we need, to deal with the handicapped, is people who understand their problem and who can identify with them and it is not just an administrator who may have had some specialised place in Government and who after retirement has to find a place.

The second and the more important point, which I think we generally lose out, and is the fact that in our country anybody with a handicap, particularly little children in the rural side, are looked upon either as a curse or the saying is "something must have been done by his family in the past and so God has punished this generation." It is always looked upon even mentally by the society as a curse or as something which that child is paying the price for. We come across cases of children with disabilities kept chained inside the house, not being allowed to be seen by others because families are ashamed to see them.

Given the mental blocks, the poverty that exists in most parts of our country and particularly with reference to the fact that almost 80 per cent of our population is rural-based, I wish to ask the Government as to what special efforts are being made to cover this part of the population.

I come from the rural constituency. To get the minimum assistance for the handicapped is so difficult, because you neither have the expertise nor the institution nor the medical care facilities which are needed even at the initial stages. Most parents, poor and untrained are not really aware of what it is all about, are not able to go out of that environment and find help. I would, therefore, like to ask; whether in all these amendments there is a specific effort here to cover the rural areas.

The watchword these days is NGO. If Government can not do this then give it the NGO. Where are the NGOs and who are the NGOs? I was recently at a Conference when there was this whole discussion on the involvement of NGOs. I believe today internationally there is a classification of NGOs. They have, what they call, *'MONGO'*—My Own NGO'. Either in Government or in the bureaucracy they set up their own NGO known as *'MONGO'*. They call it "My Own NGO."

Then you have 'GONGO—Government's Own NGO'. The Government sponsors certain NGOs, gives them all the money, who are internationally known as *'GONGOs*. These days, I am told, the businessmen have set up NGOs known as *'BONGOs'* which is when another company or when some competition company comes, then the NGO files cases, stops it in the name of pollution, local development etc. and stops the other company or others from coming in.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

I can go on and give you the whole list of it. But this is what is happening. The funding of the NGOs is not an end in itself. How many of them are equipped to be able to deal with specific problems of rehabilitation of the handicapped? It is easy to come to a Conference and present papers and say our NOG's is monitoring all these things. How many of them have the expertise and are able to deal with their problems? I would request the Minister to please at least have her schemes, which are available, circulated to Members of Parliament. Those of us who are interested, who are in the rural areas can, at least, give publicity and know how to go about it. The funds are available, but when we go to the Ministry and try to get some schemes approved, the procedure and the rigmarole is so complicated that even those of us, who have been in the Government find it difficult. I was Minister for Women and Child Development for five years. I myself find it impossible to get a single programme cleared for my own constituency from the Ministry. They would say go there, do this, bring the Certificate from there do this and do that. At the end of it, I think the elections come faster than their grant and we are back to square one.

I would also like to point out here that day care support for the handicapped is very important. Where parents are working and where they are unable to provide full-time attention to the handicapped child or even a growing child at home and like that, they look for day care facilities where their child can go, be with others and get some kind of training and support. Or, even a question of being in safe hands, when the parents are away, arises. This facility is very expensive today and most parents cannot afford it. Statistics show that only five per cent of those affilicted with any handicap in this country are today covered under any rehabilitation programme yet we talk with these amendments and legislations as if by passing them here, the problem is solved. The coverage is so little that the over-whelming majority is left out of schemes and programmes though we are talking of crores of rupees being spent on rehabilitation.

I wrote about a month ago to the Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. I have got a letter saying that my letter regrding so and so has been received by him. ...*(Interruptions)* What was it about? Maybe, I will send the copy of the letter to the Minister in charge of this portfolio. A lady had written to me. She is blind. She has done her Ph.D. with baraille in spite of being blind. She had appeared in so many interviews for the post of Professor and Lecturer in the universities. Every time she was rejected and she was told how can you teach when you are blind. She had written to me a pathetic letter saying why she had to beg, after being a Ph.D., without being able to find employment. I sent it to the Minister for Human Resource Development saying that this is a case where he, as a Minister of Human Resource Development should intervene and see that justice is done to her. She is a rank-holders student with Ph.D., but she cannot find a job. We are talking about employment opportunities for the handicapped. Where and why? We have got three per cent reservation for them in all sorts of employment. How many of them really get absorbed? How many of them are provided with any employment? This is the question I wish to ask. I know that all this is brought with the best of intentions.

Sir, rather than isolating these children, who are handicapped, I think the time has come for us to train teachers for integrated education of those with minimum disabilities. When these children go into schools with other children who are normal, who care for them and who are able to help them, the entire thinking process of the child changes. It becomes one of self-confidence and one of being able to live a normal life in the community. But in spite of that, we try to isolate them, keep them aside as if they are a different species, which I think is something which we must get over, if we are talking about real rehabilitation and strengthening of our programmes for them.

Of course, we are talking here about training for those who are going to care for them. Where are the institutes which have the expertise and the infrastructure to train? I would like to know whether in each of our States, there is even one institution which can really deal with the rigmarole. I would say this particularly for the rural areas. There are no institutions, there are no trained people and there are no primary health centres functioning. From where are we going to produce these kinds of facilities for training them or of involving them?

There is tremendous talent in the handicapped. We have been dealing for years with the deaf and the dumb. They can express their talent by way of art, the batik work, the paintings, and through other kinds of things which God gives as an alternative. What we need is to provide an opportunity to develop it. I think, this is the most important thing at the moment.

I do not want to say too much, but I must say that most of the funds that go from the Government, whether it is through the Rehabilitation Council, through the NGOs or others, just a small percentage of it actually reaches the handicapped. We are talking about all sorts of assistance, pensions, and other support systems. But where are the funds going? I think, we need to look at the entire system of dealing with the rehabilitation of the handicapped by having checks and balances, and by

providing a chain right down rather than make it totally urban-based, totally out of approach by the special sections of society who are capable of looking after them. What is needed is an approach which moves out of welfare to justice, and to a place for these people within the normal social system.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, handicapped person is also a wise person. Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, who was an hon'ble member of this House and was an M.P. from Ajmer three times, was a blind person. It is not true that person with normal vision can only progress. The former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Hon'ble Hardev Joshi had just one hand. In a way I think that he was also a handicapped hon'ble Jaipal Reddyji is there in this very Parliament. I have a good relation with an institution of handicapped. Hon'ble Manekaji is also well aware of this fact. A handicapped person can play harmonium, can sing and can write also. Some institutions are working properly in this connection in the country. One such institution of Delhi had visited Jaipur to see important places. The handicapped persons are extremely talented.

I support the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Manekaji wholeheartedly. Simultaneously, I would also like to say that there is a problem of flouride content in the water in Phagi under my constituency which makes the people handicapped. This does not allow the people the right to enjoy their life properly. It has been stated in the introduction to the Act that a handicapped person may be mentally, handicapped, he may not be able to walk or see the things such people have been brought under this definition. In addition, I also support the proposal to increase the number of the elected member of the board from three to seven and welcome the provision to increase the time limit of the appeal from 30 days to 60 days. So far as the matter regarding 5 percent raised in the House is concerned, I would say that 5 crore 20 lakh people are handicapped in the country and 77 percent people out of this live in the villages. Therefore, there should be a provision for all the handicapped persons. Four institutions which are functioning, one of these institution is working for the handicapped people in Dehradun, second is working for the mentally retarted persons in Secunderabad, third is working in the area of Orthopaedics in Calcutta and the fourth one is working for the deaf and dumb persons in Mumbai.

It is my request that if our Minister should talk with the Finance Minister on.

[English]

Tax concession for reimbursement of profits in the building of social economy.

[Translation]

Such institutions can get 100 percent exemption and it could be helpful for such institutions. I know that the budget is inadequate even then the hon'ble Minister should talk to the Finance Minister. I would like to provide an information in this regard that an institution Dr. Sethi in the name of Jaipur foot is running in Jaipur the linbs of handicapped persons are fitted. I would like that the Government should also provide help in this connection. There is an able worker named Ram Chandra in Jaipur. If the Government desires to get the benefits of his ability in this connection may consider about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for give me an opportunity to speak and I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the House, through you, of a very sad news that we have just heard. A blast took place in Kashmir in which a few press photographers and journalists have been killed and injured. I would request the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs who is sitting here to collect the details in this regard and take the House into confidence before the House rises for the day. It is a very sad incident in which eminent press photographers and journalists have either been killed or injured.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may collect the information and inform the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): We will collect the information and come back to the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for having applied their minds and hearts to a subject like the Rehabilitation Council Bill. I would like to take up their points one by one.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi talked about the importance of social awareness. About five per cent of our population is disabled and it is true that the larger the population of a country grows the more disabled people there are in that country in absolute terms. Shri Dasmunsi has said that we should do different things for the disabled. In the last about fifty years, there have been a total of 52,000 people who had been given legs and limbs by the Ministry. After I took over, in the last two years we have crossed three and a half lakh. There

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

is a camp pratically every week and sometimes twice a week. The first thing I did when I became the Minister was to write to the Members of Parliament and ask them, perhaps Shri Dasmunsi also got the letter, that if they were prepared to cooperate, perhaps Shri Dasmunsi also got that letter, that if they were prepared to cooperate, I was happy to give them a camp in their area. A large number of Members of Parliament have been given camps.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I have not got it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: All of them have got it. Everybody has got it and a large number of people sitting on that side have been given the camps. Some people have been given as many as four camps because they had come back again and again. This is happening from day one.

We have now done over several hundred camps. These are large camps; these are not little tiddly piddly things where you go and distribute a few things. They also involved something which has never been done before and that is operations—operations of people who have their limbs stuck together and if just operated on would not be disabled any more. We have trained the doctors all over India to do these specialised operations.

Shri Dasmunsi wanted permanent centres. I am happy to inform him that in the last one year we have set up 107 permanent centres. We have taken one District out of five for this purpose. It will service five Districts and it will have a permanent aids and appliances centre in which people who are deaf, dumb, blind and who need limbs can go at any time, get checked up and also can be referred to hsopitals of speciality if they need operations. Apart from this we are in the process of setting up six very large composite centres across India which will act as referral hospitals in which there will only be trained staff.

When I became the Minister, Alimbco, which has been there for many many years, was in the red. It was not making any money. It was working at 32 per cent of its capacity. It was due to be closed down.

Now, Alimbco is making a huge profit. It has turned the corner. We are starting two more Alimbcos across the country to keep up with the demand for limbs. We believe that nobody should wait for ten years because this is the only limb-making institution in the country apart from the Jaipur Foot. We should make them do more and more of this work.

We have also gone in for an American collaboration to make the limbs more and more sophisticated. This is apart from what we are doing for the Army units. The Army units have been given special moneys by themselves to rehabilitate their own personnel. Any rehabilitation institution of theirs gets a separate fund of money. These are some of the institutions that are in the process of being set up, apart from the camps. I think, by the middle of next year, you would see this spread across India quite openly.

Shri Dasmunsi said that all hon. MPs should provide support to rehabilitation. This is a part of the letter that I had written. In fact, I conduct camps only on the condition that the MP puts in some money of his own—from the MPLADS or wherever—and I put in the rest of the money so that we do not have small camps. The result is that we have camps where over a thousand or 1,500 people are given aids and appliances at the same time.

An hon. Member had asked about the NGOs. The largest number of NGOs is in this sector. I have found in my experience that the NGOs catering to the disabled are far more honest than those that take money for old-age homes, street children and everything else. There seems to be a basic level of morality in all of us that we would not steal money when it comes to the disabled. So, I am happy to support more and more NGOs for this

As far as funds are concerned, there is enough money. It just needs to be spread properly in time. We have made all the certifications and paper work very simple. Every Member of Parliament has been given by me a book—either white if it is in English or blue if it is in Hindi—in which every single scheme and every single form is put down so that you can look at these schemes and fill up these forms in your own areas. ...*(Interruptions)* I have received letters from everybody saying that they have got it. ...*(Interruptions)* All right, if you have not got that we will put them into the books again. I assume you have got my letter that says that these are the NGOs in your constituencies. ...*(Interruptions)* A lot of people have got it.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Why do you not put it in the bulletin? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: What I have also done is to ensure that every single Member of Parliament has got a list of the NGOs in his or her constituency from me. ...*(Interruptions)* It is difficult to believe that nobody has got it anywhere.

Dr. Paswan has asked about the Central Register. The Central Register that we have is for professionals. It

is not for listing disabled people. For that, as the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has already told us—thanks to his intervention—we are not having a census for the first time after 1980. So we will be able to know exactly how many disabled people we have and what they suffer from. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : I have not talked about the disabled persons to be listed in the Central Register. There are a lot of people who have indigenous knowledge. I had said that the people living in the villages, who are involved in this with their ancestral knowledge should be listed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I was just going to say that we have undertaken a bridge course in the last two years where more than 38,000 people who had the indigenous knowledge have been trained by the RCI. They could not apply because they did not have the necessary diploma or degree.

Regarding the three per cent reservation about which many hon. Members talked about, I agree that three per cent has not been reached. In overall terms, a number of people have been employed, but it is not three per cent uniformly. What I have done now is that we have started private employment agencies, which also train the disabled and get them jobs. We have a very successful one running in Calcutta, which is the first of this type. The is called REACH. That has rehabilitated a number of people-nearly a thousand people, in as much as one year's period.

Prof. Rawat has asked as to whether disability has been included in the census.

I am just looking through to see what each hon. Member has asked and whether I could answer them.

Shrimati Margaret Alva has said that the RCI is over-bureaucratised. That may be true or that might have been true. But I have gone out of my way to see that it has a special Committee of those people who have been involved in this subject. As you know, I made Shri Thakore Hari Prasad who runs a very large centre for disabled in Hyderabad as the Chairman of the RCI. On his retirement, I have made Major Ahluwalia who is himself disabled and who is running an excellent spino-centre, as the Chairman. We are also building three more spino-centres in different States. We have made the RCI to have a lot of specialised committees, which meet all the time. About 25000 doctors have been trained. There are in fact, 121 training centres of excellence. She was worried and a concern was expressed about not having training centres. They have been developed and a lot more will be developed.

I think, I have covered, more or less, the concerns expressed by the hon. Members. Shri Bhargava has asked for more institutions. As I have said, it depends on how many NGos come forward. From my side, we have been setting up a large number of them. Thank you very much.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I want to know about the monitoring agency that you have.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am sorry, I missed it. Earlier, we used to have just bureaucrats going around. They really did not know what to look for. So, they would come back from a place where they have no electricity, and say that air-conditioners are not enough; or they could come back and say that there was no board outside, or that the ledgers were not properly done, etc. What we have tried to do is this. We have tried to do a mix and match of people who are excellent in their field. For instance, people from *Amarjyoti* would go and look at somewhere else. We hae also taken retired army officers. We have taken people from social work schools like TISS in Mumbai. We have our own specialised Departments with just inspectors now. The inspections are very very intensive. Unfortunately, they are bringing out a lot of nasty things to light. It may just not apply to the disabled. So, we will talk about that later.

Since so many NGOs were turning out to be less than good, I am sending a list of NGOs to all the hon. Members. I would hope that they would also monitor them for me and let me know whether the NGOs in their respective areas that have been given money, should continue or not.

I thank you all once again; and I would request the hon. Members to support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.40 hrs.

MADHYA PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Madhya Pradesh and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Clause 5—Amendment of the first Schedule to the Constitution

That at page 3, line 4,

for "27" *substitute* "26". (1)

Clause 12 — Provision as to Legislative Assemblies

That at page 3,

for line 45, *substitute*—

"_____"

1_____5

"5. Chhattisgarh.....90."(2)

The First Schedule

That at page 23,

for lines 9 to 15, *substitute*—

"(2) Of the five sitting members whose term of office will expire on the 30th day of June, 2004, namely Shri O. Rajagopal, Shri Dilip Singh Judev, Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia, Shri Balkavi Bairagi and Miss Mabel Rebellow; Shri Dilip Singh Judev and Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia both shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other three sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill three of the seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh." (3)

That at page 23, *for* lines 16-22, *substitute*:—

"(3) Of the six members whose term of office will expire on the 2nd day of April, 2006, namely, Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Kailash Joshi, Shri Bhagatram Manhar, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Vikram Verma; Shri Bhagatram Manhar, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill one of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other five members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh." (4)

The Third Schedule

That at page 31,

for lines 4 and 5, *substitute*—

'In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXII", the figures "XXIII" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXII, the following shall be inserted, namely:— (5)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Madhya Pradesh and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Clause 5

That at page 3, line 4,

for "27" *substitute* "26". (1)

Clause 12

That at page, 3,

for line 45, *substitute* —

"_____"

1_____5

"5. Chhattisgarh.....90."(2)

The First Schedule

That at page 23,

for lines 9 to 15, *substitute*—

"(2) Of the five sitting members whose term of office will expire on the 30th day of June, 2004, namely Shri O. Rajagopal, Shri Dilip Singh Judev, Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia, Shri Balkavi Bairagi and Miss Mabel Rebellow; Shri Dilip Singh Judev and Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia both shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other three sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill three of the seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh."(3)

That at page 23,

for lines 16 to 22, *substitute* —

"(3) Of the six members whose term of office will expire on the 2nd day of April, 2006, namely, Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Kailash Joshi, Shri Bhagatram Manhar, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Vikram Verma; Shri Bhagatram Manhar, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill one of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other five members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh." (4)

The Third Schedule

That at page 31,

for lines 4 and 5, *substitute* —

'In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

(a) in paragraph, 2 for the figures "XXII", the figures "XXIII" shall be subsituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXII, the following shall be inserted, namely:—' (5)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That at page 3, line 4,—

for "27" substitute "26".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That at page 3,—

for line 45, *substitute* —

"_____"

1_____5

"5. Chahattisgarh .....90."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That at page 23,

for lines 9 to 15, *substitute* —

"(2) Of the five sitting members whose term of office will expire on the 30th day of June, 2004, namely Shri O. Rajagopal, Shri Dilip Singh Judev, Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia, Shri Balkavi Bairagi and Miss Mabel Rebellow; Shri Dilip Singh Judev and Shri Jhumuk Lal Bhendia both shall be deemed to have been elected to fill two of the seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other three sitting members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill three of the seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh."(3)

That at page 23,

For lines 16 to 22, *substitute* —

"(3) Of the six members whose term of office will expire on the 2nd day of April, 2006, namely Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Kailash Joshi, Shri Bhagatram Manhar, Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj, Shri P.K. Maheshwari and Shri Vikram Verma; Shri Bhagatram Manhar, shall be deemed to have been elected to fill one of the

[Mr. Chairman]

seats allotted to the State of Chhattisgarh and other five members shall be deemed to have been elected to fill five of the seats allotted to the State of Madhya Pradesh."(4)

The motion was adopted.

The Third Schedule

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That at page 31,

for lines 4 and 5, *substitute* —

"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXII", the figures "XXIII" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXII, the following shall be inserted, namely:"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

15.44 hrs.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to provide for freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, consistent with public interest, in order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration and in relation to matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, to taken into consideration."

Sir, the need to enact the law of Right of Information has now been recognised at many levels in order to make the Government more transparent and accountable to the Public. With this end in view, the Government had appointed a Working Group on the "Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government" under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The Working Group was asked to examine the feasibility and the need for either full-fledged right to information or its introduction in a phased manner to meet the needs of open and responsive Governance. This Working Group submitted its report in May, 1997, and as a part of its work, drafted legislation on following broad principles:—

(a) The disclosure of information should be rule and secrecy the exception; and

(b) The exceptions should be clearly defined;

The draft Bill and the report of the Working Group was examined in detail by three separate groups of Ministers at different times and extensive discussions were also held by the Committee of Secretaries with the result that the final Bill is a product of all these suggestions. The proposed Bill is in accordance with both Article 19 of the Constitution as well as Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While drafting the proposed Bill, the Government kept in view the need to provide requisite information to the general public while keeping in view the public interest. It will be seen from the proposed Clause 8 and Clause 9 of the Freedom of Information Bill that the Government have ensured maximum freedom, allowing access to information in custody of public authorities, and the exceptions have been kept to the minimum. The proposed Bill has wide coverage because it applies to all public authorities which have been defined to include the Central as well as State/Union Territory Governments, bodies owned or controlled or substantially financed by them, the two Houses of Parliament, State Legislatures, the Supreme Court, High Court and the Courts under them and constitutional authorities like Election Commission, C&AG, UPSC, the Bill casts an obligation on the concerned public authority to grant information or publish certain categories of information.

---

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

The Bill also lays down the machinery for grant of access to information and public authorities are required to appoint Public Information Officers whose responsibility is to deal with the request for information within 30 days after the request is received. There is also a provision for appealing to the prescribed authorities within 30 days of the decision.

After the proposed Bill is passed, it would be necessary to develop an inexpensive, quick and efficient mechanism for grant of information and for this purpose, appropriate infrastructure and training of civil servants would be ensured besides notification of rules to carry out the purpose of the Act. Further, all Central Government rules, which restrict flow of information even when such information can be granted to the general public, would be reviwed with a view to develop a culture of openness.

In this connection, attention is invited to clause 14 of the proposed Bill which provides that the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and every other Act in force shall cease to be operative to the extent to which such Act is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, thereby clearly specifying that the proposed Act will have an over-riding effect.

The Freedom of Information Bill is an historic legislation which will lead to a more open, transparent and accountable system of Government. With these words, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that this Bil may kindly be considered and unanimously passed by this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, consistent with public interests, in order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration and in relation to matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since Independence, a plethora of new laws has been added to the Statute Book to shape a liberal society, a liberal polity and to give expression to the needs, yearnings and aspirations of the people. Wefare of the teaming millions and promotion of lofty democratic principles, besides, of course, most importantly the paramount national interest have *inter alia* been the considerations of these enactments.

However, since we inherited the old imperial system of Governance, there has been no perceptible change in the mindset and approach of the civil service. The relationship between the Government and the people continues to be that of the ruler and the ruled. Sir, this *mai-bap* psyche still continues to be devil our society. And, this is so despite the fact that youngsters, students from many families, which otherwise belong to the weaker sections of society, have also made it to the administration through the dint of hard work and democracy, as such, has provided wings to the wingless.

Sir, it is ironic that even after 53 years of Independence, if a well-meaning citizen today asks for some information or some sort of accountability by a Government official, he is looked upon with suspicion. In fact, the person from whom the information is sought is rather offended. This perhaps is because of the colonial paternity of the civil service which still strives to thwart any well-meaning citizens desire to have some information on the basis of which some Governmental decision was taken or on the basis of which a Governmental policy is being drafted.

Sir, the right of speech and expression or even the right of equality, the rights which are enshrined in article 19 referred to by the hon. Minister, have an in-built right of information therein. Sir, unfortunately, I would say, the Government today—as always I would say - has a sort of shroud of secrecy about its functioning, about its various decisions which in a democracy like ours should not really be the attitudinal position.

Sir, in this context, I would just refer to one observation made by the hon. Supreme Court way back in 1975 in the case of State of Uttar Pradesh *versus* Raj Narain. I quote:

"In a Government of responsibility like ours where the agents of the public must be responsible for their conduct, there can be but few Secrets. The people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way by these public functionaries. They are entitled to know particulars of every public transaction in all its bearings. The right to know which is derived from the concept of freedom of speech though not absolute, is a factor which should make one wary when secret is claimed for transaction which can at any rate have no reprecussion on public security."

Sir, this lack of information or available to the common citizen was recognised by the late Rajiv Gandhi as well when he lamenated that only sixteen paise out of a rupee ultimately reached the beneficiary under the various developmental programmes. This situation has not changed during the last 10 years only beause the public

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

does not know how the public money is spent. Sir, the planning process today makes buildings of an EWS tenement much more slow than the building of a palace a hundred years back. That is what we have achieved by our planning processes and by the way the Government works. Sir, how much is spent on what, and whether there is a judicious use of the public funds these questions are important to expose corruption, to check quandering of public funds, and to check arbitrariness through a process of social audit. For this, information so zealously guarded and kept away from the public by the loyal *babu* has to be now thrown open to public. Transparency will certainly impart meaning to democracy and will make democracy an effective instrument of social change. It wil promote public ethic. It would promote probity in public life and ultimately it would even help achieve efficiency in Government. In this perspective, I would certainly welcome the introduction of the Freedom of Information Bill which is intended to provide freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities consistent with public interest in order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration.

Sir, having said this, I would very briefly refer to some of the amendments which I have suggested. Let me also say that there is one clause with which I would certainly find some difficulty. Sir, before that, permit me to say that since this is an important piece of legislation, and since this, I would say, is also a historical legislation my fears are that this could become a dead letter ultimately or lead to an unmanageable situation.

What is law? It is the manifestation of the people desire through their elected representatives. We do want this piece of legislation. People for long have been denied access to the Government held information and therefore this is a right step that the Government has taken in coming forward with a piece of legislation like this to meet that long-pending need which in fact is the *sine quo non* for the efficient working of democracy itself. Democracy is not just an exercise in or a periodic vote. Democracy is a principle in itself. Democracy means that you have to inculcate and develop a democratic temper. You have to, for that matter, encourage and promote democratic values. Intended as this Bill is to achieve these objectives, it is welcome.

But when I say this would become a dead letter, I have this fear for the simple reason that along with enacting such legislations it is imperative that the mind-set changes. As I began I said that this mind-set is not easy to change. People have held Government information close to their hearts, even information which is innocuous in nature has not been parted with by them. Here I would not hesitate to say and I would seek your indulgence to do so, that even in this House when we seek information by means of parliamentary questions, every effort is made to see that the least possible information is provided to the Members of Parliament. I do not blame only this Government for this. I have said that the colonial paternity of bureaucracy, the system which has been inherited by us is the cause for this. It is important to change that mind-set. Till we are able to do that, maybe this Bill achieves nothing.

The second point is, even if it is not a dead letter, I think in cases, this could cause problems for the Government. Here I am with the Government. I think the Bill as it is drafted could lead to a sort of new jurisprudence. Though there is a provision to bar the jurisdiction of civil courts, I think this legislation could open floodgates of writ petitions. You would kindly permit me to make those observations as I move, though hurriedly through some of the amendments that I have suggested.

Before I refer to the amendments, I would venture to say that since this is a Bill of great significance, it would have been better if this Bill had been referred to the Standing Committee before this was brought to the Parliament. Because there is really no urgency attendant to the early passage of this Bill. At times we have seen Government coming forward with certain Bills converting Ordinances into Bills and impressing upon the House here that urgency or the expediency of the situation requires the Bill to be passed immediately. We have seen this in the case of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill where an Ordinance had been issued and with utmost hurry the Bill was sought to be passed and was passed in the House and thereafter for months no action was taken under the Act. But, here is a Bill with which there is no such compelling urgency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 4 o'clock now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If it is an indication for me to stop, I would seek your permission to continue later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech after two hours. Now amendments. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have not concluded my speech. I have to continue my speech. The stage of moving amendments will come after I have concluded my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can move the amendment now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th November, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think Shri Vilas Muttemwar is not present.

From 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock we will discuss under Rule 193 disinvestment of PSUs. After 6 o'clock we will rusume the discussion on the Freedom of Information Bill, 2000.

...(Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this discussion is two hours, namely, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. At 4 p.m., Shri Acharia will commence the discussion, it will be over at 6 p.m. and after 6 p.m. the Bill on Freedom of Information will be taken up.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, how can the Chair decide, without the consent of the House, that the House will sit beyond 6 p.m.?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The BAC has taken a decision that we will sit upto 8 p.m.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We passed that resolution yesterday.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You need not refer to what happened in the BAC. Only at 6 p.m., this House has to give its consent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will get the consent of the House at 6 p.m.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That can be done at 6 p.m.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Those who want to participate in the Freedom of Information Bill should not miss it. So, he has announced it. Otherwise, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has initiated the discussion and he should not miss it at 6 p.m. That is why, he has just informed the House that the Bill will be taken up at 6 p.m.

16.01 hrs.

RE : ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS TO DIFFERENT MINISTRIES

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Shall we continue with the discussion on disinvestment after 6 p.m. also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion on disinvestment will take place between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: So, there will be no discussion on it after 6 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion on disinvestment will be over by 6 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): In Rajya Sabha, the Minister had given a reply for about one-and-a-half hours...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have agreed to it in the BAC.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Whatever might have happened in the BAC, I am now making this request on the floor of the House to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The leaders participated in the meeting of the BAC also. Let us start the discussion now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, let me clarify the position on behalf of our Party. We did agree in the meeting of the BAC that, if necessary, to accommodate Government business, we shall sit late in the evening. But if you restrict the limit of the Discussion under Rule 193, the nature of it being disinvestment, to two hours, it will be an injustice done to the whole debate. The issue of disinvestment is not only important but it also requires a lot of interventions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us first start the discussion. Shri Acharia may initiate the discussion.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, before the Discussion under Rule 193 is taken up, I would make a point. It 'may be' a point of order also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no question of 'may be'. There is no point of order. You must be definite about your stand. Are you raising a point of order?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Read the relevant rule. If I find that there is no point of order, then I will give my ruling.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Rule 194 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says:

> "If the Speaker is satisfied, after calling for such information from the member who has given notice and from the Minister as he may consider necessary..."

Here, the Minister is for Disinvestment. He is a new type of Minister who has been inducted in the Union Cabinet only a few months back. What is his position? Such a type of position has never been enjoyed by any Minister in the past. Therefore, in the Rule Book, the House could not frame such rules as to conduct the business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to tell this to the Rules Committee.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Rule 389 speaks about residuary powers. It says:

> "All matters not specifically provided for in these rules and all questions relating to the detailed working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may, from time to time, direct."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not required to exercise my residuary powers.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Article 77(3) of our Constitution says:

> "The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business."

Now, disinvestment is being made in the Department of Textiles, Department of Heavy Industries, Department of Civil Aviation, Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving my ruling that there is no point of order.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, now I want your ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling that I am not inclined to exercise the residuary powers conferred on the Chair in this matter. I will read out my observation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Let me complete it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have heard the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: What is the power of the Disinvestment Minister? Is he above the Textiles Minister? Is he above the Petroleum Minister? Is he above the other Cabinet Ministers? Therefore, the Prime Minister is the only competent Minister to respond to this point and not the Disinvestment Minister. In the rank, he is not above the other Cabinet Ministers. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will pass on the observations, Now, I will make my observation also on this point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In your judicious wisdom, out of your practical experience of law and presiding over the Chair, I think you will give a verdict.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): As the former Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, you will give a verdict.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under article 77(3) of the Constitution, the President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business. In pursuance of the said article, Rules are framed by the Government for allocation of business amongst different Ministries which are amended from time to time, keeping in view the exigencies of the situation.

It is the prergative of the Government, not you, to decide the allocation of subjects to different Ministries or reallocate certain subjects and create a new Ministry/ Department.

In view of the above, the matter does not give rise to any point of order.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: No, Sir. In the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, no new rule has been framed. *...(Interruptions)* One Cabinet Minister cannot be above any other Minister. Only the Prime Minister can do that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: It is being done in contravention of the rules of business.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): I agree that the allocation of bsuiness is the prerogative of the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Let the Prime Minister respond to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you interested in the debate on disinvestment or in the Ministry?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: We are interest in both. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR.CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, under what rule are you standing up now?

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, I am supporting your ruling. But I want to tell one thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling. That is final.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, you may reconsider it. My point is that no new rule of business has been framed after such a Ministry was created.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no question of revising my ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I said in the first instance that I am not inclined to exercise the residuary powers of the Speaker in this extraordinary case.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Is this an extaordinary case? You are on record saying that this is an extraordinary case...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a debate on disinvestment and not on procedural wrangles.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: We have given a notice. We are very much interested in that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already, ten minutes have passed. Shri Jos, under what rule are you standing up?

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is about your ruling only. I welcome your ruling. The only thing is this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: After giving my ruling, no hon. Member can question that ruling.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am not questioning it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I am appealing to you for a clarification...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even you cannot ask for any clarification. That is the practice.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Everywhere, there is scope for appeal. Here, I think appeal is also dismissed by you. How is it, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia to initiate the discussion under Rule 193.

16.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that this is for the second time that I am initiating a discussion on the Disinvestment Policy, rather the outright sale of our public sector undertakings. The concept of public sector was adopted after the Government of India adopted the Industrial Policy Resolution in 1948. Then again, after it adopted the Industrial Policy Resolution in 1956.

Since then, in our country the edifice of public sector has been built up. In the name of disinvestment, in the name of distress sale, the Government of India is dismantling and demolishing the public sector undertakings. These public sector undertakings have contributed towards our industrial development. When we achieved Independnce, at the point of time, the industrialists in our country were not in a positioin to build up heavy industries. Then, the Government had to decide that some of the sectors would be under the public sector. Then, we have seen that in our country the Steel Authority of India came up, a number of oil companies came up, and heavy industries under the public sector also came up. They have contributed towards the economic independence of our country.

Today, after 53 years of our Independence, if we say that these public sector undertakings are burden in our country, they are drain in our country, it is not correct. During these 53 years, the total amount invested in public sector is about Rs. 2 lakh crore. But out of this, what is the contribution of the Government? The budgetary

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

support is only Rs. 27,000 crore, and the rest is internal resources and the loans taken by the public sector undertakings. These PSUs are now being maligned. What are the contributions of these PSUs? The policy of reforms was adopted in 1991. In 1991, the form of dividend, corporate tax, excise duty, customs duty and other duties contributed to the Central Exchequer Rs. 9520; in 1991-92, Rs. 19,721 crore; in 1992-93, Rs. 22,449 crore; in 1993-94, Rs. 22,988; in 1994-95, Rs. 27,472 crore: in 1995-96, Rs. 30,878 crore; 1996-97, Rs. 37,447 crore.

The total amount contributed by the public sector undertakings was Rs. 1,80,505 crore. So, these Central public sector undertakings have contributed about Rs. 2 lakh crore to the Central Government. In spite of that, they are being maligned as they are a drain or a burden on the economy. If the share are disinvested or sold at throwaway prices, what will be the impact on our return?

Sir, in 1992, the interest expenditure which was saved after the shares were invested, it was Rs. 263.40 crore. But the return foregone was Rs. 266.78 crore. So, what was saved in that particular year was less than what was foregone as return. In 1993, the interest expenditure saved was Rs. 436 crore and the return foregone was Rs. 394.88 crore. In 1994, the interest expenditure saved was Rs. 436.97 crore and the return foregone was Rs. 470.17 crore. In 1995, the interest expenditure saved was Rs. 892.12 crore and the return foregone was Rs. 976.27 crore. In 1996, the interest expenditure saved was Rs. 908.90 crore and the return foregone was Rs. 1,415.18 crore. In 1997, the interest expenditure saved was Rs. 946.43 crore and the return foregone was Rs. 1,783.91 crore.

Sir, as per the survey of public sector enterprises, although the investment is Rs. 2,30,000 crore in the public sector undertakings since inception, the combined equity of the Central public sector undertakings was Rs. 77.66 crore in the year 1998-99 and the amount the Government of India held in that particular year was Rs. 64.68 crore. Thus, the bulk of the remaining amount made up of loans was to the tune of Rs. 1,49,779 crore. So, what is being stated by the Government that a huge amount is blocked in our 243 public sector undertakings is not correct. But if we see the amount blocked in the private sector, it is much more than what is blocked in all these Central public sector undertakings. The amount blocked like that is not less than Rs. 62,000 crore. If we add the amount which is there as non-performing asset, it comes to Rs. 58,000 crore.

Thus the amount blcoked in public sector undertakings is much less than what is there in the hands of the private sector. In spite of that, the public sector undertakings are being maligned. It is being said that they are a drain on the economy. And because of that, the shares of the public sector undertakings should be sold out at throw-away prices. But the Government is saying that they are following the policy adopted by the earlier Government in 1990. They are following the policy of the Congress Government as well as of the United Front Government.

I would like to refer to an article written by the 'Father of the Reforms', Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. It appeared in the *Times of India* of 5th March, 2000. Do not sell the house to pay the grocer's bill. Here I would quote what Shri Narasimha Rao has said:

> "To put it bluntly, the sale is certainly not the next generation of disinvestment. Let us not dilute ourselves. Sale is expropriation of the nation, pure and simple."

This is what the Father of the Reforms has stated.

Now, I have got with me the 'Common Minimum Programme' of the United Front Government. What has been stated by the United Front Government in that Programme? In regard to public sector, the United Front Government will help to make the public sector strong and competitive. In a competitive and technology driven economy, there is no room for monoplies and inefficiency.

Regarding disinvestment, the question of withdrawing public sector from non-core and non-strategic areas will be carefully examined. As a part of such efforts, revenues will be earmarked to create an investment fund which will be used to strengthen other public sector enterprises. Then, efforts will be made to rehabilitate and revive sick industries to protect the interests of the workers.

Shri Murasoli Maran had been a Minister of Industry in the United Front Government. Now, he is the Minister of Commerce and Industry. When this question was raised in Parliament, he stated:

> "I want to make it very clear that we are not doing privatisation at all. I know it very well that privatisation, as it happened in the erstwhile Soviet Union or East European countries, is unthinkable in the near future in India."

16.25 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

> "...So, we should make them more effective. What we are doing is a limited exercise of disinvestment."

I would like to know whether this Government is following the same policy. What they repeatedly said is that they were following the policy of the previous Government.

In the other House, in reply to a question whether the Government have decided to disinvest the share of profit making central public sector enterprises, the reply given was that the disinvestment is carried out by the Government in accordance with its declared disinvestment policy. What is the declared disinvestment policy? There is no separate policy for disinvestment of profit making central public sector enterprises.

What was stated by the former Industry Minister of the United Front Government was that 'we are not doing privatisation at all. What we are doing is a limited exercise of disinvestment.' I want to know this from the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. Now, he is the sole authority. He will decide about the petroleum companies. He will decide about the public sector undertakings under other Ministries. A post has been created in the Cabinet to sell out our public sector undertakings. A post has been created to handover our *Navratnas* to the multinational companies. A post has been created to handover our *Navratnas* to the monopoly industrialists. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): China is also doing that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would request him not to refer to China. Are they doing what China is doing? China has not retrenched a single worker. I would like to know what their Government is doing.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I am talking about the multinationals there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have not opened our doors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, please address the Chair.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: What has happened to Russia?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to know what is their declared policy. The Disinvestment Commission was founded during the United Front Government. That was incorporated in its Common Minimum Programme.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): No country has opened its doors.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: China has not oepned its doors like them.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: China has restricted itself into special economic zones.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have visited China with a delegation in 1993 where our present Prime Minister was also with the delegation. The former Prime Minister was...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair, Shri Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know what is the declared policy. Is there any transparency? There is no transparency.

It was stated in the Common Minimum Programme that there would be transparency in regard to the functioning of the Disinvestment Commission and Parliament would be able to know as to what is going on. Is there any transparency? There is no transparency in their functioning. What is the present policy of the Government? I want to know whether the same policy, which was there at the time of the earlier Government, is being pursued.

Now, I will tell you as to how Parliament is also being bypassed. Sir, 112 Members of Parliament belonging to various poltical parties—Congress, Left Group, Samajwadi Party, AIADMK, RPI, RJD, and other Opposition parties—have submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister. We are yet to receive a reply to our Memorandum. 112 Members belonging to several parties have expressed their apprehension and wanted to know how the share is evaluated.

There is a classic case of IPCL, Indian Petro Chemical Corporation. IPCL is one of the *navratnas.* Now, there was an advertisement. There were four bidders. IOC is one of the public sector undertakings. It was also one of the bidders. I will tell as to how the share has been evaluated. What has been decided is that 25 per cent of the share of IPCL would be disinvested to a strategic partner, the share value should be not less than Rs. 500. But in the case of IPCL, what has been decided is that the share value would be Rs. 125. I want to know as to how the Ministry of Disinvestment have come to conclusion that the share value should be Rs. 125 only.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, by disinvesting 25 per cent of the share, there is a proposal to hand over the management of the company also to Reliance company. The Government is interested to hand over one of the giant public sector undertakings and one of the *navratnas* to Reliance. What has been stated by the Disinvestment Commission is this. It is given in page 24 of its Report, Seventh Report, on disinvestment of IPCL. It says:

> "Every care should be taken while pre-qualifying the bidders to ensure that strategic sale does not lead to market dominance by a single player."

But here Reliance has been selected as one of the prospective strategic partners for the purpose of disinvestment of management control. What will hapen? What will happen to the price? When Disinvestment Commission has categorically stated that this should not lead to market dominance by a single player, what the Government of India is doing? It is doing in the opposite direction. Why? Why the value of the share has been reduced? What is the motive behind taking decisions to hand over the ownership of the company to Reliance? The Minister will clarify this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, many Members have to participate. You have already taken more than 25 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know, Sir, but this is a very important subject. I am initiating the debate. I will take more time. I should get at least 45 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time will you take?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): He should be given sufficient time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I need sufficient time. I have many more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not repeating.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): You have repeated the point regarding *Navratna.*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, I am not repeating. You have not heard me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is the ownership being changed? Why, out of 243 Public Sector Undertakings, 107 are incurring losses? These 107 Public Sector Undertakings are not PSUs from the inception. All these Undertakings were taken over units. So, they were all under the private sector. When the owners of the companies closed down the units, the Government of India took over them to save the workers. The industry was taken over and it was nationalised. But after nationalisation, what was to be done, that was not done. No modernisation was done. No investment was made. As a result of that, these Undertakings are incurring losses. But, there are a number of PSUs about which I have already mentioned that they have contributed to the Government exchequer as dividend and as corporate taxes. The amount is not less. They have paid a divided of more than Rs. 46,000 crore. Also, their performance is not bad. If we go unit by unit, their performance is not bad. How much money is required? What is the purpose of disinvestment? What we were told was that there was no money, no fund to make our PSUs viable. Fund is required to make the PSUs viable.

The Government have got more than Rs. 19,000 crore out of the disinvestment of these shares. More than Rs. 19,000 crore! We would like to know how much has been spent for the revival of the PSUs, how much has been spent for the social sector, and how much for health and education. The Government or the Minister should give us this figure. He may say that his job is to sell.

[Translation]

That poor fellow has been made Minister to sell. The does not have to bother as to how the money would be used.

[English]

His job is to sell! His job is to sell, as a distress sale. The Prime Minister said that this was not a distress sale. Why is this not a distress sale? The hon. Minister of Finance announced that the Government of India needs Rs. 10,000 crore during the year 2000-2001. He wants Rs. 10,000 crore to meet the fiscal deficit. The financial target has been fixed. Once a financial target is fixed, when the big bull and the foreign multi-national companies know that the Government is in dire need of Rs. 10,000 crore, then the share or the value or the price of the share will naturally come down.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Modern Foods Company has been sold out. It is not disinvestment. The entire Company has been sold out, including the land, machinery and the plants. It is a multi-

national company. Shri Nitish Kumar may know it. He is a supporter of the disinvestment policy of this Government.

Then the Hindustan Lever Limited has been sold. At what price? For Rs. 105 crore! The total value is Rs. 2,000 crore.

Who has given the right to this Government—Shri Arun Shourie?—to sell out our property, the property of millions and millions of Indians at a throw away price? I do not know why Shri George Fernandes is silent today! He has not protested when Lafarze, a giant multi-national company in the cement sector has come and is grabbing our own indigenous industries.

The Cement Corporation of India is now at the verge of closure. Our cement production is much more than our demand. Do we not have any technology to manufacture cement? Shri George Fernandes may know that we have the technology. Then, why has he allowed Lafarze? He had kicked out Coca Cola in 1977. Now he has become a great supporter of Pepsi! He is allowing them. He is allowing Lafarze. It is a multi-national company. Maybe, it is in the private sector.

What is heppening to our indigenous cement industry? LAFARZE has already purchased the Tata cement. why should we allow multinational company to come here and manufacture cement?...*(Interruptions)* We have our own technology. What new technology are they bringing? We would like to know how much has been spent in the social sector.

Now, I would like to know whether the private sector is more efficient than the public sector. It is not at all. So, we have a Report prepared by the BIFR. It is mentioned that out of 243 PSUs, 60 PSUs have been referred to the BIFR. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the percentage?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have not yet touched the workers' issue. I have to say so many things about the workers. The jobs of the workers are at stake. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already taken 40 minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, let him come to the workers' cause.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I can manage my time. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking of large private sector companies. Out of 11,785 companies, 2,885 companies are sick and have been referred to the BIFR. So, the percentage of the sick private sector companies is not less than the public sector companies. So, how can the Government say that the private sector companies are better managed than the public sector companies? They need efficient management. They want a global player. They want level-playing field. They are saying so many things like global player, etc. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has a global player. Now, you have disinvested IOC. You will not allow IOC to purchase the shares of IPCL, another public sector company. Your choice is Reliance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The number of workers involved in these sick public sector companies is about five lakhs and the number of workers involved in the private sector is about seven lakhs.

Sir, in the National Agenda for Governance, the NDA Government has stated that workers and management will be equal partner. How are you treating the workers? How many have lost their jobs? The Central PSUs had cut, over a large number of jobs in two years, that is from 1997 to 1999.

Within two years, more than one lakh workers have lost their jobs. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): It is not because of disinvestment It is because of VSS...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is VRS and what is VSS? They have changed the nomenclature from Voluntary Retirement Scheme to Voluntary Separation Scheme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, this subject is in no way related to disinvestment. How can he club it with disinvestment?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, I am concluding, Sir, but he is disturbing me.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, he is misguiding our youngsters by giving some wrong calculation with the

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

wrong subject. ...*(Interruptions)* The subject is disinvestment, not unemployment, and he is giving some information which is not relevant at all.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government should tell us whether they are sincere to make our PSUs viable and whether they are sincere to revive our PSUs. They are not sincere. An Expert Committee was appointed to examine the viability of six Central public sector undertakings, of which, four are located in the State of West Bengal. I have gone through all the reports of the Expert Committee. They have prepared separate reports on each of these six units. Nowhere has this Expert Committee recommended for the closure of these six PSUs. Rather they have recommended that the Government should explore other possibilities—clean-slated Balance Sheets, joint ventures or workers' co-operatives. Without exploring other possibilities, how did the Government take decision to close down these six public sector undertakings? What was the main theme behind our Industrial Policy Declaration and the Industrial Policy which we adopted in 1966? It was the policy of self-reliance. Has that policy of self-reliance been given a go-bye by this Government?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Another policy was formulated in 1991.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have seen that policy. I have already quoted from Shri Narsimha Rao' article.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude now. This is too much. I am calling Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, Sir, the policy of self-reliance has been given a go-bye. The disinvestment, the outright sale of public sector undertakings at throw away prices, is against the national interests of our country. They are selling out the property of our country. Who has given them the right to sell out the property of our country? After taking over this Department, the new Minister announced that there would not be any White Paper. We want that a White Paper should be published and no decision should be taken at the back of the Parliament. The Parliament should be taken into confidence. There should be transparency. We must know what they are doing with the money they have got out of disinvestment. I oppose the disinvestment of shares of our profitable companies. they are selling out the shares of our profitable companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is too much, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Kindly take your seat now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, Sir, I oppose it and demand that the Government should review its policy and not sell out the shares of the public sector undertakings at throw away prices. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to begin by congratulating my classmate Shri Arun Shourie on being entrusted with thekey responsibility for the Central component of the Government's economic programme.

The NDA Government and the BJP in particular likes to portrary its economic policies as carrying through the reform process initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh. That, I submit, is a dangerous distortion. Nothing illustrates this better than the yawning gap between the Congress and the BJP in their respective approaches to dis-investment. No doubt, the Congress regards dis-investment as part of the economic reforms process-but certainly not as the heart of the matter. To illustrate, the word 'dis-investment' does not appear in the Pachmarhi Declaration of September, 1998 nor in the opening speech nor in the closing remarks of the Congress President. The Congress manifesto for the 1999 election does not contain a section on 'dis-investment. Dis-investment is mentioned only in the context of a strategic re-definition of the role and scope of the public sector as also fleetingly in regard to the need to revive capital markets and offer: "new investment opportunities for the Indian people"—not, mind you, Indian companies or the foreign multinationals. The expression used is 'the Indian people'.

For the BJP and the NDA, however, dis-investment has emerged as the central plank of their platform of reforms. A new Department has been invented for this purpose and two of the brightest of their new crop of Ministers have been successively placed in charge of selling the *dahej* to pay the *chowkidar*. What is worse, they have embarked on a dis-investment programme without putting in place a dis-investment policy.

The hon. Minister will claim that they do indeed have a policy and have repeatedly stated it in answers to Parliament questions and during discussions in the House, namely: "In the generality of cases it is the Government's policy to reduce Government's share of public sector equity to no more than 26 per cent except in the case of strategic industries". This is not a policy. This is a *fatwa*.

Before embarking on a policy that will deprive the nation of national control, over Rs. 65,000 crore of national equity, Rs. 2.5 lakh crore of national investment and some Rs. 10 lakh crore to Rs. 15 lakh crore of national assets, surely this Parliament has a right to a White Paper which sets out the rationale for the wholeasle auction of national wealth. We need a paper, a White Paper, which answers at least 13 basic questions. They are:

1. Which are the sectors in which the Government regards a continuing public sector presence as essential and which as inessential?

2. Which are the public units that should be run on purely commercial lines and which, in the larger interet, should be given specific social objectives and judged on criteria other than the purely mercenary?

3. How should strategic industries be defined—as those which are of strategic significance to national security such as atomic energy or those which are of strategic significance to the national economy?

4. What constitutes a crore industry—an enterprise which is engaged in economic infrastructure or also one which is crucial to social infrastructure, a key component, for example, of the food security programme or poverty alleviation?

17.00 hrs.

5. Are manufacturing PSUs to be treated on par with those in the service sector? Where do section 25 companies fit into the overall strategy for disinvestment?

6. should a distinction be made between the PSUs that poineered new fields of industrialisation or new horizons of technology or new geographic areas of development and the PSUs which resulted from the failure of the private sector to run their enterprises?

   For example, almost all the units of the National Textiles Corporation are monuments to the abject failure of the fat cats of the private sector on whom this Government relies to run their own private businesses. After all, more than half the PSUs referred to the BIFR—35 out of 67-are private sector enterprises raked into bankruptcy by their private owners. Why does the Minister think that if you are in the private sector, if you are born to wealthy, if you emerge along the echelons of the private sector, you are necessarily brighter than somebody like me who was not born too well and made on his own to the Foreign Service. I want to know this. In glaring contrast to what has happened, for instance, in the textile sector, more than half the PSUs are profit-making and three-fourth of the PSUs with whom this Government had signed Memoranda of Understanding had been rated by this Government as 'excellent' or 'very good.' Forty two out of 77 or so PSUs which had been so rated have been put down as 'excellent'. What is it then that makes PSUs such a bad thing?

7. On what criteria should management control be transferred and under what circumstances would the transfer of ownership be permitted?

   This refers to 74 per cent, 49 per cent, 26 per cent, 25 per cent. These are the percentages by which ordinary mortals are confused by people like Dr. Nitish Sengupta.

   In what extreme conditions should the Government relinquish both ownership and management? Where does national honour—for example, with regard to national airlines—fit into the Government is scheme of things?

8. What objective criteria—I underline the word 'objective'-should be put in place to determine whether a given unit should or should not be disinvested, whether PSUs with multiple units should be disinvested as one composite corporate for first disagregated and then considered for disinvestment unit-wise.

For example, you have got the fertiliser field in which the NFL, which is the one they are targeting, is the only profitable one in the public sector, but as the Minister has pointed out three of the four units are loss-making. Then, why do they want to get rid of the NFL? They should disaggregate it into separate units and then decide what they will do with the loss-making units and the profit-making units. Take the case of SAIL where two of the units are doing extremely well while some of the other units are not. The Board there has decided that they will disaggregate it and deal with it separately. So, I am asking a question on what criteria the Government would do it and decide which PSUs should be divested to the general public—I am referring to our manifesto where we talked of its being owned by the Indian people, by broadly-based ownership—or to mutual funds or to financial institutions as we provided for in the 1991 Industrial Policy Resolution and which should be put up for strategic sale. What criteria will they use to determine in which category it should fall?

Also, on what criteria will you decide which are the units which should be rehabilitated, revived restructured? Finally, which are the ones that should be sold as irretrievable junk? Should this not be a matter of pre-determined policy rather than *ad hoc* case by case decisions by the executive?

9. Should not one distinguish between profit-making and loss-making PSUs?

Sir, the Government have informed this House through their reply to Question No. 351, dated 25th

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

February, posed by Thiru P. Kumarasamy Avargal, that Government have no separate policy with regard to loss-making units. My friend, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, has just quoted another reply of yours where you say that you have no separate policy with regard to profit-making units. I want to know, why? Why do you not have a separate policy for profit-making units and a separate policy for loss-making units? Related to this, the other key subsidiary question is, what is a loss-making enterprise—SAIL which lost Rs. 1600 crore in 1998-99 or SAIL which earned a profit of Rs. 1300 crore in 1995-96? Which is a loss-making unit? What about Bhilai and Bokaro which made profits last year, and other subsidiary units of SAIL which made losses? How are you going to distinguish these two?

10. Coming to the *Navratnas,* whether it is maxi-*Navratnas* or mini-*Navratnas,* should they or should they not be exempted from disinvestment If you think that they should be included, why should they be included? IF you think, nevertheless, they must be included, then to what extent? Should this not be put out as a matter of priority?

Sir, there has been disinvestment in ten out of eleven *Navratnas,* and eight of these *Navratnas* figure in the list of the ten top profit-making public sector enterprises. Is this the right direction for disinvestment to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): In which year was it done? Was it not done between 1991 and 1996?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will explain the difference to you, if Shri Jaitley is incapable of understanding the difference between disinvestment policy in 1991-96 and now. I now understand why the Prime Minister sacked him. He clearly does not understand the policy.

11. What should be the modalities of disinvestment for different categories of PSUs? Why should disinvestment proposals not come from the Boards of PSUs based on commercial as distinct from political considerations, and to what extent should disinvestment be the domain of the Disinvestment Commission? Should this Commission be given statutory status? Should disinvestment be a matter exclusively for the executive or should Parliament, through the appropriate Committee, have a say in processing disinvestment proposals?

12. What should be done with the proceeds of disinvestment? Should they be poured into the sink called the Consolidated Fund of India or should the proceeds be credited to a separate disinvestment fund as recommended by the Disinvestment Commission, and earmarked for specific purposes such as the revival and restructuring of public sector units, infrastructure investment, social sector expenditure, poverty alleviation programmes? If so, in what order of priority and in what proportion?

13. What steps need to be taken urgently and as a matter of high national priority to render public sector undertakings functionally autonomous?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There is a great degree of restlessness in the Treasury Benches.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What change would this involve in regard to accountability to the C&AG, the CVC, the CBI, the Government and the Parliament, if this were done? In short, what steps can we take to end Joint-Secretary *Raj* and drastically reduce the number of Ministers holding charge of public enterprises? If we were to do this, what consequential constitutional or legal changes would this entail, in particular, to article 12 of the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court?

We do not seek *ad hoc* answers to this question.We want a policy. A disinvestment programme without a Disinvestment Policy is an invitation to suspicion of your motives, suspicion of your intentions and suspicion of your overt and covert goals.

The Government is only harming its own reputation and its own image by *ad hoc* policy pronouncements and *ad hoc* decisions. This is a Government that claims to be wedded to transparency. We are about to resume the debate on the Freedom of Information Bill. But it is completely opaque when it comes to selling the family silver.

They inherited a Disinvestment Commission. It is now nine months since that Disinvestment Commission's term ended. It is long enough to produce a baby but not long enough for this impotent Government to be able to name a replacement. Is this just a happenstance? Or, is it a deliberate ploy? That is what I want to know because this Government has no policy. It suddenly adds qualifications to its policy pronouncements.

The former Minister of Disinvestment, King Arun I, tells the Upper House that the revival and restructuring of public sector enterprises is the first objective of Disinvestment Policy. If so, why in his many replies to

questions in this and the other House did he stick to the Yashwant Sinha *fatwa?* He also says that fiscal deficit has nothing to do with disinvestment. So, why are the proceeds of disinvestment being credited to they Consolidated Fund of India, instead of a Disinvestment Fund, on the pattern of earmarking the diesel and kerosene cess for the *Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana?*

As for the new Minister of Disinvestment, King Arun II, he has told the Rajya Sabha that in addition to the Sinha *fatwa*—or, should I call it the sinful *fatwa?*—there are two considerations. 'Considerations' is his word in quotes. They are the need for a public sector presence to counter the concentration of power in private hands and regulatory mechanisms to protect the interest of consumers. Very good. Why then were these 'considerations' not mentioned in the reply to Lok Sabha Question No. 1369 of 3rd March posed by Thiru P.D. Elangovan Avargal? I will tell you why, it is because they have no policy and invent words when they are concerned.

We must have a White Paper to facilitate an informed and unprejudiced discussion on the new strategic orientation of the public sector in the era of economic reforms. It is in the light of a discussion on the White Paper in this House and in the country at large that a policy must be formulated on the basis of a wide national consensus. Till then, I would request the Government to put a temporary stop to what is widely perceived as the loot of national treasure in the name of disinvestment.

You might well ask why successive Governments from Shri Chandra Shekhar's to Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao's did not produce a White Paper before embarking on disinvestment. As regards Shri Chandra Shekhar, you do not have to ask me. You can ask the chameleon-like Minister of Finance who indifferently serves socialism as well as saffron. But as for the Congress Government, the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1991 clearly spelt out disinvestment as a matter of disinvesting no more than 20 per cent of Government holdings in selected PSUs and that too only to financial institutions and mutual funds with the explict objective of raising a limited quantity of budgetary resources.

The successor Government set up an independent Disinvestment Commission. I am glad Shri Basu Deb Acharia referred to Minister Murasoli Maran. I am referring, of course, to NF-UF Maran and not NDA Maran. Minister Murasoli Maran assured Parliament that there was no question of any change of ownership. In total discontinuity with the policies of the past, this Government has drastically altered the scope, content, role and objectives of disinvestment. They have converted disinvestment into a central plank of their reforms platform. But without either a White Paper or a policy statement. This is unacceptable. In the absence of a clear-cut policy on disinvestment, all we can go by is developments on the ground.

Sir, do I have to conclude my speech in ten minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, please give me another ten minutes and I will conclude.

Sir, putting together what we have seen, it seems that the Government have unleashed an ideological assault on the public sector, in pursuance of right-wing economic theories that have little bearing on our social and political realities or larger national goals.

We are told that the public sector is an unbearable burden on the public exchequer. I fail to see how. I have brought with me the latest Public Enterprises Survey, 1998-99, Volume I. Total Government subscribed equity in the public sector is Rs. 65,000 crore. PSU dividend payments amount to about Rs. 4,000 crore or Rs. 5,000 crore. PSU contributions to the Central Exchequer by way of interest, taxes and duties add up to Rs. 42,000 crore, a gross annual return of Rs. 47,000 crore on a cumulative equity contribution of Rs. 65,000 crore. Is this an unbearable burden?

Sir, I draw the attention of the House and the Minister to the following point at pages 6 and 7 of this Survey. It says:

1. Public Sector Enterprises, as a whole, have earned a return on investment, defined as the ratio of profit before interest and tax (PBIT) to capital employed (CE), that is, PBIT to CE, of 14.5 per cent. In the private sector, in the same year, Gujarat Ambuja is lower at 12.3 per cent, Bayer at 8.7 per cent and Zuari Fertiliser at 7.4 per cent. Our public sector Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertiliser has beaten Zuari Fertiliser by 6.5 per cent.

2. Return on net worth for PSUs as a whole, that is, net profit to net worth—according to this Survey—was around nine per cent in 1998-99. In the same year, the returns on net worth for Escorts in the automobile sector amounted to only 5.7 per cent, ITC in hotels no more than 5.6 per cent, ACC in cement just 4.6 per cent and SPIC in fertiliser a mere 2.5 per cent. As for the Birlas, in Hindustan Motors, they lost 11.55 per cent and in cement a whopping 36.2 per cent, while the return on net worth for Essar Steel was a mind-boggling minus

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

43.5 per cent, which is double the negative return recorded by SAIL. What makes the Minister believe in the inherent superiority of the private sector?

Between the previous year and 1998-99—these were the two years of the NDA Government—the PSE dividends have gone up by 37 per cent; PSE contributions to the Central Exchequer have risen by 11 per cent; PSE net worth has increased by 9.9 per cent. Every one of these figures is taken from their own report.

Let me hasten to add, however, that none of these returns would amount to much if budgetary support to the public sector were consuming a significant proportion of Government expenditute. But in this year's Budget, that is, 2000-2001, out of a total plan outlay of Rs. 88,000 crore, budgetary support to the public sector, excluding power and roads, amounts to only—as far as I have been able to calculate—Rs. 1,100 crore with loans amounting to about Rs. 900 crore. Putting them together, it is Rs. 2,000 crore in all. How much is that? Just 2.5 per cent of the Central plan outlay. Is this unbearable?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Even if you add infrastructure expenditure on power and roads, the budgetary support to the public sector—both equity and loans—is under five per cent of development expenditure.

Sir, I bow to the discipline of the House. I anticipated that the Minister would be permitted to speak for an hour and a quarter as in the other House and I am doubtless that he would take all the time that he wishes and you would prevent me from speaking for more than 20 minutes. So, I have prepared my speech in writing. I seek your permission to place it on the Table of the House and to give a copy of it to the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

This is extremely unfair on me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not unfair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am only attempting to deal with the substance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, all our Members are withdrawing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it not a fact that no single factor has contributed more to the public sector woes than the drastic scaling down of Government's Budget allocation?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, very important points are being made. Earlier, Shri Basu Deb Achaira raised some important points. Now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is raising important points. So, I would plead with you that we should relax this two hours' time. If it is possible, we can continue it on some other day so that we can take up the Freedom of Information Bill.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

17.21 hrs.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the hon. Minister wants me to continue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is because I am sure that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar would like to hear me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time allotted for this is only two hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you please allow Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to speak. As long as he is allowed to speak, we do not mind even if no time is left for other Congress Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I have covered three-fourth of the points. I will just rush through the rest...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said that he wanted to place the rest of the speech on the Table of the House. That is what he had suggested. But I saw his speech outside which was distributed to the Members before he completed his speech here. It is not a right thing to do. I thought I should draw your attention to this...*(Interruptions)* I have seen his speech outside which has been circulated to the Press. It is not a good Parliamentary practice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are running short of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. members, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There is no single factor that has contributed more to public sector woes than the drastic scaling down since Congress demitted office of Budget allocations for Government investments, both in comparison to Plan targets—your own Plan targets—and in terms of actual expenditure-your expenditure—as a proportion of Budget allocations—your Budget allocations.

The other argument for the Government's flight from the public sector is that the public sector is inherently incapable of making itself efficient. The expression is not mine. It was used by the Hon. Minister, Shri Shourie in the Rajya Sabha. Does the record bear this out? If the public sector is inherently inefficient, how is it that in 18 successive public global tenders, without resort to price preferences, BHEL—Shri George Fernandes's creation and I salute him for that—has without fail beaten multinational giants like ABB, Seimens and GEC Alsthom? Is not IOC the only Fortune 500 company from India? Did not the same SAIL which made a loss of Rs. 1600 crore under the NDA Government, make a profit of Rs. 1300 crore in the last year of the last Congress Government? What is so inherent about public sector inefficiency when 60 per cent of all PSUs are able to turn a profit, modest it is true in some cases and large only in a few? But when it come to losses also, public sector losses are modest in most cases and large only in a few. DRDO and ISRO are among the most outstanding of their kind in the world. GAIL has never been beaten by British Gas, and Shri Ram Naik will confirm that to in yet, he shamefully begged British Gas to buy into GAIL. NTPC has secured the largest loan the World Bank has ever given to any corporate entity anywhere in the world and the Power Finance Corporation headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Public Enterprises raised millions of dollars in the international money market when neither their competitors Tatas, nor their competitors Ambanis were able to do so. So, why does this Government not listen to its own executives? Why have they not included a single public sector executive in the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry? It is only because they viscerally hate the public sector. That is prejudice. It is not policy.

If we concentrate on the 10 most profitable public sector undertakings, each of these ratios, to measure performance and profit, rises or improves dramatically. I draw the Minister's attention to Table 1.15 at page 18 and Table 1.16 on the next page of his Government's own document. Curiously, of the 10 most profitable public sector units, the Government has disinvested or proposes to disinvest, its holdings in as many as eight. But at the same time, of the ten top loss-making units cited at Table 1.16, only three or four are being disinvested. This is ridiculous. The Government are selling off the best and hanging on the worst. Why? What is the compulsion to kill the goose that is laying the golden egg?

The Government says, 'It needs the resources'. We ask resources for what? Is it to fund the fiscal deficit? 'Not at all', replies the Government. Why cannot you be honest? We were. If it were not to fund the deficit, why do you have an annual target? The fiscal deficit at the end of this financial year would be 10 per cent higher if you fail to disinvest Rs. 10,000 crore this year. That is why they are disinvesting and that is why we describe it as selling the *mangalsutra* to pay the *bawarchi*.

The Disinvestment Commission has recommended that 10 per cent of the proceeds be earmarked for the revival and restructuring of public enterprises. On being asked whether this recommendation has been followed, the hon. Minister Shri Arun Jatiley resorts to sleight of hand. I refer to Question Nc. 1490 of 3rd March put by Shri Dasmunsi and Pawan Kumar Bansal.

"Ten per cent of last year's proceeds is lower than 10 per cent of this year's budgetary support, and so the recommendation is being implemented."

Does he mean to say that in the absence of disinvestment, budgetary support to the public sector would have been nil?

He also said that rather than lock up Government money in business, would it not make more sense to redeploy this money in the social sector. Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that I would much rather see a good deal of this investment in education, health, employment programmes, poverty alleviation than locked up in Bharat Leather or National Bicycles. But what is the connection between disinvestment and the social sectors? None at all, as at present. If the Finance Minister were to assure this House that of the Rs. 10,000 crore he proposes to raise this year through disinvestment, in his

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]
supplementary demands so many thousand crore will go to the food subsidy under the PDS, so many thousand crores to SC housing, so many thousand crore to Ashram schools for tribal children, so many thousand crore for cooked mid-day meals, so many crore for women's self-help groups, so many for sanitation, so much for waste land development, so much for minor irrigation, and so much for budgetary support to the public sector, I would be the first to applaud. But that is not how it happens. The Government sells the sweat of the nation's brow for a song and no one knows where the money has gone. Except that everyone knows the money has actually gone to fund the fiscal deficit.

Sir, we are prepared to consider a reorientation of the Government's national assets. But we are not prepared to assist at a distress sale. The fiscal deficit is pushing the Government into making distress sales. The very annoucement of a disinvestment target makes for a buyer's market lowering the value of the product put up for sale. The emphasis on "big ticket disinvestment" is tantamount to an invitation to the richest in the land, and their MNC friends abroad, to establish formal or informal cartels to corner the market. What is worse, in particular cases disinvestment could lead to monopolistic or oligopolistic stituations. It is thus inexplicable that such an outstanding PSU as IPCL has been put on the chopping block in the full knowledge that the most likely buyer is a private sector giant. At least one of our two Aruns, I know, is familiar with a plutocrat's remark, "You cannot meet me at night and not stand by me in the morning."

I know what is the relationship between several of you and these people to whom the sales are being made.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is insinuation. The Member should substantiate it because there are only two Aruns and he should tell us what relationship he is referring to with the prospective buyer.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I did not say these "two Aruns". Please look at the records. I did not say these "two Aruns".

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You said this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I said that one of the two Aruns knows about this remark. ...*(Interruptions)*. You are the two most honest and therefore two of the dumbest-Ministers on the Treasury Benches. Therefore, all sorts of things happen behind your back, that you do not know about. So, you do not get into this.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There are many things that do not happen and you contrive and imagine that they happen.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I withdraw my remark about their contracts with the private sector. I do not think them necessary for me to say.

Sir, our Minister of Disinvestment told the Rajya Sabha that the National Bicycle Corporation has sales of Rs. 27 lakhs and accumulated losses of Rs. 56 crore. That is precisely why no one has objected to his selling it. Begin with the loss-making units. But sell them for their real worth. The hon. Minister has sneered at the balance sheets of the NTC companies. But if he sells their assets not as textiles companies but for urban development what is the market value of their assets?

It is thousands and thousands of crores. Why has this not happened? Ask the Minister for Heavy Industries who, as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, refused to permit a change of land use. Who then is responsible for the condition of the NTC? Is it the alleged inherent inefficiency of the public sector or the political machinations of my friends over there? Does the Minister not appreciate that the NTC is a graveyard of private sector not of public sector failure and the failure to implement the NTC revival package is proof of Government inefficiency and not of the inherent public sector inability?

I find it shocking that the Minister, Shri Arun Shourie should draw attention to the net worth of Modern Foods having been a mere Rs. 28 crore. Why then did Hindustan Levers cough up Rs. 105 crore to buy into net worth that is a third of their investment? Is it out of the goodness of their hearts or is it because they have evaluated the replacement value of the physical and commercial assets of different units of the Modern Foods as being above Rs. 1000 crore?

Shri Arun Shourie is a genius at comparing oranges with apples. He not only takes one year's sales and compares it to decades of accumulated losses, he also persistently confuses net worth, which is equity plus reserves, with the real worth of the physical assets and commercial goodwill passing into the ownership or management control of a private party—domestic or multinational—which has made no contribution to the building of the assets.

Sir, we have no objection to additionality. Let the private sector and the MNCs enter areas reserved hitherto for the public sector and let the public sector compete with the private sector. But why should acquisition be preferred to additionality? A Minister who believes the

public sector is inherently inefficient is clearly not a Minister to be trusted with the public sector. He says in the Rajya Sabha that he decided when doing his doctoral thesis with some ghastly American University in the 1960s that socialism was evil. His prejudices as an academic are now coming to the fore. This Minister has no faith in *Swadeshi, Swabhiman* and *Swavalamban*. He is a worshipper of false gods and that is why I view his stewardship of the Department of Disinvestment with such lively apprehension.

We demand a White Paper in which the Government is free to substantiate the Minister's claim that public sector undertakings are inherently inefficient. But we are not prepared to accept the Minister's bad assertion. We need to see his arguments set out in detail and we wish to give ourselves the opportunity of refuting them. If he has the courage of conviction, and if his Government has the courage of conviction—he has the courage of conviction, but does his 27 party Government have the courage of conviction?-this Government will accept this challenge. Until then, call a halt to this squandering of the people's wealth in this mindless pursuit of disinvestment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now hon. Minister Shri Arun Jaitley will intervene in the debate.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for having permitted me to intervene in this debate.

We have just had the privilege of listening to a very powerful speech by my friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. Of course, I did not have the privilege to study with him, but I certainly had the privilege of admiring his choice of words. He raised thirteen questions. He referred to my friend Shri Arun Shourie as a genius who confuses apples for oranges. But a confused genius would always confuse them as being one. For these thirteen questions that he raised the answers are so obvious that these are perhaps the thirteen causes for the confusion in my friend's mind.

He asked Shri Arun Shourie towards the end of his speech whether he has the courge of convinction to own up to what he thought was the Government's wrong policy.

But if I applied every word of what Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has argued to what the Government between 1991-96 did, I would only request him to have the courage of conviction to denounce each of the events that happened in relation to disinvestment during that period. In fact, we have privatised one unit, taken a decision with regard to 19 others and a large part of the comments which is being made by enlightened opinion against us is, why are you not going in for a big ticket investment, why are you taking up substantially the loss-making units, some medium level units and not going in for big ticket investment? In fact, this is the criticism which the economists are making in newspapers. This is the criticism which several editorials have made against us. We are going about it in a more systematic manner.

Shri Aiyar was very critical of why profit-making unit should be disinvested, and why should the *navaratnas* should be touched. Yes, if the shares of the profit making units and *navaratnas* were disinvested—39 of them and a large number of which were profit-making units in the *navaratnas*—it certainly did happen not only during 1991-96 but also from 1996-98. And I must today confess that with the wisdom of hind sight, I am certainly not going to be critical of the policy of the Government at that time. I think when the Finance Minister, in 1991, initiated the policy, there was a particular attachment which each one of us in India had to a public sector undertaking.

As Shri Acharia and Shri Aiyar have said, there was a time when not only economic contribution was certainly required but there was an immense social contribution made at a time when there was very little of the private sector and very little of it prepared to make an investment in certain areas. At that time, the public sector did have a role but today, except in certain areas, it is functioning in all those areas where the private sector has come in a big way and has come in as a competitor. There were several larger economic questions which Shri Aiyar has raised to which I should certainly endeavour to deal with in the course of my response to what he has said. I am sure Shri Shourie, when he would reply to the entire debate, would deal with them at length. But let us be very clear about disinvestment in this country and Shri Aiyar is right on it. He charged me for being confused between disinvestment and privatisation. I can assure him that I have absolutely no confusion of this kind in my mind. Disinvestment in this country started even during the Interim Budget which was presented by Shri Chandra Shekhar. He is today very critical of setting targets in the Budget. But every Budget presented by the Congress Party from 1991-96 had a target defined in the Budget itself. Now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar argues, "Well, if you fix targets in the Budget, it is an invitation for a distress sale and it is an invitation for cartelisation." I am afraid that these are not economically sound arguments. These are only arguments of convenience when stands change merely because you happen to sit on the benches on the other side. But this certainly cannot be.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In the five Budgets presented by us, it was within the policy framework of no

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]
more than 20 per cent of disinvestment, no question of relinquishing either managerial control or ownership control and the targets we set were modest and specifically aimed at raising budgetary resources. I do not think we should confuse our policy with yours. You are mixing up oranges with apples.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is not a question of the policy between Congress Governments and the present Government being identical. There has been a conscious evolution of the policy which has taken place and before I come to the good economic reason as to why a conscious evolution of the policy has taken place, let me mention that disinvestment not only found a mention in Shri Chandra Shekhar's Budget but also found a mention in every Congress Budget. His Budget very clearly says that it had been decided that the Government would disinvestment upto 20 per cent of its equity in selected public sector undertakings. It found a mention in every Congress Budget also.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is right when he says that it was limited to 20 per cent. Today, there are sound economic reasons for it. When you analyse that, you will realise the amount of money that we lost without a corresponding advantage by that process of piecemeal disinvestment taking place. It also did find a mention in the Common Minimum Programme which was followed by the United Front Government. Even the Left parties were signatories to the Common Minimum Programme. In fact, during the United Front Government which they supported, it was there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): We had, on the floor of the House, objected to certain measures with regard to Insurance and all those things even when there was the United Front Government. That is on record.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am grateful for that intervention. You objected on the floor of the House. But some of you were even a part of the Cabinet which decided upon disinvestment and the only disinvestment that you did was not of a single loss-making unit. The only disinvestment you did was of the *Navratnas*. The disinvestment was made in respect of VSNL, MTNL and the decisions with regard to the Gas Authority of India Limited were only taken between the period 1996 and 1998...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the percentage? It was only five per cent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I shall now come to the new argument which has been developed that the difference between you and us is that we wanted a five per cent or ten per cent or 15 per cent piecemeal disinvestment but you are going in for privatisation as such. That, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar says, is the fundamental difference. I agree with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that that is the fundamental difference between their policy and our policy. I shall substantiate the reasons and make good why our policy is a more correct policy under the circumstances.

Sir, we have all seen the valuations of the public sector shares on the stock market. When you disinvest in piecemeal, what is the advantage that you achieve? In fact, every criticism that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has made of the Disinvestment Policy as also the criticism made by Shri Basu Deb Acharia is in fact available when you make a piecemeal disinvestment. The valuation of the public sector shares in the market is not very high. Let me give you an illustration.

The Indian Oil Company, as you said, is one of the Fortune 500 companies. In fact, it is the only Indian company which is a part of the Fortune 500 companies. It is a company in profit. The Government—my senior colleague Shri Ram Naik is here—has taken a decision with regard to the importance of the Indian Oil Company and, therefore, the Indian Oil Company today is a company in the public sector. But the Indian Oil Company, a company in the public sector, a profit-making company, which is a Fortune 500 company, when its share was listed on the stock market, how much did it fetch?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he referred to Shri Ram Naik, why are the views of Shri Naik not implemented?

[English[

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not make this running commentary. You please hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Please listen to argument. I would like to apprise about the stand of Shri Ram Naik and of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh, please take your seat.

* Not recorded.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Indian Oil Company, a Fortune 500 company, a record profit-making company, a company of which we are all proud, a company whose public character is being maintained for good reasons, was listed on the stock-exchange at a share value which is even less than the book value. I am just giving it as an illustration. During the period 1991-96 and thereafter, when efforts have been made to disinvest in five per cent and 10 per cent, what you have got as a valuation of the public sector shares is really not a very high value. Even in the case of the shares of the public sector undertakings, the *Navratnas*, which were disinvested, you never got a very high value. When the book value was Rs. 350, you got a valuation in the market of about Rs. 437 or so per share. When you disinvest in small lots, the investor always asks the question: "Should I invest in IT shares? Should I invest in some lucrative blue-chip companies? Or, Should I invest in a company which has a minority share of three per cent or which has a few thousand or a few lakh shares in a public sector? We followed that policy. We never got the best value. The monies which came in are not monies wich were being used for a larger purpose.

But the object of that disinvestment was only to disinvest few shares, get the monies into the Central Budget, and probably Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's criticism would be right to the 1991-98 policy that this money could have been used for bridging the budgetary gap. But today the policy is different. When you go in for a privatisation, in a privatisation process, you are not only selling the shares of a company when you are satisfied that the existence of this company in the public sector is not required, you are trying to bring in a new management, the new management have the prospect of inducting more capital, inducting new technologies, and therefore, the valuations that you get are far higher. Therefore, the only illustration which you have, when you confused between apples and oranges, a blue-chip company like Indian Oil at the big value of Rs. 350 could get us only Rs. 437 by the 1991-96 policy, which we have continued for sometime but a loss-making company like Modern Foods, by a strategic sale process, a Rs. 1000 share, in a strategic sale, in a loss-making unit, could fetch us Rs. 11,490 per year. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, well, I clear that confusion also. Therefore, even in a loss-making company, through a strategic sale process, the valuations we got are much higher. That is the second advantage. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you yielding, Shri Arun Jaitley?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am not yielding, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, it will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Allow me to please complete. ...*(Interruptions)* You would certainly have questions which Shri Arun Shourie would respond to ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would respond to evaluation precisely...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is going on here? Nothing will go on record, both the remarks of the hon. Member and the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: My colleague and myself certainly feel that this is a very important aspect because I am convinced that there is some confusion which requires to be removed. Therefore, the experience has been that when. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you are a senior Member. Why are you interrupting like that?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is debating the whole question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister has not even replied, why are you interrpting him?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has the capability to do it. ...*(Interruptions)* Why not the hon. Minister debate the whole...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothign will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, now you are creating the problem. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Therefore, this process of disinvesting only in small lots did not lead to the

*Not recorded.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

Government getting the best values. I am certainly not making an allegation against anybody because I would still give credit to the Government in 1991 that they had to make a beginning. It was trial method. They started a particular methodology, and that methodology, in fact, initiated the whole process. But today with ten years of experience behind us the piecemeal disinvestment did not get us the best values. It did not bring in any element of change in professionalism, in the functioning of the PSUs, and the monies which were received.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is right that monies were essentially used for the purpose of bridging budgetary gap. As against this, the advantages of a privatisation process certainly are that you get much higher values, the Government gets the best returns, you are able to bring in a management which is trying to revive units which are not doing so well, the management will certainly bring in more capital, better technology. The only other alternative you have to bring in more capital is to tax the people of India and say, well, I have a loss-making unit in front of me, I went into the business of textiles—the NTC example which he gave—or I went into the business of bakeries. We have suffered huge losses there. We are now going to tax the people of India so that the Government can do the business of manufactruing textile or manufacturing bread, and once we get into those businesses we come back year after year—that is why Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar very clearly said—please give them grants, come up in every Budget and say, well, we are sorry, we suffered losses in that area. So, this year we are again going to impose a few more taxes on you in order to do business.

Therefore, our experience has been that strategic sales from the interest of the economy, from the interest of the Exchequer and from the overall interest of the unit itself is a better alternative. But this is not a principle to be applied in all cases and there lies a very important distinction. There may be some units where you may feel that the presence of the unit in the public sector may not be required, but the character of the unit is such that we do not intend to hand it over to one particular strategic partner. So, in such units, we may go in for a process of retail sales to the market. We may, perhaps, get a little less value. But there would be a larger public interest and the larger public interest would be that even though we are getting a much lesser value, we are not in the process of creating a private sector monopoly. The public character of this unit is retained, the shares are held by lakhs and lakhs of people in the Stock Market and there is a professional management on top. There would be some such units. In fact, the Disinvestment Commission itself, out of the cases recommended to it, in the 58 reports that it has given to the Government, said:

> "29 out of those 58 would be strategic sales, 8 would be trade sales, 5 would be offer of shares."

There was another set of 11 where they said that no disinvestment is required for the present moment itself.

Therefore, we have seen the virtues of a policy, which we have tried in the past. We realised that the intention really is not to sell 5 per cent and 8 per cent shares. In fact, I noticed in the Rajya Sabha, a Congress Member, with some experience of business, precisely giving the same argument, which I was giving and said: "please take caution"....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is because he is in business.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Yes; he understands business more than some of us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There must be some difference between intervening in the debate and replying to the debate. Therefore, I request you to confine your speech within a certain limit.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I shall only deal with a few more issues, which have been raised.

I have just mentioned that on fundamentals our attitudes cannot change merely depending on which side we are sitting in this House. We have had a Government between 1991 and 1996 and a subsequent Government, which initiated the process. Let us look at what is happening in the States. ...*(Interruptions)* There are Governments of different political parties in every State. Why is the Rajasthan Government going ahead and thinking of privatising the Rajasthan State Electricity Board/ Why is the Chief Minister of Karnataka going in for the privatisation process? Why is the Andhra Pradesh Government doing it? The Government of Delhi is trying to privatise the Electricity Board. The States of Haryana and Punjab have appointed a Disinvestment Commission in their respective States. The Government of Assam is thinking of it. Even in West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No disinvestment is taking place in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What about the transparency of your disinvestment process? What is the *modus operandi*? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We are certainly going to deal with that.

Sir, I reiterate that even the Government of West Bengal is realising some virtues of this and I read in the newspapers that in one of the State Government's hotels they are thinking of bringing in a strategic partner. Shri Dasmunsi, who is hailing from that State, is nodding his head.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The liberalisation process in West Bengal is on for the last few years, but nothing has taken shape yet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I think, you will have to conclude now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I will take five or six minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, this brings us to a fundamental question and I am glad that in some measure or the other this fundamental is not being opposed. Today, the argument only is: "yes, if you want to disinvest, please disinvest the loss making ones; do not disinvest the profit making ones." What is the methodology that you are going to follow? What are the steps that you are going to take in order to invest this resource that you are generating? The 14th point that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar did not raise in his 13, which is of extreme importance, at least to us, if not to him, is: what do you do to protect the workers' interests? I thought that should have been the first point in his 13 points. Unfortunately, he was silent on that particular issue.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Shri Basu Deb Acharia had already raised that point.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As far as the process is concerned, the process is very clear.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Give us a White Paper.

SHRI ARUN JITLEY: Well; the opposition to disinvestment cannot be that unless you have a White Paper you cannot disinvest.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Give us a policy and we will consider that. The fundamental point is, give us a policy.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, we are very clear about our policy. I am sure, if he yields, in the next five minutes let me make an endeavour to make him also clear about the policy.

18.00 hrs.

The policy of the Government is very clear. The policy is in the same language just as Dr. Manmohan Singh enshrined the policy in the 1990-91 Budget, and just as the Congress Government policy was in the industrial policy statement. In the three successive Budgets which Shri Yashwant Sinha has announced, each year, he has been announcing a policy in a separate chapter on disinvestment. He categorically stated last year that the policy of the Government is in generality of cases. Except the strategic areas, we come down to 26 per cent. In some cases, we can even come down. Even in the non-strategic areas, we will keep the public sector alive. We will keep the public sector where the countervailing presence of the public sector is required in the overall interest of the national economy. That is to say that there may be a danger of creation of private sector monopolies in the private sector, we keep the public sector. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You cannot convince your Ministers—Minister of Heavy Industries and Minister of Petroleum. You cannot convince your partner, Shri Vaiko.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Please do not worry about any of us. We are very clear about the policy. I am quite certain about the issues which have been raised. Even you have slowly started realising the wisdom of the policy. Now, you say: "My opposition is only confined to the private sector and not to the loss-making."*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please give us the policy. We know what it is. *...(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no; we cannot indulge in this luxury of wasting time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Fifteen more Members are there. We will have to complete the debate today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the BJP has officially acknowledged that they have no policy of disinvestment till date.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I did not realise that we had appointed somebody else as our spokesman on our policy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Your spokesman said that you have no policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, if interuptions are there, I will not be able to complete it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you interfering?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding. You are a senior Member.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): I am not interfering. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Minister for Disinvestment has agreed to continue the discussion for the other day also to have a serious, thorugh and analytical discussion on it. Therefore, do not put some cap on the time. That is my request. It is a very serious matter. All of a sudden, the discussion under Rule 193 has been accepted. The Government was not discussing the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir please let the debate continue till tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee that this subject will be completed today itself.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: No, we did not agree. ...*(Interruptions)* We all hear from the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It will run up to 8 o'clock—a minimum of four hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was originally allotted two hours. We have completed two hours. Fifteen Members are there to speak. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, the Minister for Disinvestment has agreed to continue the discussion even for the next day.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Even next Session!

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: That will not end the matter. Here everything will not end. The people will rise. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not comment in that manner. I am referring to the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me take the consent of the House. Fifteen Members are there to speak. The Minister has to give the reply. Is it the pleasure of the House to sit till completion of the debate?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: A question was raised about the methodology of the whole process. If shares are disinvested in a retail sale in the market, there are established practices by which it is done. There is a book-building method by which retail sales take place. I have examined that every retail sale which has taken place in this country from 1991 has followed the established market practice.

As far as strategic sales are concerned, you appoint your advisors, you assess the market and the selection of the partner is always by a transparent bidding process.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There is no transparency.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This is the first time I have come across an argument. Yes, you came out with the tender. You came out with the bidding process. You selected the highest price and also the best partner in that process. Is that bidding process not a transparent process?

The two are absolutely contradictory. There is not a single transaction which has taken place, nor is it taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Would the hon. Minister please explain the experience of GAIL and the book building process?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pal, the hon. Minister will give his reply. We cannot proceed with these running commentaries.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, we have discussed GAIL and it has a book building process...*(Interruptions)* The price you got in GAIL was higher than the market price. It was by a transparent bidding process. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to finish it by 8 p.m. Let him ask the question when the hon. Minister replies.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not replying, he is intervening.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please conclude now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, a question which has not been raised by my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, we have very clearly announced. This Government is very clear about the interest of the workmen. In every transaction, utmost care is taken that the interest of the workmen is going to be protected. In fact, it is for the first time that in the disinvestment processes, we have come out with Employees Stock Option Scheme where we are going to share the corporate wealth of an enterprise with the employees or the workmen as help in building up with those workmen. As a result of which we have had announcement in cases where trade unions have even issued statements supporting the effort to privatise some of the large undertakings. This is for first time in the country that such a situation is taking place. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: All trade unions have opposed it.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir let it continue till tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There was a strike for three days against the disinvestment policy of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can seek all these clarifications when the hon. Minister replies.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: He is giving wrong arguments before the House. He has nothing to do with workers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is just intervening and not replying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please conclude now. You can give your own views.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, there are only two more point. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, why is he misleading the House?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: He is making a wrong statement about trade unions. *...(Interruptions)* Even the alliance partners are in disagreement...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, he is replying to all the points that have been raised by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Well in a debate one certainly answers a speaker like Shri Aiyar. If Shrimati Alva had debated before him, I would have been answering her...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, first listen to him attentively only then you can come to know it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I have just two or three small points more. An issue was raised as to why you have, in the last nine months, not appointed the Disinvestment Commission? The Disinvestment Commission has given 58 recommendations. The Disinvestment Commission is a professional body which studies every company and then make very valuable detailed recommendations. This become an important basis for a Government to take a decision. But today out of the 58 companies, decisions with regard to 19 or 20 have been taken. These decisions are going to take time to implement. Certainly, a Disinvestment Commission would be required. But a Disinvestment Commission would be required after the last recommendations have been implemented and put into the process of implementation.

Sir, a question was also raised that there is a large private sector which is also doing badly. They are right,

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

'if there is somebody in the private sector who is also doing badly and therefore, why do you only say that we go ahead and disinvest the public sector in the whole process?' There is a fundamental distinction. That distinction is that the private sector, by whichever process, will take care of itself, whether by virtue of more investment, getting out its reserves, borrowing from banks and try and revive itself. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: According to Swaraj Paul's observation, 'there is no private sector'. The private sector is having money from the financial institutions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But he needed Swaraj Paul to tell him that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, their friend.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: But, there is a fundamental distinction and that, Shri Aiyar, is a distinction between apples and organges. When the private sector does badly, it is not the taxpayers of India who pay for its performances. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There are Rs. 54,000 crore of NPAs. Are we not paying for it? There are Rs. 62,000 crore of unpaid taxes. Are we not paying for it? You are handing over the public sector to the failed private sector*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is today the tax-payers' money and the Government makes a conscious choice as to what are the areas in which disinvestment is going to be put. Are we going to invest the tax-payers' money n businesses where a private sector investment is available or are we going to use it in the social sector, which is the declared policy of this Government?*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The provision in regard to education is going down and down. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What abou. Rs. 56,000 crore of NPA? It is your own figures? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The last argument which you have raised is this. The 13th question which you have raised was, what do we do with regard to the national honour which is involved? You are right. When these businesses are being run, and some of them, as you said, are the national carrier, there is the Indian flag affixed on them, there is certainly a very important element of national honour, which is involved. It is precisely for that reason that an effort is to be made to see that the national honour is not compromised with, they come out with the best services, best facilities available to their consumers, and are not run as inefficient organisations. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I do not think that Shri Sharad Yadav agrees with you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Well, certainly the Government is very clear about its policy. You did not have to worry about that. You please start worrying about what you did between 1991 and 1996, and you will certainly get a response from some of your colleagues on that.

I must say that the object of the disinvestment process is to make sure that the tax-payers' money is utilised for the best possible purpose in the social sector for the purposes of repaying its past debts and also for the purpose of reconstructing the public sector. Sir, the object of the disinvestment process. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? There is a lot of noise in the House. Please hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, you may not agree with him. You must hear him.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the object of the whole process is to ensure that the interest of the economy is best served, the interest of the units are best served, the economy is strengthened, and those units are revived. Some of them are sick. Some of them are moving towards sickness. We try and ensure that the best possible efficiency comes into the process. This particular process is an inherent part of the second generation reforms. This is not the first time that this august House is discussing it. The Finance Minister, in his three consecutive Budgets, had made the policy very clear. There is no question of the Government going back on this policy in any way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to intervene.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have just heard a sad news, through the newspaper sources, that a few journalists and photographers have been killed in a blast in Srinagar today. We want that this House should be informed by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, who is here now, as to what had exactly happened before the House rises for the day today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may get the information.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Now that the Chair has directed, we will inform the House before the House rises for the day. Again I assure the hon. Members that we will inform you about this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, regarding disinvestment of public enterprises, the former Disinvestment Minister has clearly mentioned in an unambiguous term—there is no ambiguity in me—that the public sector enterprises are going to be disinvested in the interest of the large and larger private industries and industrial houses.

After Independence and partition of the country, for the growth of our economy, for the growth of industrial output and to match with the agricultural development, the Public Sector had to play a dominant role. It was clarly stated in various industrial policy statements from 1948 to 1987. In 1999, a clear and a distinctive departure came about—it started earlier—when the idea of a welfare concept of State was given a go bye, when the idea of social responsibility of Public Sector Enterprises, other Government sectors including the Railways, was given a go bye. It was clear to me. At least, even now it is clear to me that the dynamics of the economy of our country, which was based on capitalist development, is destined to come into this stage. It was the State capitalism which developed. The capital was in the hands of the State but it served the capitalists and big industrial houses of this country. At that time, they had no power; they had no capital; and they had no money to build up this empire. The toiling measses, common men and all the people of the country have contributed to the exchequer. From and out of this fund, these Public Sector Enterprises were build up. Now, a the expense of the pulic exchequer, at the cost of the public money, at this stage again in the interest of the capitalists, these are going to be handed over to them simply. The price that is being determined is not corroborative with the real values of the asets. No re-valuation is being made and nothing is being done in this regard.

The Public Sector Enterprises are of different types. Some of the Public Sector Enterprises were built up, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said, really on the graveyard of the private sector. Those too attained a commanding height at a certain stage of development of our economy, and served the common men in different ways. We can exemplify by one such giant Public Sector Enterprise, namely, NTC. A revival package was drawn up during the Congress regime.

There is no doubt that they intiated the process. But during that period, during the period of disinvestment when it started, during the period of de-nationalisation, we could come to a point with trade unions, MPs, Ministers, there was a Committee, and we could come to a point where we nationalised—this Parliament nationalised—15 public sector undertakings. I mean taken-over units, under NTC. Fifteen were nationalised at that time!

Therefore, what I find here is, that the Congress Government started a process when Shri Arun Jaitley said—he is not here now—said that they were the exponents of that process, that they are continuing that process and that only within four years they have decided not 20 per cent, 100 per cent. The speed is so high that within four years they have completed the maximum limit from 20 per cent to 100 per cent. But I remember—you also may remember—that they were on this side at the time, when the process started they used to oppose it along with us.

Therefore, the politics of position, either this side or that side, the aspersions that has been thrown upon the Congress Party is there applicable to both of them. I do not know whether they will object to it or not. I find that there is no difference. Now they are on that side. They have given a high speed to it. And within four years, 20 per cent has turned into 100 per cent! And not only that: they are selling out the core sector—the idea of core sector has gone—the highly profitable, the highly profit-earning companies as well. Many points have been made in this regard. I do not want to repeat. I give some examples of the experience of disinvestment in England from an article "The Contrast today between India and Britain: The attitude towards the privatisation of public sector enterprises could not be sharper."

> "Privatisation is now seen by many sensible Britons as a big mistake, indeed a monumental era. British Airways, a long tom-tommed a privatisation's greatest success story is in dire trouble and hunting for trouble.
>
> British Telecom tariffs are among the highest in Europe, Britan's privatised water supply is so costly that many people prefer to disconnect altogether. This has created health problems in poor areas.
>
> Even worst is Britain's transport infrastructure. Broken up into small private divisions, the once first rate British Rail system now has appalling maintenance standards. One result of this was the recent Paddington accident, one of the Europe's worst.

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

> Today the trade mark red London double-decker bus, rarely runs on time. The bus network has been parcelled out into small fragments owned by companies more interested in cutting jobs and raising fares than in providing a semi-reliable service."

And our Minister in the course of his intervention—I do not know whether it was half a reply to the debate—said that the private companies whether they are either in profit or loss, do not tax the people. What is the conception of the economy, I do not know. Every process of manufacture, trade and marketing will be taxing directly or indirectly the people in our country.

This is the economic system where we are now.

A recent CMIE study found that PSUs use capital more efficiently than private companies. It has been mentioned by IROs.

In the first part of disinvestment, that is, in 1991-92 the C&AG estimated that public loss was about Rs. 3,342 crore in under-valued PSU shares sold in that year. *...(Interruptions)* I am not bailing them out. In subsequent years, till date, what is the opinion and observation of the C&AG regarding the valuation of the shares that were being sold?*...(Interruptions)*

The hon. Minister has said that economists and newspaper men are criticising. They are telling to hurry up, do hurriedly and sell everything. Why are you not selling? We have seen articles of different economists in the newspapers. There are dissenting voices also; dissension is there even in the Ministry and even in the Cabinet. I have also raised this point that Minister for Disinvestment should not be someone short of Prime Minister. He is deciding about disinvestment of airlines, textiles, heavy industries, chemical industries, etc.

Sir, when we meet in the Consultative Committees or in any other Parliamentary Committees, then the Secretaries and other people give information in a very rationed manner. The amount of ration is very low. They supply less information.

Sir, Secretary in the Ministry of Disinvestment has told before the Press that if the public sector enterprises are totally sold according to their policies, then Rs. 8 lakh crore will be fetched in the Government exchequer. It is all right. The Government may think over this point and come forward with a discussion here. We are here and we see from the newspapers only that this decision has been taken and that decision has been taken.

At the time of taking over the NTC, NJMC and various other organisations, there were enactments made in this House, but now, when disinvestment is being made, the House is not taken into confidence. We are not discussing the matter. We are not deciding. The Budget has been passed. Only in the Budgetary Speech, something has been mentioned in this regard and the process is going on. I mention this point because in the earlier days when rules were framed, we did not foresee that such type of a situation will arise. We have been deciding on investment; we have not been deciding on disinvestment. Therefore, this is a new situation, and in this new situation, a new policy has to be adopted on how the Parliament will have to be taken into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude, otherwise, we will not be in a position to conclude the discussion.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I am concluding Sir.

It has been said that disinvestment will help India to avoid debt trap. I am referring to the Secretary's remarks here. He has said:

> "India is heading towards a typical debt trap which could be avoided with disinvestment of public sector undertakings, from which it could recover at least Rupees Seven lakh crore."

18.31 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

In the Union Budget of 2000-2001, the interest payments are 50 per cent of the revenue receipts expected. Fifty per cent of the revenue earning will be paid just towards payment of interest on debt. This is the situation. This is leading towards a typical debt trap that could be avoided with disinvestment. This is what the Secretary has said. But nothing was said on the floor of the Parliament nor in any of the Committees where we do meet all these officers. Even when asked, they bypass, giving some obscure answer. This is a very new situation which we could not conceive of 15, 20 or even more years ago.

In the Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has said that about one-tenth of the anticipated receipts will be used for retiring Government debts and the rest for expenditure in the social sector and for restructuring of public sector enterprises. If there is no White Paper, if there is no clear-cut policy and report on the action taken on that policy, how can this be assessed? And if the policy and the action taken on that policy is not assessed by the Parliament, then what is the use of it?

I want to conclude with the point that at this juncture that the Government is out to hand over all the properties, assets and everything that the country has earned. The country has travelled a long distance for earning these assets and these are going to be handed over to private owners.

I can show that, since inception, straightway from the Budget money goes to the business houses in different ways. This money goes directly from the Budget to the big landowners in the name of farmers. We must distinguish between cultivators and non-cultivators. We must distinguish between peasantry and landowners. There is no distinction. Five per cent of the rural population own 45 per cent of the land. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Now it is clear that 45 per cent subsidy granted in water, electricity or other items is used by five per cent of the rural people.

[English]

This is now, directly and indirectly, the Government exchequer is paying to the big industrial houses and the big landowners. This policy is being continuously pursued. We are raising the voice of protest in this Parliament. We want that the dissenting parties and the dissenting Ministers and the Congress Party—which is re-thinking over their policies—will come together and join and defeat this process. If it is not defeated in this Parliament, it will be defeated outside the Parliament, before the people.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I rise to support the disinvestment policy of the N.D.A. Government. I was asking one of my colleagues which creature changes its colour seasonally. He told me that creature was know as chameleon in Hindi. Like it, Congress, too, has started changing its colours. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This thing applies to you totally...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Immediately after the Congress had announced its liberalisation policy, hon. Minister Shri L.K. Advani has said in Washington that the Congress has hijacked BJP's economic liberalisation policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems to me that there have been some sorts of changes in Congress of 21st century as compared to that of 90's and 2000. In 1998, it has made great efforts, but its number of seats gradually went down. ...*(Interruptions)* Its seats were disinvested. Congress has rolled down from 401 to 100 and its fear is that it could hardly gain its seats in double figures, if the first general election of the 21st century is held. As per its election stunt, there may be some differences between its present disinvestment policy and the previous one of the 90's and so be the right of each and every Party. But when a party changes its colour it offers something in sacrifice. It is said sacrificial goat in our Mumbai. A sacrificial goat is well fed before it is sacrified. ...* Mr. Aiyar has attained Brahma Gyan (Spiritual Wisdom) just now. If only he could get it earlier a bit from 1991 to 1995. Had it been so, thanks to you, small and middle-class investors could save about Rs. 3-4-5 thousand crores.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANTAWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is a parliamentary institution and therefore, the words of defamation used for him are unparliamentary. You can consider it later on and if you think that I am right, they should be expunged.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. It should be expunged.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, there is nothing defamatory...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): When they used such words in their speech, we digested them. Now, why can they not digest?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to quote the utterance of Dr. Manmohan Singh and these were also quoted by you.

---

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

"to encourage wider public participation and promote grater accountability, up to 20 percent of Government equity in selected public sector undertakings would be offered to mutual funds and investment institutions in public sector."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Is the private sector mentioned? Is the multinational mentioned? Is the strategic sale mentioned? Is the ownerhisp central being transferred? Is the management contral being transferred?

[Translation]

Read it, but read it repeatedly and understand it. Then let me listen to it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: If you have to listen only that much, I would say further that you have harmed yourself. I am quoting the same thing which Dr. Manmohan Singh utterred once.

[English]

20 percent selected investment in public sector financial institutions and mutual funds'.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is for wider public participation, but not for Ambani's participation.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: And what else to recite? If you see the history of disinvestment made from 1991 to 1995, you will find it that you have disinvested about Rs. five crores by selling shares to Mutual Fund, Public Undertakings and Financial Institutions. That was not for public. You did not buy any share in foreign market.

[English]

You sold this 20 per cent equity to the Unit Trust of India.

[Translation]

In this way, U.T.I. suffered a loss of Rs. 3500 crores. From 1991 to 1995 U.T.I. disinvested in Public Sector and the Government suffered a major set back. The Government bailed out by giving away Rs. 3500 crores and this was just because of you since you had transferred the shares.

[English]

It was a total window-dressing and cheating.

[Translation]

You have cheated the public. You sold shares to U.T.I. on higher rates U.T.I. could not do anything. Whose money is there in U.T.I.? This includes two crores and fifty lakhs rupees of the small investors. Today the downfall of U.T.I. 64 is mainly due to your Government and you were asking it from Shri Arun Jaitley.

[English]

He was asking to publish the White Paper.

[Translation]

Whether Shri Arun Shouri publishes the white paper or the red paper, it would show the black deeds of yours Government only.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Your Swadeshi Jagran Manch is raising its voice, you issue that Circular.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have said that whether it is the White Paper or the Red Paper, it would show the black deeds of your Governments of both of you.

[English]

"In July, 1991, the Government, in order to improve portfolio and performance of public sector enterprises, announced a new Industrial Policy which contained major decisions in respect of the public sector. Those decisions included the reduction in the list of industries reserved for the public sector from 17 to 4 areas."

This Disinvestment Policy is a good policy, and I support it.

[Translation]

Because I clearly say that four out of seventeen public sector industries are sick. There might be some compulsion in 1970. I do not want to go into the details of 1970 and 1980. Nationalisation was done at that time, which was started by you. I have not asked the Congress how 17 Public Sector Industries turned four subsequently which of them were strategic or core industries.

[English]

You have asked 13 questions, and the Minister will reply to them. You wanted to differentiate the public sector in terms of core sector, strategic sector and so on.

This is meant for the people, the common man on the street, who are living below the poverty line. Now, you are taking about 'below poverty line' people; you are talking about socialistic economy.

[Translation]

Those who live in slums and jhuggis use Maruti cards. Whether Maruti Factory was set up by Hon'ble Shri Arun Shouri?

[English]

Was it done out of compulsion or was it considered as a strategic sector? In Maruti Udyog, the Government, of India does not have 51 per cent of shares. You have started the globalisation. What sort of globalisation is this? You have given 50 per cent of the shares to Suzuki, and 50 per cent to the Government of India. Could you not have retained 51 per cent?

[Translation]

Whether the Maruti Car is for the common people? You talk about disinvestment. 23 out of your 24 hotels, are running into losses. These five star Centur hotels.

[English]

Are these for tourism development? What kind of tourism development are we talking about?

[Translation]

I can understand if somebody contruct a small Dharamshala in the forests of Rajasthan or at Varanasi in U.P. and the Government makes the provision in the Budget, I would support it. But if Centur Hotel is constructed at Juhu just opposite to Mumbai Airport and runs into losses which goes from the pocket of common man would you like to continue that policy? Who pays the losses incurred by Public Sector.

[English]

What do we mean by 'Government of India'? The Government of India, in other words, represents one hundred crore people.

[Translation]

This money belongs to tax payers. If you have used the Tax-payer's money for controlling the floods, for the the construction of dams instead of investing it in the Maruti Factory, the losses there would have been minimised.

[English]

We have to define this strategic sector. I am only asking you to think ahead. What is a profit-making unit? You were discussing about profit-making public sector units.

[Translation]

Today there number has gone up to 117.106 out of 237 units went on in curring losses. These 106 units were not incurring losses at that time. About 10-15 years ago, they would have been making huge profit.

[English]

Due to urbanisation and by allowing private industries in that, due to the ending of monopolistic economy, they were making losses.

[Translation]

I am not blaming you or anyone else for this. Infact, I want to ask this House to stop all this drama, Banatwalaji do not go after the meaning of drama. Leave aside the issue of your Government or this Government. If you want to know the rate of return on two lakhs fifty thousand crores investment made in it, I can read out the figures. You can get to many statistical figures.

[English]

The figure varies from one per cent to six per cent. Everybody is giving different figures. What is the rate of return that we are getting? Somebody says, it is one per cent; somebody else says, it is two per cent or 4 per cent.

[Translation]

Out of this figure, if you take out monoplistic P.S.Us, Oil P.S.Us, this percentage will even come down to below 2 percent. Shri Arun Shouri will provide you the exact figures, and he will tell you the definition of oil P.S.Us. Hon'ble Shri Ram Naik is present here. The petrol pumps of your oil PSUs will be sold outside by 2002.

[English]

How will you stop them? When the Reliance and other private industries would come in, how would we stop them? Are we able to prevent persons from entering into the telecom market?

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

You come to Mumbai. It has already been started in Bangalore and Indore and the users Telecom service has been introduced there.

The value of MTNL began to fall down. It will automatically go down. New connections are installed at customers' residences in Mumbai. We say we do not want any new number.

[English]

You only make out-going calls.

[Translation]

M.T.N.L. does not get money for incoming calls. Incoming calls are paid by the users. They say to use MTNL box for incoming calls while to use them or out-going calls.

[English]

They are concentrating only on big customers.

[Translation]

Today you opened the gateway. So, what will happen with V.S.N.L.? What will happen to VSNL? MTNL will survive, VSNL will survive B.P.C.L. will survive and so will be I.O.C. survive.

[English]

After five years they are going to become NTCs.

[Translation]

This is written on the wall and we should dare to read it.

[English]

We are the leaders of the country.

[Translation]

Today country is looking at us from different prospective. Forget those socialists, Congress communists, BJP, BJD, Shivesena, N.D.A, but we will have to think about it. If we do not think about it and went on making debates in such a way, a lot of units will turn sick and suffer losses, excluding some of oil sector units and some 10-15 major profit-making ones of power sector.

[English]

It goes in minus.

[Translation]

What are we doing with the power sector?

[English]

What is happening in the power sector.

[Translation]

We are privatising power generation but we are not keeping in mind that we are going to commit a great mistake with the society, country as well as with the economic policy. We are toying with all these things.

[English]

It is because when it was recommended that power generation must go with distribution.

[Translation]

No private sector is ready to come forward in distribution since who will recover the bills? Nobody has power to recover dues. Power stealing is more in fashion and mafias are there in racket so you cannot recover bill dues in this way.

[English]

Losses are in the distribution.

[Translation]

Which parties are in power in different States? Almost all parties are in power in States. We are going to privatise power generation but not the distribution. Burden of losses of distribution is coming into our hand and in this way the private companies are to come into this sector.

[English]

Who has started globalisation?

[Translation]

If I tell you the figure for tax exemption granted to each company, you will be surprised. I will tell you about foreign television companies and Indian television companies.

[English]

Indian television companies have to pay 38 percent income tax and the foreign television companies have to pay just 4.5 per cent income tax.

[Translation]

This has not been by the N.D.A. Government but by the previous Government. My intention is not just to frame charges but I want to show you that this globalisation was started by an eminent economist. Don't forget that it was started by your Government, leave it to that. I do not want to frame a charge simply. A high profile economist has told me what we do first by waking up early in the morning. We do not take breakfast first of all. First we do mouth-washing. Mouth-brushing and then we go to bathroom. We take a bath and then after that we take a breakfast.

[English]

What should we have done?

[Translation]

We establish PSUs in monopoly areas. Because of this, there is no efficiency and accountability. Somebody comes to me after 11 *i.e.* at 11.25.

[English]

Are we able to tell?

Translation]

If someone is there to say in the Ministry or in P.S.U. why you come late and why you leave at a quarter to 6 instead of 6.

[English]

We cannot do anything.

[Translation]

This is 25-30 year-old system. A monopolistic culture is prevalent there. There is no question of efficiency or accountability. What have we done there?

We have globalised the trade. On one hand there will be a giant global companies before the V.S.N.L. and on the other hand there will be the same 30-year-old monopolistic culture. How will they last it?

Chairman, Sir, I would like to say him to study beyond Navratna Units.

[English]

All of them are earning profits only due to their monopoly in the market.

[Translation]

The other thing that they were demanding *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: How can you say that? I will give you the example of BHEL.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: It is a fact. I am telling you.

[Translation]

First of all we should do corporatisation of P.S.Us. After that we should do privatisation followed by globalisation and disinvestment, but what did we do first? The same thing that I said earlier—bath, brush and toilet. Really I do not want to go into the datas, otherwise, I can give you 10 times more figures than you have given in this connections. I want to put a Gujarati proverbs before you. The sense of this proverb is that the King is not responsible to undertake a trade.

[English]

How will we able to save our economy.

[Translation]

If the King himself undertakes a trade who will rule over and look after the administration. *..(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: That is why the country is suffering..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The country is not going to become beggar. I am telling you actuality. The total investment was made to the tune of Rs. 18 thousand crores. Yashwant Sinha ji has started disinvestment from 1998. Out of Disinvestment of Rs. 5300 crores only Rs. 700-800 crores have been done outside and remaining Rs. 4000 crores in P.S.Us and in oil sector etc., thus it is obvious that it all has been done inside the country. In 1992 the disinvestment was done to the tune of Rs. 2000 or 2500 crore. Some of it was done in certain institutions and disinvestment to the tune of

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

Rs. 2000 or less than 2200 was done by the N.D.A. Government. Remaining whatever has been done by the previous Government. I am not alleging him. Now shares have been sold. I want to say that why these all have been sold to the Unit Trust of India. You have done a job like a man who has sold all his jewellery and other things.

[English]

It is not our business. It is not the business of the Government to do business.

[Translation]

You just doubled the amount of small units. I want to say other thing.

[English]

What have you scored? You think about what has hapened in shares. We hae opened up radio and T.V. Now we are going in for open sky policy.

[Translation]

The total expense on All India Radio is Rs. 500 crores per year.

[English]

What is their earning, It is Rs. 90 crore.

[Translation]

There is strategic sector. This time we have sold the Licence of F.M. Radio. Bidding has been done.

[English]

Do you know how much the Government has earned.

[Translation]

The Government has got Rs. 430 crores for a year. The country will progress only after economic progress.

[English]

These are facts.

[Translation]

Now you see that Rs. 430 crore has been given as a royalty and the income of Rs. 90 crore will be of Rs. 10 crore.

[English]

Everything is there.

[Translation]

I want to quote here the figures of a mutual fund in front you. Till 1995-96 there was monopoly of Unit Trust of India in this Government sector. Rs. 5900 crores have been collected during 1995-96. On the other hand the I.D.B.I. or the I.C.I.C.I. of mutual fund and other companies.

[English]

They have collected Rs. 296 crore.

[Translation]

Only Rs. 296 crores have been collected.

19.00 hrs.

[English]

How much the private mutual fund can collect? Rs. 312 crores.

[Translation]

Out of Rs. 6,508 crores in 1995-96 Rs. 312 crores have been collected from Private mutual fund. How much per cent is that, you can find out.

[English]

What has happened. You know in 1990-00

[Translation]

There may be benefit from the saving in 1999-2000 I am quoting here both the facts. The Public Sector Undertakings will have to think over it. In 1999-2000 there was 96% monopoly of Unit Trust and Government Mutual Fund.

[English]

During 1999-2000 it had come down to just 23 per cent.

[Translation]

You will be astonished at hearing the figures.

[English]

During 1999-2000 the Mutual fund could collect Rs. 61221 crore.

[Translation]

We have gone up ten times in four years. The total collection of the Unit Trust of India is Rs. 13,698 crores. The remaining mutal fund of the Government is of Rs. 3,817 crores and Private mutual fund is of Rs. 43,706 crores. What will happen now, I am telling you. In his P.S.Us list, they have not included. F.I.I., F.I.O. like the Unit Trust of India, this is also going to be sick. Unit 64 is already sick. Rs. 3500 have been provided last year because.

[English]

with the private mutual fund, you would not be able to compete.

[Translation]

I am praying to the Government to increase the speed. I can cite many examples. I am requesting that there is some time. Whatever section is left there before globalisation, corporatise it first. Now the Department of Telecommunication is there. We use to issue provide licence outside. Hon. Pranav Mukherjee has signed an agreement on W.T.O. In 2005 the World Telephone Services will start coming here and there is no need of signals because there is satellite. They will provide direct signal. You will be able to make a call direct to America.

[English]

Within Mumbai and Delhi there would not be an STC charges.

[Translation]

What will happen to M.T.N.L. and V.S.N.L.

[English]

Let us think about it.

[Translation]

We should have discussion over it.

I am about to conclude my statement after saying one thing. My last issue is disinvestment. The process has been started here. The main cause is that the units or so called profit making units from years they will be loss making units even after their monopoly. There are 19 lakh workers. How much money will we spent on these workers. We will pay them their salary every year from our budget. Can we use this amount for developmental activities, infrastructure development, to set up new power projects, new irrigation projects, to construct new roads instead, I think the role of disinvestment policy must be considered on this view point. Banks have not been counted here in this regard. If you want to see the situation of Banks, you will find that their situation is also very miserable. Public issues came into market this year and the public issue come till this time last years.

[English]

I will tell you the figures also. Till 1996-97.

[Translation]

In the public issues used to come 92% collection was made through P.S.Us Bank.

[English]

What happened during 1999-2000?

Out of the total collection of Rs. 33,435 crore the bank accounted for only 31 per cent. We have already gere in for globalisation. How much globalisation is there? What has happened? Out of Rs. 33,435 crore collection, the foreign banks collected Rs. 9,233 crore.

[Translation]

Whatever public issue is floated only our money is collected. It's 25% profit in all went to foreign Banks. What is the state of affairs in P.S.U. Banks. Today three Banks have become sick. Hon'ble Arun Jaitley has given example of Karnataka. The Finance Minister of Maharashtra has given statement. The Government of BJP and Shiv Sena has been there for four and a half years ad for the rest of the period they were there. What is the position of the P.S.Us there.

[English]

"An accumulated loss of Rs. 248 crore as against the paid up capital of Rs. 78 crore."

[Translation]

They have also now started taking decision as to what should be done in this regard you have not counted the total loss in respect of the P.S.Us of the State Government. If their loss is counted in that. I tell you about Karnataka only.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

> "There are two thousand PSUs, over 75 per cent of which are incurring regular losses with an investment of over Rs. 4,50,000 crore. Only Karnataka alone has 78 PSUs with an investment of Rs. 16,124 crore. Fifty-one out of these have accumulated losses worth Rs. 2,236 crore."

[Translation]

My request is that we should look into this matter more seriously because we are here and you will be there. You start disinvestment process there. The party, which is not in power there makes an attempt to arouse public sentiments of such type. Some where you are in power and somewhere you are in opposition. But the country has entrusted responsibility to us. I do not want to point a finger on what we have done in the past. But the coming generation would ask you Aiyerji; Rupchand Palji; Geeteji that you were present in the Lok Sabha. You people were responsible. You gave rupees 4.5 lakh crore to the P.S.Us of the state Govt. and rupees 2.5 lakh crores to the PSUS of the Government of India *i.e.* in rupees Seven lakh crore given to the P.S.Us Banks and financial Institutions were not counted. The value of P.S.Us having worth of rupees seven lakh crores have become rupees seventy thousand crore, what had you been doing.

I request that we should view this disinvestment policy with a positive attitude.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Honourable Chairman, Sir, in this age of globalisation all nations of the world are mobilising their resources in view of their respective interests. The process of globlisation is complicated and multi dimensional. Under this process we have to see that with the adoption of what aspect of which process will be the utmost beneficial for our country. The Natioins in the world who are economically and industrially sound are in search of market for their produce items at other places in the world. The nations who are full of human resources, they are making efforts to place themselves in the hierarchy of leading nations of the world by exploring places for their industries based on population and export purposes of their human resources. But the most unfortunate aspect of our country is that even after blind imitation of the western pattern of globlisation for the last ten years at a stretch we could not decide till date as to what aspect should be adopted and efforts be made to put our nation in the map of the world.

Today, this is the result of that thing and due to wrongs policies of the Government a class of society which constitutes 70% of the population of this country is badly affected. Today, the farmers are pining for fertilizers, seeds and water due to the very wrong policies of the Government. He is not being provided power-supply and also the basic facilities, which should been provided to farmer of the country. Even after 54 years of independence of the country, the same things are not being provided the farmers today.

The youth of the country is facing the problems of joblessness and unemployment. No gain of this policy has proved successful anywhere for reducing unemployment within the country. Today, disinvestment in public sector undertakings is the most important question. This plea is being given in favour of privatisation that a process of disinvestment should be adopted in such public sector undertakings which are running in losses. Undoubtedly this process should be adopted in such public sectors undertakings running in losses. But if we hand over the profit making public sector undertakings to the private sector and also privatise them, the country will be bound to go to hell certainly.

Today, the economic position of Russia and Hungry is the very result of that blind imitation and privatisation. When a process of disinvestment continued for three years in Hungry, the economic condition of it had been very good. But since the profits began to siphen off in other Countries, the economic condition of Hungry is known to all. Today, the ruling persons in this government are under this gayful understanding that they will abridge the budgetory loss through the process of disinvestment. Today, what disinvestment process has been adopted by various Government to abridge the budgetory loss.

Various Governments have adopted disinvestment process in order to meet the budgetary defecit. The targets fixed by the Government could not be achieved till so far under the process of disinvestment. The people in the Government had said that Public Sector undertakings are the temples of Independent India. Its not a new thing as they have started destroying these temples of Independent India one by one. This Government and Bhartiya Janta Party is in the habbit of demolishing temples and religious places. I want to say that the way this Government is adopting the process of disinvestment..*(Interruptions)* It's not my view, you people, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, B.J.P. and R.S.S. all had said that these are the temples of Inependent India but contradiction could be seen within National Democratic Alliance. Hon. Shri Ram Naik and Shri Arun Shouri is sitting here. They have their different views on disinvestment process. You must accept this fact. You speak different languages in the House and among the people. This dual policy and thinking is making mess of the country. Just now our colleague Shri Kirit Somaiya

gave a hint at the deteriorating work efficiency in the public undertakings. I want to say that very few members are present in the House, when the issue of disinvestment is being debated when we enter the House at 11 A.M. and till the House adjourned, how many members remain present. We should think over it. We are the mirror of the society. Society expects from us some new initiatives when we ourselves do not perform our duty, it is meaning less to expect from P.S.Us employees to be present on their duty from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Firstly the Prime Minister of the Country, Union Ministers and Hon. Members of Parliament should perform their duties and responsibilities properly. If we do our duties and responsibilities honestly only then we can expect this from the people.

Public Sector undertakings of the country are being destroyed one by one by the same Government who have declared them as the temples of Independent India.

The factual position is that in the name of disinvestment and on the lines of Globalisation both profit making and loss incurring P.S.Us are being shut down. I want to give the examples of M.M.T.C. and S.T.C. Both have earned reputation in the country as well as in foreign countries. As per my information Government have taken a decision to disinvest them. Cent-percent. This information may be incorrect but I want to express my concerns regarding the future of those employees who at the time of joining the P.S.Us had thought to serve it for 30,35 years. Today those who have served only for 10-15 years are being offered the voluntary Retirement Scheme. Their future is being darkened. We agree to the limit that this investment process be in the interest of the country, but then if you think that you are going to improve the future of the country by darkening the future of millions of employees by pushing up this process then to my opinion your this view point is good for nothing, against the interest of the country, and also anti national step. Your policy of compulsorily retiring people and closing down even profit manking public enterprises is anti national. For God sake, give up this policy in the country's interest. We donot oppose disinvestment where it is absolutely necessary.

The way and the process you have adopted as regards retirement of employees of STC and MMTC can raise the issue of future of millions of employees in the country. I suggest that you should initiate monthly allowance scheme. You are forcibly retiring those who have put in 10-15 years of service and subsequently pay them some money. This is not going to secure their future. Please initiate Monthly Allowance Scheme and pay at least that much by which they can feed their family. The process of disinvestment which is being adopted by this Government today is an anti national act. This is an act of dooming dowing the country. Hence I strongly opose the present policy of the Government.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of disinvestment, which was started in 1991, was based on the type of economy that we have in our country. This was started mainly to see that the funds of the financial institutions, including banks, are utilised to acquire the shares of the select public enterprises and the amount so realised should also be used for the welfare, health, education as also to help various companies strengthen their labour force by way of VRS.

If you look at the investment that is going into the public sector today, it is more than Rs. 2,30,000 crore. The main purpose behind the idea of disinvestment was to see that the deficit finance comes down. If we continue to invest in this sector, we would have lost more than Rs. 3,50,000 crore. It means, indirectly it affects our deficit finance. The main purpose behind this disinvestment was to see that we put a stop on the policy adopted by the earlier Government. The process was started during the regime of the earlier Government when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. Irrespective of the Party in power, it is an on-going process. It is a continuous process. We should only see that we go in the right direction, follow right methodology and disinvest only such institutions where it is required. The Disinvestment Commission should assess it properly and then only refer the matter to the Government.

On the basis of that the Government should be able to approve the realistic method of approach. Already, 58 companies have been selected. Out of which 18 to 19 companies have been permitted. In these companies more than 240 public sector units are involved. Some of them are manufacturing units, and some of them are in the service sector. As I mentioned earlier, when disinvestment was started in 1991-92, only Rs. 3000 crore was disinvested, in 1992-1993, they did only up to Rs. 1900 crore, in 1993-94, they did not disinvest anything, in 1994-95, they could disinvest only Rs. 800 crore and again in 1995-96, they disinvested Rs. 362 crore. In 1996-97, Rs. 380 crore, in 1997-98 Rs. 902 crore, in 1998-99 about Rs. 5000 crore, and in 1999-2000 Rs. 1500 crore were disinvested. So, out of a target of Rs. 44,000 crore, they could disinvest only up to Rs. 18,000 crore. The total amount that they could disinvest in spite of so much

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

efforts, is only to see that the policy which was going on earlier is reversed and to see how we could stop this money from flowing into the sectors where the return is going to be very low. It is also to improve the economy of this country. For this purpose, the money has to be invested elsewhere. That is the main object of disinvestment. The hon. Members have mentioned many things. I do not want to repeat those things. There may be some lapses and some mistakes somewhere. Those things need to be taken care of. That is why, we need to have the policy of transparency to show how it is going on, what is the system that we should follow in the larger interest of the country and the larger interest of the labour. We have to see where this amount should be utilised. That is the major thing.

Recently, we have seen that they have also taken some decision to bring the Government share in the Hindustan Zinc to 26 per cent, in Shipping Corporation of India — to 40 per cent, in Hindustan Organic Chemicals to 33 per cent, in Hindustan Insecticides to 51 per cent, in MMTC to 51 per cent, in STC to 91.3 per cent and in Sponge Iron to 97.5 per cent. There is no disinvestment in this. There is no disinvestment in IBP. Like that they have taken up a number of analysis on the basis of various institutions. There are some cases where they have also criticised and they want to have some more information on these things. The Ministry has also taken proper care while taking into account the cases of Indian Airlines and Air India. If you continue with the method that is operating, there are the cases where you can also improve on these things. Recently, I have to analyse one of the units of Andrew Yule. They were making losses for the last 10 years. They have privatised it and made a profit of Rs. 5 crore in the first year. It is because the unit is good. But the only thing was that they did not have the marketing strategy. So, we need to strengthen each organisation where it is required to be strengthened in the larger interest of the country. They were able to get the world market. The German Company was able to take that unit and was also able to get world market. They are also expanding that unit. It shows that if we have the strength in a particular sector, we may improve. We may have some weaknesses. Today, we can say we are strong in software sector. We can strengthen our country in this sector and improve our economy. We could also increase the entrepreneurship and employment potentialities.

There are some units in the *Navratnas* where weakness and sickness are there. In the selection for disinvestment of these units we should take into consideration their strategic value and should not go in for disinvestment of such units. But there are certain units where the Government can go up to 26 per cent and still keep some sort of its hold on them.

As everyone has said, today disinvestment policy has become a continuing process of every successive Government. There is nothing wrong in the disinvestment policy. But the only point we have to see is the policy that is operating, the methodology that is going in and the transparency that is adopted. Then it should be done in the larger national interest and to safeguard the workers' interest. I see that in a number of cases this amount is used for the VRS. It has really helped strengthen those companies by reducing the unnecessary workforce. Those workers also have got an alternative service. This sort of a policy is very important.

I would not like to go into the case study of each unit as to what happened in each case, who has done what, which Government has done it at what time, etc. For me, the procedure has to be more transparent. If we follow that, I am sure we would avoid the debt trap for our country and well will strengthen our economy.

One hon. Member has cited the China example. They have also done a lot of privatisation and liberalisation. It improved the strength of their economy. Where we need, we should follow them and where we need to stand on our own, we should not act detrimental to our national interest. Our public sector units were the basic supporters of our economy. Now we have to give them a little more freedom as we have done in the case of the Indian Telephone Industry. When they were getting only cost-plus, they used to make profits. But, when they had to compete in the market where people are looking for quality and better type of equipment, they lost. Again, when the management was given an opportinity to select its own partners, to go in for diversification, to opt for the type of collaboration they want, to have freedom with the size of the labour force and other facilities, now they are able to improve themselves. The same is the case with Bharat Electronics. That is why, the policy should be to give them wide freedom and opportunities to improve on their economy so that the common man also gets all the products that they are manufacturing with competitive quality at a reasonable price. Ultimately, what we have to look at is the customer. We should give him the importance that he deserves and with that objective in mind we should strengthen the industrial scenario of this country.

With these words, I feel that disinvestment is an essential thing for us. By taking all precautions, I am sure this Government will take into consideration the fact that transparency is very important.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a representative of the common man, the shareholders and the investors of

the country in the Parliament, I am before you just to remind that the people elected us and gave us power to govern the country and manage the properties which were created, the investments which were made and the assets which were built for the past fifty years. It should be managed better by the new Government. That was the reason why the people elected us.

But, here we are actually accepting and confessing that we cannot manage certain things. How will the people accept this failure? They elected us because they thought that we he got the managerial capacity, we have got the administrative capacity, we have got a very powerful executive consisting of people from the Indian Administrative Service and we have got huge Government machinery. In addition, we have got the legislative powers and there is judiciary also. But, with all these powers with us, we are telling the people that we cannot manage these properties.

The property which was created for the past 50 years cannot be managed by us. We are becoming insolvent. We are creating a Disinvestment Ministry, an insolvent Ministry, a bankrupt Ministry which cannot control this country. That is the confession that we are making before the common man, before 100 crores of people who have invested their money with us. Kindly remember that in our Constitution, our nation is proclaimed as that of a socialist pattern of society. We have to govern and manage the property which were given to us. We are having a term of five years. Within those five years, how are we going to invest these properties? How are we going to protect the money which have been invested through us as the national property? We are telling them that we cannot manage it. We are confessing it. The Indian Administrative Service has failed. The bureauracy has failed. They cannot control it. They cannot give protection through their machinery. We are proving that we cannot give protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Don't criticise the Indian Administrative Service.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Kindly do not interrupt. I am not yielding to you. Formally, you may be in the Indian Administrative Service but we are accepting that the Indian Administrative Service has failed to control now. It has controlled the country for the past 50 years. They controlled the PSUs. Now they say that they cannot control them and that it has to be given to the private enterprises. How can you say like that? The IAS themselves confess that they cannot control it and that disinvestment is the remedy for it. What about us, the politicians? What about the Ministers? The Prime Minister is telling that we cannot control the PSUs. This is the confession that you are making. Why cannot you control it? Hon. Naik is controlling a very powerful Ministry in a perfect way. Why cannot we control it in that way? We can control everything. We have got the managerial capacity. The Indian Administrative Service is having the capacity to govern the country. Then why are you saying that you cannot control it? The period of Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a golden period. You may take the example of 1984-89. Do not take the example of subsequent years. Bureaucrats were trained in that period. They were asked to come up to modernity. They were given training to come up to a modern world of 21st century. Ministers were trained in training camps. All the people were trained. Shri Chandrababu Naidu is following those steps now. We are praising him but not following him at the national level. We have to equip ourselves because the nation has thought that a democratic rule can give more profitability by its own control.

The public sector was the dream of Jawaharlal Nehru. It was because even the peasant's son can get employed there. Nehru throught that a socialist pattern of society is the remedy for a developing country as the private enterprises had not come up to that stage. We cannot copy the Western type of democracy. They are not having anything to control. They are going in for privatisation in everything. Then, are you going to leave education to private sector totally? You are going to leave transport sector to them. You are going to leave agriculture and everything to the private enterprises. Then what is the need for a democratic Government? What is the necessity for a democratic, socialist republic? Therefore, we have to think on these lines.

I want to remind you that in Tamil Nadu, we are having a prestigious public sector enterprise, the Hindustan Photo Films Limited. It is prestigious in Ootacamund. But what happened? The labourers are ready to sacrifice their salaries. They got only 46 per cent of their salaries. They are ready to tighten their own belt. They went to sacrifice their own wages and are ready to give the profit to that industry. Why should you not give that industry to the labourers? You give it to them, you give them a chance for one year. They will show that they can control it. What about the Indian Bank? In Singapore alone, it has got an asset worth Rs. 2000 crore. You want to privatise it. The private people will sell it in a minute and take away the money. Insurance companies and all other PSUs are located in each cosmopolitan city. Can an ordinary person in a private company purchase that property now?

No. They cannot purchase the property because we gave it away. In Connaugut Place, the LIC is having its office. The Canara Bank and the Citi Bank are having their office premises on lease basis because they cannot

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Nachiappan]

purchase the property. We have purchased the property. We are owning it. Mr. Minister, you say that you cannot control it and therefore you are disinvesting it. The same case is going to happen in the case of the Salem Steel Plant. The BHEL, Trichy is making profit and paying a dividened of Rs. 60 crore. You want to sell that also. What will happen finally? We will be left alone. India is the pioneer for the entire Asian countries to show that the socialistic pattern of society is the only remedy for the developing countries. We have done it. Kindly remember the history.

The NDA Government has said, especially the BJP has said that *Swadeshi* is its principle. What is Swadeshi according to you? The Indians have managed this and they can manage this. They can control it. They can run the undertakings very well. That is *Swadeshi*. That is the prestige of Indians. Now, you are telling that any company from any nation can come and purchase the property because you are not capable of controlling it. You say that you do not have the managerial capacity to run the undertakings and you are running out of profit. Therefore, you tell them to come and take everything here. What is this? Kindly have the remembrance of the history so that people cannot blame us in future. The property of the nation cannot be dwindled away like this for sake of getting a few crores of rupees by way of disinvestment. Disinvestment is the acceptance of the Government that you cannot control it and manage it properly. Kindly review this policy because lakhs and lakhs of labourers are living on their wages. Lakhs and lakhs of people are suffering and starving.

19.36 hrs.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia *in the Chair*]

They are not earning any wages at all now. They are marching to Parliament Street and holding demonstrations. they are starving. They are making agitation. How many lakhs of people are agitating before Parliament? Kindly remember it. The important point is that poor people have invested their money for the last fifty years.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am standing here in support of the Policy of the NDA Government in respect of disinvestment. But is it the only way to deal with the situation with regard to the public sector? Or, can this Government think of restructuring the public sector? The entire nation is very much grateful to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who introduced the concept of public sector. The public sector undertakings started their units in the rural areas of the entire nation where development took place in those areas, and jobs were made available to the youngsters of our nation. It was a dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to give the right to earn bread and butter for the people of this nation. But his ideas and dreams were shattered by the then Congress Government.

I can quote a number of examples. Many hon. Members have given examples in terms of statistics. They used some good English words also and referred to apple and everything. But I am putting a very simple question. No hon. Member in his speech has held anybody responsible for the losses the public sector undertakings are making. the public sector companies were started in respect of the monopoly areas. The licensing system of the then Congress governemnt forced the public sector undertaking to compete with the private sector and the multinationals. But before giving licences to the other private industries, what was the feature? Which way was this handled? We, the political leaders in this august House and that too the Congress regime, are much more responsible for the losses of the public sector enterprises. The political people were interfering in the day to day activities of the public sector undertakings Whether any recruitment is necessary or not, the Ministers and the political leaders from the Congress Party were forcing the public sector undertakings to recruit people. Here, I want to quote one example. In the case of IRCON, which is a subsidiary of the Railways, one Minister concerned forced the Charman or the MD of IRCON saying that he was sending a note and he should recruit about 200 persons immediately.

The Managing Director said: "Sir, I do not have any job for these unskilled labourers, you do not send these labourers to us." He said: "Nothing doing,

[Translation]

They are my boys and they should get jobs.

[English]

They should get employment whether you have jobs or not. Otherwise, you pack up. You wil be tranferred for not listening to the Minister." So, the Minister had recommended recruitment of persons without any accountability, without seeing whether the jobs are available or not, with seeing whether the cost of production will go up or not and without seeing whether the public sector undertaking will be able to compete in the market. He had forced the Managing Director to recruit those persons.

Sir, there is a unit of M/s. Richards and Crudas in my constituency. They were supplying certain materials to the Railways. The then Railway Minister of the Congress regime—he is a Member of this House, I do not want to take his name—called the Managing Director of that undertaking and said: "Sorry, I am shifting whatever orders you are getting from the Railways to a private company because you cannot give me commission."...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the basis of what information is he making this allegation?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I have given this in writing to the former Railway Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he is making an insinuation. ...*(Interruptions)* What else is this?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, these people are responsible for all these things. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we have heard them. They have to hear us now. They should not interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say how the dream of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was shattered by these Congress people. This is just a small example of that I am giving you. So, the orders to M/s. Richards and Crudas were stopped like that. When Shri Ram Naik became the Minister of State for Railways, I brought this matter to his notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You have sold out the Modern Industries in five crore rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: We have observed transparency and it is NDA's practice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, when Shri Ram Naik became the Minister of State for Railways, he rectified this mistake within 20 days and orders were placed, again, to M/s. Richards and Crudas at Baikulla unit. So, this is how that factory was revived. So, these Congress people have spoiled such public undertakings. Whenever they intervened, they intervened in recruitment, they intervened in the purchase of raw materials and they even intervened in the matter of awarding contracts. Above all this, wherever there were outstanding recoveries from these public sector units, they were forcing upon the management not to recover the money. I can give hundreds of such examples. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I made an insinuation, Shri Arun Shourie correctly objected and withdrew my remark. If he cannot substantiate what he is insinuating now, I do not think he can make such remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I will substantiate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is the manner in which the Shiv Sena Government performed in Maharashtra. They ran the most corrupt State Government. ...*(Interruptions)* How dare he says this?...*(Interruptions)* Where is the proof? They ran the most corrupt Government in this country. ...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I am cautioning this Government also that instead of taking a decision on disinvestment, they should give priority for restructuring these public sector units. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I recollect the words of the hon. Member, he said: "the person who was a Minister is a member of this House." he said, he is a Member of this House. He has no right to cast aspersions on a sitting Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)* he cannot make an insinuation like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Sir, I am putting the facts before the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, is he entitled to make and substantiate this allegation against a Member of this House? We want a ruling from you on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have been in power for years and Committed corruptions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

---

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let him name the Member. Then, that hon. Member will have a right to reply here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable...

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: There is nothing objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)* I have got documents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything objectionable, we will go through it. That will be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: After Shri Ram Naik, I want to praise Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Minister of Railways. She has gone a step ahead. She has started giving orders for requirements of railways to the public sector undertakings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Kumari Mamata Banerjee has placed an order for the manufacture of wagons with the public sector undertakings by giving 60 per cent more business than what was during the last year.

Apart from that, she has taken another decision last month. There was a global tender. The rate of the PSU was the lowest. The World Bank insisted that they should give it to 'number two'. But Kumari Mamata Banerjee sent her colleagues to the World Bank. They said, "No, we are insisting that you should give it to 'L-2'." that PSU is under BIFR. Kumari Mamata Banerjee flatly refused the financial support from the World Bank. She has now placed the order with the PSU.

Now, she has gone one step further. She has compiled a list of firms from whom the Railways are importing materials. She has sent that list to all the PSUs to ascertain whether they could supply the materials which the Railways are importing so that the imports could be stopped. My appeal to Shri Arun Shourie is to try to restructure these PSUs instead of going in for disinvestment. The PSUs are doing the best job. We have got faith in our bureauracy. The interference of these people has spoiled the public sector. Our bureaucrats are quite intelligent. They are capable of bringing these public sector undertakings into profits. But they have not allowed them to earn profit because of their vested interests which I am quoting here.

Last week, I had given a letter about Hindustan Organic Chemicals. We had taken a decision about disinvestment. I request you to halt that process for another two months. One unit of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals is located at Kochi. The Cochin Refinery is ready to purchase that unit of the HOC. Because of that, the HOC will get not less than Rs. 600 crore. After getting that amount, the HOC can clear their debt, give a voluntary retirement scheme and can again earn profit. So, my request to you is that disinvestment is not the only solution to bring these PSUs into profit. How can we improve the situation? We have to stop the corrupt pratices which were started during their regime. For example, I am giving you the figures for the period 1991-2000 in respect of persons who were enjoying boarding and lodging in five-star hotels. If you check up these figures, 50 per cent of the PSUs which are running in losses can be revived. Will this government take a decision that a PSU must purchase their requirements from no company other than the PSU? They should not purchse it from a private entrepreneur. Can you make an annoucement that whenever an officer or an elected Member goes on tour, he will not stay in a five-star hotel because there are Government rest houses in each district headquarters. Why are they not using those rest houses? There are a number of examples where you can reduce the expenses for competing with the private people in the market. But we are not doing that because of vested interests. Whose money is it? Whenever a public sector undertaking went into losses, they have taken all the steps to reduce those losses and bring that PSU into profit. So, they had done nothing. It is my earnest request to you to try to restructure the PSU. Their interest is in something different. The people are expecting something from the NDA. So, it is my earnest request to you to try to restructure the PSU and stop the corrupt practices. How much money are we spending on Research and Development? We are not spending enough. One Member said that by selling or privatising the PSUs, indirectly, you are accepting your incapacity to run these undertakings.

I would request the hon. Minister not to do that. We are capable. Our Ministers are capable. Like Kumari Mamata Banerjee, if each and every Minister take a decision that they will not place orders to private companies and that they would purchase only from the public sector, these sectors will make profit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I will take only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: So, this issue should not be looked only from the financial angle. It should be given a look of a national issue. Instead of speaking in figures of which shares were purchased at what price, whether it was 6.2 per cent or 4.3 per cent, we are not interested in that, we are interested in giving more jobs to our own people.

In restructuring, if the hon. Minister feels that the wage bill is one of the factors which is more, he can give a financial support for giving Voluntary Retirement Scheme. A number of people are ready to go. But restructure it before taking any decision of disinvestment of any public sector, it is my earnest request from Shiv Sena Party not to make people unemployed; bring some strict measures to stop corruption and malpractices in the public sector, which started in theiregime. Again I will say this, because people are expecting something good from NDA Government. Like Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Shri Ram Naik, if they can instruct all the Ministers that they should place the orders with the public sector, the entire picture will change. Instead of

[Translation]

Do not see profit making public sector.

[English]

continuous profit which these public you were get 10000 crore rupees in one year only but sectors are earning, we do not want our Government to be deprived of that, which will be earned for years together. Again, this is my request that first preference should be given to restructuring before disinvestment. After restructuring if it is not possible then only they can think about disinvestment.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I congratulate him on his speech. But just to keep the record straight, I would like to inform the House that Sir, you are the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways and I am a Member of that, so far as wagons are concerned, till date Railways orders are largely in the private sector than the public sector. His information is not correct.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of disinvestment is being discussed. We listened to the members from other side and there was statement of their Finance Minister earlier saying that disinvestment is being done to reduce fiscal deficit and there will be an income of 10,000 crore rupees. He offered one justification to sale obsolete property as to compensate want of money. I would like to ask them, as wise people are saying, there is black money to the time of Rs. 8 lakhs. There is an amount of 58,000 crores rupees in NDA. There are arrears of income tax to the tune of 52,000 crore rupees. Thereby meaning there is plenty of money. Mr. Kirit Somaiya was advocating that the function of the Government is to run administration but not to run trade, I would like to ask the Government as to what steps have been taken to recover black money, 52 crore rupees backlong of income tax pending with the big wigs and NDA worth 30,000 crore rupees pending with CII? What happened to the Government's administrative powers in solving these problems which are increasing burden on common. The subsidy on foodgrains for common man is being withdrawn and they are talking of compensating fiscal deficit by selling country's property. Which type of economy are they running in the country? The logic being offered here is that we have to secure 10,000 crore rupees by selling obsolete property. Which type of economics is it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have not invaded black marketing. They have not bothered to collect millions and millions of rupees involved in black marketing. There is not even a single such example. What are the measures taken to recover 58 thousand crore rupees of NDA, there is no effort. There are 92 thousand crore rupees in arrears of income-tax. Are you not able to recover that money, Is disinvestment the only option available with you, Despite all that they advocate that the Government is here to administer and not to trade. The Government is considering and calculating loss profit ratio, is that not a part of trade?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government's concern should be welfare; welfare of the poor; and welfare of the 100 crores of country's population. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was telling in his speech that private companies are running in loss. And, as Shri Paranjpe was suggesting to do away with the mismanagement in the public sector undertakings and they will be in earning position. The wise ones were advocating disinvestment of loss making PSUs but a company should not be deliberately put in loss making category. There should not be efforts to change management in order to put a company in loss and ultimately to disinvest. This practice should not prevail. Are you ready for it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of my friends was citing an example of hotel. The Government is planning to sell major hotels. The hotels which were running in profit only two years back are in red now. The same managements and hotel earning profit earlier are incurring loss now. Is not it your policy to first drag companies in loss and then sell them. If you are induging in this practice

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

then it is tentamount to selling the assets of the country. It is like sale of shop by the shopkeeper. I would like to say...* that this slogan is becoming popular in every nook and corner of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, CPM leader Shri Basu Deb Acharia was just now talking of transparency. He was in search of transparency. Mr. Paranjpe was speaking. I would like to tell both the Hon. Members that there is a policy to predetermine the posts and their incubments and safe of companies to particular multi national companies. I would like to offer an example of CII. I read the Vigilance report against the Managing Director of CII, who is being reinstated, it reads.

[English]

"After the Departmental Enquiry, he had been warned in award of contract for a canteen at Jammu Airport. He had also demanded money for purchase of computers from M/s. WIPRO. CVO, AAI has given an adverse report vide their letter dated 22.2.2000 addressed to CVC, and has commented that though disciplinary action should have been taken, however, no action has been taken.

Even CVC, vide their letter dated 17.5.2000, made comments that the Vigilance Profile of that officer is not satisfactory while mentioning about his tainted background. However, he has given him conditional Vigilance Clearance. The pressure on CVC is obvious. It is reported that officer has a backing of a multi-national firm allegedly with the backing of a NRI who wants to take over the CCI units."

[Translation]

It means that the multi national companies are getting such officers reinstated who are protecting their interests. the officers who will support them in purchase of companies are being reinstated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am ready to lay this document on the table of the House. Get it cheik. Enquiry should be conducted into the reports of CVC and CBI about the office. CBI, in its report have written that the officer should not be posted at any sensitive post and you are reinstating the same officer as M.D. of CII. People like Hindujas and major companies are behind this conspiracy.

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

20.00 hrs.

People are searching transparency. The danger is imminent before the country. What efforts have been made so far? They are claiming that the Government have set up undertakings where is the undertaking? Not even a single undertaking has been created. They are finishing off the existing undertakings. They suggest to put them in red. We are hearing of sale of profit making undertakings. They are planning sale of the BHEL. It is running in profit...*(Interruptions)* what was the dream in India behind estalishment of undertaking. The Government is suggesting that major capitalists have been engaged for suggestion regarding economics. Captalists and not economists, are their advisors. You reap as you sow. This will remain. ...*(Interruptions)* People who are capitalists, are not philanthropist. Are these millionaire and billionaire people are here too any philantropic cause? Whether they are there to give benefits to our 100 crore people or for their own benefits? Why have they invested here? He says there would be investment.

Now, they are extending logic that disinvestment is the wise decision and it would be prudent to sale them. Such illogical arguments are being made. We do not understand their logics. Which economists are running our economy. Now Mr. Sudershan Saheb was saying in his speech that this Government have failed to manage the things properly. you are not able to understake the management of undertakings but you are still capable of managing the Government's affair properly. You may ask the capitalists and multinational companies to sit over here and run the Government and the fact is that the Government are virtually in their hands. People are here only to saw off. The capitalists, the Billionaire and the Multinational companies are running the Government.

In fact the Government are being run by these peoples. Give any single example to let me know that his Government has done this work in the interest of people. On the issue of P.D.S. their allies gave then warning and tried to rein in them. They fixed the price of wheat at the rate of nine rupees per kg. Today nobody is purchasing it. Now you have decided to reduce the price but only for capitalists and PDS owners Nine rupees for public and seven rupees for PDS owners—what an irony? What a justification? We have never seen such anti poor, capitalists and multinational loving people before. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has explained all these things here after going into all the details. It takes too much time to go through all the documents but with our common sense, we do perceive that they are steering the country towards a bleak. They are out to sell even our inherited assets. They are selling our present and they would sale our future also. The damage done to this country by

them in present, past and future can not be met by any means. So, beware of Disinvestment makers. They say that they have earned some profit. Somaiya Saheb is running some business in Mumbai. He was giving argument that the profit from public undertaking is 'So called' profit. These undertakings are engoying their monopoly. There undertakings are not going to yield any profit at all. There is no profit in these undertakings. He is against such huge public profit. But whether these multinational are here for any charitable cause? Whether they would not enjoy their monopoly? It means that when they would enjoy their monopoly, it would be deemed as profit. But when it comes to undertakings, their monopoly does not budget any profit.

Sudershan Saheb has given a very good reply. All these efficient I.A.S. officers veteran and wise people having managerial capacity are saying that it would not happen, it is some sort of mismanagement, it is better to sell it out. When the financial condition of a family in rural areas and is devoid of human effort, only then he thinks to sell out his property. They pay the debt by selling the property of their ancestors and make their livehood. I am giving the example of an ordinary family. This is what I am seeing in the Government ...*(Interruptions)* he has taken the name of Laloojl. There is an income tax dispute against Lalooji pertaining to the evaluation of the properties worth Rs. 27 lakh. Income tax authorities are claiming that it was worth Rs. 42 lakh and not Rs. 27 lakh. For this he was tried, sent to jail and leg legal proceeing is going on in this regard...* There we are fighting a legal battle but here the CV.C. has also served notices and we will have to answer it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to interrupt him all and I do not share the view that Shri Laloo Yadav's name should be taken.

[Translation]

I do not agree to it. He was tried and acquitted in one case by the court and no action was taken after that, similarly you are not supposed to level charges against Advaniji. As Mani Shanker Aiyar said, 'those allegations also should be withdrawn.

[English]

Please remove these words also.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is dispute over Income-Tax. It has been ordered to file a suit against him regarding the case of disportionate assets. We know as to how he was acquitted, The Court has acquitted him but it has not been decided whether he received final money or not he was acquitted merely on this basis. That time the case of disproportionate assets should have been settled before the final case, why did it not happen so...*(Interruptions)* In case of raids conducted regarding match-fixing the houses of the leaders of his party were also raided...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): You see the outcome of the diversion due to raising the issue of Lalooji...*(Interruption)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Whatever he said, well unwarranted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh ji, according to the rule, person, who is not a member of this House, his name should have not been taken.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central): A person who is not present here, how can you take his name?

[English]

It should be expunged. His name should be Expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

20.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was hearing whatever was being said. If any objectionable matter is there, it will be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me complete. Whatever objectionable matter is there, I will expunge.

Secondly, hon. Minister may note down whatever points he wants to make at the time of reply, he can do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have no time. We have to finish this debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I seek the cooperation from all the Members. I am on my legs. Shri Vaiko, may I seek your cooperation? I seek the cooperation of everybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I sincerely comment from the Congress Party. None of the names of Shri L.K. Advani or Shri Laloo Yadav should be taken and should also go into the proceedings. Before these names were taken, euqally Congress Party Ministers' name, Congress Party's name, without substance, were also taken. Those should be expunged. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, no name was mentioned from the Congress Party. Shri Paranjpe did not mention any name....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He said a Member of this House who was a former Minister of Railways. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, I told you, please do not interrupt now. Shri Paranjpe, Shri Vaiko, what is this? I am telling you that if anything is objectionable, I will expunge it. Why are you worried about it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The yardstick will be the same. It is all right. Shri Paranjpe, please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were speaking on disinvestment, but these people tease me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please turn towards this side and speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: At last there is a rumour prevailing in the country regarding Modern Food Industries that there is a proposal to disinvest it and sell it for crores rupees. Chandrasheker ji was speaking that day. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is sold out.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sold it? Its land cost itself is of one and half or two thousnad crore rupees and that was sold for 130 crore rupees only.

SHRI MANI SHANKER AIYAR: A thing worth Rs. 2000 crore has been sold for merely 105 crore rupees.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They are selling it for a pittance. After selling Modern Food Industries, they are talking of transparency. What about those, which have been already been sold? A high level investigation should be instituted about it *...(Interruptions)* Please sit. A thing worth Rs. 10,000 crores was sold for Rs. 135 crore without any consideration was that sold without taking anything? A. C.B.I. Inquiry should be instituted. When a thing was sold for a song its CBI inquiry be made. People should know whether money changed hands or it was done as per the disinvestment policy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: A CBI inquiry should also be conducted in connection with Modern Food Industries deal.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This should be done and transperancy should be maintained. When anything worth lakhs of rupees is sold for a lesser amount, the people will think that scam is involved in it and money has changed hands in it. Country's assets should not be sold. If there is any mismanagement in it, rectify it. Mismanagement should be done away with regarding I.D.P.L. Muzaffarput, fertilizer factory at Barouni, in the once closed factory at Anjhor, fertilizer Factory, Sindri, and in all the undertakings. Mismanagement should be removed in all these factories and these should be re-opened and provision should be made in the budget. Efforts should be made to increase the assets of the country, these must never be sold. Under no circumstances; I can support this, policy. But it seems that these people are not going to accept this advice. They are suffering from mania in connection with the sole of the country. The people will take you to task and also punish you accordingly.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the disinvestment policy of the Government. A lot of discussion has taken place and it is a national debate today whether disinvestment should take place or not, and if it has to take place, how it has to take place and why it has to take place. One should not get emotional. We should see the writings on the wall. The whole world over, every country is going in for

privatisation and disinvestment is a part of it. A few days ago, there was an item in the *Economic Times* and the heading was about the Ratan Tata Group. He talked about private sector that in the private sector if you are not competitive, you do not have to be emotional. And what happened? Because the Tata Chemicals was not performing well, Manu Seth had to go. This is one of the biggest reasons for the public sector units which have served their time. There was a time when money was not coming into that sector and we followed the Nehruvian model. At that time it was a good model. But the time has changed and one has to change with the time. One does not have to be emotional about it and one does not have to be subjective about it. One of the biggest reasons is that if I have a public sector unit in my constituency, how do I face my constituency and my constituents? It is a big problem for all of us. What do we tell them? But when they were not performing well, when they were not doing their job, they had to be blamed for that. How can we go on paying good money, spending good money over bad money or bad investment? And was it the job of the Government to get into a sector where it was not required? What was the reason for getting into the hotel line? What was the reason or the rationale to run buses or the roadways? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Do you really want the State Roadways Corporations to be run by exploitative private business?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Of course. Why not? If the bureaucrats had their way, they would have nationalised the taxi service also, and if Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar had to go to the airport and call for a national taxi, and if there was an IAS officer heading that taxi service, he would never had reached the airport. I am citing one example. We did a small study in Rajasthan. We studied the Rajasthan Garage which is run by the Government. When we studied that Garage, we found that the per kilometre cost of the cars available to the IAS officers, Ministers and others, worked out to something like a phenomenal Rs. 15 per kilometre.

If you get the same car on kilometre basis, you can run a Mercedes Benz car at Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per kilometre. That is the plight of the public sector. My friend and the senior leader Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar started his speech with a comment. I do not want to put it across to him. He said about selling *dahej* to pay the *chowkidar*. I like that statement. It is a very Doon school sort of statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: It is because he was there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: What it really means is that you do not have the money to pay the *chowkidar* but you want to retain him. But still you do not want to sell off your silver utensils. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You married my Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Let me put it as to how I look at it. That is exactly how I look at it. He does not have the money to pay the *chowkidar*. But still he does not want to sell his silver. A Mayoite would rather sell his silver and start an enterprise and start having four to five *chowkidars*. That is how we look at it and that is how a Doscoe looks at it. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will also say that in the colonial times most of the business was run by the Government and it started like that.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is completely wrong.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Not only in India but even in Canada, they had the Railway service and everything and they started the hotel service also. It was State-run. But in England, things have changed now. The BOAC was not running in profit. Once it became the British Airways, when it was privatised, it started functioning very well and it started making profits. Air France is not doing well even today for the simple fact that it is one of the biggest airlines. It should be doing much better. Even the Government of France has also decided that they have to disinvest and then only they will really start making profits. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What happened to Pan American?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: It is a private airline.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It collapsed. What does it prove?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Sir, I have not been able to get into the nitty gritty of figures. The buzzword today is competiton. One does not have to be emotional. We have to go in for dis-investment.

[Shri V.P. Singh Badnore]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremly grateful to you for having given me this opportunity, though at the fag end of this discussion. The subject which we are dealing here, the deliberation that is going on here is very important and of serious nature and it has its far-reaching consequence on our future economy.

There are two schools of thought. One says: 'You disinvest' and the other says: 'You do not'. When we say that we should go in for disinvestment or when we take a case where we oppose disinvestment, we should not forget the fact that our public sector units with a capital worth of Rs. 2,04,000 crore is earning a dividend of only Rs. 9,000 crore.

The profit ratio is very low. That is one anguish of the Government. We should also remember that the public sector units are absorbing the maximum budgetary support and the maximum national savings, thereby creating a wider budgetary deficiency. This is another anguish of the Government. There cannot be two opinions that 60 per cent of our revenue goes to the payment of interest on the public debt.

Sir, it is also a fact that nearly 107 PSUs out of 245 PSUs are running at heavy loss and many of them are thrown to the sick category, waiting for a death knell from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, (BIFR). Sir, this is what the agony and anguish the hon. Minister, who has taken over as the Minister of Disinvestment, has today. But with all these things in mind, can we go on disinvesting indiscriminately, can we afford to throw nation's assets worth crores of rupees in the hands of the multinational corporations? Sir, when we talk of such a measure by the Government, they jump on to say that it all started in the Congress regime. A regime may come and go, a Government may come and go, Ministers may come and go, but what about the national assets which have been created over the last 50 years?

Sir, when we talk of disinvestment, there is another area also which we all should know about and also understand the subject in deep. These are the industries which started in 1956 with 5 units and with an investment of Rs. 26 crore. They have gone up to 245 units today which paved the way for the take off of the economy of our nation. These are the units which are responsible for the building up of our nation. These are the public sector units which are responsible for the industrialisation of this nation. Can we forget this? Can we ignore this? Sir, you would not disagree with me if I say that the actual equity put in all these 245 units is roughly about Rs. 55,000 crore and the rest belongs to the financial institutions. All these loans have been repaid. Is it not a fact that so many crores of rupees have been repaid by this public sector.

Sir, one should also agree that there was a substantial increase in the gross sale and there was a substantial increase in the net profit. For Rs. 55,000 crore of investment, this sector has earned roughly about Rs. 10,000 crore so far. Sir, the value added in production has also gone up to 25 per cent. The gross internal resources have also increased by 22 per cent.

The export earnings increased by 15 per cent because of these public sector units. The contribution to the exchequer by these units is roughly about Rs. 42,000 crore. Can we ignore this? Apart from all these things, these units are feeding 20 lakh families in the country. The indiscriminate disinvestment has resulted in throwing out two lakh workers out of jobs under the VRS. You are tempting them, and they are going out for a song. this is what is happening today. We should not forget the contribution made by these public sector units. Though we have invested Rs. 55,000 crore, and the total value is Rs. 2,01,000 crore, ten major public sector units alone are worth about Rs. 5,00,000 crore today. Can we sell them to the private entrepreneurs? These are the valuable contributions made by the public sector units which we should take into consideration.

We are saying that disinvestment started with a limited purpose. In the Congress regime, it was to the extent of 20 per cent. They say that there should not be any change in the management. Here is a case where we are jumping from picemeal disinvestment to indiscriminate and large-scale disinvestment. For what purpose, this is our question. Is it to bridge the fiscal deficit which the Government is facing today? Is it to fill up the budgetary gap? The Government should give an answer to this. If they say, 'no, this is not for the purpose of filling up the budgetary gap', then why did the Finance Minister set up a target of Rs. 10,000 crore, which he mentioned in his Budget speech? Is it not a fact that you want Rs. 10,000 crore and, therefore, you are opening everything to the MNCs and selling these shares?

We are not opposing the disinvestment in toto. We are opposing the kind of disinvestment that happened in the case of Gas Authority of India Limited. We are opposing the loss of Rs. 600 crore. I am not attributing any motives. But look at the way in which it was carried out. When the share value was Rs. 150, GAIL was not allowed to sell the shares whereas, when the share value was Rs. 70, it was allowed to sell thereby incurring a

loss of Rs. 600 crore to the exchequer. This is the aspect which we are opposing; this is the kind of disinvestment which we are opposing. Therefore, the Government has to spell out its policy in clear and unambiguous terms.

When the first industry was inagurated by the first Prime Minister of this counry, he said that he was not inaugurating any industry, but he was inaugurating the modern temple of India. We are now demolishing that temple. The Party in power is very good at demolition. The Party in power today is interested in renovating the ancient temples. Please protect this temple of modern India also. I wish to remind them that there are many ways to do this. We should seriously look into all these aspects. We need sincere efforts to do that. It is not a question of whether that Government did it or some other Government did it. There is no point in harping on or saying that it is the brainchild of Congress; there is no point in saying that the United Front Government pursued it under the Common Minimum Programme, and there is no point in saying that you are also following the same thing. There may be a variation in the quality, but we are not talking about it now.

If you say that here there is a case where you cannot avoid disinvestment, then you spell out your policy. It should be unambiguous.

Today, our question is this. Are all these disinvestment taking place in order to fill up the Budgetary gap? This reminds me of a position where the jewels of your family are sold for the purpose of meeting your day to day expenditure. If you are selling out your land, that gives you livelihood, for the purpose of managing your day tc day affair, and if that is a fact, then we do not want this disinvestment.

Sir, why is disinvestment taking place in the *Navratnas*? There are two categories. One is the profit making industries, and second is the loss making industries. Why are you going about only selling the shares of the profit making industries? This is the moot question that nobody has answered. All right, if you are selling the loss making industries for a better purpose, then, what is that purpose? Is it for revamping the sick industries? Is it for revitalising the sick industries? Or, is it for reviving the existing sick industries? You do not do that. But you claim to have acquired Rs. 18,000 crore so far from the proceeds of the sales of these shares? What did you do with this Rs. 18,000 crore? Has it gone to the social sector, as was promised?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, this is an important matter and I hope you would permit me another two minutes. There are two more important points that I would like to bring to the notice of the Government.

Sir, there is no point in saying that that this Rs. 18,000 crore has gone into the Consolidated Fund of India. Please do not say that. Then, why did you at all have a Disinvestment Commission? The tenure of the Commission has also expired. I do not know as to when this Government would revive the Disinvestment Commission. You revive this Commission with some teeth. What happened to their recommendations? None of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, that had given 12 Reports, has been accepted by this Government. None of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission has been taken into consideration. The Commission wanted to create fund — a Disinvestment Fund. The hon. Finance Minister, on the floor of this House, had promised that the Fund would be created. What happened to that? Therefore, we suspect that your act is not transparent. We suspect your actions because there is no transparency. What happened to this Rs. 18,000 crore? Did it really go to the health sector? Did it really go to the educational sector? Nobody knows. But there is no point in saying that this has gone to the Consolidated Fund of India and thereby it has come to the other sectors. That you say it every time. Why do you not create a corpus? Whatever you disinvest that money should be set apart and that should be utilised only for the purpose of reviving the existing public sector units—the nations' wealth, the nations' asset. Can you declare that? Please spell out your policy.

Mr. Minister, we know you are an able man. We know your integrity. We know about your farsightedness. If you cannot do it now, you cannot do it any more.If Shri Ram Naik, the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas is powerful, then he can control disinvestment in his Ministry. If Kumari Mamata Banerjee is powerful, she can control it. But poor Shri Sharad Yadav cannot do it. he has to sell the pride of this nation—the Air India.

Sir, why I am saying this because you go by the pick and choose method. Why do you do that? There are two important industries in Tamil Nadu. One of them is the Salem Steel Plant, which is in my constituency. My friend here was saying, what do we say to the public?

Once you sell this industry worth Rs. 2,500 crore, the only stainless steel industry in the entire India, to the private entrepreneurs, the private entrepreneur will monopolise the entire stainless steel industry in the country. Whom is the Government helping? Why is the Government doing this when there is a way for revival? The Government spent Rs. 808 crore only recently for

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

providing a hot rolling mill in the Salem Steel Plant. It now wishes to sell this steel plant, immediately after spending Rs. 800 crore on it, while the management wants only Rs. 200 crore to make it a full-fleged steel industry. This industry takes the raw material from Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant. This Government wants to kill the Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur also. I say this because once the Salem Steel Plant is privatised, the private entrepreneur would not take the raw material from the Durgapur plant. This is how the Government is trying to kill two birds with one shot—kill the Salem Steel Plant and kill the Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant. The Government is adopting this method now to achieve this. Why is the Government doing this? Is the Government not doing this to enable the private sector to monopolise the steel industry? Who advised this? What does the Disinvestment Commission say about this?

The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution asking the Union Government to reconsider this decision. All political parties were party to that resolution. The same issue was raised in this House. Shri Vaiko, whose party is a partner in the NDA Government, is sitting here. DMK is represented here. PMK is represented here. I do not know what they all are doing. Assets worth Rs. 2,500 crore are going to be put in the hands of the private entrepreneurs. For what purpose is this being done? This is being done to let the private sector monopolise the industry.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, he is misleading the House.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am not yielding, Sir, If they have done some good to this industry I would have yielded. They have not done anything. Let me complete please. ...*(Interruptions)* When they are there as partners in power, the people of Tamil Nadu expect them to do some good to the State. If they say that they would not listen to us, fine. We are in the opposition and that's why they are not listening to us.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: He is casting aspersions. Sir, it is my privilege to clarify the position.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am not casting aspersions. Let Shri Palanimanickam not divide the interests of Tamil Nadu on this issue. Everybody is unanimous.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, they have sold the Government shares in SPIC to private entrepreneurs. How can they talk about this now?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, if Shri Palanimanickam is agitated on this, let him answer one question of mine. When the Union Government wanted to sell off the Vizag Steel Plant, Shri Chandrababu Naidu had just put in a word to this Government and the Government got worried and immediately went on record saying that it was holding it back. Why was it done in the case of Andhra Pradesh? It was done because of the numbers.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It is still in process. The Disinvestment Commission has already taken up the issue.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: It is done because the Telugu Desam Party has 28 Members in the House. It is very unfortunate for the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Speaker: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude now.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, Shri Selvaganpathi referred to my name and the DMK, and said that we have compromised. We have not compromised at all. We have raised this issue on the floor of the House. We have expressed our opinion on the issue. We never compromised on this issue. Compromising has always been their monopoly. I do not want to criticise.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What we are saying is that the unanimous voice of Tamil Nadu is not being heard by this Government whereas the unanimous voice of Andhra Pradesh is being heard by them. We are saying that really for reasons of politics, they should listen to Tamil Nadu if they are going to listen to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let there be some solidarity here among the Tamilians at least.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am happy, Sir, that Shri Vaiko is fighting, fighting in the air without yielding any result. If Shri Chandrababu Naidu is able to do it, why cannot we do it?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what Shri Selvaganapati was referring to was that the Government of Tamil Nadu or the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had not approached the Prime Minister or the

Central Government to stop these privatisations, like Shri Chandrababu did..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, the Tamil Nadu Government has taken up the issue with the Government..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: They have not..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you know that?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: What is the result? There is no result. ..*(Interruptions)* They had approached. But they had not taken any agitated approach..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, you are now spoiling your case.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras, North): He is giving the wrong information. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: .....*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it is highly objectionable. Please ren ·· e these remarks from the record. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will expunge all the objectionable portions.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sarkaria Commission had given its report as to who was guilty. Nobody is talking about it..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: In the sugar deal, Sarkaria Commission had found them guilty..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

..*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that nothing is going on record now.

..*(Interruptions)***

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.
**Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, why are you wasting your energy? Nothing is going on record.

..*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, let him complete.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, let your Member conclude now.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please allow him to conclude now.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, please take your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Whatever I have said is contained in the report of the Sarkaria Commission which is kept in the Library. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, please.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: It is a fact. ..*(Interruptions)* They did scientifc corruption..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kuppusamy, please take your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, I am on my legs. Please resume your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kuppusamy, you also resume your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, you please go to your seat.

..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I am concluding, Sir. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, please check the record and see for yourself. I have not made any derogatory remark. *..(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): In this discussion, again, the name of Shri Karunanidhi has been taken and allegations of corruption have been made. *..(Interruptions)* Those names should be expunged from the record.*.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not mention about those who are not here.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: It is a fact. It is in the Library. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, please take your seat.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGAHPATHI: Sir, I am not side-tracking the issue. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you objecting? I only want to create a conducive atmosphere in this House.

..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record except what Shri Selvaganpathi says.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganapathi, you will have to conclude now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGAHAPATHI: I will take just one minute. I am on a very important point.

SAIL has been given a timeframe of up to March, 2001 for entering into a shareholding agreement. *..(Interruptions)* They will have to enter into an agreement with their strategic partners for transfer of assets. I want my friends who have been echoing my voice to please stop it. Otherwise, the entire asset worth Rs. 2,500 crore would be lost.

The other issue that I want to raise is about the Hindustan Photo Films Limited. This is the only industry in the entire South-East Asia catering to the needs of Health and Defence Departments. This is such a strategic industry. The BIFR have already issued a show cause notice that this industry should be wound up. This is a serious issue. There are only six industries in this field in the entire world. The multinational corporations are interested in getting this industry wound up.

I am sorry to say that the workers there are getting only 40 per cent of their salaries. As Shri Natchiappan rightly pointed out, they are giving up even the subsidy in the canteen. They are paying Rs. 10 for a *dosa* for which they would otherwise pay Re. 1 in order to see that the profits go up. The workers are committed to reviving the industry. the revival package is pending before the Government. The Government should see that it is revived. There are 2,500 workers belonging to Scheduled Tribes who are entirely dependent on this industry for their livelihood. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All that is required is the building up of a polyester unit.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: If this industry is not revived, the price of the X-rays will be fixed by the MNCs. We have a population of 100 crore in this country. If the MNCs say that the price of an X-ray would be Rs. 200 or Rs. 500, we will have to pay that. So, please protect this strategic industry. This is very important.

I would request the Government to spell out the policy. Some hon. Members have been demanding in a White Paper to be placed. It would be better if we had a White Paper because we can discuss this threadbare and come to a conclusion.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity though it comes practically at the end of the day. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you are in the safe company.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I shall be very brief. This is a great opportunity that I have experienced where a lot of pent up emotions, pent up grievances and also prejudices came out during the course of the discussion.

---

* Not recorded.

The real point is this. Are we going to shed off some of the ideological baggage, which we all seem to carry, and not accept the reality and the fact that vast changes are taking place all the time? It is necessary to make a lot of mid-course corrections some times, leaving our ideological baggage behind and then trying to bring out a dispassionate, academic and objective discussion. It is in this spirit that I approach this subject this evening.

First of all, disinvestment is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end the end being the restructuring of the public sector enterprises system, their revitalisation, turning them into efficient enterprises and turning this vast, critical mass of nearly Rs. 6 lakh crore of investment from being a resource guzzling entity into a surplus generating entity. To the extent that disinvestment can help that process, it is certainly welcome.

But having said so, my friends in the Treasury Benches should not mind and should bear with me, if I am a little bit anti-establishment within the overall framework of establishment. I feel that the decision to create a separate Ministry of Disinvestment in retrospect was not a very wise decision. It is a very wrong signal to everybody around, including trade unions and the working classes that the Government is there to sell off the entire public sector. That was not certainly the message. That was intended. The process has been on since 1991. It has been endorsed by various Governments, but there was already a Ministry, which was concerned with the public enterprises as a whole that is, the Department of Public Enterprises. Now, what can the Ministry of Disinvestment do? It is like having something without any limbs, without any teeth and without any strings of its own. It has to work through the administrative Ministry.

Now, the point is that if the Minister of Petroleum has some reservation about some aspct of disinvestment, there is little that the Ministry of Disinvestment can do. It cannot do anything. What it has been able to achieve so far will alone show whether it has justified its existence during this time because basically it cannot do any disinvestment without the active support of the administrative Ministry. If that is the position, it is much better that the entire work of disinvestment is left to the administrative Ministry, with the help of the Ministry of Finance and maybe, the Department of Public Enterprises, which controls most of the public sector enterprises *..(Interruptions)*

Maybe, the Government has good reasons, but from outside, one does feel that the creation of a separate Ministry of Disinvestment did give a wrong signal all around, as if the Government is there to sell off all the interests. I do not buy all those arguments about selling off the family silver. There was very little family silver. In any case, when Rs. 6 lakh crore are invested and return is practically negative, if you leave out those monopolistic public sector oil companies, and few companies like the NTPC and BHEL, something drastic needs to be done. There is no company which is making profit.

The essential problem to my mind would be how to subject this entire system to the discipline of the balance sheet and profit and loss statement. If you can do that, a lot of problems will disappear. The other important aspect I should say is that somehow or the other, the workers and the trade unions seem to have been left out altogether in this major process of decision making which concerns their enterprises. It is a gigantic decision, a collective decision, where the Management, the Government, the Ministries and the trade unions concerned should be involved and they should approach the problem as if it is our common problem to solve.

In that process, if the Government has to sell off some portion of its share, there is no harm. But it is absolutely important that the workers' consent should be obtained and they should be involved because otherwise, I am afraid, they would create all kinds of problems and once they start resisting, it will be very difficult to achieve any kind of progress.

Essentially, I feel that we should divide the entire public sector system into two parts—those enterprises which are traditionally profit making and those enterprises which are chronically unviable and which cannot be redeemed really.

21.00 hrs.

There may be one or two cases. A number of cases have been mentioned. I do not think it was correct for Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to compare Essar Steel with Steel Authority of India. Essar Steel is a totally different system and a lot of more money, costly money, went into its construction rather than steel Authority of India which by and large got much cheaper finance than the recent examples of steel Industry. Then, the Steel industry became the victim of the indiscriminate policy of free import. Many of the public sector enterprises are in a sorry position today because of the policy of permitting import of a number of products for which they were practically assured of some kind of monopolistic positions or sheltered market conditioins for years to come. Suddenely, they have been exposed to full competition for which they are not equipped. If you have been carrying a public sector company like a baby on the shoulder all the time, giving public sector purchase preference, price

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

preference, no obligation to return the money that has been invested with interest and all these things, and suddenly if you throw it in the midstream and ask it to swim, it cannot swim. It will get drowned or it will be eaten away by sharks. This is precisely what is happening.

Our enterprises are not accustomed to the kind of competition which is taking place, where many of the countries of the former Soviet Union are practically dumping many of their products at a throw-away prices just to help their own foreign exchange position. Similarly, in the last three years with they recession in South East Asia and East Asia, they also dump the Indian market with their products and the result is that our companies have suffered very badly. But, to my mind it is a temporary position. It will certainly improve.

But, essentially, as I said, those which are chronically loss-making, they have have become loss-making because the technology might have changed and they may have the outdated tehnology. The market might have decided that. Each particular enterprise has its own history of why it has gone sick. There is no general history to trace the sickness. So, what do you do in this?

Many of them are public sector enterprises today but basically it was the private sector which practically ruined them completely. Then the Government, in a kind of generosity, as it happened in seventies and eighties, took them over which was a wrong policy to my mind retrospectively. The Government of the day should not have taken over any company which was rendered sick by the private sector enterprises. That is what happened to the National Bicycle Corporation. Many of them were just taken over like that just because there was a feeling that they have gone sick because of mis-management. If there was a shed or something under the shed instrument which look like instrument or equipment, then all that was needed was that they should be managed properly by the Government with unlimited finance and they will return to health. That never happened because as in the case of human lives, industry also has its like history. Enterprises also die and when some system is about to die, it is not good to try to preserve it through oxygen cylinder for any length of time. This only cost the nation dear because every time it has to be kept alive by cash in meeting loss and that cash loss is met from the Budget after depriving sectors like let us say, providing drinking water to all our villages, providing free elementary education in all our schools. The Government cannot discharge these essential duties just because of its extreme preoccupation with the industry that we had in the last three or four decades. We want to keep everything alive. So, I am afraid that imbalance has to come.

Again, the Government has to take quick decisions. As I said, once it is decided that there are profit-making units, and loss-making units, you take the latter out. If loss-making units cannot be revived, there is no harm if a private sector collaborator is brought in to provide the technology or finance. I should say that those of our friends who are all the time running down the multinationals should not mind if a multinational is brought in to help revive a particular sick unit which cannot be otherwise revived. If they give, for instance, a buy-back guarantee, it is good. There are many cases in which countries like Mexico and Brazil have in this way solved their problems of rich public sector industry. We do not learn from other countries. A lot of things were said on the question of workers. In an system the total number of people employed in the organised sector is around 30 million of which the Government sector itself has about 22 million or 26 million.

Now, any idea that an enterprise will close down throwing 4000 people out of job, does not sell very much. Firstly, the trade unions will resist. Even the public will not like that idea very much. Therefore, while considering any proposal about reconstruction or disinvestment, we must ensure that nobody losses his job. The Government of Sri Lanka has done this. When Sri Lanka privatised a lot of their public sector industries, those who were given the responsibility were clearly told that within two years there will be no retrenchment and only after two years the new owners would have an opportunity to screen. Whom you do not want, you could ask them to go. But it has to be with proper rehabilitation packages. Sir, can we not announce that due to reconstruction or disinvestment, nobody will lose his job and that he will be allowed to draw salary by sitting at home until they retire? If you look at the age profile of the people, you will see that the Government will not have to spend very much. It will be much cheaper.

Incidentally, what happened to the much-talked about National Renewal Fund which was created in early '90s. It was created precisely with the idea of providing retraining, and redeployment facilities to all those people who are rendered surplus. But nothing had happened. In the Governmental system we have got examples. In the early '50s when food was de-controlled and rationing was abolished, those of you who were alive at that time must be remembering that there were many thousand people employed all over the country who were employed in the Food Department all over the country. But at that time we had a very courageous Minister, Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai who took the risk to close it down. But he provided new jobs to everybody by sending them to other Departments. There are still many Departments which are without sufficient manpower. So, why can we not say

that nobody will lose his job? A simple announcement could be made that reconstruction or disinvestment does not mean some one losing his job. It could also be said that everybody will be given appropraite opportunities for retraining and redeployment. We should also say that proper Golden Handshake will be given. Otherwise, they can sit at home and draw the salary and allowances until they retire. Sir, the Hindustan Lever closed down their factory in Mumbai a couple of years ago. The Indian Aluminium Company in Bombay was also closed down a couple of years ago. But there were no murmurs because the management sat with the workers and settled the problem. The Chairman of the Indian Aluminium Company told me that a person told him that when some one asked him what he was doing what does he say? He used to say that he was working in the Indian Aluminium Company. Now, what should he say? There was an identity crisis. Then the Chairman said that there will be a room for him with newspapers and whenever he wishes to come there, he can come and spend time as long as he can. The problem was solved. Even in a city like Mumbai, no trade union raised the question that two major companies have been closed down. There is a lesson for the public sector to learn. I am sure if workers are taken into confidence and the matter is settled not on "we" and "you" basis but on "us" basis saying that it is a collective problem and a collective decision is taken by involving the trade unions, certainly it can be solved.

Last point that I wanted to make is that uncertainty should be avoided. There is a lot of uncertainty now. For instance, what is the exact position of Air India and Indian Airlines? It was decided some time ago that they will be merged. I think that should have been a very rational step. It is because the position of Air India is coming down every day for unknown reasons. Why was this stopped?

In all the public sector enterprises even in those profitable ones, the Government shareholding must be brought down to 49 per cent. Very often we talk about things which we do not understand. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said me that people like us confuse others with figures of 74, 26 and 51. if it is 51 per cent then it continues to be a Government company. If Air India has to buy a plane it has to go to the Ministry of Finance and then to the Planning Commission. If the Planning Commission has to arbitrate among let us say transport sector and rural employment sector, naturally it will give first priority to the rural development. Then even, if it is the transport sector, first priority will go to urban transportation rather than civil aviation which in popular mind is still associated with luxury-oriented activity. You take it out of the Government and reduce the Government shareholding to 49 per cent. The Government will have total control. You can have the rest of the share well spread out. The Government will have complete control but it will not be a Government company. To that extent it can go to the market and I can assure you that for buying a plane money is no problem in the world market. Today, the sellers will themselves come and link you up with financial organisations which will give you soft loans very easily.

But, so long as Air India and Indian Airlines continue to be the Government companies, they suffer from this problem.

To sum up, I should say that we should not have any kind of strong inhibitions about it. We should be pragmatic. We should not try to keep the loss making units. Their assets have to be revalued. If we calculate the assets on the basis of the balance sheets, then I am afraid, there will be enough of resources to pay a good compensation package to the workers who may like to go away. But sell it as a property and not as a company. Sell the assets. There is no question of disinvestment there.

As regards the profit making companies, well, in those monopolistic ones, perhaps it may be better to keep the Government shareholding at 51 per cent. But, in all others the Government shareholding should be progressively brought down to at least 49 per cent. There is no harm in this. Ideally I would prefer that it should be widely spread among the investing public. That will give it a lot, that will boost up the capital share market, give a lot of floating stock in the market and give a lot of money to the Indian shareholders also. There also preference should be given to the employees. This is how Mrs. Margarent Thatcher succeeded in her efforts.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not rise in any spirit of confrontation on the question of disinvestment. I rise to emphasize and to stress on the need to exercise due caution in implementing any policy of disinvestment.

Sometimes I begin to wonder whether a transient majority here should have the power to demolish and dismantle the public sector. Whatever may be their fondness for demolitions, I wonder whether this transient majority should have the power to demolish and dismantle structures built up in the past fifty years or whether disinvestment in any particular public enterprise should have the sanction of two-thirds majority of this House. That is a matter of caution. However, apart from that, as I said, caution has to be exercised rather than there be a mad rush in our policy of disinvestment.

[Shri S.M. Banatwalla]

In our fondness for disinvestment, privatisation, liberalisation, globalisation, etc. the paramount considerations of the security of the country and the welfare of the people cannot be compromised. Look at the emerging scenario. I am afraid, it is a little frightening scenario. With privatisation of functions in seaports and airports and the globalisation of our national carriers, where are we leading ourselves ot? Allah forbids, if there is a calamity or even a war, these strategic places in the hands of private people or even foreign interests and the Government left with only 26 per cent of holding, I am afraid, it may create a serious situation. We will have to be extremely careful and cautious to see that the security and welfare of the people is not compromised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we all know that the public sector enterprises have contributed generaously towards the social sector. During 1997-98, their expenditure on township maintenance, education, medical and other facilities amounted to Rs. 3147 crores. When you go to the private enterprises, you may find that the main consideration is profitability. Competition would increase. Competition may bring efficiency. It may bring in greater profits. But what about social justice? What about the very concept of a welfare state? We have to take care of that particular point.

We have to learn from other nations, from the experiences of other countries. We find that there are countries who went in for disinvestment and have suffered. Time does not permit me to catalogue the happenings and developments in all such countries. For example, in Great Britain, the policy of dismantling the public sector enterpries some years ago was commonly referred to as 'Thatcherism'. It was widely criticised as monumental error, blunder and disaster. What did it lead to in Great Britain? It led to skyrocketing of tariffs. For example, there was skyrocketing of telecom tariffs and castly privatised water supply.

There was a reference about British Airways. But only one part of the whole thing was presented. Today, British Airways is in difficulties. It is in search of some partner to have necessary finances. Here, I am not in any spirit of confrontation with your policy. I only say to exercise due caution. Our public sector enterprises are performing great social service. What a fine network of the oil companies we have as regards the supply of petroleum products in every nook and corner of our country! The private enterprises will be governed by considerations of profitability and not with that of social justice, which is to make provision of petroleum products in every nook and corner of the country irrespective of whether that is going to be profitable or not. So, I emphasise due caution in this entire exercise of disinvestment.

Sir, we need a positive attitude towards disinvestment process and this positive attitude lies in treating the entire question of disinvestment as an instrument for restructuring and reforming our public enterprises. Now, this concept would require certain elucidations for which there is no time. But the entire disinvestment should be considered in a positive manner, for restructuring and reforming our public sector enterprises. But then that will need a look at the utilisation of the disinvestment funds. If the disinvestment funds are utilised for your fiscal deficit, then *Allah* forbid, disaster awaits us. The Disinvestment Commission itself has said that there must be a disinvestment fund and it has laid down in various reports that the receipts from this fund should not go to meet the fiscal deficit but it should go in order to restructure and reform our own public sector enterprises.

In their 12th Report dated August 1999, the Disinvestment Commission says like this at page 2 and I quote:

> "The disinvestment should be a part of a well-thought-out strategy of public sector reform and not made to serve merely as a means of raising revenues for the Budget"

The question that I raise is what happens to the suggestion of the Disinvestment Commission with respect to the Disinvestment Fund as also utilising the Disinvestment Fund for restructuring and reforming our public sector undertakings. If I am not mistaken, in the year 1996, the Government had taken a decision to have the Disinvestment Fund. But I do not think it is operational. I said earlier that I am not here for confrontation. If it is not, please do it immediately. Please do not fritter away the funds for meeting the fiscal deficit alone but utilise it in a proper manner.

The creation of a Disinvestment Fund, and the concept of proper utilisation of the disinvestment receipts, will also guard us against another danger, the danger of disinvestment process degenerating into distress sale. The Budget puts a certain target of Rs. 10,000 crore. To meet the target, there would be distress sale; the fiscal deficit would be met and the Budget is not upset. If we have the Disinvestment Fund and if the process of disinvestment does not go for helping the Budget, then, in that case, we will also be in a position to meet this danger properly—the danger of the disinvestment policy degenerating into distress sale. I am afraid that in the case of Air India, this is the position that is coming up. But, Sir, I see you getting restless. Therefore, I am not getting into the question of Air India. We will, I think, have more opportunities.

There is another aspect where caution is needed and that is proper valuation of the assets of the public enterprises. The Ministry concerned will be able to do it. There has also to be some independent agency for the purpose. Proper valuation of the share value must be done. Here also, there was a reference to the Modern Food Industries. It is a widely known thing. Let us have transparency. Mr. Minister, in your own interest, please see that the suspicions in the minds of the public are put at rest. It is said that the value of the prime land in various metropolitan cities is nearly Rs. 2000 crore. I do not know about it. I am no expert in that. But that is how the story goes. It is said that Rs. 2000 crore worth of property was sold for just Rs. 105 crore, a pittance! So, it is necessary that some transparent way must be found out in which there should be certain valuations.

In this connection, I would like to cite one example. I remember how the Income-Tax people are doing it. If I sell away my property at any amount, the Income-Tax people will not agree to it. They will say that they will have their own valuation of my property. They would say like this: "You have said that you have sold it for just this much amount. But we will have our own valuation because we feel that you would have pocketed much more.

Coming to the main point, certain national properties are being sold away. Here is a disinvestment process. There has to be a responsible, independent valuation and a transparent process. That is absolutely necessary.

Sir, on the question of employees, you must not ring the bell. The interests of the employees cannot be sacrificed. A lot has been said about that and I will not repeat all that has been said. But then this is a factor that has to be considered.

Sir, there are various other things like the search for, what is called, strategic partners. What does it mean? I have very little knowledge of these things. But I tried to find out. It meant some big giants in the same industry. If that is so, they are going into cartels and monopolies. Whatever the hon. Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley may say with loud voice, with sound and fury, it is without any argument. So, these cartels and these monopolists will then create such distortions in our policy with very disastrous consequences on the economy of the country.

Therefore, with this note of caution and emphasising the need for a positive policy of disinvestment, which can be a real, effective instrument for reforming and restructuring of our public enterprises, I take leave of you.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am standing to oppose the economic issue which have come for discussion in the House. Empty vessel makes a noise and a full mouth is silent. Officials indulge in corruption and nothing happens but a farmer having two thousand Rupees loan is served with a notice and his properties are attached. I went to Chennai, the bankers there are very nice. I came to know after meeting them that they have waived off an amount of 20 crore Rupees. They waived off the amount outstanding against the industrialists and not farmers. This is a way of corruption, as I have said earlier a full mouth is always silent. This much of amount is involved in corruption in a single bank and there are a number of banks in the country. I would like to make another point. Morarji was leader of the party and Kirloskar came to his home for wedding. Kirloskar had said that he is our enemy, enemy of bigwigs as he has raised iron and urea prices. It happened once during the Chief Ministership of Late Vasant Dada Patil. In a programme in Mumbai Our men spoke that Morarji Bhai will speak against Vasant Dada. They were from different parties but he didn't speak against him. Vasant Dada did the right thing. He had taken pledge to dump Enron at the time of Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Maharashtra but nothing happened.

Enron got revived at the time of coalition Government. It got approval from 13 days Government. I would like to say that every Government should work in national interest and not otherwise.

Sir, the prices of onion crashed in 1978. I went to Morarji Bhai and reqested him to lift the ban on onion export and he lifted the ban. There is a good Government in Maharashtra now. Shri Vajpayee is a good person. I have met him many a times and requested to lift the ban on onion export but he didn't ilft the ban. Resultantly Maharashtra has lost 15 crores. Farmers started crying. They are selling onion at the rate of 100-150 Rupees per quintal. I was an ordinary party worker then and not an MLA or MP, I went to Devegowdaji and requested him regarding onion export and he lifted the ban on its export. India could have earned foreign exchange if the onion export was permitted and farmers also could have benefitted and a loss of Rs. 150 crores to Maharashtra could have been presented. So, I request the Government that it should incalculate values of Laxmi, Saraswati, honesty and labour among the people in the interest of the nation so that nation can progress. Still we have lost much of the time, so if we take care of these two, three things, the nation will definately progress.

[English]

SHRI RUCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I shall be very brief and I would not repeat it. It is being said that the public sector is inefficient. My first question to the hon. Minister is this. How many from the management side of the public sector undertakings through the process of poaching and other methods have joined the foreign companies and the Indian companies to make them efficient? In the form of R&D, how much has been the contribution of the public sector undertakings to the private sector?

Lastly, the most important argument is that we are badly in need of more resources. We do not have them. What is the FDI inflow? The complaint of CII and FICCI through a representation to the Prime Minister about a month back was that the national savings were being monopolised through the share market and through the portfolio management by the foreign investors, that is, national savings, our money, our technology, our research, our management and through that only, they are going to have the managerial control. What is that? According to the Indian Company Law, by 26 per cent control, they will have the veto power. With the autonomy and the freedom of the public sector undertaking, in which you have divested 26 per cent to a foreign company, they, with our national savings, our management, and our R&D, wil have the veto power to control the management, be it in the case of Air India or be it in the case of any other undertaking—insurance and other sectors—where you are just divesting 26 per cent and more.

Secondly, even after foregoing the equity stake of 26 per cent for foreign equity, it is being interpreted in a different way. It has happened in the case of IRDA. You know what is the interpretation? They interpreted that for the foreign equity in an Indian company, who will be the Indian partner in the insurance industry, this 26 per cent cap will not be applicable. That was the interpretation. I raised it again and again and there was protest all around. I do not know but the hon. Minister will reply as to how such an interpretation is made. This is an insult to this House. This House decided for only 26 per cent of foreign equity and they are interpreting that 26 per cent foreign equity cap will not be applicable for those foreign stakes in the Indian partner of the company. The hon. Minister owes an explanation of this House.

Regarding the willful defaulters, I would like to say that they owe large sums of money to the financial institutions. Will the Government assure that these companies, these individuals will never be allowed to have any stake in the disinvestment? It so happened that when the CII had said that United Commercial Bank should be commercialised or should be sold out, the employees had said that these were the people who owe to the bank. Ultimately, they had to back out.

Sir, these public sector undertakings have paid in the forms of dividend, corporate taxes, excise duty, customs duty and other duties in 1998-99 to the tune of Rs. 46,924 crore. I would like to know will this be compensated through the taxes paid by the Indian companies. I am referring to three companies only. The number one Indian company whose name is there in the Fortune List. They have been enjoying the zero tax privileges. Of late they have been paying the minimum alternate tax. That is ITC. What is due to them in terms of excise duty? It is Rs. 800 crore. What were the dues that were paid by the multinational banks to the Income Tax? No payment was made by them and they are being allowed to buy the shares. Will the Government assure that these people, who have not paid their due taxes to the Government and who are defaulters, will never be allowed to buy the Government stake if it is disinvested?

Regarding transparency, I would like to tell what goes by the name of insider trading in the share market. If I had time, I would have given umpteen number of instances. Through insider knowledge they are manipulating the share market, bringing down the share prices of public sector undertakings so that when divested they will buy them at cheaper prices. These manipulation stories are there, but I will not go into the details.

Regarding level playing field, I would like to say that this should be ensured. I am giving only one example of Hindustan Cables Ltd. That was the deemed subsidiary of DoT. They had been making profit, but DoT discontinued to place the orders to them. Ultimately, the Government have decided that this should be in the disinvestment list.

Sir, from State monopoly, the private monopoly is coming. I am giving one concrete example. For IPCL there are two bidders now. One is IPL Chatterjee Sorros and the other is Reliance. If Reliance is given then in the Indian market Reliance will have the monopoly control. From the State monepoly you are going to the private monopoly. How monopoly can be contained?

Lastly, the Indian situation is a paradoxical one. There is no private sector. The private sector is heavily dependent on the public financial institutions.

I am just recalling one incident. When Swaraj Paul had come to India in connection with Escorts, while going back he made an historic statement at that point of time that the Indian private sector with their contribution of Rs. 260 crore only had been controlling a corpus of Rs. 27,000 crore. Now, it is lakhs of crores of rupees. There is no private sector. It is only dependent on the public sector.

The reverse story is this. Look at the management of public sector. Ratan Tata is on the Board of Reliance. All the big guys in the private sector are in key position of the public sector. ..*(Interruptions)* I will just make an appeal to Shri Vaiko and others, who are partners in the NDA Government that there are Ministers in the Government who have serious reservations about disinvestment. I find, Shri Ram Naik is laughing. He shoud stand up and oppose. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not laughing, I am smiling. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Okay. That means, you have corraborated. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, there is a difference between laughing and smiling.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding now. They should stand up and oppose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the case is before the Supreme Court and the court has raised query about the disinvestment policy for major public sector undertakings of the Government. I want to say something about it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Minister's Reply, you can seek a clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, how can I speak after answer under rule 1993 is given?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak anything here.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, justice Kirpal Sigh and justice D.P. Mahapatra have aksed the Soliciter General Shri Harish Salve.

[English]

"Whether the Court should not interfere with the Government's policy even if healthy and profit making PSUs were handed on a platter to a private party."

[Translation]

It is written further and the High Court has aksed:

[English]

"Government is within its right to try various experiments are not arbitrary and mala fide."

[Translation]

Whether the Government wil publish it? Our colleague Shri Paranjpe has also told and I also want to speak about NTC. He told..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, he has spoken about it in detail.

Now, the hon. Minister. There should be no interruptions till he concludes his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, we have had the most incisive debate. Many incisive contributions have come from my dear college friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Shri Banatwala's wise counsel for caution, and Shri Kirit Somaiya's telling figures and understanding of UTI and other things these are not to be dismissed as those of a person who does some *dhandha* or controls it but of a person who has great knowledge of these matters. Similarly, there have been constructive suggestions from several quarters, especially from Dr. Nitish Sengupta and others. I shall ensure that they are kept in mind.

Sir, I have pleaded many a time in public and in the other House, where I have had an opportunity to speak on these matters, that I sincerely believe that there is a continuity in Government policy. I am not entering that as a defence that we are only doing things which others did. That is not the purpose but I do regard this as one of the signs of maturity of the Indian political class, and those who happen to come into Government from time to time. Since the early 1990s, this is the fifth or sixth Government today, but in the main. Economic Policy has continued in one direction. It is not to say that the same policies have continued. On the contrary, the policies have been modified and built upon on the basis of the experience that has been acquired as we proceeded with those policies.

[Shri Arun Shourie]

It has always distressed me that we tend to create differences where there are none. The proof of this is that when people are in power—now "power" is a big word, so let me use the word 'office'—or where they are in office, we all of us, say one thing, and when and where we are not in office, we say something else. As Shri Arun Jaitely and Shri Kirit Somaiya pointed out, if you see the State Governments today, speaking in general, they are all following the same direction of policies. Yes, there are minor modifications. Well, I do not want to name any individual States so as not to create a controversy. So, that is my point.

I feel that we disable ourselves; we disable our ability to compete with the rest of the world when we heckle and manufacture artificial differences the moment our roles change. I will give you an istance. Shri Arun Jaitley mentioned that the first time this course of disinvestment was proposed in a Budget when Shri Chandra Shekhar was the Prime Minister. It was continued and built upon. That this was not out of perfidy of any kind. It was a realisation. I will come to why that realisation came about. It was a realisation of one change that had to be brought about in the direction of economic policy. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and many other friends mentioned that when you set a target of Rs. 10,000 crore, you hand over your options, you announce your compulsion and, therefore, you can be beaten down in valuation and other things.

I will just draw your attention to the fact that the target fixed in 1991-92 Budget was Rs. 2,500 crore. It was given. In 1992-93, the target was given as Rs. 2,500 crore. In 1993-94, the target given was of Rs. 3,500 crore. In 1994-95, the target given was of Rs. 4,000 crore. In 1995-96, the target given was of Rs. 7,000 crore and so on. I have the figures right up to now. If we say that doing so in these instances was right but if anybody gives the target this year or last year, it is a distress sale, then we are nearly scoring a debating point, we are creating suspicions without any basis.

In 1993, a Committee was set up with one of the most respectable person in India as its head, an economist, the former Governor of Reserve Bank, Shri Rangarajan. The name of that Committee was "The Committee on the Disinvestment of Shares in Public Sector Enterprises." It was set up in 1993. The United Front Government included disinvestment not only in its programme but also it is that Government which set up the Disinvestment Commission. It referred 72 Public Sector Enterprises to that Disinvestment Commission. The ones that are being considered today are the ones on which the Disinvestment Commission gave its recommendation. I will come to a few of those examples which have been mentioned like Air India, BHEL and others.

The second bunch of Public Sector Enterprises which are before our department and which we have to process and consider are the ones that have been referred to the Disinvestment Department by none other than the Ministry that you keep quoting as having great differences on disinvestment, that is, the Ministy for Heavy Industries.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The Minister is not present here.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The Minister is not here. I am just mentioning the fact that those are the cases that are before me. There are other cases on disinvestment which have been referred by the BIFR. Well, I do not want to elaborate on the process. But none of those persons who initiated and carried forward that policy were perverts. They were doing the things that circumstances induced them and compelled them to do.

Secondly, Sir, Shri Ramaiah has also just now mentioned a point and some other friends have also mentioned it, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar pointed out, he made a very telling point, that the term of the Disinvestment Commission had expired in November, 1999. It has not been re-constituted all this while, they said. Shri Arun Jaitley gave one answer to that, that the work of implementing the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commissioin is still going on and that it is not necessary to start a new Commission just now when there is such a backlog of the work done by the old Commission.

But I am glad to inform Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and other friends who have mentioned this point—other speakers mentioned it—that in fact, the process of re-constituting the Disinvestment Commissioin has begun and we are already considering the types of persons who should be inducted while re-constituting the Disinvestment Commission. They must be most honourable, whose integrity should be of the highest order, who should have a particular acumen in these matters. I have myself personally—I do not mind disclosing this—talked to the Prime Minister on this. He has given me the go ahead. Names will be proposed and considered within the Government. It is not the province of one Minister at all and I will mention that later. The process has started.

Again, Shri Nitish Kumar pointed it out, many of the other friends also pointed it out, very senior elders pointed it out, that consultations with labour and trade unions should be there. It just happens that the trade union leaders are meeting the Prime Minister day after tomorrow on this matter in the morning. I have been told that I must be there also.

In my own case I have said earlier in the other House and reported to this House earlier that I have sought time from the most distinguished Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, whom I have known for 30 years and who has been a hallmark of integrity and innovation of economic policies. I have sought his time, to learn from him on these matters.

I have sought the time from the distinguished Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and I was to meet her one day, but because this House was deliberating the Bill, I think the first Bill on Jharkhand or one of the States Reorganisation Bills, 2000 she was so kind as to send me messages twice during the evening that she would meet me later.

The next day we were to meet but the next Bill was being considered. The third day she, for very good reasons, had to go to kashmir. I will await her convenience. It is not a matter of prestige. I sincerely believe, as very distinguished senior speakers have pointed out, that these are matters that are of utmost concern to the country and it is the duty of persons who have been handed charge of a particular matter on which still so much misunderstanding persists, to reach out to others who are concerned.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia is here. I can report to him that yesterday I had a long and instructive session with Shri Dipankar Mukherjee on National Fertilizer itself. He is very knowledgeable on that matter. He has directed me to two other experts. I will myself meet them and will certainly seek their guidance. So, I can assure members that whatever is needed will be done on consulting others. But there is another point and hon. Members should take what I say in that spirit of dialogue. On many matters I find that we are just misinformed I will mention one or two illustrations.

Shri Banatwalla referred to Air India Shri Nitish Kumar referred to it and so did Shri Selvaganapathi. The expression that was used was "The pride of the Nation". It is true that so many of us have known Air India as a symbol of India. But please see the facts, not as reported by me but by the Disinvestment Commission.

For instance, Shri Banatwalla just read out a passage from it. And he emphasised a very important recommendation on the disinvestment fund.

This was what the Commission said. It was headed by Shri G.V. Ramakrishna. They say, "Air India's share of traffic"—this is in the second set of Reports on page 279 only to and from India, forget to and from other places, has consistently fallen from almost 50 per cent to about 30 years ago to about 33 per cent in mid-80s to 22 per cent."

They go on to say that this is because of the inability of the Air India to attract the high yielding first class and business class passengers. The commission observed that there is increasing competition from international airlines and deterioratioin of Air India's product over the years. "The main causes for the deterioration are the pathetic on-time performance (about 55 per cent) till financial year, 1996, low service quality and limited network on offer." They go on like this. ...*(Interruptions)* Please just let me continue. We are already very late. ...*(Interruptions)* The airline had fallen on such bad times that its percentage of route utilisation had fallen on the air routes it was operating to 47 per cent it had. It is this very Commission which then went on to make several recommendations. Please see the sentence. The member said that it is a pride of India. But just see now the pride had fallen, while we were looking elsewhere. "At the current level of financial performance." The Commission said, "Air India's network will be wiped out within the next two years and it is likely to turn into a sick company" to be referred to BIFR. Our pride would have been to ensure that an important enterprise like that would not reach such a condition.

Sir, many good friends have mentioned about BHEL. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): I would like to say something regarding Air India because you passed that item. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the purpose behind the privatisation or disinvestment of airports in Calcutta, Delhi and Mumbai, etc.? The air traffic may be little there and so also the Telecom sector. The empoyees of the Department of Telecom are on strike. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, I told you that after his speech, if any minor clarification is required, I will give you a chance, otherwise there will be no end. He will not be in a position to conclude the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Pandiyan, I will certainly attend to each one of these things. You can ask for an explanation in the House through all means. You were such a distinguished Speaker earlier. You can always haul up persons like me. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, after noting the importance of BHEL in India and the good work that my friends had pointed to in the case of BHEL, The disinvestment Commission concluded:

[Shri Arun Shourie]

> "BHEL depends on foreign technology for almost its entire product profile. Though the company has been successful in assimilating and adapting the technologies to Indian conditions, it would face significant difficulties in terms of developing and commercialising new technology on account of small size of its R&D expenditure..."

It is not something that has happened only in one or two years, but over years and years.

There are structural problems. The commission went on to say the small share BHEL has in the world market. Hence the Commission recommended that BHEL be classified as a non-core unit. Further,it said:

> "Hence the Commission recommends induction of Financial Institutions (FIs) as strategic partners through a disinvestment of 20 per cent of BHEL's equity in their favour. In order to ensure enhanced funding capability in Rupee as well as Foreign Currency to enhance its competitiveness, it is recommended that domestic FIs may be offered equity stake of 10 per cent and foreign private equity funds/FIs including multilateral institutions (foreign funds) be offered a further equity stake of ten per cent in the company with appropriate role in management to both Indian and foreign parties..."

22.00 hrs.

I am not saying that you have to follow the Commission's observations lavishly. But at least bear its observations in mind.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia pointed to six PSUs in Bengal. Again, I am not saying that a decision has been taken on them but I will just report to the House, through you, Sir, some information about the six companies. These are: Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, National Bicycle Corporation, Tannery and Footwear Corporation, Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Wayboard India and Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers. These are the six companies. You will be astonished to know that the total sales of all these six companies in the year ending 31st March, 2000 are Rs. 9.66 crore, that is, less than Rs. 10 crore...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is because their working capital was not adequate and the work force had been reduced. As a result, there was no production for the last one year. So, how could there be better results?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please, let me complete.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHAIRA: For the last one year there is no production. How could there be any sales?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Okay. In the previous year sales were Rs. 10.77 crore—not a great improvement! The loss of these six companies last year on a sale of less than Rs. 10 crore is Rs. 357 crore. Their accumulated losses are Rs. 2,240 crore! We just do not want to look at the facts at all.

Again please do not take it that I am saying that one firm should be closed; I know that when important Members talk of a firm, they have first-hand knowledge of their constituencies and of the persons who would be affected by any decision. So, I am not saying it to ignite a matter of quarrel—Hindustan Photo Films was mentioned by four or five friends. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar supported Shri Selvaganpathi's forceful intervention for Hindustan Photo Films. Consider the situation. Its paid up capital is Rs. 196 crore and its loss in 1998-99—in one year—was Rs. 310 crore. In the year before that, the loss was Rs. 176 crore. Shri Selvaganpathi said, it is doing very important work. If the multinationals will make X-Ray film he said its prices will be jacked up and everybody will have to pay Rs. 200 for an X-Ray film. Do we know what the share of Hindustan Photo Films' X-Ray film is in the country, in the market? It is around ten per cent. Its main job today is to import, what are called, jumbo rolls and to slit them into films. While the world rushing towards digital photography. It does not even have colour film technology. This is what we have done to what we call "the temples of India". Not today, over the years The accumulated losses of this one firm have become Rs. 800 crore. I could go through each one of these firm that members mentioned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, Hindustan Photo Films is the only prestigious public sector unit in Nilgiri district where four thousand employees, mostly belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are working. So, this unit should be protected.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is a very important point and it must be kept foremost in our mind. I am completely with you. Therefore, I will be making a proposal to the House on which we should all work together. One of the very important facts which all of us have missed is just the working of the National Renewal Fund. It was set up and approved by you. I was quite surprised to learn—I will be completely candid with you—from a study that till 1997, only ten per cent of its funds have been used for re-training.

The rest of the funds have been used for VRS. You are completely right. If we work together energise vehicles like the National Renewal Fund and make sure that our workers are trained and re-trained all the time, this kind of Clamitous situation would not arise.

At least five hon. Members, including Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri G.M. Banatwalla, have mentioned just now about Modern Foods. This is another example of how we—if I may use the word, please do not think it is a harsh word, —derailed public discourse by just imaginary figures. Shri Chandra Shekhar is a person whom I have known since the Emergency days. He says the land value of Modern Foods is Rs. 2,000 crore. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar made such telling points from the Public Enterprises Durvey of 1998-99. Do you know what is the value that has been put as the net worth of Modern Foods in the same survey for the year 1996-97?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is Rs. 28 crore.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes. It was Rs. 28 crore as against Rs. 2,000 crore imagined by Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Please do not compare it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: This is their asset value. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please give me just one second. I am coming to that. Sir, he is talking of land. I am going to talk about that. Please believe me, I am coming to that point. The gross value of the assets according to the accounts as on 31.3.1999, according to the printed figure, is Rs. 39 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* I will go through the entire process. Please give me two minutes.

The net assets are Rs. 19 crore. The market value of the land, with unrestricted use, as valued by the Government valuer was put at Rs. 109 crore. Please note that it is with unrestricted use. Hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik, sitting here, knows what that implies and all of you who are from Maharashtra know it. The textile mills in Mumbai can fetch the money for VRS and for many other things as well as for modernisation and restructuring of some units in the public sector, as Shri G.M. Banatwalla was urging. But it is only when you allow unrestricted use. If the restrictions continue—like one-third will be disposed of done like this, another one-third will be used like that—you will not be able to recover the money that you think you may calculate by looking at the adjacent private plot which does not require a change in the land use. Assuring this unrestricted use, the Government valuer had put the value do modern foods land at Rs. 109 crore, and not Rs. 2,000 crore or Rs. 1,0000 crore. The valuation of 100 per cent of the equity sales by different methods by the advisers was between Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 70 crore. And what did the Government secure?

Seventy four per cent of the shares were sold for Rs. 105 crore. The new partners, M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, who came in, put in Rs. 20 crore. But the jobs of the employees are safe. The capacity utilisation has increased in these months by 40 per cent. And interim relief—which could not be given by the Government under the existing provisions of law because it was a loss-making unit and hence the Government could not give interim relief—was paid by these people to the same workers.

We can go on going through these specific cases. I will only plead with you. Please look at the facts in each instance. Shri Banatwalla and many other friends have urged caution on the matter of valuation. I assure the House that there are several, four to five, recognised ways of valuing the companies, of their assets and building of books and others and all of them will be used whenever and whichever one is appropriate.

I will mention one example. It is not always good to go only by land and other assets and so on. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and myself have appeared together many times on New Delhi Television. Probably, they do not own any land or assets at all. It is just the talent of the team that Shri Prannoy Roy and Shrimati Radhika Roy have assembled.

They have a presence in India. If you go only by assets, you will get no value, but if you go by the business assessment, the business evaluation of that firm, you will get a lot. The market capitalisation of all the software companies in India is so high.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You should take into account whatever value is higher.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It could be done. In the case of Modern Foods that is exactly what was done.

In the case of all the software companies, they hardly own anything in terms of assets, but by talent, by goodwill, by branding and by the networks they have stiched together you can see their market capitalisation. Where appropriate and whichever method of valuation will yield the highest valuation is the one that the Government would pursue.

A very peculiar point was made. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar saw in disinvestment the heart of the Government's reform policy. It was said by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and others whether a single Minister will decide how to disinvest. A learned speaker said that the Minister in charge of the Department of Disinvestment, which has been created recently, is not short of the Prime Minister. Nothing of that kind is there at all. Every single decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. It is presided over by the Prime Minister himself. It has Shri Ram Naik as its member. It has Shri Manohar Joshi, in whom many people seem to see great hope, as its member. It has Shri Jaswant Singh as its member. It has Shri Yashwant Sinha as its member. In every single meeting, apart from these distinguished Ministers, the Minister in whose portfolio that particular firm falls also attends. Everything is done by discussion, and one of the pleasant surprises that I have had, as a newcomer to Government, is that everything is discussed freely and in mid-meeting, people change their views because they are persuaded even as they are persuading others. Then, there are three other levels at which the follow up action is processed, and after it has been processed, the whole thing goes back to the Cabinet as a whole. No decision on disinvestment, no valuation or other criterion is approved, or the strategic partners are finalised, till the matter goes back to the Cabinet.

Sir, I would like to clear up one confusion. As I mentioned, Shri Arun Jaitley has also given many examples of how everybody is building on the policy according to the experience that has been gained in that. There has been one great change and I think, it is not properly appreciated because of the contention which goes on. The Disinvestment Commission, whose recommendations they want us to follow, recommended-as had the Rangarajan Committee—that do not go in for minority sales like 5 per cent or 2 per cent because by doing so, you will not be getting the best value for the assets of the firms. The Disinvestment Commission recommended strategic sales in 37 cases and minority sales in 5 cases. Please remember the figures-37. But what has happened in practice is that strategic sale has taken place only in one case and in 39 cases, they have sold minority shares. I am saying this without casting anything on any Government at all. What has been the result? May I point to the losses that have been inflicted on the financial institutions in India? The extent of the loss is unimaginable. The average price at which the shares of BEL were pumped into the financial institutions was Rs. 142.50 and its present value is Rs. 72.20. The shares of BPCL were pumped into the financial institutions at an average price of Rs. 662.30, and its present value is Rs. 224. The shares of BRPL were pumped into the financial institutions at an average price of Rs. 42 and its present value is Rs. 7.60. The shares of EIL were pumped into the financial institutions at an average price of Rs. 626, and its present value is Rs. 160. The shares of HMT were pumpted into the financial institutions at an average price of Rs. 55.30 and its present values is Rs. 7.55.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Does he know the position in regard to Indian companies in the share market, except the ICE companies?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: These are the earlier figures. This is at the highest.

The shares of HPCL were pumped into the financial institutions at an average price of Rs. 824.60 and its present value is Rs. 130.

I can go through the list of 30 such shares.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Which year are you referring to?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It was as on 12/07/2000. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, these are the latest figures I could get for you. It was in July, before this particular thing started. The point I was making is an whom were you inflicting this loss? This is precisely what the Disinvestment Commission had warned against that 'if

you sell only minorities shares, no one will believe that management will change. You will offload the shares to other public sector units or to financial institutions, and you will be inflicting a great loss on them.' That is exactly what has happened.

Now, Sir, five to six elements of the current policy have been spelt out many times, and became of the late hour I do not want to go through them. If you want me to spell them out, I will do so. At the moment, I wili just mention one point because of the shortage of time. Shri anatwalla and Dr. Nitish Sengupta have said, "You must look upon disinvestment and the funds as that it yields funds that are available for restructuring". The fact of the matter today is that at the time we are talking, 14 public sector enterprises are availing of restructuring packages Twelve of these happen to be precisely in the Ministry that you think is opposing disinvestment, it is part of the whole restructuring process, that is, the Ministry for Heavy Industries. The total outlay on these packages is Rs. 3,324 crore, and it is not a small amount.

Coming to SAIL, it was mentioned just now that it used to have so much profit and so much loss. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar made a telling comparison between two years. Sir, how had it come to such a distressing condition, that is what we should be worried about, that a package had to be devised for it of Rs. 8,500 crore.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHAIRA: The money was given from the Steel Development Fund and not from the Disinvestment Fund; it is their own Fund.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In the case of HMT, Rs. 1,000 crore package is being implemented now. So, among the various elements of the policy these kinds of revival packages are there. Restructure is very much in the Government's mind. It is attending to those cases which have been assessed from various points of view, and if there is any prospect of turning an enterprise round that is being attempted.

Sir, Shri Kirit Somaiya and others have explained about units that look profitable today, and how those profits could erode very quickly. The correct figure, if you take way the units which are earning profits because of their monopoly position in India, I do not say so by way of contention, is minus 3.9 per cent. This has to be contrasted with the fact that the Government borrows money at 12 per cent to 14 per cent.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But it does not come to the public sector, and you only give 2.5 per cent.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: for minus 3.9 per cent return, to give loans and restructuring packages to these very units, you are borrowing at 12 per cent to 14 per cent.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : But it does not come to the public sector, and you only give 2.5 per cent.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: For minus 3.9 per cent return, to give loans and restructuring packages to these very units, you are borrowing at 12 per cent to 14 per cent.

Many friends have said that we should not use disinvestment to fill up the fiscal gap. You are right, Sir. The one time when it was used to do nothing but to fill up the fiscal gap was when minority sales for those Rs. 2,500 crore or Rs. 4,000 crore were targeted. Those minority sales yielded no results.

SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Did we say so?

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Minister, you may kindly explain as to why it was done.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am referring to 1991-96.

SHRI VAIKO: When was it utilised? The Minister is making a very valid point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, that is what am saying. Why are you interrupting him?

SHRI VAIKO: I have not interrupted him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He is a very birilliant fellow. He does not need your help to explain it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I seek your cooperation because we are coming to an end.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will make two or three more points and then I will conclude because we are getting late. I do not want to underestimate anything. We all keep saying that fiscal deficit is not important.

[Shri Arun Shourie]

It was said that no money should be used for filling it I know how carefully the hon. Finance Minister and others speak. It is because whatever they say has great consequences but whatever a person like me says, I hope, does not have that consequence and so, I would be more candid with you.

Sir, the fiscal situation, both of the Centre and the States, is such that you have to use all the devices—as one of my friends here mentioned the Non-Performing Assets and many other friends spoke about the taxes that are due—including disinvestment for dealing with this situation. I would like to give you just two figures.

Sir, you take the condition of the States. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, the States' Outlay was supposed to be Rs. 3,50,000/-. Just keep that figure in mind. The States were to give only Rs. 3,800 crore from their own contributions—it was just about one per cent. In the first three years do you know, how much contribution have the States made? As against Rs. 3,800 crore, they made a contribution of minus Rs. 80,000 crore. This is their condition.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are putting it in a different perspective...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes, you are right. I am putting it in a different prespective...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is not very relevant here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: All I am suggesting here is that the imperative imposed by of fiscal deficit is not to be brushed aside. The Central finances are in such a condition that half of the total revenue of the Central Government goes in just paying the interest on past borrowings. If you take the interest and the principal together, then it is more than the total revenue of the Government. That is why, raising resources through disinvestment...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What has it to do with disinvestment?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, you can seek clarifications later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Aiyar, I am telling you, it has something to do with disinvestment ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: These people are responsible for this situation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Ask him the figures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not ask about figures. We know the figures.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He is only corroborating ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there are about 30 figures to give. But I would just give one more figure.

Sir, in response to Shri Banatwalla's and Dr. Nitish Sengupta's submission, who said that we should have a positive approach and should visualise disinvestment as a part of re-structuring or look at it as an instrument of re-structuring, I would like to submit that 14 firms are being revived at this very time at enormous cost. Funds have been borrowed at 12 to 14 per cent interest. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Raghuvanshi, I am citing the example of Ranchi...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please look at the history of these packages that have been given from time to time. You cannot say that everybody who attempted to revive the firms was a perfider. The sixth revival package is being implemented in the Heavy Engineering Corporatioin in Ranchi. The net worth of this Corporation, as a result of all these packages, is Rs. —638 crore. Its accumulated loss as against its paid up capital of Rs. 439 crore is Rs. 1039 crore. I can give you the list of all these companies... *(Interruptions)* In the last week I have been able to work on 23 of these packages and they have cost successive Governments a sum of Rs. 34,000 crore and not a single firm was revived. Not even a single firm was revived.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is because of the management.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Many friends said that we should leave the management to the brilliant IAS officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is because of the Government policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: All successive Governments have done...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ministers reply is unsatisfactory. It seems from their speech that they are bent upon selling the nation. We are going to stage a walk out in protest.

22.26 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Minister has not spoken about how the evaluation is being done. He has not referred to IPCL. In protest of the disinvestment policy being pursued by the Government, we walk out of the House.

2226 hours

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, and some other hon. Members left the House)

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Deptuy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has come to the end of his speech but there has been no reference to the White Paper. He has made no reference to the absence of a policy. He has made available a completely selective collectioin of figures. He is repeating *ad nauseam* what he has said in the Rajya Sabha without taking any account of what any of us has had to say. I am afraid if the Minister wishes to close his ears to the Opposition in this manner, we have no laternative to walk out.

22.27 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and some other hon. Members left the House.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement given by the hon'ble Minister is not satisfactory. The views expressed by the hon'ble Minister outside and inside this House are contradicotry due to the pressure mounted on him by the head of the Government. His policy is to sell the country. They are doing the things against the national interest. Our party stages a walk out in protest against this.

22.28 hrs.

(At this stage Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble members left the House)

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister was answering in a way which is not desirable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not completed his speech yet and you are commenting on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The wleath of the nation is being converted into corporate wealth and the Minister has to answer whether the employees of the telecom sector, of the Airport Authority of India and of other organisations, would be thrown out of their jobs or would be absorbed.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that, Sir. Let the hon. Member please wait till I complete my speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Minister has said that air traffic is not fetching profits. I put it to the Minister through you, Sir, that the Airports Authority of India is being privatised. Airports at Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta are being disinvested, so also the telecom sector.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, if they are not interested in the Minister's speech, let them walk out.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I am not going to walk out. I am going to challenge the Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, he is not yielding the floor to you.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Minister has not answered about the Hindustan Photo Films also.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): You first listen to the Minister then ask your questions...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, if the Minister is interrupted like this, how can be complete his reply?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, the Minister is not yielding. Let him complete his speech.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Minister, if you are interested in the welfare of the nation, kindly yield to me.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not correct.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No, I am not yielding.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: .....* You are interested in divesting all the public sector undertakings.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let the Minister speak first.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, look at the kind of insinuations the hon. Member is making.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is too much. Shri Pandiyan, I am just telling you to resume your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Is it a crime to put a question to the Minister for the sake of the country?

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is not yielding. If you are not satisfied you can go out but do not defy the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Are you not yielding?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes, I am not yielding.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: If you are not yielding to a Member, you are yielding to multinationals...*(Interruptions)* You are yielding to disinvestment policy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, if he is not yielding, you cannot accuse him like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I will convey the feelings of myself and my party Anna DMK to the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: If I am not permitted to put my question to the hon. Minister here, where is the forum to put it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please allow me to speak. You seem to be even not allowing me to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: That is his nature...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your nature, I know.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I think, now you are coming to the end of your speech. I will allow you to conclude your speech first. Then, if Shri Pandiyan has got any question or clarification, I will allow him to put it before you. You may answer it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Right, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I request Shri Pandiyan to resume his seat? After he concludes his

speech, you may ask your clarification and he will reply to it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I do hope that the insinuation which has been made. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever it may be, if it is objectionable, I will remove it from the records. Now, you conclude.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, his saying that because I was not yielding that I am, therefore in the hands of multinationals is an unfair insinuation. I hope, you will remove those words from the records.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will examine it and whatever objectionable remarks are there, I will expunge them Now, you come to your speech, please.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the point I was making was on the rehabilitation exercises. Since 1992-93, Rs. 34,000 having been spent. Please contrast this with how much has been spent on urban drinking water. You know how much passion there is for urban drinking water. Shri G.M. Banatwalla had said, 'why do you not spend it for such things?' For urban drinking water, Sir, we are spending less than Rs. 100 crore this year. To revive those units, Rs. 34,000 crore have been provided in these nine years. Now, for drinking water, it is Rs. 100 crore; for rural drinking water, it is Rs. 2,200 crore; for primary education, it is Rs. 3,000 crore; for health, it is Rs. 4,500 crore this year. Why do we not see that if this enormous drain, if this haemorrhaging of public funds is stopped, you will have funds to restructure and make combative and competitive the best of our enterprises, and these other things that the people so desperately need.

There are several elements clearly stated in the Government's current policy. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar wanted a White Paper. It is not necessary. They have been spelt out in the Budget speeches and on successive occasion. I can spell them out now also, if you direct. Otherwise, it is already 10.30 p.m., and we should now conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thanks.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the policy will be transparent. We will implement the recommendations of experts selected impartially and we will consult a wide range of opinion including the union leaders, the Opposition leaders and the persons who are knowledgeable on these matters. We will do our utmost to protect the interests of the workers through VRS and other retraining programmes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may take down whatever clarifications are made. Then, at the end, you may answer them. Now, Shri Pandiyan.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I also want to ask a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I will allow you also.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we expected the reply from the hon. Minister regarding the absorption of employees of Telecom sector and also the absorption of employees of Airport Authority of India in major airports, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai airports. There is a move to disinvest these major airports and because of that, these employees are on strike.

They have been agitating that it should not be privatised. So is the case with the telecom sector. Our people are working in the public sector undertakings. When they are being disinvested, what is the position of these employees? What is the safeguard that you are going to grant to our employees?

There is also the case of Hindustan Photo Films, where about 4,000 to 5,000 employees are working. It is a question of their livelihood. Is there any guarantee that this Government is going to give to those employees? Then, there is also the Salem Steel Plant, about which a reference has already been made.

I could see from the hon. Minister's reply that corporate governance is Central Governance but corporate wealth is not the nation's wealth. Instead, the nation's wealth is corporate wealth. Thus a profit-making public sector undertaking by name NMDC is sought to be privatised whereby Nippon Denro and Essar would acquire 26 per cent of the shares and 49 per cent would be the public participation. It has been challenged in the Supreme Court and the Suprme Court has issued a show cause notice asking, 'Though it is a policy, if it is a profit-making company why should it be privatised?' When there is a notice issued by the Supreme Court, how can you disinvest? Can you hereafter disinvest in any profit-making company?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is no stay.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: But it is a judicial notice.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: They have only asked a question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may please note down the points and give your reply at the end.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: There is a legal problem. When the Executive failed the people the Judiciary has entered into the arena. The Executive has totally failed. The Central Government has totally failed to protect the employees of the Airports Authority of India and the telecom sector also. They did not stop the privatisation of the Salem Steel Plant and the Hindustan Photo Films Limited. Will the hon. Minister answer my questions? If his reply is acceptable to us, we are ready to hear him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may not have walked out but there are large areas of dissatisfaction and that sense continues. *Inshah Allah* I will also walk out when you adjourn the Hoiuse and walk out! But that is a different thing.

There are large areas of dissatisfaction. There is not only the question of not going in for privatisation of the profitable concerns but also among the unprofitable concerns there are those of strategic importance. I need not elaborate upon them.

Secondly, among those unprofitable concerns are those that are almost turning a corner. Just to give one example, there was a reference to Air India. This is only for the purpose of giving an example. Let us see how Air India has turned a corner. We must appreciate if some hard work is going on in some corner. The financial results themselves show that they are on the verge of turning a corner. The 1996-97 financial results show a loss of Rs. 297 crore. But they improved it in 1997-98 to loss of Rs. 181 crore. In 1998-99, it was Rs. 175 crore and in 1999-2000, the loss was only Rs. 75 crore. The losses have been declining.

We must therefore recognise that we should not go in for privatisation of profit-making conerns. Among the loss-making, unprofitable concerns also those of strategic status that I had referred to in my speech have to be exempted. We also have to take care of those that are almost on the verge of turning a corner. Therefore in view of all these, will the Government consider due modificatioins in its Disinvestment Policy?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a social obligation that the employees of Public Sector Undertakings who are not getting their salaries, can move to the Government to get their grievances redressed. If their salaries, provident funds are not paid or the Pension Scheme is not implemented even after Disinvestment, how the Government propose to control them? I would like to let you know something about N.T.C. Mills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are supposed not to tell anything, just ask your clarifications and do not deliver speeches.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Hon'ble Member Shri Paranjpe was stating that if we deal in Public Sector it would yield positive results Like N.T.C. Mills, where cloths are manufactured. Our Hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Naik is sitting here in the House, he owns a Petroleum Company or for that matter there are Railways and other Government Sectors and if they buy cloths from N.T.C. Mills then these mills will start earning profits. My second question is regarding the Supreme Court which had not been replied to for Shri Pandiyan who had raised a question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is present here to give the reply.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the position of Public Sector is not healthy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not level any allegations.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I would like to know as to what precautions the Government propose to take against those persons who played leading roles in spreading corruption in Public Sector undertakings?

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I want him to defer the decision to disinvest HOC. Will he please defer that decision by three months?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There are four questions which have been aksed. I will try to be very specific on those. On the firms or the organisations, which have been mentioned by Shri Pandiyan and others, like Telecom, HOC, etc. it will be a pretence for me to say that 'X' or 'Y' is going to be done. I will look into the record and I will report the steps to you, on each one of those matters. You can be sure on the general policy that every firm that can be revived, will be revived; it is the endeavour of the Government to do that.

Secondly, we must also see, even if it is making profits today and whether it can be revived or not, what would be its position five years from now. I can explain

some cases, but it would take time to go through each one of those, including firms in the oil sector, the aviation sector, Hindustan Organics and other companies.

But the general policy is to safeguard the interests of workers. It is the first charge. Today proposals for the NTC are being considered because the Supreme Court has actually given an order, saying that unless we go there by the 10th of August with a plan, they would direct the BIFR to close the units. In that case, the workers will have nothing except the severance pay under the Industrial Disputes Act. So, the effort is being made. Shri Manohar Joshi and Shri Kashi Ram Rana, the Textiles Minister are to go to the Maharashtra Government to see how land can be unfrozen so that resources can be raised and the first charge on those resources will be the worker's interests and dues.

Several proposals for making workers, parties in what is to be done are also being considered, including what Shri Arun Jaitley mentioned, for the first time, substantial portion of stocks should be sold to employees. In the case of Air India, that is one of the elements that has already been announced.

I assure you that the best way to safeguard jobs is to have vigorous competitive firms. It is our endeavour to reinvigorate them and disinvestment is exactly a part of that strategy.

The next point is what Shri Banatwalla said. He said that there are many loss making units, but they are strategic units. Again, on that there is a consistent line of policy on identifying strategic industries that has developed since the Rangarajan Committee in 1993. The position today is exactly word to word, what was recommended by the Disinvestment Commission in its report in Volume-I, at page 17.

They had listed four areas as areas of strategic industries in which Government should not at this time disinvest. Those are exactly the areas with one modification. Atomic energy and related minerals they had listed as one of the items that should be taken as strategic sector. It was on the recommendations of the Atomic Energy Department and the Industries Department that phraseology was changed because these departments said that you have already opened exploitation of beach sand to foregin investment up to 74 per cent. So, it is not necessary to treat it as a strategic sector. Today the definition of strategic industries is clear. They are arms and ammunition, Defence aircraft, warships, allied items of Defence equipment as one category. The second category is atomic energy except generation of nuclear power application of radiation and radioisotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries and third is the Railways.

In the other cases also of non-strategic units, it has been decided and it has been the announced policy of Government that disinvestment up to 26 per cent or less will not be automatic. two considerations will be borne in mind. One of them is that whether countervailing presence of the public sector is necessary in that sector to protect consumer interest and to prevent market domination as is the case of IPCL and others that were mentioned. Second consideration is whether there should be a proper regulatory mechanism before the public sector withdraws from the sector..*(Interruptions)* Sir, as you know corporatisation of various entities is going an in consultation with ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The departure time of Indian Airlines flight is 7 o'clock and the departure time of private airlines is also 7 o'clock. So, there is a wrongful loss caused to the Indian Airlines daily..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, if we now go into the timings of the aircraft, it will be impossible to conclude..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, wrongful loss is caused to the Indian Airlines to promote their disinvestment policy. So on behalf of AIADMK Party we condemn the disinvestment policy of the Government. Sir, at the wrongful loss to the Government and wrongful gain to the corporate, we walk out.

22.48 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have a question to ask.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to your question regarding wages.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Whether the action taken by you would be mandatory in case it is implemented? I mean to say whether you are going to protect the interest of the workers? Whether disinvestment would be mandatory upon them?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you asking, what is your question?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, this will depend on different situations. We are imagining so many things. Disinvestment the one case, it has been done and every worker is in the job. He was in a situation where he was in a sick company and he is now the employee of a vigorous marketing and food production company. We do not see that at all.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Whether the same pay scale that is there in the public sector undertakings would not be given to them, how would you make it mandatory for them? How would you protect the interest of the workers?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am quoting a specific example regarding your question.

[English]

It will depend upon the case.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South Central): How are you going to protect the interest of the workers? Will there by any binding?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not allowed. I will not allow this now.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, we are not realising the situation prevailing in the country. Wages are being paid to workers of factories that are closed in the public sector. Sir, do you know the amount of that? It is rupee one thousand crore a year. Is that the way to create jobs. Is it the way to protect jobs? Every effort is being made in the National Textile Corporation.

Sir, the last question was on the Supreme Court. When the notice is received certainly it will be processed with great respect.

22.50 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st August, 2000, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 2000, with the following amendments:—

CLAUSE 5

1. That at page 3, line 1, *for* the figure "25" the figure "26" *be substituted.*

2. That at page 3, line 2, *for* the figure "26" the figure "27" *be substituted.*

CLAUSE 7

3. That at page 3, line 12, *for* the figures "'16', '27', and '28'" the figures '17', '28', '18' and '29' *be substituted.*

4. That at page 3, line 13, *for* the figure "15" the figure "16" *be substituted.*

5. That at page 3, line 14, *for* the figure "15" the figure "16" *be substituted.*

6. That at page 3, line 15, *for* the figure "16" the figure "17" *be substituted.*

CLAUSE 12

7. That at page 3, line 41, *for* the figures "'24', '25', '25' and '26'" the figures '25', '26', and '27' *be substituted.*

8. That at page 3, line 42, *for* the figure "23" the figure "24" *be substituted.*

9. That at page 3, *for* line 43, the following be *be substituted* namely:—

"_____

1_____5

25_Uttaranchal____70;"

10. That at page 4, line 1, *for* the figure "25" the figure "26" *be substituted.*

THE FIFTH SCHEDULE

11. That at page 31, *for* lines 4-5, the following be *substituted* namely:—

"In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950—

(a) in paragraph 2, for the figures "XXIII", the figures "XXIV" shall be substituted;

(b) in the Schedule, after Part XXIII, the following shall be inserted, namely:—"

12. That at page 31 *for* line 6, the following *be substituted* namely:—

"Part XXIV Uttaranchal"

THE SIXTH SCHEDULE

13. That at page 33, line 5, *for* the figures "XIX" and "XX" the figures "XX" and "XXI" *be substituted.*

14. that at page 33, line 6, *for* the figure "XIX" the figure "XX" *be substituted.*

15. That at page 33, *for* line 8, the following *be substituted* namely:—

"Part XXI Uttaranchal"

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000 as returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments which was passed by Lok Sabha on 1 August, 2000.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

22.50 hrs.

BOMB BLASTS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in deference to the wishes and the observation of the Chair during the day and also in deference to the sentiments and the concern of the hon. Members, I have to just inform about the sad incidents that occurred in Jammu and Kashmir today. Unfortunately this unpleasant task has fallen on my shoulders this time.

Three incidents took place in Srinagar today. The first incident was a grenade blast near the State Bank building on the Residency Road. But luckily and fortunately no harm was done and no loss of human life was there. The second blast which was also in the same vicinity, in the same place, was done after a short while. Perhaps it was so planned and so timed that they knew that the police and the people gather there and the Press would also reach the spot. That is why the second blast took place in which there was a loss of ten lives.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Were you not vigilant?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: it is not a statement. This is just the information that is being passed on by me to the hon. Members in defence to the wishes and the observation of the Chair and the concern that the hon. Members had shown during the day. I am only informing the latest position as to what happened there and nothing else.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: What about your vigilance?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Vigilance is different from what he has to inform the House. In the second blast what was the casualty?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: In the second blast ten persons died and 25 others got injured.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: That means you were not alert and the planning was not there.

SHRI VAIKO: Let the Minister complete his statement. First of all let us listen to the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has only been asked to report to the House. Then only you can seek clarification, if any. During the course of the day the Chair asked the Government to report to the House. That is what I am asking him to do now. Cross-examination is a different aspect.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I have already submitted that it was so timed earlier that after some time the second blast took place in which ten persons died and 25 others got injured. Unfortunately, a brilliant person in the journalistic world, Shri Pradeep Bhatia of *The Hindustan Times* also died in the incident. In addition, some more people, both civilians, Army and Police Officers also died. There was one local shopkeeper among the dead.

Among the seriously injured, there were Shri Pankaj Kumar Garg, IPS Officer of 1995 batch, the Superintendent of Police, East, and the DSP Shri Kuldpi Singh. The Deputy Superindent of Police, and SHO, Shri

[Shri I.D. Swami]

Altaf Baksh of the same area Koti Bagh Police Station was also injured. The other injured persons include civilians, members of the Press as well as security forces.

In the third incident which also took place in Srinagar sometime afterwards, no toll was reported or no harm was done to the human beings. The third incident took place at Jahangir Chowk shortly after the second blast and there were no casualties.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, please direct the Government to be very vigilant specially under the present situation. What condemnable things have happened over there! There seems to be a totally sterile inaction on the part of the Government. There is no realisation of the situation over there. He says that it was a planned attack.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Government was vigilant. The police reached the place immediately...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 11th August 2000 at 11 a.m.

22.55 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 11, 2000/Sravana 20, 1922 (Saka).

*Not recorded.