

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 8, 2001, Phalguna 17, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reforms in Judicial System

*161. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases for 20 years or more are pending in various courts due to the present judicial system;

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

(c) whether the Government are facing impediments to bring about reforms in the present system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) 80 cases were pending for more than 20 years in the Supreme Court of India as on 5.7.2000.

The information regarding number of cases pending for more than 20 years in respect of High Courts and Subordinate Courts is not available in Department of Justice. The information is being collected from the High Courts.

However, cases pending for more than 10 years in various High Courts as on 31.12.1999 are 5,00,855. The cases pending for more than 10 years in the Subordinate Courts of the Country, State-wise, are at Annexe enclosed.

Pendency of cases in different courts arises from various complex factors. These, *inter-alia*, include non-filling up of vacancies of judges, inadequate judge strength, increased institution of cases on account of awareness of the rights on the part of the

citizens, enactment of numerous laws, radical change in the pattern of litigation, frequent adjournment of cases, lawyers' strike etc.

The Government and the judiciary are concerned about the pendency of cases.

Judicial reform is a continuous process. Government has taken steps for amending various procedural laws from time to time to simplify procedures to speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, Malimath Committee etc.

Other measures, *inter alia*, include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, computerisation of court and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending cases and cases involving undertrials on priority. These courts will start functioning with effect from April, 2001.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-02 to serve as a model for other courts in the country. Computerisation and networking of courts will augment the capacities of courts in the country and speed up disposal of cases.

Besides, the Supreme Court has taken a number of initiatives for expeditious disposal of cases such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and manpower of the registry through computer network. The High Courts have also taken similar steps to reduce backlog of cases.

Annexure

Number of cases pending for more than 10 years in subordinate courts (State-wise)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Over ten years old	As on
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7177	6/2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6/1999

1	2	3	4
3. Assam		32	12/1999
4. Bihar		59449	6/2000
5. Goa		2857	12/2000
6. Gujarat		97822	6/2000
7. Haryana		1880	12/1998
8. Himachal Pradesh		351	6/2000
9. Jammu & Kashmir		3827	12/1998
10. Karnataka		28132	6/2000
11. Kerala		2825	6/2000
12. Madhya Pradesh		66219	6/2000
13. Maharashtra		217257	6/2000
14. Manipur		431	12/1999
15. Meghalaya		1658	12/1999
16. Mizoram		2	6/2000
17. Nagaland	Not Available		
18. Orissa		10187	6/2000
19. Punjab		4142	12/1998
20. Rajasthan		49468	6/2000
21. Sikkim		0	12/1999
22. Tamil Nadu		5182	12/1999
23. Tripura		335	6/2000
24. Uttar Pradesh		158532	12/1999
25. West Bengal		95555	12/1998
26. Andaman & Nicobar		3	6/1999
27. Chandigarh		79	12/1998
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		7	6/2000
29. Daman & Diu		16	6/2000
30. Delhi		15571	12/2000
31. Lakshadweep		4	6/2000
32. Pondicherry		345	6/2000
Grand Total		829344	

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main objective of my question is to bring about reforms in the functioning of the Judiciary, to give decisions in respect of the pending cases within a specific period and to penalise the culprits as soon

as possible but now the position is that there is none to plead the case of the poor people who commit petty crimes. The number of such cases pending in the Courts run not in lakhs but in crores. For success of the Democracy, Judiciary should be made independent, which should give decisions expeditiously. I had asked from the honourable Minister about the number of cases pending in the Courts for more than twenty years. But I have not been given any reply in this regard. The minister told me that the information is being collected from the High Courts.

MR. SPEAKER : You are asking about the pending cases?

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the number of pending cases has been reported to be 29,344. As I have already said that the poor people are suffering from it. A number of reasons have been given in this regard which *inter alia* include shortage of Judges and Magistrates and several other reasons have been cited.

MR. SPEAKER : Chaudhary ji, you have not asked a supplementary so far.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply says that appointment of judges would be made expeditiously where judges are short in number. I would like to ask whether the Government have appointed the Judges and what measures Government propose to take to dispose of the pending cases expeditiously.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The question has got two parts. The first part relates to the appointments. The recommendations for appointment of Judges with in the Judiciary are sent by the Judiciary itself. The sooner the recommendations are received, the earlier the appointments are made. So far as the Government are concerned, there is no delay on their part. The Government have thought of several other measures in this regard. A Bill has been introduced in the Parliament to bring amendments in the legal process in respect of the standing Acts for early appointments of Judges in order to avoid delay in disposal of the cases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Criminal procedure code is concerned, a committee has been constituted for disposal of the criminal cases which is looking into it. Apart from it, the Government have taken several other steps and one of the main step is that from first of April of the current year, five courts would be set up in each district of the country which will be called fast track courts and these courts would dispose of the old cases on Priority basis.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir I have already said that the poor people are the sufferers because influential people commit big

crimes and they manage their release very soon. Lok Adalats are organised in each district in each block once in a year or bi-yearly. They are organised just for show and formality sake. If these Adalats are organised in each district and in each block sincerely and from time to time say once in a month and if they are given full teeth, then I can understand that disposal of those minor pending cases could be easily possible wherein mostly poor people are involved, which do not get merely a months punishment but are being punished for the last twenty years. I would like to know whether the Government would provide full powers to the Lok Adalats and organise them in each district and in each block not just for show but sincerely and in an appropriate manner so that the cases are disposed of expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to part of the question, I would like to know whether the Government have got any machinery which may keep a check on the corrupt practices in the Judiciary. If so, what is that machinery and what are the number of cases involving corrupt practices in the judiciary received during the last two years after that machinery came into force whether it is a fact that the Judiciary has failed to curb the crimes. What are the reactions of the Government thereto. This much I would like to know.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Lok Adalats are concerned, National legal services Authority Act was implemented in the year 1994 and thereafter Lok Adalats were constituted in every district of the country. These Lok Adalats dispose of several cases on the basis of mutual agreements. State Legal Services Authority has come into being during the last few years and based on that Lok Adalats have been constituted in several parts of the country. But since Lok Adalats give their decisions on the basis of mutual agreements only, as such Lok Adalats cannot prove to be a success in the event of their decisions not being accepted by either of the Parties. Therefore, a question arose before the Government which they are considering also that in some of the institutions especially where any citizen has filed a suit against the Government or Government department, Lok Adalats should be operational within such departments permanently so that people may take advantage thereof before going for filing the suit and they could also get a right to decide — this subject is under consideration of the Government. So far as the question of corrupt practices in judiciary is concerned, whenever any complaint to this effect is received, to deal with that there is an in-house mechanism within the Judiciary, but if any complaint in this regard is received in the High court, then there is a constitutional mechanism which can be used by the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the enormity of the problem relating of the judicial delays is stupendous. We were told the other day by the hon. Minister that the number of cases pending in the country is over 20 million and the number of additional judges required is more than five thousand. All that we get to know from the Minister's answer today is that more posts of judges have been created. He says whenever he receives recommendations from the courts there is no time taken by the Government in filling those vacancies. Would he share with the House as to the number of cases regarding which recommendations have been received by the Government but still appointments have not been made?

Secondly, we get to know that the Government has decided to set up fast track courts. We would welcome that. But what is the procedure being followed? Would the Minister not want every court to be a fast track court, or is he just borrowing that vocabulary from the whizkids of the Government? Tomorrow if we are faced with a situation in which instead of fast-track courts we only have FTCs, nobody would understand why that means. We would want every court to be fast track and working according to the procedure established. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what information he has to share with the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You know Hindi very well, please speak in Hindi.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : He speaks good English than I...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, facility of translation is there.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, I want that you should speak in an Indian language and not in any foreign language.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, Having paid due regard to his sentiments, I would like to ask from the honourable Minister that what is this fast track Court. Whether it is something away from the provisions which exist in our laws at present. Whether it is some different mode away from the procedure laid down under the laws and what is going to happen now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir the honourable member has asked two questions. So far as the question of appointments of judges concerned, the strengths of judges in Supreme Court is 26 out of which two posts are lying vacant. The Government have not received any recommendations

in this respect so far. 186 posts were lying vacant in the High Courts till 1 February. A few appointments have been made during the last few days and 180 posts are still lying vacant out of which recommendations for only 59 posts have been received. The Government have not received any recommendations from the High Courts in relations to two third i.e. more than 120 vacant posts. In relation to the aforesaid 59 posts, the process of consultation is ongoing and most of these appointments would be made very soon. So far as the subordinate courts are concerned, appointments therein are made by the State Governments on the recommendations of the High Court. The total posts in the subordinate Courts are about 12105 of which 10706 posts are filled up and 1400 posts are lying vacant date.

Another question asked by the honourable member is in regard the fast track courts. When this subject had come up before Finance Commission that there is delay in disposal of cases in Judiciary, then having accepted the suggestion the Finance Commission had given a decision under which a sum of Rs. 502 crore was sanctioned for expeditious disposal of old and cases pending for more than five years. Five such courts would be set up in each district of the country from first April and they will follow the same Acts and procedure as followed by other General Courts but...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Please do it from 2nd April and not from first April...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Every new financial year starts from first April only.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Please announce it on 31st March itself. People are made fools on first April.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : We could commence them from the midnight of 31st March. The procedure would be the same as is for other courts. The Government has written to the high courts and the State Governments as to which case should be referred to them. These could be those pending for long and those pending in more than two three states. The judges of these courts should be appointed in consultation with the high court in the manner that they could dispose these cases speedily. The delay is caused by adjournments and dates being given after the period of six month. These are new courts, therefore, these courts should work on day to day basis. The Government has made the suggestion that these fast track courts should endeavour to dispose the cases of 14 session courts per month or other 20-25 criminal cases per month. The hon. Member was saying that some criminal cases are pending for long. In fact, among the two third cases pending in the subordinate courts, majority of cases are criminal cases.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to learn that special courts would start functioning in all the districts from 1st April. Through you, I would like to bring into the kind notice of the hon. Minister that the number of cases pertaining to insurance claims and other civil cases have increased sharply after the earthquake in Gujarat and all these cases are required to be disposed speedily. The Chief Minister of Gujarat had declared that prompt action would be taken to dispose the cases filed against the contractors of buildings, damaged in the earthquake, by the Government and the owner of the houses. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would accord immediate approval to the constitution of the special courts proposed to be set up by the Gujarat Government for disposal of such cases.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parts of the question put up by the hon. Member. As regards the second part, there is no need for seeking centre's approval for setting up special courts. The State Government can set up special courts on its own. The second part of the question relates to the destruction of the buildings especially the court building in the State. I have ascertained information in this regard. These court buildings have collapsed in Kutch. New buildings are being constructed there so that these courts could start functioning early. I had visited one of such buildings there. The building of other institution has been provided to the court so as to enable it to start its functioning early.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : What are you doing to ensure quick disposal of insurance claims and other civil cases there...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the high court and the State Government want to set up special courts then they have the power to do so. The Union Government does not have any objection to it.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am not putting a Question in Malayalam. ...(Interruptions) I am accepting his advice but I am putting a Question in English for the convenience of others. If Hindi is frequently used, we will be put to difficulty. He does not understand that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him ask in whatever language he likes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : For speedy disposal of cases, we will have to elicit the cooperation of the legal fraternity, I mean, the Bar Council of India. Did the Central Government have any consultation with the Bar Council of India in this matter? It is not clear from the answer.

The second aspect is, we have passed the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill but that has not been implemented because of the stiff opposition from the legal community. Strikes and many agitations were called. So, the Government has been forced not to implement the Procedure. Procedural law is very important in the matter of disposal of cases. So, I would like to know at what stage the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill is pending, whether the Government had discussions with the legal community and whether any decision has been taken in this matter.

Another aspect is with regard to the Criminal Procedure Code.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you can ask only one Supplementary. You are mentioning two-three items. How can you get the answer from the hon. Minister?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am asking only about the procedural law.

In the matter of Criminal Procedure Code also, we have got amendments to be made. At what stage is it pending?

Without procedural amendments we would not be able to solve the issue. For that, we require the active cooperation of the Bar Council. So, will the hon. Minister be pleased to answer my Question regarding the procedural law as well as the consultation with the legal community?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, I am also supporting this. This is more important than putting up fast track courts. Without amending the procedure, it is very difficult to solve all these problems.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, this is Question Hour. This is not a debate. How can you support, join or associate with other hon. Members?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am also in agreement with what Shri Yerrannaidu says. It is not a question of either one or the other...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you have to first answer Shri Radhakrishnan and then respond to Shri Yerrannaidu!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He likes to answer the TDP first because it is on TDP's support that he stands there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not spoil the atmosphere.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : The amendments to the Civil Procedure Code have already been approved by Parliament. But before they could be notified there was a stiff agitation by the Bar, pursuant to which the

then hon. Minister had made a statement that he was withholding the date of notification and consultations would be held with the Bar Council of India and other agencies of the Bar.

Thereafter, I had a series of meetings with the Bar Council of India and all its office bearers. They had appointed a group. They had also submitted some detailed suggestions to the proposed amendments as also to the original Civil Procedure Code. After having a series of discussions with the Bar Council of India and the Law Commission of India on a number of days, we have now come out with the Amendment Bill of the year 2000, the one which was in the last Session introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It is before the Standing Committee of the Ministry. The Standing Committee of the Ministry is considering it.

As far as the second Bill is concerned, the amendments to the procedural law as far as Criminal Procedure Code is concerned have already been referred by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which administers that law, to an Expert Committee headed by Justice Malimath. This Committee is going around the country, holding public hearings and inviting suggestions. I hope, in the course of this year, they will also make recommendations on amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you are not allowing your backbenchers!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : In our Party, there is no backbencher. We are all frontbenchers...(Interruptions)

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you to the number of litigations pending. Is it not a fact that a number of litigations are pending precisely due to frequent adjournments of the final hearings of the litigations and for not having enough courts, enough Benches and for not filling up the vacancies of the Judges?

In that regard, will the hon. Minister consider having a mechanism where there would be not less than two and not more than four adjournments in all stages of final hearing of criminal cases as also civil litigation? Such a mechanism should be evolved. I have seen this when I joined the court first. It is the adjournment-manipulated mechanism between the parties that delays the procedure. I do not blame the judges also because they are helpless. Unless vacancies of judges are filled up, this matter cannot be settled.

Here, I am talking of my State. The hon. Minister is aware that there is a decision of the Full Bench of the Kolkata High Court and the Government of West Bengal to open a High Court's Circuit Bench in Jalpaiguri in the North Bengal Region. The Minister replied a few days ago and the Government of West Bengal cleared it and the High Court also cleared it.

Yet the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench is not taking off. It is adding fuel to the recent movement of the North Bengal Region. Therefore, on these two counts, I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister as to the reaction of his Ministry.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : As far as the first question regarding adjournments in cases in concerned, after consultations with the Law Commission and the Bar Council and after a wider consultation with other sections including various sections of this august House, we have already introduced - as far as civil law is concerned - an amendment Bill in Parliament, which addresses the question that Shri Dasmunsi has raised. In fact, a timeframe has now been given to every stage of the case. There is a timeframe prescribed for the quantum of arguments where the judge is given some restrictions; there is a timeframe for delivery of judgement and there is a timeframe for recording of evidence. Recording of evidence has also been made a delegable function so as to expedite it. As I said earlier, what is to be done in the context of criminal law will also be considered once we receive the report of the Expert Committee that we have appointed.

As far as the question of an additional Bench of the Kolkata High Court in North Bengal is concerned, there is already a recommendation of the State Government in the High Court which has been received. The matter is receiving a very urgent attention of the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How long will it receive the attention of the Government? The agitation is going on for three years. It has been decisively decided. Shri Ram Jethmalani tried to spoil it. I am grateful to the hon. Minister, he did not do so. But why is he taking time to announce it? The agitation is on. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are a lawyer, you must protect us.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker, is there any mechanism to avoid the forcible adjournments of this House by the hon. Members? Sometimes, the hon. Members forcibly try to adjourn this House also. Are you evolving any mechanism to avoid the adjournment of this House forcibly, which is being done sometimes?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I will accept Shri Dasmunsi's suggestion, that is, not more than two adjournments should be allowed in every Session!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : In that case, you have to change the Rule Book!

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I appreciate the stand taken by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice that there has to be speedy implementation of those reforms. Speedy dispensation of justice is very important because justice delayed is justice denied. We do not know how many of the litigant public in these cases are still alive and how many of those

cases have become obsolete where the public do not even need a judgement. So, will the hon. Minister review those five lakh cases where judgements are still to be given? This is the first part of my question.

The second part of my question is this. In the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, there are 32 posts of judges, but there are only 20 judges who are functioning. Will the Minister take a positive view to fill up those vacancies, instead of leaving it to the respective High Court to do it?

MR. SPEAKER : It was already replied to by the Minister.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : As far as the first question is concerned, I would take the opportunity to say this. As I indicated earlier, there are series of steps that are required to be taken over the next few years. The appointment of judges is one such step. When the Government receives recommendations from the High Courts, there is no delay as far as the Government is concerned. As I indicated, from the figures it is clear that except one-third of the files that are under process, the other two-thirds are such, where we have not received the recommendations. We are seeking to amend the procedural laws; we are now seeking to amend even certain substantial laws where a large number of cases are pending so as to compress the time taken by each case.

We are now supporting the States in computerising the courts, even at the level of subordinate court level, so that there could be expedition. I have, in fact, some very disturbing facts. I tried to collect as to which are the oldest cases pending in the country. We have cases pending in some parts of the country which are as old as forty years. In Madhya Pradesh High Court there is a case which is 48 years old; in Patna High Court, the oldest case is 47 years old; in Kolkata Calcutta High Court, the oldest case is 43 years old; and in Rajasthan it is 42 years old. These are the four cases which are pending for more than forty years. Therefore once a sense of expedition is created in the judiciary itself, and once the fast track courts are created at the subordinate court level, these are the first cases to be sent there.

Terrorists' attacks in J&K and Assam

*162. **SHRI A. NARENDRA :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attacks on the military in J&K and Assam by the terrorists are increasing and a large number of soldiers have lost their lives in these attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any concrete action against the militants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Terrorist attacks on the security forces have been an on-going feature of the proxy war in J&K and the insurgency situation in Assam. While there has been no significant increase in such attacks on the Army/Rashtriya Rifles in J&K, there has been a perceptible decline in the casualties suffered by the Army/Rashtriya Rifles during the last three months. Similarly, there has been a decline in the fatal casualties in respect of Army personnel due to terrorist attacks in Assam. Following are the relevant figures:

	J&K	Assam
1st September - 30th November, 2000	100	4
1st December, 2000 - February 28, 2001	43	2

2. During the period of non-initiation of combat operations (NICO) in J&K the security forces have been carrying out operations for ensuring security of their posts/personnel, lines of communication, civilians and public/private property. Terrorists disrupting law and order continue to be targeted by security forces. Since November 28, 2000 (date of commencement of NICO), 191 terrorists have been eliminated by Army/RR during operations.

3. In Assam, 285 terrorists were killed during operations launched by security forces in the year 2000. 1265 terrorists were apprehended and 1690 terrorists surrendered during the period. 64 terrorists were killed during the first two months of the current year, while 165 terrorists have surrendered and 261 terrorists have been apprehended during this period.

4. The security forces continue to be in control of the situation both in J&K and Assam, notwithstanding the incidents of violence against them by desperate elements, who wish to derail the peace process in J&K.

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted in his reply that terrorist attacks on the security forces have been an enjoy feature of the proxy war in J&K and the insurgency situation in Assam. I would like to know as to how many civilians and militancy personnel have been attacked and whether peace has prevailed in the state after the ceasefire or whether it has been more bloodshed in the state. I would like to give these details.

The second part of this question is that the security forces have been safeguarding the civilians and the private property as stated by the hon. Minister in his reply and would the Minister state as to how many civilians have been killed in terrorists attacks and whether you have tabled the details in this regard. I would also like to know as to how many civilians have lost their lives in the attacks by terrorists in J&K and Assam during the last three months.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objective behind the ceasefire has been to achieve peace in J&K. Owing to the ceasefire the firing alongwith the Indo-Pak border got stopped. The scenario along the border is not same as it was in the past. Now there is no need for our army to take the retaliatory measures. Therefore, the decision taken by the Government in the last day of November to restore peace at the border has yielded good result. As far as the scene inside valley is concerned, the terrorists attacks are continuing though at a lower scale.

The army was directed at the time of ceasefire not to indulge in firing unless and until a situation arises wherein some terrorists are found roaming with weapons attacking people in a particular area or are planning to attack the army personnel. Earlier, the army used to undertake search operations looking out for terrorists and arms ammunitions that could be used from there. The army used to engage them in encounters. However since November last the army has been briefed to bring down to search operations so as to ensure that common men are not put to trouble as happens during the search operations. Normally during the search operations barricades were reacted on the roads, areas were condoned off and vehicles were searched. This has been discontinued. But since the completion of one month of the ceasefire the army has been asked to ensure that no trouble is caused to the common men during search operations. However, whenever the ceasefire has been extended a decision has been taken by us that if any information is received then the input will be fully used to kill the terrorists.

As far as the second part of the question of the hon. Member regarding the deaths of civilians is concerned 748 civilians lost their lives during the months of January and February.

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Whether the Minister would throw some light on the three phase strategy to stamp out the terrorism in the state as indicated in a statement by the Home Minister. What are the deaths this strategy and by when you propose to execute it

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to amend my statement. I made a big mistake in furnishing the figures regarding the deaths of the civilians.

I had told that 748 civilians were killed. This figure is for the period from January 2000 to February 2001 and the number of civilians killed during the last three months is 185.

At present, we intend to talk to the persons who are engaged in militant activities in J&K. We have not been able to achieve desired progress in our endeavour owing to some hurdles coming in the way. In fact, the Government are trying to create conducive atmosphere for such kind of talks. As far our borders are concerned the number of terrorists infiltration into India from across the border has come down significantly.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the minister has told us that firing along the borders has reduced drastically and as far as the LOC is concerned, the situation there is comparatively peaceful than the earlier occasions, but we also get news that terrorists are coming to Jammu and Kashmir by crossing over the border taking advantage of reduced firing. It is easy to declare ceasefire but it is very difficult to formulate a strategic plan to use this ceasefire in resolving the issue so that the nation and Jammu and Kashmir could be benefited. Instead of that we see that the Government is repeatedly extending the ceasefire. We always welcome whatever efforts you have made towards restoration of peace, we extend our support to that but there should be an effective plan for that. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether it is a fact that the terrorists have entered in Jammu and Kashmir in large numbers taking advantage of less firing along the borders and they have strengthened their position. Just now you have said that you are more vigilant now but whether they have crossed the borders in large number during the last 3-4 months or not?

Do you have any strategic plan of which the ceasefire was an important part but it was not a plan in itself. Whether you are acting according to a plan or not? Recently some newspapers have reported about the ceasefire that there are differences on this issue within the army itself.

Whether you have got any response from Pakistan in this regard. Have you got some secret assurance or not and whether as per your intelligence assessment, you have felt any slow down of activities of terrorists in the camps located in Pakistan aimed at empowerment and training of terrorists this I want to ask from the hon'ble Minister through you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has asked 5-6 questions, he has sought information on 5-6 issues. As far as the question of rise in the number of terrorists due to ceasefire is concerned, it is not true. If I give you information regarding the period of three months before ceasefire then the position is this that from 28th August, 2000 till 27th November 2000 there were

54 attempts of infiltration and our army had foiled these attempts and had repulsed these infiltrators. There were only 15 such attempts during three months i.e. from 28th November to 27th February and they were not allowed to sneak into Indian territory. The entire House is aware of the strong hold of army along the borders. Though it is not possible to deploy the army everywhere but the present strategic disposition of army there is such that it is not easy for anybody to infiltrate, therefore the question of increase in their numbers does not arise.

The estimated number of terrorists present in J&K as on date is 2-2.5 thousand but we also have the information that about 2000 persons are waiting in those camps mentioned by you to cross over the borders but at present they are not in a position to cross the border. Today in the morning they tried to infiltrate at two places. Now they have changed their strategy also, earlier they used to cross the border in large number but now they come in 2-3 in numbers, they have changed their strategy since last month. This incident took place in the morning today when three persons were killed while attempting to infiltrate. We also lost two of our personnel but they were killed. At another place, similarly three persons were trying to infiltrate, I got this news when I was leaving for the House from my office that firing was still on there. Therefore, to say that number of infiltrators is increasing, is not correct.

You talked about Pakistan's response. The response of Pakistan is overt and the world is aware of its behaviour. Pakistan assumes that it is Zehad (Holy war) and Zehad will continue. This is their response and they have not changed it even a bit. It is another thing that they want to have a dialogue with us, as they say but they are not ready to create conducive atmosphere for the talks, this is also evident.

The report is totally baseless that there are some differences within the army over this issue. When any rumour is spreaded without having any knowledge about the morale of army it is not only unjust for the army but also for the country as well. I can say this much only but I do not have any power to curb it. This is not a new trend but a very old trend. I remember the days of 1990 at that time also we used to get such reports from Kashmir. When any incident occurred it was not reported. Rather, we used to get report of incidents which had never occurred there. As far as strategic plan is concerned the House is aware that the Kashmir issue is continuing for the last ten years.

So far as issue of restoration of peace along with ceasefire is concerned, on this topic, a decision is awaited after deliberation. Presently this is our strategy.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Bal Thackeray leader of the Shiv Sena which is

main coalition partner of the Government has given a statement that this Government can never control terrorism. We believe that*...(Interruptions) This is not a joke, it is a serious matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this is unparliamentary. I will expunge those words. You are not supposed to use those words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, will you kindly reconsider it. He is quoting somebody
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whether quoting or mentioning this word is unparliamentary.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am saying that Shri Bal Thackeray the Chief of Shiv Sena which is a constituent part of coalition Government has said that this Government can never control terrorism
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This question is very important. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given the direction to expunge those words. They have been expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Defence Minister or other Minister give reply to it
...(Interruptions) You are aware that you cannot suppress my voice.

MR. SPEAKER : Time is short. Please ask supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You can never suppress my voice even if you all stand together. Hon'ble Defence Minister should tell his opinion about this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by hon'ble Member is not related to the original question. The discussion on Government does not arise out of this question
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not disturb her. Today is the International Women's Day. Now the women Member is asking the question. Please listen to her.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank our hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for extending the period of ceasefire unanimously. I want to give a suggestion on this occasion that he should be given an award of world peace for his efforts. Special situation has arisen in Kutch region of Gujarat. It has come to my notice that marks of 10 Numbers shoes have been found in the desert of Kutch. It proves that terrorists are trying to hatch a conspiracy to destroy Gujarat like Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that whether this matter has come to the notice of the Government that marks of 10 Number shoes have been found in the desert of Kutch.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is also not related to the Original question.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Please tell me about the suggestion I have made.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a supplementary.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a humble request, you have said that the question asked by Shri Mulayam Singh ji is unparliamentary. As far as we know, the Supreme Court and the Election Commission have given right to eunuch to contest elections and get elected for the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. Therefore, this question does not arise. So far as its use is concerned our scriptures and literature have used it constantly. He has not asked about any particular person. He has mentioned about the person with whose help this Government is functioning and it bears no ill meaning. This Government is indecisive. This Government could not take decisions. It does not have the will power to do so. What you have to say in this regard?
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever statements or speeches the hon'ble members had made on the address by the President, this type of statement has been made therein
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that there should be coordination

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

amongst the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the State Governments to curb terrorism. If terrorism is to be curbed in an effective way and in letter and spirit, then there is a need to provide a special type of training to the people working to curb the terrorism. The House wants to know as to what action the Government are taking in these matters.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The August House is of the view that Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the State Governments should work unitedly in this regard and it is quite right. And the position as on the date is that there is a unified command there and the responsibility of the unified command has been assigned to the core commander and command is comprise of the force of High level security personnels such as police and others at the state Government level, Para-Military Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Army under the Defence forces and the officers of the Intelligence Department at all levels. All these are united and today whatever action is being taken there, that is taking place under the control of the unified command.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The hon'ble Minister has given a quite contradictory reply.

[English]

Terrorist attacks on the security forces have been an on-going feature of the proxy war in J&K and the insurgency situation in Assam.

[Translation]

He has last told that 748 persons have been killed in two months...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Not in two months. The situation has improved...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : According to the Government records, the number of civilian killed during the year 2000-2001 till 14th February is 1665 and 747 Jawans of the security forces have been killed in Assam and Eastern States...(Interruptions) Everyday we are going on counting the dead bodies. Baba Sahib Thackre's name was referred to here. He has said that whether we would ever take steps against the people who are attacking us or we would go on counting the dead bodies?... (Interruptions) Would the Government ever think about it? The Government say that it is a proxy war...(Interruptions) The civilian children and Jawans are being killed there. Whether the Government would think over it? The Chief Minister of Kashmir or the Peace Chief is against the initiative for the peace...(Interruptions) He has said that Pak occupied Kashmir be made free and article 370 be removed. What the Government propose to contemplate and what steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Firstly the Chief Minister is not against the ceasefire and whatever

decisions have been taken, the Government and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir have been the party to it and there is no question of the Chief Minister going against the ceasefire. There is no doubt that such types of news are published but there is no fact in them...(Interruptions) As regards the original question of the hon'ble Member, I can say this much that whatever situation is prevailing in Kashmir today, we are in constant touch with that and keeping a watch over the same and whenever a situation to take any new decision arises that will be taken after adequate consideration.

[English]

Optical Fibre Cable Network

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*163. **SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :**
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Railways to lay Optical Fibre Cable network in the whole country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as well as the time frame, if any, in this regard; and

(c) the details of Optical Fibre Cable Network laid so far alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Railways have taken a policy decision to provide Optical Fibre Cable systems in all future Railway Electrification Projects as well as in sections where Copper cable is due for replacement. The Optical Fibre cable network is also being laid on sections based upon the operational need. Besides Indian Railways has also set up a corporation — Rail-Tel Corporation of India Ltd. to lay optical fibre cable along Railway track utilizing its Right of Way and market surplus capacity.

(c) A total of 4958 Rkms of Optical Fibre Cable network has been commissioned so far on Indian Railways. Zone/Railway-wise break up of the existing network is:

S.No.	Zone	RKMs
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	836
2.	Eastern Railway	427
3.	Northern Railway	579
4.	Northeast Frontier Rly.	20

1	2	3
5.	South Eastern Railway	1523
6.	Southern Railway	448
7.	Western Railway	205
8.	Konkan Railway	920
Total		4958

These Optical Fibre Cable networks have been commissioned on different sections over a long period of time with costing applicable at the time of commissioning. Optical Fibre Cable network has been laid as part of other works and along with other items of work like laying of Quad Cable etc. Separate expenditure on Optical Fibre Cable network alone is not maintained.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister has stated that Optical Fibre Cables have already been laid on 4,958 route kilometres. Recently, while presenting the Railway Budget on 26th February, the hon. Railway Minister had claimed that Rs. 750 crore would be generated after laying of Optical Fibre Cables on 62,800 route kilometres. The hon. Minister has also stated in his reply that the work of laying of Optical Fibre Cables on 4,958 route kilometres had been done long back. If this is the fact, what was the income generated out of laying of Optical Fibre Cables on 4,958 route kilometres?

Secondly, what would be the real generation of funds after laying Optical Fibre Cables on 62,800 route kilometres which is yet to be laid, as stated in the Railway Budget presented in the House?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nearabout five thousand kilometer optical fibre cable has been laid by now but its commercial utilisation has not started. There is a scheme to lay about 16 thousand kilometer long fibre cable which has also been included in the action plan of the Railways. The budget projection has been shown keeping all these things in view. It was also mentioned in the budget during the last year but by that time this company had not come into being. But now Cabinet has given its approval for the same. We are trying to cover it under joint venture or provide equity to other people/parties. We are expecting to receive money by way of the above equity.

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Sir, the Cabinet has approved the creation of Rail Tel Corporation of India

Limited with a capital investment of Rs. 1,000 crore and it has also approved the appointment of an official as the Chairman of this Corporation. In view of the changing situation and the projection that has been stated in the Railway Budget and also in view of the fact that they have already appointed an international consultant on this scheme, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the real projection of RTCIL, the creation of which has been approved by the Cabinet with a capital of Rs. 1,000 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet has given its approval for one thousand crore rupees and this amount is not going to be spent in a single day. In all, we have got 62 thousand route kilometers of rail line out of which the five thousand route kilometers are to be covered under laying of the optical fibre cable as already decided by us and we are contemplating to cover sixteen thousand route kilometers more. When optical fibre cables would be laid on the entire sixty five thousand route kilometers, only then we could ask about more than one thousand crore rupees. Whatever urgent projections we have shown, only that thing we have mentioned in the Budget.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has told that arrangements have been made to cover 4958 route kilometers under laying of optical fibre cables in Eight Zones. As far as I can recall, developing the optical fibre system as a suggestion from commercial point of view in order to improve the financial position of railways in this Budget and in the last year's budget has been categorised as a priority area. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether Eastern Railway line has been left unnoticed in the matter of determining the Zones? Whether North Eastern Railway is being ignored?... (Interruptions) Whether the Commercial utilisation not possible, this is the situation, I want to have a categorical reply about it?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Sir, the question asked by the hon'ble Member seeks to have a reply as to whether the North Eastern railway has gone unnoticed. There is no question of leaving the Northeastern railway unnoticed. When we talk of the railway track of 62,000 route kilometers, it also includes the North eastern railway but there are several areas which we have to give priority to. The hon'ble member has rightly said that we have to make it a source to earn revenue. As such we are exploring the possibilities wherefrom we can mobilise more amount of money at an early date.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanism

*164. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases received and resolved by the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to strengthen the alternative dispute redressal mechanism to relieve the burden on courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) During the year 1997, 1998 and 2000, the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution received 7 Arbitration cases out of which 2 cases were resolved. The Centre received two Conciliation cases during the period, which were also resolved.

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen the alternative dispute redressal mechanism, and to relieve the burden on Courts, the old Arbitration act has been replaced by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Also, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has been enforced with effect from 9.11.1995 and Lok Adalats have been established at various levels.

Issue of White Paper on Existing Power Sector

*165. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to issue a White Paper on the existing position of power sector and assessment for future power requirements;

(b) if so, whether a high level task force has been constituted by the Government to examine the position of the power sector and also to prepare blueprint for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) There is no plan to issue a white paper on the power sector at present. However, the Government has reviewed the prevailing situation in

the power sector at the highest level at the recently concluded Conference of Chief Ministers and State Power Ministers on 3rd March, 2001 with a sharp focus on power sector reforms. This Conference which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister has evolved a National consensus on reforms. Subject specific Committees have also been set up to deal with specific issues relating to the power sector.

The Government is also contemplating constituting an inter-ministerial Task Force to assess the impact of various measures taken by Government of India in the past and to make recommendations with the objective of providing "power to all by 2012", and suggest corrective measures, if any.

[Translation]

Use of Electronic Voting Machine and Photo Identity Cards

*166. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has taken a decision to get the polling done through electronic voting machines and to make the use of identity cards mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Election Commission has completed the work of issuing identity card to every eligible citizen of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it has decided to use the Electronic Voting Machines as widely as possible. The use of these machines would, however, depend upon the local conditions and availability of stock. The question of making use of these machines compulsory at elections, therefore, does not arise at the present moment. So far as the question of making the use of photo identity cards mandatory for voters at elections is concerned, it may be stated that it is not possible to take such a measure in view of the fact that only 63.39% of voters have so far been issued these cards taking on all India average. In some States/Union territories, more than 70% voters have been issued photo identity cards.

(c) and (d) The registration of electors and the scheme of issuing photo identity cards to electors are continuous and ongoing processes. It is,

therefore, not possible to cover all the electors under the scheme at any given point of time. A statement

containing status report on progress of the scheme is enclosed.

Statement

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards

S.No.	States/UTs	1.1.2000	Total Electors ^a	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	Percentage (5 as % of 4)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		49,140,231	32,568,406	66.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		622,124	373,152	59.98
3.	Assam		12,575,854	67,479	0.54
4.	Bihar		58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa		917,222	525,575	57.30
6.	Gujarat		29,631,636	23,177,051	78.22
7.	Haryana		11,108,535	9,850,009	88.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh		3,814,769	2,654,733	69.59
9.	Jammu & Kashmir		5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka		34,903,320	24,407,863	69.93
11.	Kerala		22,848,899	17,274,683	75.60
12.	Madhya Pradesh		44,640,047	27,706,647	62.07
13.	Maharashtra		57,505,567	44,455,999	77.31
14.	Manipur		1,413,690	1,033,733	73.12
15.	Meghalaya		1,182,672	641,459	54.24
16.	Mizoram		457,434	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland		966,275	625,996	64.78
18.	Orissa		24,172,899	18,188,207	75.24
19.	Punjab		15,723,949	10,810,977	68.75
20.	Rajasthan		31,177,865	22,532,408	72.27
21.	Sikkim		257,062	200,077	77.83
22.	Tamil Nadu		47,945,872	31,282,71	65.24
23.	Tripura		1,725,809	1,229,993	71.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh		101,943,066	53,027,456	52.02
25.	West Bengal		48,642,245	39,829,900	81.88
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		252,729	194,973	77.15
27.	Chandigarh		538,607	381,048	70.75

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		103,603	81,700	78.86
29.	Daman & Diu		71,931	45,645	63.46
30.	NCT of Delhi		8,707,531	5,800,683	66.62
31.	Lakshadweep		36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry		658,927	555,675	84.33
All India Total			617,148,207	391,237,347	63.69

* Total number of electors as on qualifying date noted in Column 3 of the Statement.

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations

*167. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger amenities at various railway stations in the country have deteriorated considerably during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. Passenger amenities have in fact been upgraded and augmented substantially during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Exposure of Stores at CODs

*168. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a review of the space utilised by the Central Ordnance Depots has revealed that stores weighing over thirty thousand tonnes valued at over Rs. one fifty crore, are lying in the open, exposing them to vagaries of weather and deterioration; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in his report on "Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services" published under reference of Union Government

(Defence Services) No. 7A of 2000, had observed that stores weighing over 30,000 tonnes valued at over Rs. 150 crores were lying in the open in five Central Ordnance Depots assessed by the CAG.

As per the procedure in vogue, stores initially received in the depots are inspected, accounted for and subsequently stored in sheds. This being an ongoing process, a percentage of serviceable inventory, therefore, will be lying in the open at any given time for a prescribed & limited period.

Instructions have been issued to all concerned to ensure storage of serviceable inventory in the covered accommodation to avoid losses due to vagaries of weather. All serviceable inventory lying in open at the time of the visit of the Audit Team has since been placed in proper storage accommodation. As per the latest report, about 400 tonnes of inventory costing Rs. 1.50 crores approximately comprising of obsolete and unserviceable items is lying in the open in these Depots awaiting disposal.

Protest against High Power Tariff

*169. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the farmers community in the country is protesting against power tariff hike by the State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in the interest of the farmers community in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Some categories of consumers including agricultural consumers have been protesting against the tariff increases decided by State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in some States.

The National Development Council (NDC) appointed a Committee on Power chaired by Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The report submitted in September, 1994 recommended *inter alia*, that,

- The State Government should adopt minimum All India agricultural tariff as notified by Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority and also should agree to provide subsidy to the SEBs in a transparent manner to compensate for the losses, if any.
- Subsidies to the agricultural consumers should be progressively phased out.

Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1996 adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) which envisages, *inter alia* that :

No sector shall pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution) and that tariffs for agricultural sector will not be less than 50 paise KWH to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than three years.

To Government of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 with a view to rationalize tariff and providing for transparent policies regarding subsidies. The Regulatory Commissions are expected to fix tariff so as to progressively reflect the cost of supply, encourage efficiency, economy and competition. The Regulatory Commissions are also required to ensure that interests of consumers are safeguarded and at the same time consumers pay for the use of electricity in a reasonable manner based on the average cost of supply.

The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 26.2.2000 recognised that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained if the industrial tariff makes industry non-competitive.

The Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3.3.2001 resolved *inter-alia* that,

- the quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the Accelerated Power Development Programme and other programmes quickly.
- SERCs may be made functional in next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and SERCs need to be implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by court orders. It is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power.

- The past decisions of Chief Ministers of minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

Imparting of Education to Girls in Sainik Schools

*170. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at present the Sainik Schools do not cater to girls;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from any State Government for setting up of schools on the pattern of Sainik School for imparting education and training to girls for preparing them physically and mentally for their entry in defence forces; and

(d) If so, the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) A letter was received from Minister of State Education, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat, in 1998 requesting for the setting up of a sainik school for girls so that the girls can get an opportunity to join the defence forces at the officers level.

(d) The proposal to open sainik schools for girls had not been agreed in view of the fact that lady officers in the three Services are recruited by the three Services for performing certain functions which are of specialized and non-combatant nature of duties and hence restricted in scope.

Oil Import Bill

*171. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the oil import bill is likely to touch Rs. 80,000 crores during the current fiscal year as against Rs. 54,000 crores during 1999-2000.

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in the recent past, International crude oil prices have been increased and more than tripled in just one year, which have adversely affected the economy of developing countries;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take some steps in cooperation with other developing countries to extract concessions from the oil exporting countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per latest outlook, gross import bill for the year 2000-01 is estimated at around Rs. 80,000 crore. The net import bill for the current year is estimated to be around Rs. 71,000 crore as against Rs. 53,500 crore during the year 1999-2000.

(b) The crude oil prices in the international market increased by more than three times during the period February 1999 to September, 2000. High and volatile international oil prices adversely affect the economy of oil importing developing countries.

(c) and (d) At the International Energy Forum meeting of oil producing and consuming countries held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from November 17-19, 2000, India made a suggestion to the effect that oil exporting countries should consider giving concessions to the developing countries in the form of discounts, deferred payments, soft credits etc. The suggestion was well received and the need to give special consideration to developing countries was appreciated. The matter was also taken up in the bilateral meetings with the oil exporting countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Indonesia, Algeria, Nigeria and Qatar. All of them during the bilateral discussions were appreciative of the concerns of India and the developing countries and assured that they would ponder upon the suggestion at their own level and collectively. Subsequently on 14th December, 2000, a proposal was sent to the OPEC member countries containing the following:

- (i) Extension of credit period to 90 days by the oil exporting company instead of the normal period of 30 days;
- (ii) A price discount of 20% of the incremental price beyond and accepted crude price, say \$ 25 per barrel; and
- (iii) Deferred payment facility at LIBOR for a period of three years for incremental amounts due to price increases beyond an agreed level, say \$ 28 per barrel.

In response to the Indian proposal, Indonesia and Qatar have responded that India's proposal may be considered at the next meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled to be held in Vienna in mid — March, 2001.

[Translation]

Indo-France Collaboration in Power Sector

*172. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and France have decided to collaborate in the crucial power sector and Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the development of economy during the years to come;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have identified the projects in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) An Indo-French Working Group on Energy was set up in February, 1999 to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Power, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Atomic Energy, Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Water Resources. Two meetings of this Working Group have since been held, the first in March, 1999 in New Delhi, and the second in February, 2001 in Paris.

While in the first meeting, information relating to potential areas of investment in the sectors identified in the two countries were exchanged, the second meeting has identified a few specific areas of cooperation. For the power sector, the following were identified:

- (i) India and France could cooperate in Survey and Investigation of river basin hydro projects in India.
- (ii) French companies could offer their bids for distribution of electricity opportunities, as and when called for by State Utilities in India.
- (iii) India and France agreed to promote and support pilot demonstration projects in India for distribution and metering and energy conservation along with demand side management.
- (iv) The Indian side expressed interest in French cooperation in establishing benchmarking of costs and technology with the object of reducing cost of generated and delivered power.
- (v) Exchange of information on regulatory policy process and experience.

For the Non-conventional Energy sector, the following areas were identified for Indo-French cooperation:

- (a) A hybrid solar photovoltaic (SPV) project connected on gasified biomass/diesel mini grid in Sunderban Islands in West Bengal.
- (b) Wind-Diesel hybrid project in Lakshadweep Islands.
- (c) Bagasse Cogeneration projects.
- (d) Short-term training courses for Indian specialists.
- (e) Exploring the possibility of setting up of joint projects in the area of gasified biomass in third countries.

Multinational Foreign Companies in Power Generation

*173. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted the foreign/multinational companies engaged in power generation to earn dividend at higher rate;

(b) if so, the reasons for this disparity;

(c) whether SEBs of the States in the country have decided to fix tariff for electricity on the basis of 3% dividend on project cost;

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

(e) whether not even an effective mechanism has been evolved to certify the expenditure to be incurred on construction cost in the power sector; and

(f) if so, the facts in this regard and the details of mechanism evolved therein?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) The two part tariff notification issued by Government of India (GOI) on 30.3.1992 allows a return of upto 16% on equity (paid up and subscribed) at normative levels of operation i.e. 68.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF) for both foreign as well as Indian investors in the private sector for power projects. For generation beyond this level, incentive at negotiated rates subject to a ceiling of 0.7% of equity (paid up and subscribed), for each percentage increase in PLF is allowed.

Tariff for electricity for State Electricity Board (SEB) power projects is being fixed by SEBs as per provision of section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, which stipulates that the SEB shall adjust its

tariff so as to ensure that the total revenue in any year of account after meeting all expenses properly chargeable to revenues, is not less than 3% or such higher percentage, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf, of the value of the fixed assets of the Board in service at the beginning of such year. While 16% return to private sector is on the equity (paid up and subscribed), 3% return in case of SEBs is allowed on the entire value of fixed assets of the Board in service at the beginning of such year.

(e) and (f) The construction cost of power projects is cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) or the State Government/SEB, as the case may be. Certain categories of power projects awarded to private entrepreneurs through a process of international competitive bidding (ICB) have been exempted from the requirement of concurrence of CEA considering, *inter-alia*, that the scrutiny of cost in respect of ICB route projects where the lowest competitive cost/tariff has already been decided through the ICB process, is of little relevance. Guidelines on tariff based competitive bidding for thermal power projects have been issued to the State Governments, so that there is competitive pressure to bring down the cost of project.

[English]

International Price Fluctuations in Oil

*174. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has called for a new world petroleum economic order to provide energy security and insulate developing countries from "violent" international price fluctuations;

(b) if so, whether India has underlined the needs for all developing oil-importing countries to engage the oil exporting countries at the political level to ensure reasonable prices;

(c) if so, the other suggestions made by India to these oil importing countries; and

(d) the extent to which India's views have been considered?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) At the International Energy Forum meeting of oil producing and consuming countries held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from November 17-19, 2000, India made a suggestion to the effect that oil exporting countries should consider giving concessions to the developing countries in the form of discounts, deferred

payments, soft credits etc. The suggestion was well taken and the need to give special consideration to developing countries was appreciated. The matter was also taken up in the bilateral meetings also with the oil exporting countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Indonesia, Algeria, Nigeria and Qatar. Each of these countries, during the bilateral discussions was appreciative of the concerns of India and the developing countries and assured that they would ponder upon the suggestion at their own level and collectively. Subsequently, on 14th December, 2000, a proposal was sent to the OPEC member countries containing the following :

- (i) Extension of credit period to 90 days by the oil exporting company instead of the normal period of 30 days.
- (ii) A price discount of 20% of the incremental price beyond an accepted crude price, say \$ 25 per barrel, and
- (iii) Deferred payment facility at LIBOR for a period of three years for incremental amounts due to price increases beyond an agreed level, say \$ 28 per barrel

(d) In response to the Indian proposal, Indonesia and Qatar have responded that India's proposal may be considered at the next meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled to be held in Vienna in mid-March, 2001.

Private Sector in Wind Farms

*175. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up wind power projects through private sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of potential sites identified for the purpose; and

(c) the details of technical and other assistance proposed to be provided by the Government to the private sector for establishment of wind turbines/wind farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) A total wind power capacity of 1270 MW has so far been installed in the country. Of this, a capacity of 1213 MW has come up through commercial projects by the private sector.

(b) 204 potential sites in 13 States/UTs have been identified which can be considered for setting up wind power projects. State-wise break up of the sites is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, wind surveys are carried out to identify potential sites for wind power projects. A Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) has been established in Chennai to provide technical support for wind power development. Funds are provided to the States for a limited number of demonstration projects. Fiscal and promotional incentives are also provided for commercial projects. Soft loans are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for these projects. Potential States have announced policies for grid connection and sale of electricity generated from wind power projects.

Statement

State-wise break-up of potential sites for Wind Power Projects

S.No.	State	No. of sites
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	30
3.	Gujarat	34
4.	Karnataka	25
5.	Kerala	16
6.	Lakshdweep	8
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7
8.	Maharashtra	27
9.	Orissa	6
10.	Rajasthan	8
11.	Tamil Nadu	39
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	West Bengal	2
Total		204

Gas Allocation to Power Project

*176. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the gas allocation to Gas based power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The allocation to gas based projects in the country has been increased from time to time. The total allocation of gas to the power sector during the recent years is as follows:

Year	Status of allocation to the Power Sector (in million standard cubic Meters per day)
1997-98	35.71
1998-99	36.11
1999-2000	40.85
2000-2001	52.52

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

[Translation]

Special Trains to Gujarat

*177. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements of special trains to Gujarat for the relatives of earthquake victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the arrangements were sufficient; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 30 trains were run from Gujarat to the other states and 25 trains from the other states to Gujarat between 27-01-2001 and 07-02-2001 for the public including relatives of earthquake victims, NGOs etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Handicrafts Sector

*178. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government undertook any

survey of handicrafts clusters in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country for launching of a new scheme for the development of the handicrafts sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any scheme to streamline the assistance package for the handicrafts industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) Government has recently approved a diagnostic study of handicrafts clusters in one district of Tamil Nadu. A similar study has been undertaken in other parts of the country in the States of Chattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, J&K, Sikkim, Gujarat and West Bengal with a view to identifying area specific and crafts specific problems and the possible interventions. A new Scheme titled "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastship Vikas Yojana" has been recently approved. This scheme is based on an integrated cluster development approach and is based on Self Help Group & Thrift and Credit model, which will enable the artisans to avail assistance from Government and from financial institutions. The scheme is an attempt to focus on the artisans directly with a view to organizing them into self-sustainable community enterprises.

Misuse of Defence Planes

*179. DR. V. SAROJA :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of blatant misuse of defence aircraft for non-official purposes by many persons including senior army and airforce officers;

(b) if so, the details of such cases of misuse recorded during each of the last three years alongwith the names of officers involved therein and the action taken against them;

(c) the money spent on such-non-official trips;

(d) the steps taken to recover such amount from the concerned officers and to ensure that defence aircraft are not misused; and

(e) the details of air-crash met by Chetak Helicopter near Vaishno Devi Shrine and the outcome of the inquiry held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Senior Service Officers are provided airlift facility, in accordance with the existing instructions, governing use of defence

aircraft and no case of misuse of the facility has come to light.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

(e) A Chetak helicopter of the Indian Army crashed near Vaishno Devi Shrine. A formal Court of Inquiry to investigate into all aspects of the accident has been ordered by the Army Hqrs. Findings are awaited.

Tourism Development Projects

*180. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for sanctioning of Tourism Projects;

(b) the names of projects/proposals received from the State Governments for the development of tourism for 2001-02, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the names of projects cleared by the Government along with the funds allocated thereunder, project-wise;

(d) whether some tourism projects have been rejected by the Government;

(e) if so, the details of those projects/proposals along with the reasons therefor; and

(f) the fresh initiatives taken by the Government to develop tourism in the country and also to attract more domestic/foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Development and Promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India extends central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised every year in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. Projects are prioritised depending upon their merit, intense priority and availability of funds.

(b) Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/UTs prioritises projects for Central financial assistance only at the beginning of each financial year.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) In order to develop and promote tourism in the country, Department of Tourism, Government of India has taken various initiatives including advertisement in print and electronic media, organising seminars, workshop on tourism,

extensive use of Information Technology through Indian tourism website, preparation of CD-Roms, participation in Travel and Tourism Fairs/Marts and production of publicity material.

Hydrocarbon LNH Terminal Project by IOC

1670. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed an MOU with the Union Government for Rs. 35,000 crore new projects including Rs. 19,400 crore hydrocarbon LNH terminal project being set up by the Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this project is likely to be completed;

(c) the number of Indian and foreign companies involved in this project; and

(d) the total annual production capacity of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Kakinada Indian Oil LNG Consortium (KIOLC) lead by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Andhra Pradesh on 10.01.2001 for setting up an liquified natural gas (LNG) project including terminal, pipeline network, product terminal for bulk fuels, integrated power project etc. totalling to an estimated investment of Rs. 19,400 crores in phases. The above project is estimated to be completed by August 2005, subject to feasibility and economic viability of each of the components.

(c) The Indian company involved in the project is IOC, while the foreign companies are Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) of Malaysia and BP Asia Pacific Inc., a subsidiary of BP Amaco Plc.

(d) The capacity of the LNG terminal in the first phase is 2.5 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) which could be expanded in phases upto 10 MMTPA depending on the need.

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Thuravur

1671. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct

foot over bridges at Thuravur, Ambalapuzha, Chevthala and Haripad railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said bridge are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is proposal for construction of FOB only at Shertalai. (Name of station is Shertalai instead of Chevthala).

(b) and (c) Work has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 19.95 lakh and is targetted for completion by March 2002.

Complaints against LPG Agencies

1672.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints regarding irregularities registered against the LPG agencies in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government against such dealers; and

(c) the details of LPG agencies suspended in each State so far on account of irregularities committed by the dealers during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Public Sector Oil Companies have reported the details of established complaints received against their LPG distributors during last three years as under:

Number of established complaints during the year

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
IOC	143	222	373
HPC	77	64	79
BPC	16	38	53
IBP	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies take the action against the distributors on established complaints in terms of distributorship agreement/Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) keeping in view the gravity of the offence. The details of LPG agencies suspended in each State during the last 3 years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Statewise details of number of LPG distributorships suspended during the last 3 years

States	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5	1	4
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	-
Bihar	10	2	3
Delhi	-	1	1
Goa	-	-	-
Gujarat	2	-	5
Haryana	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
Karnataka	1	2	1
Kerala	2	1	3
Madhya Pradesh	2	-	-
Maharashtra	6	2	-
Manipur	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	1	-
Nagaland	-	-	-
Orissa	-	-	1
Punjab	3	1	-
Rajasthan	2	1	2
Sikkim	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	1	2	5
Tripura	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	6	4	6
West Bengal	-	1	-
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-

1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	2	-
Total	40	21	31

Export of Locos

1673. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to draw a long term plan to export state of the art locos;

(b) whether they have acquired international quality technology in the matter;

(c) the names of the countries shown interest in these locos;

(d) the time by which railways would start export of locos; and

(e) the estimated per annum foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

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

(c) State-of-the-art diesel locos have been imported in 1999 and its indigenous manufacture is planned to commence in 2001-02.

State-of-the-art electric locos are already under indigenous manufacture. For exporting such locomotives and its sub-assemblies to other countries, exploratory dialogue has been started with Switzerland, Turkey and South Africa who have shown interest.

(d) and (e) Export of locos is a thrust area of Indian Railways and efforts are on to be competitive in the global market. The timeframe and foreign exchange likely to be earned from such export is not known at present.

Opposition to New Textile Policy

1674. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom weavers of Karnataka are agitating to save textile sector programmes;

(b) if so, whether they have opposed the new textile policy which is against their interests;

(c) if so, the extent to which this policy has affected them;

(d) whether the Government are considering to make certain changes in the New Textile Policy keeping in mind the interest of handloom sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Government of India is not aware of any agitation by the handloom weavers from any part of the country including Karnataka. The new textile policy has been formulated after giving due consideration to serve the needs of all segments of the Textile Sector. Any changes in the new textile policy may be considered on merit, keeping in view the needs and requirements of all segments.

Doubling of Bandel-Katwa Rail Line

1675. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for doubling Bandel-Katwa railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the estimate for completion of double line has also been arrived at; and

(c) if so, the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(c) Based on the justification furnished in the survey report, the work of doubling of Bandel-Jirat section, a part of Bandel-Katwa section has been included in the Budget of 2001-2002 at a cost of Rs. 47 cr. The work would be taken up once the Budget is passed by the Parliament. Work will be progressed and completed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Fire in Godown of Jodhpur Air Force Station

1676. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware to the fire which broke out in the godown of Air Force Station, Jodhpur recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of losses suffered therefrom;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) On 7th February, 2001, a fire accident took place in the tentage store of the Logistic Section at Air Force Station, Jodhpur. Preliminary inquiry reveals that approximately, 140 two-men tents, alongwith their accessories, were destroyed in the fire. However, there was no injury/casualty.

(d) and (e) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Indian Air Force, which is in progress.

[English]

Power Purchase Agreement

1677. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report captioned "Maharashtra Power Board has submitted all documents to Power Regulator-Writ forces MERC to scrutinize PPAs" appearing in the *Business Standard* dated January 2, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of reaction of the Government to the observations made therein;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the present status of the issues raised by Maharashtra State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The said news item has appeared in the 'Business Standard' dated January 2, 2001.

(b) The news item mentions a petition filed with the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) pleading for the Commission to analyze and regulate various contracts pertaining to some private sector power projects in Maharashtra and also to make public all such documents. The Government of India does not seem to be a party in matter nor any communication in the matter has been received from the Government of Maharashtra/MERC/Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the position stated in reply to the above.

[Translation]

Hydel Project of Arunachal Pradesh

1678. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the first phase of the 405 MW Ranganadi Hydel Power Project in lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) the cost involved thereon;

(d) the details and schedule for implementation of second and third phases of the project indicating its cost; and

(e) the steps being taken to resettle the displaced persons and oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The construction activities of Ranganadi HEP (3x135 MW = 405 MW) being implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), in lower Subansiri District in Arunachal Pradesh are at an advanced stage. All the three units of 135 MW each are scheduled to be commissioned during 2001-02. The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 1446.09 crores. The second phase of the project (Ranganadi Stage-II, 180 MW) has been identified for benefits during the 11th Plan. Rehabilitation and resettlement of the displaced persons is the responsibility of the State Government, at the cost of the Project. Based on the assessment of the number of people affected due to the execution of Ranganadi HEP (405 MW), NEEPCO has released Rs. 217.84 lakhs to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the rehabilitation of project affected people and oustees.

[English]

Plight of Handloom Weavers of Andhra Pradesh

1679. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federation of Andhra Pradesh Handloom weavers' Association deplored the step-motherly attitude adopted by the Union and the State Government towards the handloom weavers of the state;

(b) whether the Government's failure in giving encouragement to weavers societies, over 3 crore families all over the country are affected and thrown into poverty;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Cooperative Society (APCO) is yet to clear the areas over Rs. 13 crore to various handloom units;

(d) if so, whether they have pointed out that unless onslaught of power loom sector is not checked, the handloom sector would be totally wiped out and

(e) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take to help the handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, to ensure sustainable livelihood and an improved standard of living for Weavers, Government of India has been financing the State Governments to implement a series of developmental and welfare schemes such as Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Insurance Schemes and Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have released Rs. 4.07 crores to APCO for payment of dues to Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperatives and have initiated steps to clear off remaining dues.

(d) and (e) The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985, is in vogue under which 11 categories of Textiles articles are exclusively reserved for the handloom sector. The Central Government is also providing financial assistance for various developmental and welfare schemes including the recently launched Scheme called the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana to ensure integrated development of the handloom sector all over the country including Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Activities of TTEs in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains

1680.SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the TTEs posted in the Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains manage to allow unauthorised passengers and collect money from them;

(b) if so, the number of TTEs found guilty and the action taken against them during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such malpractice in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Some cases have come to notice. During the year 2000, 28 ticket checking staff were found indulging in irregularities and were taken up under disciplinary rules.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments of the Railways to detect cases of unauthorised travel in trains. In addition, a strict watch is kept on the working of staff deployed in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains by officers and supervisors. Staff found conniving in unauthorised travel are taken up under disciplinary rules.

[English]

Electrification in Karnataka

1681.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to launch a project under the Accelerated Power Development Programme on rural electrification in Mandya, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the outlay for the project;

(c) whether the work on this project has already commenced; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Government of India has approved Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in November, 2000, with the outlay of Rs. 1000 crores for 2000-2001. APDP will continue till the year 2012 with an outlay of Rs. 1500 crores for the year 2001-02. APDP will finance projects relating to:

(i) Renovation & Modernisation/Life Extension/ Updating of existing old generating stations, costing less than Rs. 100 crores; and

(ii) Upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network including energy accounting and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner.

Under phase-I of the programme, 50 distribution circles have been identified in consultation with the State Governments for implementation of projects relating to upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network. Short-term and Long-term measures will be taken up in these circles for reduction of T&D losses (both technical &

commercial losses). For Karnataka, Mysore, Bijapur, Belgaum circles have been identified for upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network. The project report in respect of Hubli Circle have been received for appraisal and funding. The remaining distribution circles will be taken up in a phased manner for which project reports will have to be prepared by KPTCL. Short-term measures like installation of meters, capacitors and distribution transformers have been approved during the current year in three circles (Mysore, Bijapur and Belgaum).

Construction of Railway Line upto Agartala

1682.SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding construction of railway line upto Agartala;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend the project upto Sabrum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Kumarghat-Agartala new line is a sanctioned ongoing project. Work has been taken up for a stretch of 60 km i.e. 40 km from Agartala end and 20 km from Kumarghat end where the line is located in normal terrain. For the remaining 49 km hilly terrain, the final location survey has been taken up and field work has been completed and the report is under finalisation.

(b) Rs. 63.71 crores have been spent upto the financial year 1999-2000 and a sum of Rs. 40 crores has been allocated for the current financial year.

(c) No target date for completion of this project has been fixed.

(d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Amendment to AFHQ Civil Service Rules

1683.SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to amend the AFHQ Civil Service Rules, 1968 for facilitating introduction of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination in the grade of Assistant Civilian Staff Officer has been sent to Law Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has since been cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to amend the AFHQ Civil Service Rules, 1968 has been cleared by the Ministry of Law.

Decrease in Shipment at Mumbai Port

1684.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether considerable decrease has been recorded in the arrival of shipment at Mumbai port;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the arrival of shipment at Mumbai port during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow private handling of cargo at Mumbai port;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps mooted to increase the working efficiency of Mumbai port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decrease in shipment is due to: (i) reduction in import of POL products; (ii) diversion of containers to Jawaharlal Nehru Port; (iii) physical constraints in Mumbai port to handle large ships, such as limitation of draft, enclosed dock system with lock gate; (iv) old and outdated port equipment; (v) low productivity and consequently high cost of handling; and (vi) octroi levied by the Municipal Corporation. The arrival of shipment at the Port during the last three years, year-wise is as under:

(In million tonnes)	
1997-98	32.10
1998-99	30.97
1999-2000	30.41

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Private Sector participation in Major Port have been thrown open in the following areas:

(i) Leasing out existing assets of the port.

(ii) Construction/creation of additional assets, such as:

(a) Construction and operation of container terminals.

- (b) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.
- (c) Warehousing, container Freight Stations, storage facilities and tank farms.
- (d) Cranage/Handling Equipment
- (e) Setting up of captive power plants.
- (f) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.
- (iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (iv) Pilotage.
- (v) Captive facilities for port based industries.
- (e) The steps mooted are:
 - (i) Modernisation of equipment consistent with emerging cargo mix.
 - (ii) Changes in operating systems and extension of better facilities to trade;
 - (iii) Computerisation;
 - (iv) Reduction in number of labour and employees.

Availability of Natural Gas

1685.SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantum of natural gas availability in various places of the country;

(b) the quantum of natural gas lifted from the wells;

(c) the quantum of gas utilized for industry, power generation and for other use separately; and

(d) the future plan for utilization with references to the Tripura and other States of North-East?

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 estimated balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the country, as on 1.4.2000 is about 5386 billion cubic metre.

(b) and (c) The average production of natural gas during 2000-2001 (from April 2000 to Jan. 2001) has

been about 81 million standard cubic metre per day, out of which, after providing for internal consumption and flaring, supplies have been made to various sectors as follows:

Sector	Quantity in (MMSCMD)
Fertilizer	23.5
Power	24.5
Sponge Iron	3.6
Other Industries	10.7

(d) Presently a total allocation of about 4.5 MMSCMD of gas has been made by Gail in Tripura State mainly for power sector, out of which the utilization is about 1.0 MMSCMD only. In Assam the effective allocation is about 1.4 MMSCMD for power, fertilizer and tea gardens.

In addition, OIL has present commitments of the order of 3.83 MMSCMD in Assam which are likely to go upto 5.9 MMSCMD in future. This includes additional commitments to existing consumers as well as Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. for its Gas Cracker Project and also for the Amguri Power Plant.

Barabani-Tapsi-Andal Rail Track

1686.SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Barabani-Tapsi-Andal railway track under Eastern Railway is not being utilized;

(b) if so, the reasons for diversion of trains on that route;

(c) if so, whether the said track is being stolen by anti-social elements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the said property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Barabani-Tapsi-Andal section is utilized for goods traffic generally for carrying coal loads.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since goods trains are already running on this section, question of theft of track does not arise. However, sometimes pilferages of track fittings do get reported. To protect the Indian Railways property RPF staff are deployed at Barabani, Tapsi, Sonachara and Andal stations in addition to camping/

track patrolling in the section. In addition, Engineering staff also work in the section for day to day maintenance work which ensure protection of the track.

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Pataudi Road

1687. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the people/commuters on railway stations in Delhi-Rewari Section due to raising the platform level towards broad gauge line involving risk of accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to construct foot over bridges on these Railway stations particularly at Pataudi Road railway station to overcome the problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the foot over bridges particularly at Pataudi Road railway station are likely to be constructed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Provision of amenities at stations, including Foot Over Bridges, is a continuous process and works in this regard are sanctioned through annual works program depending upon relative priority of works and availability of funds. Foot Over Bridge at Bijwasan station has been constructed recently. Foot Over Bridge at Pataudi Road railway station was sanctioned for provision along with gauge conversion of second line between Delhi and Rewari. Since gauge conversion of second line is not being taken up at present, a change in plans is under examination as the present width of platform on metre gauge side does not permit construction of Foot Over Bridge.

(c) Time frame for construction of the Foot Over Bridge would be finalised after ascertaining feasibility and change of plans.

(d) Does not arise.

Electrification of Surrounding Areas of Power Plant

1688. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated

any policy to electrify the areas around the power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those power plants in Uttar Pradesh which are not complying with the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Power plants are set up in the Central, State and Private sectors in the country. However, the electrification of any area in the State is the responsibility of the concerned State Electricity Board. Although there is no policy to electrify the areas around the power plants as such a part of its resettlement and rehabilitation policy, the infrastructure for street lighting of resettlement colonies for the project affected persons is provided by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and all NTPC projects in Uttar Pradesh have complied with this. Similarly, the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation provide electrification of the project-affected areas at the cost of the respective projects.

Losses to SEBs

1689. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the major loss to the State Electricity Boards of various States is only due to power theft and non-payments of dues by Electricity subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of this the Electricity Boards are planning to revise their Electricity rates instead of checking the power thefts and realisation of outstanding dues from its subscribers; and

(d) action taken by each of the State Electricity Board to realize its outstandings from defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The main reasons for losses of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are low plant load factor high transmission and distribution losses, including pilferage and theft, low billing and realisation and non-viable tariff structure leading to an increasing gap between the cost of supply and realisation per unit.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act 1998 with a view to rationalize tariff, transparent policies towards subsidies, promote competition, efficiency and economy etc. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted and has started functioning. This Act enables State Government to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). So far 15 States have notified constitution of SERCs. SERCs of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana have already issued tariff orders. The Regulatory Commissions while fixing tariff have a mandate to consider the factors which would encourage efficiency, economical use of resources, good performance besides safeguarding the interests of consumers.

The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3.3.2001 recognized that the real problem of management and the challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector and resolved that :

- (i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
- (ii) An effective Management Information System for this purpose needs to be made operational.
- (iii) On the basis of the above, an effective program needs to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.
- (iv) Full metering of all consumers had been targeted for completion by December 2001. Special efforts should be made to complete the programme.
- (v) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the APDP and other programmes quickly;
- (vi) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:
 - Creating Profit centres with full accountability.
 - Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary.
 - Privatisation of distribution.
 - Or any other means.
- (vii) Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focussed towards the distribution sector.
- (viii) Current operation on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional SERCs etc. The Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far the States of Karnataka, U.P., M.P., Haryana and Gujarat have signed MOUs.

Retail Outlets Commissioned in Non-habitation Area

1690.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to change market plan for Retail Outlets in case these are not be commissioned due to non-habitation;

(b) if so, whether the land allotting agencies in Delhi and Maharashtra are asked to change the site from non-habitation to habitation area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The retail outlets are included in the Marketing Plan after conducting feasibility survey and are found to be meeting Volume-Distance norms. After the decision to set up a retail outlet is taken, the oil marketing PSUs take action for procurement of land, etc. and the Government authorities are requested to allot land for retail outlets as per procedure, wherever required.

Purchase of Anchor Chain Cable by Naval Headquarters

1691.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Controller of Logistics, Naval Headquarters, failed to process and accept the

lowest offer for the purchase of anchor chain cable despite approval of the purchase proposal and availability of funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the item was purchased subsequently at higher rates resulting into extra expenditure of Rs. 70 lakhs;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and fix responsibility and take action accordingly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India, in its Report No. 8 of 2000, have pointed out that the Naval Headquarters procured 9 sets of Anchor Chain Cables in February-March, 1998 from a foreign firm at a cost of USD 424818 against a contract of March 1997. This procurement entailed an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 70 lakhs as a cheaper offer received in April, 1995 was not availed of although the requirement projected by a Naval Store Depot in December, 1994 had been approved by the Controller of Logistics at the Naval Headquarters, in-principle. However, the Deputy Controller of Logistics Support failed to process the indent on proper proforma, in time, without recording any reasons.

The Naval Headquarters have informed that a Logistic Delegation (LOGDEL) had gone to Russia in early 1995 for making purchases. The delegation had received an offer for supply of three sets of Anchor Chain Cables from M/s. Baltic. However, the firm was actually able to offer to the delegation only one set ex-stock. The delivery of remaining sets was not clearly defined by the firm due to uncertain political and economic conditions that prevailed in Russia in the aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet Union. The delegation, therefore, concluded the contract for supply of only one set, including accessories, at the cost of USD 26800. In March, 1996, an offer was received from the same firm quoting the unit price of USD 44800 per ship set, which was considered very high. The possibility of procurement of Anchor Chain Cables from indigenous sources was also explored. As the efforts to procure the item from indigenous sources did not materialize, procurement was made based on an offer received from another foreign firm at the rate of USD 47202 per set.

An Action Taken Note (ATN) on the Audit Para raised by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been prepared and is being finalized in consultation with the Principal Director of Audit.

Family Pension to Pre-1986 Pensioners

1692.SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2875 on August 10, 2000 and state:

(a) the year-wise break-up of application of the pensioners retiring from 1981 onwards pending with the Air Force Record Office;

(b) the year-wise break-up of applications of the pensioners retiring from 1981 onwards pending with DCDA (Air Force);

(c) the number of applications for family pension of pensioners who retired in 1981, pending with Air Force Record Office (AFRO)/Deputy Controller of Defence Accounts (Air Force), New Delhi respectively as on January 31, 2001;

(d) the number of applications of pensioners who retired in 1981 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 and the time by which all these cases are likely to be expedited; and

(f) the nature of complaints/representations received from the Air Force personnel retiring in 1981 and the action taken thereon by the AFRO, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No application for Pre-1986 Family Pension is pending with Air Force Record Office/DCDA (Air Force). All such applications, received from eligible pensioners, have since been cleared.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply against (a) to (d) above.

Free Concessional Power to Agriculture Sector

1693.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether free/concessional power to agriculture is leading to colossal losses to SEBs; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss incurred in this regard during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

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

(b) Net subsidy on account of sale of electricity to agriculture sector at a concessional rate/free supply State-wise for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (AP) is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

SEBs	(Rs. Crore)		
	1997-98 Provi.	1998-99 (RE)	1999-2000 (AP)
1. Andhra Pradesh	2095	2500	2796
2. Assam	7	11	13
3. Bihar	450	508	521
4. Delhi (DVB)	NA	25	27
5. Gujarat	2457	2950	3466
6. Haryana	893	1090	1288
7. Himachal Pradesh	1	2	2
8. Jammu & Kashmir	122	119	30
9. Karnataka	1534	1708	2232
10. Kerala	48	56	91
11. Madhya Pradesh	2140	2241	2503
12. Maharashtra	2942	3217	3593
13. Meghalaya	0	0	0
14. Orissa	44	49	48
15. Punjab	1326	0	0
16. Rajasthan	1177	1447	1453
17. Tamil Nadu	1504	1741	1982
18. Uttar Pradesh	2000	2164	2204
19. West Bengal	322	403	453
Total	19063	20232	22703

*[Translation]***Maintenance facilities at Aligarh and Lucknow Railway Stations**

1694. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide maintenance facilities of Air Brake and Airconditioned coaches at Aligarh and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Adequate facilities exist at Lucknow station for

maintenance of Air Brake and Air-Conditioned coaches. These facilities, however, are not available in Aligarh, since no coaches are based in that station for primary maintenance.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Survey of Kandla Port**

1695. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Chennai has been asked to make a survey of the ten berths at Kandla Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the condition of berths Nos. 1 to 5;

(d) the number of berths required major repairs; and

(e) the number of berths are operational at Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The IIT experts have inspected and surveyed the various installations of the Port.

(c) During the preliminary inspection and the detailed survey, it was observed that, in respect of berths no. 1 to 6, out of 3000 piles, 1400 piles have developed hair cracks and 100 piles are totally damaged near the zero panel.

(d) Six.

(e) Eight.

Scrapping of Spindles Looms

1696. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Spinners Association has sought the help of the Government to scrap old spindles looms;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in India about 11 to 13 million spindles looms need to be scrapped; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The textile spinning sector consists of a total spindleage of 37 million in India, out of which 11 to

12 million are obsolete spindles and need to be scrapped.

The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries w.e.f. 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years which, *inter-alia*, provides that in cotton ring spinning system, only modernisation of existing obsolete spindleage through technology upgradation would be permitted. The replaced old and obsolete spindles should ordinarily be scrapped and made completely unserviceable unless their operations are established to be viable.

Missing of Rice Bags from Railway Wagons

1697.DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of rice bags are missing or stolen from the railway wagons while transporting from various goods sheds in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala;

(b) the number of such cases registered during the last three years from different locations in Andhra Pradesh, year-wise;

(c) the number of person convicted during the said period; and

(d) the loss suffered thereby year-wise?

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

(b) to (d) The number of cases registered, the number of persons convicted and loss of property suffered during the last three years are given as under:

Year	1998	1999	2000
No. of Cases Registered	3	1	7
Value of Property Stolen (Rs.)	7800	2800	14600
No. of persons Arrested	6	8	22
No. of Persons Convicted	2	4	7

Approval for Investment in Private Sector Projects

1698.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for an investment of Rs. 4376 crore in fifteen private sector projects in the port sector;

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

(c) the total capacity likely to be added in the existing capacity; and

(d) the projects with private participation at the stage of implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government has so far accorded approval to 16 private sector projects in port sector involving an investment of approximately Rs. 4426 crores. The total capacity expected to be added is approximately 58.05 million tonnes. A list of these projects which are under different stages of implementation is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Project Name	Port Name
1.	Container Terminal (2 berths)	Jawaharlal Nehru (JNP)
2.	Liquid Cargo Berth	JNP
3.	Fifth Oil Jetty	Kandla
4.	Oil Jetty and related facilities	Vadinar (Kandla)
5.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
6.	Container Terminal	Tuticorin
7.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
8.	Oil Jetty	Kandla
9.	Multipurpose berth 5A and 6A	Murmugao
10.	Captive coal berth to SPIC Electric Corporation	Tuticorin
11.	Captive berth to Oswal Fertilisers Ltd.	Paradip
12.	Development & Operation of Container Terminal	Kandla
13.	Captive coal and general cargo berth at Pier Pau, Mumbai	Mumbai
14.	Container Terminal at Chennai	Chennai
15.	Multipurpose Berth No. 4A	Haldia
16.	General Cargo Terminal in Indira Dock	Mumbai

Development of Port Projects

1699.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of ongoing works on major port projects in the country;

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

(c) the details of financial allocation for the port projects during 2001-2002 particularly for projects in Maharashtra, and

(d) the details of fresh projects proposal for development/modernisation/expansion/upgradation of ports received from the State Governments and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Review of progress of ongoing projects in Major Ports is being undertaken regularly. The status of projects costing over Rs. 100.00 crores being monitored intensively is as follows:

S No	Scheme	Date of Sanction	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)		Completion date	
			Original	Revised	Original	Revised
1	Construction of a New Port at Ennore	23.4.93	593.90	1058.52	April, 98	April, 2001
2	Mechanised coal facility at Paradeep	23.4.93	587.41	831.11	April, 98	March, 2001
3	Modernisation of MOT Berth J1, J2 & J3, Mumbai Port	17.8.97	167.99	215.34	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2003
4	Additional Port Facilities for expansion of Mangalore Refinery 3 to 9 MTPA at New Mangalore Port	16.7.99	236.50	-	Jan. 2002	-

(c) An outlay of Rs. 958.18 crores has been approved for major ports during 2001-2002. Out of this Rs. 91.21 crores and Rs. 81.30 crores, respectively, has been allocated to Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports, which are major ports in the State of Maharashtra.

(d) Ministry of Shipping is concerned with the development of Major Ports and no scheme has been received from the State Governments for the development of Major Ports.

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Orissa

1700.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of companies that have intensified their exploration activities with a view to increase the production of oil and gas in Orissa during the Ninth Plan, year-wise;

(b) the amount of funds earmarked, released and spent during the last three years, till date on this account; and

(c) the expected demand of oil and natural gas and the target set for the production of oil and natural gas from the State during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In the past, National Oil Companies (NOCs) viz. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in their search for Hydrocarbons carried out survey and drilling works in Mahanadi basin, both onshore and offshore, but without any commercial success. The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) envisages NOCs to compete for acreages with the Private/Joint Venture companies. In the first round of NELP, three blocks in offshore area of Mahanadi basin have been awarded and contracts signed. Three more blocks under the second round of NELP are on offer in Mahanadi basin out of which two blocks are in offshore and one in onland area. The bid closing date is 31st March, 2001.

(c) No targets for demand and production are fixed Statewise.

Earning by Railways

1701.SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is correct that the cumulative approximate earning of Railways have increased

7.42% from April to December 31, 2000 compared to the corresponding period of previous financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The details of earning to end of Dec. 2000 (Approximate) as compared to December 1999 (Actuals) and percentage of increase are as under:

	(Rs. in crore)		
	December 2000 (Approximate)	December 1999 (Actuals)	% increase
Passenger	7679.82	6997.29	9.75
Other Coaching	556.30	589.11	-5.57
Goods	17242.61	16141.53	6.82
Sundry	427.99	391.00	9.46
Total	25906.72	24118.93	7.41

[Translation]

Women's Courts

1702. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 725 on November 23, 2000 regarding women's courts and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The information was called for from all the High Courts for fulfilling the Assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 725 answered on 23rd November, 2000. So far, the information has been received from fifteen High Courts only and is still awaited from six High Courts. The information regarding number of women courts established for disposal of criminal cases against women and cases pending therein under the

jurisdiction of 15 High Courts is as per the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The High Courts are being reminded regularly to furnish requisite information for fulfilling the Assurance. As and when the information is received, the Assurance will be fulfilled and information will be laid on the table of the House

Statement

S.No.	Name of the High Court	No. of Women Courts for disposal of criminal cases against women	Number of cases pending
1.	Bombay	Nil	-
2.	Calcutta	Nil	-
3.	Delhi	Four	2852
4.	Gauhati	Nil	-
5.	Gujarat	Nil	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	-
7.	Karnataka	One	3021
8.	Kerala	Nil	-
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	-
10.	Madras	Nil	-
11.	Orissa	Nil	-
12.	Punjab & Haryana	Nil	-
13.	Sikkim	Nil	-
14.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	-
15.	Uttaranchal	Nil	-

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Dahod Railway Station

1703. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct foot over bridge at Dahod Railway Station connecting the eastern and western end of the railway station to facilitate the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to construct foot over bridge at the said station?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One foot over bridge connecting all the platforms at Dahod is already available for use of bonafide passengers and is adequate for the present level of passenger traffic.

[English]

Reform and Restructuring in Power Sector

1704.SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various financial packages received by SEBs from multilateral agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.;

(b) whether the performance of these SEBs with regard to generation, transmission and distribution of power has been improved since then;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following States have been sanctioned loans by World Bank/Asian Development Bank:

Name of the State	Name of the multilateral agency which has sanctioned loans	Amount of loan sanctioned (In US\$ million)
Orissa	World Bank	350
Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	150
Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	210
Haryana	World Bank	60
Rajasthan	World Bank	150
Gujarat	ADB	450

(b) to (d) Only Orissa has privatised its generation and distribution. The generation company viz. Orissa Power Generation Corporation has shown improved level of performance in terms of PLF. Private distribution companies have shown discernible improvement in billing and collection of revenue and is reducing transmission and distribution losses. Reform is at present still at initial stages in other States. It would take at least 2-3 years for reforms to show some tangible results.

Circular Railways

1705.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for provision of circular railway to overcome the problem of traffic congestion in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A reference has been received from Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh for a Circular Railway in Lucknow area.

(c) Electrification of Circular Railway around Lucknow area under Northern/North Eastern Railway has been sanctioned by the Government in 2000-01.

Attachment of Property of Airport Authority for Non-payment of Taxes

1706.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Secunderabad Cantonment Board "attached" all immovable properties of the National Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details of the dues pending for settlement; and

(c) the reasons for not reminding for paying the property tax on time?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Airport Authority failed to clear the taxes due amounting to Rs. 6,63,61,340/- for the period from 1.4.1995 to 31.3.2000, despite repeated correspondence and meetings, held between the Cantonment Board and the Airport Authority of India. The Attachment proceedings have, now, been lifted on deposit of part-payment by them.

[Translation]

Electrification of Mughalsarai-Zafarabad Rail Route

1707.SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had approved the electrification of Mughalsarai-Zafarabad rail route via Varanasi during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated for the implementation of the said scheme so far;

(c) whether the electrification work of the said route has been started;

(d) if so, the progress achieved so far in this regard;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(f) the time by which electrification work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) The total amount allocated so far is Rs. 0.25 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The project was approved subject to procedural clearances. The clearance from Planning Commission is still awaited.

[English]

Manufacturing of LCA with Foreign Collaboration

1708. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first indigenously built light combat aircraft was put to test flight recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results obtained therefrom;

(c) the percentage of indigenous and foreign components used in manufacturing of LCA;

(d) whether the Government propose to manufacture the LCA in collaboration with some developing countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of such aircrafts proposed to be manufactured in the next financial year;

(f) whether some countries have placed orders with the Indian Government for purchase of the same; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The maiden flight of first LCA Technology Demonstrator (TD-1) took place in Bangalore on

January 04, 2001. The flight duration was 18 minutes and it met all the test parameters. With this the LCA programme has entered the flight testing phase. So far, 4 flights have been successfully completed.

(c) The indigenous content of TD-1 LCA is nearly 70% and it is likely to be higher during production of the aircraft.

(d) and (e) The Government is exploring co-production of LCA with friendly countries. There is no formal proposal in this regard at present. It is intended to produce only a limited number of prototypes for flight testing in the next financial year.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Interception of High Speed Boat

1709. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any high speed boats, being used by insurgent groups operating in tandem in India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka for arms and narcotic drugs running through sea lines in the Bay of Bengal, has recently been intercepted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these groups are helping extremists in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check their activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Coast Guard/Navy have no information about apprehension of any such high-speed boats being used by insurgent groups and their nexus with extremists in Andhra Pradesh. Any vessel/boat found infringing our EEZ in investigated and appropriate action is taken by Coast Guard/Navy. Both Coast Guard and Indian Navy maintain regular surveillance in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone to prevent the movement of arms/ammunitions, illegal immigrants and trans-border crime through sea-routes besides undertaking anti-poaching, anti-smuggling activities.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Rail Factories

1710. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places where Rail factories are situated along with their capacity and strength of workers;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the officers of these factories

regarding expansion, modernisation and computerization;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are six production units under the Ministry of Railways. Their Capacity per annum and Staff strength are as under:

Name and location	Capacity Per Annum	Staff Strength
1	2	3
(i) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. (CLW) Chittaranjan	Electric Locomotives 150	16506

	1	2	3
(ii) Diesel Locomotive Works, (DLW) Varanasi	Diesel Locomotives	150	7044
(iii) Integral Coach Factory, (ICF) Chennai	Coaches	1000	14215
(iv) Rail Coach Factory, (RCF) Kapurthala	Coaches	1000	6917
(v) Wheel & Axle Plant, (WAP) Bangalore	Wheels Axles	95000 50000	2125
(vi) Diesel Components Works, (DCW) Patiala	Diesel-Electric Loco Rebuilding	84	3863

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The following proposals were received from the Production Units regarding expansion, modernisation and computerisation, for inclusion in Budget 2001-02. Steps taken by the Government are indicated against each, as under:

Unit	Name of the Proposal	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Remarks/Steps taken
ICF	Additional facilities for manufacture of Stainless Steel Shells at ICF	43.35	Examined and not agreed for inclusion in 2001-02 due to severe funds constraint.
ICF	Creation of proper painting facilities	26.55	Approved & included in the Railway Budget 2001-2002.
ICF	On-line Computerisation system in ICF.	2.00	Not agreed for inclusion in 2001-02 due to funds constraint.
ICF	Setting up CAD/CAE facilities for the Design Office.	2.50	Not included in 2001-02 due to funds constraint.
RCF	Replacement of on line obsolete Computer System at RCF	3.02	Approved as Material Modification to the original work of 'Setting up of RCF'
WAP	Upgradation of Management Information System at WAP	0.70	Approved and included in the Railway Budget 2001-2002.
WAP	Extension of Axle forge shop with balancing facilities	11.41	Sanctioned.
DCW	Computerisation of MIS phase-II	2.56	Examined and not agreed for inclusion in 2001-02 due to severe funds constraint.

[English]

Electrification of Rail Routes

1711. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no independent review of the

performance of the electrified routes has been done by the Indian Railways since electrifying its main routes;

(b) if so, the details of investments made on the electrification of route and the routes which could not be electrified even till today;

(c) the reasons for not conducting review of the performance of the electrified routes; and

(d) the time by which full review in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Electrification of railway tracks is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is made based on the requirements of the system and those sections which are considered necessary are taken up for electrification.

Since inception, 14984 (25.23%) Route kilometres have been electrified upto 31.3.2000 with an investment of Rs. 4260 crores. With this, 44409 Route kilometres stands unelectrified as on date.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Palanpur-Samkhiali Rail Line

1712.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to the Union Government for conversion of Palanpur-Samkhiali railway line into broad gauge jointly with Kandla Port Trust and RITES;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the conversion of said railway line is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat has proposed to undertake implementation of Samakhiali-Palanpur gauge conversion project in association with the Ministry of Railways and other Financial Institutions.

(c) and (d) Palanpur-Samakhiali is a part of Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion project and has been cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work. No target date has been fixed and the work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

The modus of participation by the State Government and the beneficiary Industry is under finalisation.

[English]

Exploration of Blocks in Off-shore and On-shore

1713.SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :
SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK :

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

(a) the number of blocks identified for off-shore drilling and on-shore drilling exploration as on March 31, 2001;

(b) the number of blocks out of them offered to private parties or multinationals alongwith the terms and condition agreed for; and

(c) the details of companies that are interested in explorations alongwith the target fixed 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) In the second round of offer of blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), 25 blocks in the country lying in onland, shallow water offshore and deep water offshore area have been offered for bidding on 18.12.2000 with bid closing date of 31.3.2001. The broad terms of offer of these blocks are given in the statement enclosed.

Since, these are exploration blocks, the hydrocarbons reserve base can be known only after exploration and hence no target can be fixed.

Statement

The broad terms of NELP are as under:

- * No signature, discovery or production bonus.
- * No mandatory State participation.
- * No carried interest by National Oil Companies (NOCs).
- * Income Tax Holiday or seven years from start of commercial production.
- * No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
- * Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
- * Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.

- * Biddable sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor.
- * Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for discoveries in deep water areas beyond 400 m iso-bath will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.
- * Fiscal stability provision in the contract.
- * Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
- * Provision for assignment.
- * Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1996 will be applicable.

Conservation of Archaeological Mounds/ Excavated Sites

1714.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological mounds and important excavated sites of historical importance were protected by the ASI as a centrally protected monument;

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

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) whether some of the archaeological mounds protected by the ASI in the past were disposed or sold illegally with or without the knowledge of the ASI;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken against those erring officials;

(f) whether the Government propose to introduce any latest technical advancements for protecting the excavated remains from weathering and disintegration; and

(g) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of work done in this regard, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of centrally protected monuments/sites is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The allocation and expenditure of funds in the ASI in the last three years is as follows:

Year	Allocation (in lakhs)	Expenditure (in lakhs)
1997-98	7985.00	7985.42
1998-99	9007.00	8963.33
1999-00	10507.00	10321.77

The allocation for 2000-01 is Rs. 11738.00 lakhs.

(d) As per available information no such case has been reported.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Archaeological Survey of India relies on time tested methods to preserve the excavated remains modified as per situation/specific requirement.

(g) Does not arise.

Linking of Airport by Rail

1715.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibility to link airports by rail in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal submitted by concerned agencies/departments in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways has examined such proposals; and

(d) if so, the action initiated or proposed to be initiated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Almost all major airports are located in cities which are well connected by Railway services.

(b) No formal proposal in this regard has been received by the Railways.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Inland Waterways

1716.SHRI K. BALARAMA KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the existing inland waterways operational in the country at present; and

(b) the length of each of the waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There are three National Waterways namely:

- (1) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 Km)
- (2) The river Brahmaputra stretch from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 Km)
- (3) The West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara Canal and Udyogamandal Canal (205 Km)

In addition following waterways in the coastal States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra and West Bengal are also operational:

- (1) West Coast Canal (non-declared portion) in Kerala (291 Km)
- (2) Kakinada & Eluru canals in A.P. (189 Km)
- (3) Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Camberjua Canal in Goa (93 Km)
- (4) Mumbai waterways (151 Km)
- (5) Sunderbans waterways in W.B. (191 Km)

[Translation]

Functioning of Newly Created Zones

1717. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railways have conducted any study regarding the utility of new zones;

(b) if so, the conclusions thereof;

(c) the amount spent on each new railway zones and the number of officers appointed so far as OSD and the responsibilities entrusted to them;

(d) whether the land for new North West Zone in Jaipur has been selected;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total cost of land incurred thereon;

(f) whether the selected land has been provided to Railway for construction of Headquarters and staff quarters; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Outlay expected at the end of year 2000-2001 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
New Railway Zone	Outlay expected at the end of 2000-2001 (Approx.)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur	601.04
East Central Railway, Hajipur	1026.23
South Western Railway, Bangalore	1230.46
Bilaspur Zone, Bilaspur	158.66
East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar	733.52
North Western Railway, Jaipur	581.48
North Central Railway, Allahabad	681.33

One Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) on each of the seven new zones has been positioned and entrusted with the responsibilities of smooth setting up of the new zones.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 69 bighas of land near Gatore Jagatpura station costing about Rs. 6.36 crores and 42 bighas of land at Jawahar Circle costing about Rs. 30 crores has been identified.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Complaints Against OSBs

1718. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against Oil Selection Boards; 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) Complaints regarding selection of dealers/distributors are received from time to time and action is taken on them after investigation.

[English]

Rail Link between Western Ghat and Hinterland

1719. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the missing Railway links between the Western Ghats and Hinterland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted a survey for a new broad gauge line from Kolhapur to Ratnagiri via Talwade during 1998 for providing a link between the Konkan Railway alignment and the Hinterland;

(d) if so, the result of the said survey; and

(e) the present position of the said line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Survey for construction of new lines from Dahanu Road to Nasik Road and Chinchwad to Roha are in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey reports become available. Gauge conversion of Sakleshpur-Hassan as a part of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project is also in progress.

(c) to (e) A survey for a new BG line between Kolhapur and Ratnagiri has been completed recently. The results of the survey have revealed cost of the 211.45 kms. long line as Rs. 1273.82 crores with a negative rate of return i.e. (-) 7.92%. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the line coupled with the severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.

Earning from Freight and Passenger Traffic

1720. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways not only missed the freight target but also coaching earnings was lower than the target;

(b) the estimated earning of Railways during 2000-01 from freight movement and passenger traffic respectively;

(c) the target fixed for freight and coaching during 2000-01 and the extent to which it has been achieved so far;

(d) the load carrier percentage of the system between passenger and freight traffic;

(e) the load percentage during 1970-1980, 1980-1990 and 1990-2000 periods; and

(f) the steps taken to improve the working of the Railways to improve its earnings and to provide desired services to the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Although Railways freight loading upto end of January 2001 is 18.48 million tonnes more than that in the corresponding period of 1999-2000, it is marginally less than the proportionate target upto January 2001. It is expected that the Railways will achieve the freight target for the current financial year. The coaching earnings are above the target.

(b) The estimated earning of Railways in 2000-01 from freight movement and passenger traffic are as under:

Revised Estimate (Rs.)	
Passenger	10450.00
Freight	23486.00

(c) The revised target fixed for freight and coaching earning for 2000-01 is as mentioned in answer to part (b) of the question. The earnings (approx.) for both passenger and freight vis-a-vis proportionate target upto end of January 2001 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)			
	To end of Jan, 2001		
	Revised Proportion	Approx.	Variation
Passenger	8,318.55	8,552.17	233.62
Goods	19,415.37	19,267.08	-148.29

(d) and (e) There is no such term as 'Load Carrier' in use in Indian Railway statistics. The corresponding term for the purpose is Gross Tonne Kilometre (GTKM). The percentage of Passenger & Freight traffic in terms of Gross tonne KMs (including weight of motive unit but excluding departmental) during 1999-2000 as well as for the last 3 decades are as under:

Year	Passenger (including proportion of mixed)	Freight (including proportion of mixed)	Total
*1999-00	34.1%	65.9%	100%
1970-71 to 1979-80	31.2%	68.8%	100%
1980-81 to 1989-90	31.5%	68.5%	100%
*1990-91 to 1999-2000	31.9%	68.1%	100%

*Figures for 1999-2000 are provisional.

(f) The Railways have initiated a multi-pronged Freight Policy to improve its earnings and also provide desired service to the travelling public. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase freight earnings are Comprehensive delegation of powers to Zonal Railways to quote station to station rates for attracting traffic from road to rail, special lumpsum rates for movement on merry-go-round (MGR) system, tapping earnings from non-traditional sources like utilization of land and airspace, right of way for optical fibre cable, commercial publicity, etc. Steps taken to provide desired services to travelling public include: Development of model stations by introducing National Train Enquiry System, provision of self printing machines for sale of tickets, improvement of on board services for nominated trains, extension of computerized passenger reservation system, improving sanitation at stations and imparting training to staff on customer care.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Jubilee Petrol Pump Scheme

1721.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have terminated the Jubilee petrol pump scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total loss suffered by the Government due to cancellation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The scheme for setting up further Jubilee Retail

Outlets (JROs) has been discontinued by the Government for the following reasons:

- (i) It was felt that JROs with the variety of facilities which were originally sought to be attached to them might not be very viable.
- (ii) The procurement of vast plots of land along the highways, whether on ownership basis or on long lease, seemed to be difficult.
- (iii) The project was found to be very capital intensive and it was felt that it would be prudent to increase the number of retail outlets and not to invest in a few JROs.

[English]

ONGC Agreement with Venezuela in Exploration

1722.DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed an agreement with Venezuela in exploration and production of oil;

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreement; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India from this agreement?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointments of SCs/STs in P.S. Undertakings

1723.SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations about appointment/posting of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional Directors, part-time Chairman and official/non-official Members of the Board of Management of PSUs and Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the above referred posts in various Public Sector Undertakings falling under his Ministry during the last three years; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/ STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number of posts referred to above?

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) 91.

(d) 07 (6.3% approximately)

[Translation]

Electricity Reform

1724.KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of the Union Government to enact the Energy Conversion Bill, 2000 for making the electricity reforms compulsory for the State Governments have been rejected by most of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for carrying out the new electricity reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Energy Conservation Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 24.2.2000. It provides for efficient use of energy and its conservation.

The Ministry of Power has been contemplating to bring a new legislation to obviate the need of each State to enact its own law and to expedite power sector reforms. The principles of draft legislation have been discussed with all stake holders including State Governments and their views taken into consideration before finalisation of the Bill.

[English]

Updating of Naval Fleet

1725.SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total shortage of warships the Indian Navy is facing as on date;

(b) the total number of warships with Indian Navy and the number out of them in working conditions;

(c) whether some warships are required immediate replacement by the modern warships;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Naval Force at present lacks new technology; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Indian Navy maintains an appropriate force level to meet the requirements of national security.

The Navy regularly reviews state of its forces both, with respect to available numbers as well as current technology. A number of new projects have been approved by the Government to replace existing ships and for induction of new technology to modernize the fleet. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as follows:

(i) Approval for construction of three Frigates at MDL Mumbai

(ii) Approval for import of three Frigates from abroad

(iii) Two submarines have been imported from abroad and commissioned in the Navy

(iv) Approval for indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship

(v) The Navy is in the process of acquiring force multiplier like Unmanned Air Vehicles and Barak Anti-Missile Defence Systems.

Modernization of Fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reductions and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of advanced countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge further information in this regard.

Cost of Import vis-a-vis Cost of Production of Petroleum Products

1726.SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of imports of petroleum and other products of each item (landed prices) as against cost of productions of products manufactured in the country during the last three years;

(b) the sale price of these products in the country inclusive of all taxes;

(c) the overhead expenses on these products, imported and indigenous indicating the losses and profits earned during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to review its import policies on LPG both for domestic and industrial use and encourage use of non-conventional sources of energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The cost of import of petroleum products (landed prices) for the last three years is enclosed.

The production cost of individual petroleum products is not identified separately since all the products are produced together. The production cost for any oil company would include cost of crude oil, processing charges, marketing cost, filling charges, freight, re-seller's commission etc.

(b) The sale prices of products in the country inclusive of all taxes varies from state to state. The retail selling prices of major controlled petroleum products in Delhi for 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Quantitative Restrictions on the import of petroleum products including LPG will be removed

with effect from 1.4.2001 in terms of WTO Agreement. The Government have focused on development of alternative indigenous sources, by initiating action to harness non-conventional sources of energy such as Coal Bed Methane, Gas Hydrates as well as renewable energy sources as Wind Power, small Hydro Projects, Bio-mass, Solar Energy and Urban & Industrial Waste. Bio-diesel, Di-Methyl Ether, and Fuel Cells are identified potential alternative fuels.

Statement-I

Landed Cost per MT of Imported Petroleum Products

Imports Products	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (April-Dec. 2000)
	Rate/ MT/Rs.	Rate MT/Rs.	Rate MT/Rs.
MS	12807.62	0.00	0.00
AVGAS	23706.16	36691.76	61882.72
SKO	6145.49	9514.05	13869.95
HSD	7385.91	12582.51	0.00
LPG	8251.88	12359.77	17616.51
FO	5368.86	9723.82	11523.83
LAN	8583.52	12481.75	16301.30

Statement-II

Statement showing RSPs at Delhi

	(Rs./LIT/CYL)				
	HSD	MS-87/MS-AKI-84	SKO(PDS)*	Domestic LF 3	ATF(DOM)
	1	2	3	4	5
1998-99					
01.04.98	10.25	22.84	2.65	136.00	13.08
04.04.98	10.01				
20.05.98	9.87				
03.06.98		23.94			
09.01.99	8.89				
01.02.99				152.00	
28.02.99	9.94	23.80		146.00	13.32

	1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000					
20.04.99	10.37				
06.10.99	13.91				
23.03.2000			5.55	196.55	17.21
2000-01					
03.04.2000		26.07			
30.09.2000	16.55	28.44	8.35	232.25	20.78
22.11.2000			7.35	222.25	
03.11.2000		28.75			
03.03.2001	17.06				

RSPs given above are for dates when is revision in ex-storage point price.

Effective 03.04.2000, 3.11.2000 and 3.3.2001 RSP is for MS having 0.05% Sulphur Eax, MS having 0.05% Sulphur Max and 1% Benzene and HSD having 0.05% Sulphur Max respectively.

*Final RSP of SKO(PDS) are fixed by State Governments.

Theft of Spare parts from CODs

1727.DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether valuable spares are being stolen from various CODs;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents recorded during the last three years;

(c) whether the security arrangements in the CODs are not upto the mark resulting in such crimes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such thefts from CODs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There have been no major thefts of valuable stores in the last three years in the Central Ordnance Depots, except one. A theft occurred in Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur on 28th December, 2000. Preliminary inquiry conducted by Central Ordnance Depot Jabalpur has revealed losses of Ordnance stores made of brass weighing approximately 989 Kgs worth about Rs. 17.40 lakhs. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. AOC is the largest holder of stores for the Army. Minor losses involving items of petty nature are not an uncommon phenomenon. A formal record of all major thefts is reported to the Army Headquarters and a Staff Court of Inquiry ordered.

(c) Adequate security arrangements exist in all Central Ordnance Depots which are being properly augmented/implemented from time to time.

(d) Necessary instructions on strengthening the security of Ordnance Depots, have since been issued again to all concerned.

Renewal of Railway Passes of Freedom Fighters

1728.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the freedom fighters regarding renewal of railway passes and problems faced in trains journey during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

LPG/LNG Terminals

1729.SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) the details of LPG and LNG terminals in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set-up more LPG/LNG terminals in the country; 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) At present, there are 2 LPG import terminals of

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies operating in the country at Kandla (Gujarat) and Mangalore (Karnataka) of capacity 0.6 MMTPA each. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have also planned to set up the LPG import terminals at Haldia, Ennore and Vizag in the country during IXth/Xth Plan Period. The details of initiatives taken by various companies for putting up LNG terminals in the country is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

List of LNG initiatives

State	Location	Capacity of terminal in million tonnes per annum	Name of the promoter/Company
Maharashtra	Dabhol	5	Enron
Maharashtra	Trombay	6 in two phases	GAIL - Totalfina-Tata Electric Company
Gujarat	Dahej	5	Petronet LNG Ltd.
Gujarat	Hazira	5	Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies
Gujarat	Jamnagar	8 in two phases	Reliance Industries Ltd.
Gujarat	Pipavav	2.5	British Gas Plc.
Kerala	Kochi	2.5	Petronet LNG Ltd.
Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada	2.5	IOC-Petronas
Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada	1	Hardy Oil-BHP
Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada	2.5	Ispat Group of Industries
Tamil Nadu	Ennore	2.5	Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium
Orissa	Gopalpur	3	Vavasi Oil & Gas
Orissa	Kishoriprasad	3	Consortium of Fertiliser Companies

[Translation]

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Katihar Jn.

1730.SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a foot-over-bridge at Katihar junction near city booking office;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present three foot over bridges are available at Katihar station, which are adequate for present level of passenger traffic.

[English]

Clearance to Project in Karnataka

1731.SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka has sought clearance to its Rs. 200 crore project to improve the transmission and distribution network;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy and soft loan to be provided by the Government;

(c) the details of districts proposed to be covered under the said project in Karnataka; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) An amount of Rs. 57.25 Crores representing 50% of the project cost has been approved under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution system in three distribution circles namely Mysore, Belgaon and Bijapur in Karnataka. The amount of Rs. 57.25 crores will be released through a mix of grant (Rs. 28.63 Crores) and loan (Rs. 28.63 Crores). The balance amount will be funded by Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under their normal lending programme. The State Government has sent the project for Hubli Circle, which will be appraised and processed for approval. The remaining distribution circles in the State will be taken up for appraisal and funding in a phased manner.

Under the Project, short-term measures such as installation of meters, capacitors and distribution transformers will be taken for improvement of distribution system within the three identified distribution circles.

The districts, which will be benefited are Mysore, Mandya, Belgaon, Bijapur and Bagalkot. The project is likely to be completed in a period of one year.

Power Sector Reform

1732.SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers was held in the capital recently to discuss the power sector reforms;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and suggestions given by CMs;

(c) the response of the Government along with the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the special Central assistance has been given by the Union Government to States for carrying power reforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A conference of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers was held in New Delhi on 3.3.2001. After detailed deliberations with Chief Ministers/Power Ministers and keeping in view their suggestions various resolutions were adopted in the conference.

(b) to (e) A copy of the resolutions adopted is given in the statement enclosed. The States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu did not agree to immediate raising of agriculture tariff and stopping of free supply to farmers. The Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for upgradation of subtransmission, distribution including metering as well as renovation and modernisation of thermal/hydel plants. The current year's allocation (2000-2001) under APDP is Rs. 1000 crores for sanction to the States as per approved guidelines on submission of viable schemes.

Statement

Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference on 3rd March, 2001

- I. The Chief Ministers/Power Ministers took note of the challenges confronting the Power Sector. It was agreed that there is urgent need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation. For this purpose, an all-party consensus needs to be created. The Prime Minister is requested to convene all-party meetings including leaders of opposition in State Assemblies.

- II. The following Resolutions were adopted:

A. Completing Electrification of All Villages and Households

- (i) Rural Electrification may be treated as a Basic Minimum Service under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana;
- (ii) Rural Electrification may be completed by the end of the 10th Plan i.e. by year 2007;
- (iii) Full coverage of all households may be targeted for the end of the 11th Plan i.e. by year 2012.
- (iv) For the attainment of full electrification, States may be given flexibility for using funds under Rural Development Programmes with the consent of the Village/Block Panchayats for undertaking the task of electrification where it is required.
- (v) It was agreed that electrification of remote villages in the States would need a special mode of financing including an element of grant.

B. Distribution Reforms

The real problem of management and the challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector.

- (i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.
- (ii) An effective Management Information system for this purpose needs to be made operational.
- (iii) On the basis of the above, an effective programme needs to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.
- (iv) Full metering of all consumers had been targeted for completion by December 2001. Special efforts should be made to complete the programme.
- (v) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the APDP and other programmes quickly;
- (vi) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:
 - Creating Profit centres with full accountability
 - Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary.
 - Privatisation of distribution
 - Or any other means
- (v) Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focussed towards the distribution sector.
- (vi) Current operations on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

C. Tariff Determination by Regulatory Commissions and Subsidies

- (i) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions may be made functional in the next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions need to be implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by Court order. It is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power.
- (ii) Subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.

- (III) The past decision of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

D. Generation

- (I) Special efforts need to be made to increase the PLF of existing plants through Renovation and Modernisation.
- (ii) In the short run, there is no alternative to increase in public sector investment in generation, as large-scale private investment in generation would flow only after reforms succeed in restoring financial viability. The Centre and the States need to take suitable decisions regarding increase in outlays for the 10th Plan. Priority should be given for investments at those locations which produce the cheapest power specially for hydro projects and pit head thermal generation. CEA has estimated the requirement for an additional 100,000 MW of generating capacity by 2012.
- (III) Where the States and Financial Institutions are in agreement about the need for development of IPPs, they need to work together to achieve financial closure at the earliest. The Centre would facilitate the finalisation of reforms based multi-partite agreements.
- (iv) The evolution of a National Grid for inter-regional transfer of power needs to be taken up on priority.
- (v) Some provisions of the Forest Conservation Act may require to be revised for expeditious completion of power and other projects.

E. Energy Conservation and Demand side Management

An effective program in the field of demand side management through-energy efficient bulbs, tube lights and agricultural pumpsets.

- time of the day metering and differential tariff for peak and off peak hours needs to be implemented with suitable mass awareness and extension efforts.

F. Support from Government of India

- (i) The Government of India would support the States in their reform efforts. This support would be linked to time bound power reform initiatives in the States and achievement of definite milestones towards restoration of financial viability.

- (ii) Interest rates of PFC and REC should be brought down to reflect market conditions.
- (iii) An Expert Group would be set up to recommend one time settlement of all power sector past dues to CPSUs and dues from CPSUs to State Power Utilities. This would be linked to implementation of reforms with time bound milestones. The Group will give its report within three weeks of its constitution.

G. Supply from Central Generating Stations

Continued supply of power from Central Generating Stations would have to be linked to demonstration of capacity to make payments for current purchases and securitisation of past dues.

H. High Level Empowered Group

A High Level Empowered Group Comprising of Minister of Power and Chief Ministers of some States may be set up to coordinate, monitor and review the implementation of Reforms.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1733.SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coal, diesel, Naphtha, water, wind are being used for power generation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have estimated the cost of power generation from these sources;

(c) if so, the average cost thereof; and

(d) the percentage of power estimated to be generated from the said sources?

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

(b) and (c) The cost of power generation at different power stations in the country varies depending upon factors like the nature of the plant, topography/geology of the site of the plant and the type of fuel used etc. Based on information of 15 States, as received by Central Electricity authority (CEA) for the year 1998-99, the average cost of the power generation from hydro power stations varies from 23.16 p/kwh to 153.97 p/kwh, and for thermal power stations it varies from 121.75 p/kwh to 297.57 p/kwh.

(d) The Electricity generation target for the year 2000-01 has been fixed at 500700 Million Units.

The break-up for different types of fuels is given below:

		Million Units	(%)
Coal	-	320330	63.98
Multi Fuel	-	6999	1.40
Lignite	-	15770	3.15
Gas	-	56741	11.33
Diesel	-	3360	0.67
Thermal	-	403200	80.53
Hydro	-	83907	16.76
Nuclear	-	13593	2.71
Total	-	500700	100.00

According to the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), no energy generation targets for wind energy are fixed. However, capacity addition target of wind energy has been fixed at 200 MW for the year 2000-01 against which actual achievement till December 2000 end was 102 MW.

[English]

Purchase of Coir Products for Army

1734.SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Governments regarding purchase of coir products and cashew kernel for military use; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, requests have been received from State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka regarding placement of order for Coir Geo-Textile, Coir Products and Cashew Kernel on Kerala State Coir Corporation and Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation and for purchase of Coir mats, Mattings and other Coir based products from Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Limited.

With regard to purchase of Coir products and cashew kernel, it is submitted that the Army purchases few Coir products like Mats Door, Matting Coir and Mats Gymnasia as and when demand

arises. Mats Door and Matting Coir are being purchased through Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal on Rate Contracts basis. The item Mats Gymnasia is being purchase through advertised tender enquiry. Tender notice for such enquiry is advertised in leading newspapers and is also published in Indian Trade Journal. The item Coir Geo-Textile is a road building material and the Border Road Organisation is in touch with Coir Board, Kerala for experimenting with the use of Coir Geo-textile in slope stabilisation on hill roads.

[Translation]

Suspension of Pancheshwar Hydel Power Project

1735.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work on Pancheshwar hydel power project likely to be constructed jointly by India-Nepal, has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether equipments and other material worth lakhs of rupees were thrown into the Sharda river by the demonstrators during the demonstration against the survey work of the said project;

(d) if so, the loss suffered by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government is considering to wipe out such project; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) According to the Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India on 12.2.1996, the investigations and the preparation of the Detailed Project Report are jointly being undertaken for Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Power Project in Nepal. There have been reports of attempt to place obstacles at the Nepalese bank on Purnagiri dam site where the drilling works are being carried out by a contractor. Notwithstanding this, preparation of Detailed Project Report on Pancheshwar is continuing as per schedule.

[English]

Ex-Storage Price of Diesel/LPG paid to Refineries

1736.SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the wholesale ex-storage price of diesel and LPG paid to different refineries/producers;

(b) the rates and amount of different Central and State taxes, duties, etc. leading to final price build up at which these products are available to consumers in Delhi;

(c) the manner in which subsidy is given to refineries/producers/consumers; and

(d) the manner in which the refineries earn huge profits if they are selling their products below production cost?

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) Pursuant to the decision taken by the Government in November, 1997 on phased programme of dismantling of administered pricing mechanism, the refineries/producers are being paid on import parity basis for the controlled petroleum products including diesel and domestic LPG with effect from 1-4-1998. The provisional tariff adjusted import parity price for diesel and domestic LPG for the month of March, 2001 is Rs. 9296.18 per kilo litre and Rs. 18027.45 per metric tonne respectively.

The applicable rates of customs/excise duty and sales tax on diesel and domestic LPG at Delhi are given in Annexure.

The oil marketing companies sell the controlled petroleum products at the ex-storage point price. The difference between the ex-storage point price and import parity prices payable to the refineries/producers for the controlled petroleum products are claimed/surrendered (subsidy/cross-subsidy) from and to the oil pool account.

Statement

The Applicable Rate of Custom/Excise duties and Sales Tax on Diesel and LPG in Delhi

	Diesel	Domestic LPG
Custom Duty	20%	10%
Excise Duty*	16%	8%
Sales Tax	12%	8%

* The excise duty is passed in the selling prices of diesel and domestic LPG at 12% and 8% respectively.

[Translation]

Allotment of New Hydro Power Projects

1737.MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the

Central Electricity Authority and the Advisor, Power Policy, to prepare feasibility report regarding new hydro power project;

(b) if so, the time by which this report is likely to be submitted to the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfill the total electricity requirement of the country by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority has recently been asked to carry out the ranking study of all the undeveloped hydro sites in the country within a period of six months.

(c) It is presently estimated that in order to meet full demand of electricity by 2012, an additional capacity of approximately 1,00,000 MW needs to be set up by the end of 11th Five Year Plan. Projects aggregating to 55159 MW during the 10th Plan and 51603 MW during 11th Plan have been tentatively identified for capacity addition by the Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

Special Tourist Complex at Puri

1738.SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a special tourist complex at Puri in Orissa;

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

(c) the funds earmarked and released for setting up of that tourist complex?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b)

Development of tourist infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year. During the current financial year 11 projects of Orissa have been prioritised in consultation with Govt. of Orissa. This list does not include any project for setting up of a special tourist complex at Puri.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Power Units

1739.SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh with private or foreign companies for setting up power plants in the State during the last three years;

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

(c) the names of places where these companies have started its construction work; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against those companies that have not undertaken construction work, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. have informed that Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) have been signed with two Independent Power Producers during the last three years for setting up power projects in the private sector in Uttar Pradesh. Their details are given below:

S.No.	Name of the Project/Promoters	Capacity (MW)	Date of signing of PPA	Commissioning schedule
1.	Rosa Thermal Power Project (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers) District Shahjahanpur	567	24.9.1998	40 months from financial closure
2.	Srinagar Hydro-Electric Power project (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.) District Pauri Garhwal (now in the newly created State of Uttaranchal)	330	28.8.1998	62 months from financial closure.

Both the above projects are yet to achieve financial closures. The penalties for delay in commissioning of the above projects are by way of

liquidated damages, after achievement of financial closure by the project promoters, as per the provisions of the PPA.

[English]

Funds from MPLADS for Construction of Level Crossing

1740.SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway have received any response from M.Ps to provide funds from MPLADS for construction of level crossings;

(b) if so, the number of M.Ps responded;

(c) whether the Railways have already taken steps to implement the recommended schemes; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said schemes are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Sir, as per rules framed by Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, the funds from MPLADS can be utilised for manning of existing unmanned level crossings only and not for construction of new level crossings. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament therefore can not finance construction of new level crossings from MPLADS funds. For manning of unmanned level crossings, 35 Hon'ble MPs have offered finance from MPLADS funds. Funds from MPLADS have been fully/partially released till now for manning of 13 level crossings only. Out of 13 level crossings, the works for manning of 2 level crossings have been completed and on 11 unmanned level crossings is in progress.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

1741.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of on-going railway projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(d) the present status of on-going surveys and the time by which these are likely to be completed, project-wise; and

(e) the details of surveys which are completed but construction work could not be taken up alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The present position of ongoing projects on Northern, North Eastern, Central and Eastern Railways, covering the state of Uttar Pradesh, including total expenditure on each project expected till the end of March 2001 is given in the Statement-I enclosed. In view of the large shelf of Projects and paucity of funds, a firm target for date of completion of these projects cannot be indicated.

(d) The present status of ongoing surveys and the time by which these are likely to be completed, project-wise is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) The details of surveys which are completed but on which construction work have not been started with the reasons therefor are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay expected to end of 2000-01	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

On-Going Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

New Lines

1.	Guna-Etawah	CR	337.33	275.33	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Seoni sections have already been completed. The next phase work of Gauge Conversion between Soni and Bhind is in progress where earthwork, bridges and ballast collection have been taken in hand. The
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1	2	3	4	5	6
					last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah involves construction of 3 major bridges on the rivers Chambal, Kunwari and Yamuna. The work on Yamuna Bridge has already been taken up and sinking of 10 wells is the progress. Tender for work of Chambal bridge (9 x 76.2 m) has been invited. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
2.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	CR	925.00	6.22	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey for 100 km from Lalitpur end and 64 km from Mahoba to Khajuraho and 22 km from Rewa toward Singuruli has been completed and Final Location Survey for balance section is in progress. Papers for land acquired are under preparation.
3.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	CR	109.00	10.27	Final Location Survey has been completed. Part estimate sanctioned. Preparation of Plans and estimates has been taken up. Papers for land acquisition for 18.4 km submitted to State Govt.
4.	Katra-Faizabad	NER	81.86	37.27	Work is progressing well. 138 acres of land out of total 142.49 acres has been acquired. Earthwork 6.64 lakh cum has been completed out of 7.06 lakh cum. The work on the Suryu bridge (14x200 for G) is in good progress. Sinking of 12 wells and girder fabrication are in good progress.
5.	Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam ROB on NH	NER	10.77	0.89	The revised plan has been sent to MOST for approval. Railways portion of work will start as soon as State Govt. start their portion.
6.	Etawah-Mainpuri	NR	120.00	0.00	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion					
7.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	NER	58.89	55.43	The work has been completed and commissioned.
8.	Chhapra-Aunrihar	NER	170.93	169.91	Work completed and Commissioned.
9.	Khadda-Gorakhpur	NER	102.49	93.49	The work has been completed. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and LWR conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
10.	Mathura-Achnera	NER	33.67	0.10	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow- (Phase-I: Gonda to Baharaich)	NER	48.00	0.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearance have been obtained.
12.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar, Nautanwa	NER	250.00	0.00	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
13.	Indara-Phephana	NER	34.47	33.47	The work has been completed and commissioned.
14.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura, Kasganj-Bareilly & Bareilly-Lalkuan	NER	609.04	52.45	Work is planned to be completed in 4 phases: Phase-I: Kanpur Furukhabad (140 km). Earthwaork is nearing completion and 103 out of 169 minor bridges have been completed. Work is in progress in 2 out of 5 major bridges. Ph. II Farukhabad-Kasganj (108 km) Earthwork and bridges have been taken up. Ph. III Kasganj-Mathura (105 km) : No work has been taken up in this stretch so far. Ph. IV Kasganj-Bareilly (107 km) : Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
15.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra	NER	268.00	0.00	Net work of 1999-2000. The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
16.	Agra Fort-Bandikui	WR	178.03	20.60	Earthwork and bridges are in progress 42 minor bridges out of 193 nos, substructure of 4 major bridges out of 9 nos. Have been completed and 1.3 lacs cum earthwork out of 3.07 lac cum has been completed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No TD has yet been fixed.
Doubling					
17.	Mathura-Bhuteshwar	CR	5.54	3.54	The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Earthwork and bridges are in progress. The work will be completed in 2001-02.
18.	Manikpur-Cheonki: Phase I Doubling of Manikpur-Katayadandi	CR	48.00	1.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up.
19.	Gonda-Jarwal Road	NER	69.79	39.77	The work is in progress. 85% earthwork and all 33 minor bridges have been completed bridges. Work on 3 out of 8 major bridges have been completed and work is in progress in other 5. Gonda-Maizapur (18 km) has been completed in May 2000. Remaining portion from Maijapur to Jarwal Road is expected to be completed in 2001-02.

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Gorakhpur-Sahajanva: Phase-I Gorakhpur-Gonda	NER	61.51	0.01	Work has been temporarily frozen.
21.	Jarwal Road-Burhwal (Patch Doubling)	NER	23.80	0.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Preparation of plans and Estimate is in progress.
22.	Ghaziabad-Hapur-Moradabad patch doubling (Phase-I)	NR	61.94	60.94	The work has been completed.
23.	Kanpur-Panki: 3rd Line (Phase-I)	NR	35.13	24.51	Earthwork and minor bridge are in progress. 76.2 m. girders for fly over are being manufactured at Manmad Workshop.
24.	Muradnagar-Meerut City	NR	57.00	53.61	The works has been completed.
25.	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	NR	35.95	27.19	The work on Tundla-Etmadpur and on the fly over is in progress. The earthwork and minor bridges have been completed. The work of Tundla-Etmadpur including flyover will be completed shortly.
26.	Utralia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan	NR	65.85	6.10	Final location survey has been completed. Plans are under finalisation. Work is being taken up.
27.	Amroha-Moradabd	NR	51.41	4.25	Tenders for earthwork, minor and major bridges have been invited.
28.	Amroha-Kankather	NR	48.00	0.05	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plan and estimate have been taken up.
29.	Zafrabad-Utretia Phase-II (Zafrabad-Srikrishnnagar)	NR	48.00	0.25	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of plan and estimate have been taken up.
Railway Electrification					
30.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai including Rampur Dumra-Garhara-Barauni	ER	363.36	336.18	389 RKMs since energised till Mar' 2000. The progress has been slow due to law and order problem and failure of contractor. Work is now targeted for completion by March, 2002.
31.	Ambala-Moradabad	NR	152.22	98.18	Work is targetted for completion by March 2003.
32.	Khurja-Hapur-Meerut City Saharanpur	NR	89.21	0.00	Work pended.
33.	Kanpur-Lucknow	NR	58.07	55.90	Completed.
34.	Mughalsarai-Zafrabad as Phase-I of Lucknow-Mughalsarai	NR	49.96	0.15	Work will be started after obtaining clearances.
35.	Circular Railway around Lucknow area	NR	24.23	0.00	Work is targetted for completion by March 2002.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the Project	Plan-Head	Rly.	Status
<i>On-going Surveys in Uttar Pradesh</i>				
1.	Palwal and Bhuteshwar 3rd line	Doubling	Central	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001
2.	Bhind-Orai-Harpalpur	New Line	Central	Being taken up.
3.	Hamirpur-Hamirpur Road	New Line	Central	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.03.2001
4.	Aligarh-Jhinjhak via Sikandraro and Mainpuri	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.11.2001
5.	Berhan-Etah line to Shajahanpur	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.1.2002
6.	Haridwar-Kotdwara-Ramnagar	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.09.2001
7.	Hastinapur Rail linking	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 28.02.2002
8.	Panipat-Muzzafarnagar via Kairana	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.8.2001
9.	Sambhal to Gajraula	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.9.2001
10.	Sambhal To Rajghat	New Line	Northern	Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001
11.	Shahganj-Amethi via Sultanpur	New Line	Northern	Being taken up. Target Date of Completion is 31.10.2002
12.	Chandigarh to Dehradun via Jagadhari	New Line	Northern	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.10.2001

Statement-III

S.No.	Name of the Project	Plan-Head	Railway	Status
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Completed Surveys in Uttar Pradesh</i>				
1.	Agra area provision of Bye pass line	New Line	Central	Not considered necessary, therefore shelved.
2.	Jhansi to Sawai Madhopur via Shivpuri, Sheopurkalan	New Line	Central	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
3.	Anandnagar to Ghuguli via Maharajganj	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
4.	Farukhabad and Gola Gokarnath	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Ghuguli-Pharende	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
6.	Khalilabad to Naugarh	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
7.	Kiccha-Sitarganj-Nanak Mata-Khatima	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
8.	Sitapur-Bahraich via Laharpur-Tambore and Mihirpuwa	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
9.	Tanakpur-Purnagiri	New Line	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
10.	Chola to Bulandshahar	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
11.	Daurala near Meerut and Bijnor via Hastinapur	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
12.	Dehradun and Saharanpur	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
13.	Khurja-Palwal-Rewari-Rohtak	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
14.	Laksar to Bakshar	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
15.	Maripat-Tuglakabad	New Line	Northern	Report is being scrutinised.
16.	Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar via Roorkee	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
17.	Panipat to Meerut	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
18.	Rishikesh - Karanprayag	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
19.	Rishikesh to Dehradun	New Line	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
20.	Aunrihar - Jaunpur	Gauge Conversion	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
21.	Pilibhit - Sahajahanpur	Gauge Conversion	North Eastern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
22.	3rd line between Ghaziabad-Panki	Doubling	Northern	Not considered necessary. Therefore, shelved.
23.	Khurja-Hapur-Meerut	Doubling	Northern	Report is being scrutinised.
24.	Meerut City-Saharanpur	Doubling	Northern	Report is being scrutinised.
25.	Shahdra-Shamli	Doubling	Northern	Not considered necessary. Financially unremunerative, therefore shelved.
26.	Shikohabad-Farukkabad	Doubling	Northern	Not considered necessary. Therefore, shelved.
27.	Tilak Bridge and Sahibabad 3rd and 4th line	Doubling	Northern	Report is being scrutinised.

*[English]***Setting up of Hydro Power Projects**

1742. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a hydro power project on the Farakka barrage in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Detailed Project Report of Farakka Hydroelectric Project (5x25 = 125 MW) in West Bengal prepared by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno-economic clearance was found in order by CEA on 11.11.1991 subject to certain conditions for execution by Farakka Barrage Hydro-electric Project Authority under the Ministry of Water Resources. The Project is awaiting environmental clearance. The construction, operation and maintenance of the Hydro-electric Project shall have to be done in such a way that the safety and security of the barrage is not put to any risk and the rail and road traffic is not interrupted due to construction activities. Ministry of Water Resources has agreed to hand over the execution of the Farakka Barrage HE Project to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation.

Gas Supply to MSEB

1743. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has reported inadequate Gas supply to Maharashtra State Electricity Board (M.S.E.B) despite a contract between GAIL and MSEB;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such inadequate supply of gas to M.S.E.B. has been affecting power generation capacity;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take action in the matter; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the contracted quantity of 3.5 million standard cubic meter per day (MMSCMD), the present supply to MSEB, Uran has been ranging between 2.41 and 2.50 MMSCMD.

(c) to (e) On account of the ageing of the Mumbai High field, there is a continuing shortfall in the availability of gas and the available gas is distributed on a *pro-rata* basis with priority to feedstock consumers.

Cess paid by ONGC to Oil Industry Development Board

1744. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to Oil Industry Development Board during the last three years;

(b) the purpose for which Oil Industry Development Board utilised the said cess amount; and

(c) the extent to which the Board has succeeded in achieving the target?

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 (ONGC) is not required to pay any cess to Oil Industry Development Board. However, the proceeds of cess, levied under the provision of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf, so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), from time to time, from out of such proceeds, after deducting the expenses of collection, such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of the Act.

During the last three years, no appropriation has been made by the Central Government to OI DB out of the cess proceeds. From the funds available, OI DB continued to extend financial assistance to the oil industry in terms of Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 during the period in question.

Development of Forts in Jammu & Kashmir

1745. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for renewal/development

of Forts in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) whether the renewal/development work has been completed as per the target by the MEO/GE of Jammu & Kashmir Circle;

(c) the details of renewal/development work done in these forts particularly in Bahu Fort, during each of the last three years till date; and

(d) the amount spent on each of the forts during each of the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a), (b) and (d) While routine maintenance is being done, no separate funds are earmarked for renewal/development in respect of those forts in Jammu & Kashmir, where Army is located, during the last three years.

(c) Bahu Fort is owned and occupied by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

[Translation]

Closure of Wells of ONGC and Oil

1746.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many oil/gas wells of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited have been closed down or their gas is being burnt because of no-demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss of oil and gas being borne by each oil company due to closing down of wells of burning of gas in the air; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop this type of 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) and (b) As far as ONGC is concerned 17 oil and gas wells in Tamil Nadu and 5 free gas wells in Tripura have been kept closed as the consumers who have been allotted gas are not in a position to receive supplies since their projects have not been completed or there have been fluctuations in demand for gas.

In respect of OIL around 5 to 6 free gas wells in Assam are to be kept closed periodically on account of the same reasons.

(c) There is no loss of gas on account of closing the wells. However, the revenue earnings of ONGC and OIL have been deferred.

(d) In order to improve the utilization of gas the following steps are being taken:

- (i) Allocation on fallback basis are being considered in respect of some of the existing plants which can start consuming the gas earlier than the grass root projects.
- (ii) ONGC has been permitted to directly market low pressure gas from isolated wells producing upto 1 lakh cubic metres per day.
- (iii) Generally, allocation is being made for higher quantities than the available gas so that even if some of the allocations do not materialize, the gas utilization would not suffer in the long run.

Setting up of Refinery in Sagar District of M.P.

1747.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the preliminary works for setting up a refinery in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of refinery is likely to be completed as per the fixed target; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on its construction?

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) Various preliminary activities for setting up of the refinery at Bina like acquisition of land, railway siding, finalisation of process licensors and project management consultant have been completed. The front end engineering design (FEED) has also been completed.

(b) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months from the date of commencement of project execution.

(c) Updated cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 7374 crore at July, 1998 prices.

Export of Defence Equipments

1748.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the news-item captioned "Bharat bhi hathiyar niryat ke kshetra mein kadam rakhega" appearing in 'Hindustan' dated January 18, 2001;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up Arms Export Bureau on the lines of Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the type of arms India is contemplating to export;

(e) whether India has received orders for the supply of arms from any foreign country;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the type of arms to be exported; and

(g) the present status of India in the matter of arms export?

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

(b) to (g) Defence Industry in India caters mainly to the requirements of the Defence Services and arms and equipment are exported after meeting domestic requirements. This is being done by the Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings. The Department of Defence Production & Supplies plays a facilitating role including issue of No Objection Certificates. Export is mainly to countries in Asia and Africa and includes small arm ammunition, explosives, rockets, spares for L-70 guns and 7.62mm rifles, clothing items, parachutes and accessories, aeronautical stores, communication equipment, components and sub-systems like Electronic assemblies, Precision Mechanical parts, Printed Circuit Boards, etc. Limited quantities have also been exported to countries in Europe. Average annual export during the last three financial years were approximately Rs. 135 crores.

[English]

Casualties in Encounters on Indo-Pak Borders

1749.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of lives lost on Indo-Pakistan border during the last one year in encounters with Pakistan forces either with Army or with other outfits and the name of the States to which the deceased belonged;

(b) whether the compensation has since been given to all the families of the deceased;

(c) if so, the amount of compensation paid to them alongwith the dates of payment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Route Diversion of Bangalore-New Delhi Express

1750.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received requests from Bellary Chamber of Commerce to re-route Bangalore-New Delhi Express train via Chitradurga, Rayadurga and Bellary to cover more areas in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received for rerouting Bangalore-New Delhi Karnataka Express. Diversion of 2627/2628 Karnataka Express via Chitradurg-Rayadurg-Bellary has been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints.

[Translation]

Transportation of Salt by Rail

1751.SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for transportation of salt by rail during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to restore transportation of salt produced in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The movement of edible salt by rail in the country is regulated by a scheme called "Zonal Scheme". The current Zonal Scheme for 2000-01 is valid up to 31st March, 2001. The framing of new Zonal Scheme for 2001-02 is under process of finalization and will be effective from 1st April, 2001.

(c) Track in Gujarat has already been restored and loading of salt as per Zonal Scheme has already commenced.

[English]

Setting up of Terminal at Nemom Railway Station

1752.SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether land has been acquired by Railways for setting up a terminal at Nemom Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the terminal is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, a survey has been proposed for determining the requirements of terminal facilities in Trivandrum are in the Budget 2001-02.

Installation of Radars at Southern Air Command

1753.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether five radars were approved by Air Headquarters for Southern Air Command out of which only three were installed and one out of three is working and that too with limitations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all the radars are likely to be installed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Two radars have been installed and one more is proposed to be installed, in the jurisdiction of Southern Air Command, as per Government approval.

(b) Planning, acquisition and installation of radars is an on-going process that is subject to budgetary constraints and competing requirement of radars in other commands, as well.

(c) No definite time-limit can be fixed for an on-going process. This will depend on resource availability.

[Translation]

Oil Selection Boards

1754.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of members of Oil Selection Boards for each State; and

(b) the details of places identified so far for sanctioning the new gas agencies 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) In order to make selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, the Government have constituted 59 new Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) all over the country with the following composition:

-
- (i) A retired judge of a High Court/ - Chairman
Retired District Judge/Retired
Additional District Judge
 - (ii) An officer of the concerned Oil - Member
Company not below the rank of
Deputy General Manager or
Chief Manager, depending on
availability.
 - (iii) An officer of another Oil - Member
Company not below the rank
Deputy General Manager or
Chief Manager, depending
on availability.
-

(b) Apart from previous Marketing Plans, oil companies have identified about 700 locations at block/tehsil level in the country to set up LPG distributorships under 1999-2000 Marketing Plan.

[English]

Construction of Foot Over-bridges

1755.SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct foot over-bridges, at Kannapuram and Chovva South in Kannur, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the foot over-bridges are likely to be constructed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Caste-Based Regiments

1756.SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to

dismantle caste-based regiments continuing since pre-independence days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The post-Independence policy of the Government has been not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which, all Indians have representation. The nomenclatures of some regiments, raised before Independence, on the basis of class/community/region, have been retained due to historical, security and administrative considerations.

[English]

Agreement with Maharashtra and MSEB

1757. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per original agreement signed with Enron, the Dabhol Power Company was to sell power to Maharashtra @ Rs. 1.70 per unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Dabhol Power Company has increased the tariff upto Rs. 7/- per unit;

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

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has informed that the original Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Dabhol Power Company (DPC) has not stipulated any tariff or selling rate of power. The PPA indicates the formula for calculation of capacity charge and energy charge. Based on this and considering 90% off take of power, dollar exchange rate of Rs. 32 per dollar, fuel cost of Rs. 6792 per MT, the tariff for phase-I of 695 MW of the project as originally envisaged, was indicated as Rs. 2.40 per Kwh in the year 1997. The tariff included the effect of dollar exchange rate, fuel price, US inflation and Indian inflation.

(c) and (d) MSEB is purchasing power from Dabhol phase-I project since its commissioning in May, 1999. MSEB purchased 2618 million units (at Plant Load Factor of 45%) from March, 2000 to December, 2000 and the average rate of purchase has come to Rs. 6.19 per Kwh during this period.

(e) Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have constituted an Energy Review Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Madhav Godbole, ex-Home Secretary, Government of India. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) To review the position of overall demand and supply of electric power in the State, with special reference to the supply of power by projects of independent power producers and purchase thereof by the MSEB for which PPA have either been signed or are proposed.
- (ii) To examine the cost of power supplied by the DPC and the distribution of power losses and its implications on the finances/tariff of MSEB.
- (iii) To review and reconsider the provisions of the PPA signed with the DPC after holding discussions with the said Company, the MSEB and related authorities and to suggest appropriate measures to facilitate purchase of the power produced by the DPC by other agencies/parties (including Government of India or their agencies).
- (iv) To suggest the broad future course of action for reforms in the energy sector in the State.
- (v) Any other matter which the State Government may consider necessary to refer to the Committee in the above-mentioned context.

The report of the Committee will be submitted to the Government of Maharashtra and the matter would be considered by the Government of India, in case required after receipt of proposals from the GoM in this regard.

Task Force on Corporate Excellence

1758. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Task Force on corporate excellence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations made by the Task Force; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to effectively operationalise the concept of excellence in corporate governance on a sustained basis to sharpen India's global competitiveness edge and to further foster and develop corporate culture in the country, the Government in Department of Company Affairs had set up on 15.5.2000 a Study Group, namely the Study Group on Corporate Excellence. The Study Group on Corporate Excellence set up by the Government had submitted its Report to the Government on 20.12.2000.

(c) The Report of the Study Group on Corporate Excellence contains several far reaching recommendations. Some of the key recommendations are as under:

- * Setting up of an Independent, Autonomous Centre for Corporate Excellence to mainly accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training and education and awards etc. in the field of corporate excellence through improved corporate governance.
- * Introducing formal recognition of Corporate Social Responsibility with the first steps towards Triple-Bottomline Accounting and Reporting.
- * Introducing measures for greater shareholders participation through multiple-location meetings, electronic-media-assisted display of corporate information and views on proposed resolutions etc.
- * Clearer distinction between direction and management that would ensure that the executive directors are held responsible for legal and other compliance while the non-executive directors are charged with strategic and oversight responsibilities for the company's business and for ensuring that appropriate processes and systems are in place for necessary compliance. Suggestions for legislative recognition of direction and management as distinct though complementary functions of the board and the executive respectively, through appropriate grouping of provisions.
- * Highlighting directorial commitment and accountability through fewer and more focused board and committee memberships, tighter delineation of independence criteria and minimization of interest-conflict potential.
- * Suggesting application of corporate governance principles to Public Sector Undertakings, certainly in case of Listed

Companies, and preferably even in case of Unlisted Companies, in terms of freeing them from multiple surveillance agencies and upgrading their boards with independent directors.

(d) The Report of the Study Group has been examined by the Government and matter relating to implementing important recommendations of the Group is under active consideration of the Government.

Route Diversion of Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express

1759.SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received requests for diversion of Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express via Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A few requests including from Shri Mahendra Baitha, MP have been received for diversion of Rajdhani Express via Gorakhpur.

(c) Diversion of 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express is not feasible due to line capacity constraints and other operational constraints.

Grant in Aid to IREDA

1760.SHRI MATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify the Adivasi dominated villages in Orissa as the private companies that are operating there, are not willing to extend electricity to the dispersed villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Union Government have any proposal to give any grant in aid to the PSU like IREDA engaged in encouraging the use of NCES in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) There are about 18000

remote and unelectrified villages in the country including over 3000 villages in Orissa, which are not considered economically feasible for electrification through conventional grid. These villages could be considered for providing electricity through non-conventional energy sources provided necessary resources are available. A project for decentralized energy systems for integrated development of Komna Block, Nuapara District in Orissa, which also includes electrification of some villages through Solar Photovoltaic, is under implementation through Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA).

(c) to (e) The Ministry does not provide grant in aid to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for implementation of the non-conventional energy sources in the country. However, it has been providing support to IREDA by way of equity contribution and interest subsidy and IREDA provides soft loans for promotion and development of non-conventional energy sources in the country.

Restriction on Import of Ships

1761. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee constituted to consider the question of continuing restriction on import of small ships and floating crafts had recommended the continuation of such restrictions till 2001;

(b) if so, whether the import of vessel is going to deregulate after March 31, 2001 as per WTO norms;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to continue these restrictions in the interest of domestic ship building industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether Indian shipyards are able to build small ships and floating crafts at competitive rates;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of shipping vessels in the country as on date?

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

(b) to (d) Import restriction on all type of new ships as classified under export and import items are likely to be removed by 31.3.2001. Subsequent to removal of restrictions, all imports will be subject

to applicable rate of customs duty. In view to this no specific steps are required to be taken to continue these restrictions.

(e) and (f) In general, Indian Shipyards are not able to build ships and floating crafts at competitive rates. However, some reputed private shipyards had constructed tugs for export at competitive rates. Few more orders from foreign countries are also under execution.

(g) As on 1.3.2001, there were 546 coastal and overseas vessels aggregating 6.84 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) in the country registered under Merchant Shipping Act.

Linking of Goods Train Station with Passenger Line

1762. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to connect all goods train stations to passenger lines in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Lesser Known Crafts

1763. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated action in regard to problem faced by some lesser known crafts in consultation with the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts;

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

(c) the target fixed and achieved during the last three years, so far in regard to export of small crafts, year-wise; and

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government to promote export of lesser known crafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government in consultation with the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has initiated action in respect of certain lesser known crafts e.g.

chickenkari, cane & bamboo; shawls as artwares and zari. The measures include: export awareness programme at craft pockets; organisation of fashion shows; publication of catalogues; sponsoring of sales-cum-study tours abroad and launching of product specific website.

(c) The target fixed and achieved during the last three years in respect of export of handicrafts including small craft, year-wise, is as under:

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Target	Achievement
1997-98	4300	4174.39
1998-99	5249	5058.40 (Prov)
1999-2000	6010	5923.60 (Prov)

(d) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote exports of lesser known crafts include: conducting of survey studies; design development; setting up of Crafts Development centres and revival of languishing craft etc.

Terminal Facilities in Tamil Nadu

1764. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of terminal facilities available on various railway junctions in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up terminal facility in those junctions where it is not available at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Facilities required for maintenance of rakes from safety as well as amenities points of view are provided at terminals where trains originate from or terminate. These stations may or may not be junctions. Normally, facilities for under gear examination, cleaning and washing of carriages, charging of batteries, up keep of fittings, carriage watering and maintenance of air conditioning equipment are provided at such terminals.

(b) to (d) Review of adequacy of such facilities and their upgradation wherever required is a need based and continuous exercise.

Electrification of Katwa-Ahmadpur-Azimganj Rail Line

1765. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to electrify Katwa-Ahmadpur and Katwa-Azimganj railway routes under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which these routes are likely to be electrified; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Katwa-Ahmadpur and Katwa-Azimganj routes.

Allocation of Naphtha to MSEB

1766. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Maharashtra for allocation of Naphtha at imported price so as to check the rising cost of power in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(c) the present status of finalisation of Enron's Dabhol Phase-II project in Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of funding arrangement made for the project consignment upon withdrawal of MSEB from the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra (GOM), while proposing grant of Special import License to M/s. Dabhol Power Company (DPC) to import naphtha/Distillate Oil No.2 for their Dabhol power project, had stated that the procurement price of naphtha by way of imports by DPC was lower than import parity price charged by Indian oil companies for supply of domestic naphtha. The Indian Oil Corporation has since agreed to supply naphtha to DPC on the price matching the price of imported naphtha.

(c) Phase-II of the Dabhol power project (1444 MW) is scheduled to start commercial operation by November, 2001.

(d) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), through its special purpose vehicle i.e. Maharashtra Power Development Company (MPDCL), has taken 30% equity in Phase-I of the Dabhol power project. Phase-II of the project has also envisaged 30% equity to be held by MSEB. In an application made to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on 13.10.2000, DPC stated that MSEB was not making any contributions due from it for Phase-II of the project and, therefore, proposed that the 30% shareholding of MSEB in Phase-II of the project be picked up by a new affiliate of Enron based in Mauritius. In addition to this DPC also sought the approval of Government for raising an additional equity of US\$ 233 million by way of contingency equity at the insistence of lenders to the project, which would be required to meet any cost variation arising during construction. GOM had conveyed their no objection to the proposal of Enron for picking up MSEB's share of equity of Phase-II of the Dabhol project subject to the condition that 30% equity of Phase-II should be transferred to the nominated company of MSEB after its completion on terms and conditions mutually agreed upon. The Government of India (GOI) conveyed its approval to the above proposal of DPC on 12.2.2001. It has recently been informed by GoM that MPDCL may take up the 30% equity after commissioning of Phase-II.

Shipping Service in 'Lakshadweep'

1767. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shipping service between the mainland and the Lakshadweep Island has virtually broken down resulting in serious difficulties to the people of Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available new passenger ships for the benefit of the people of Lakshadweep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two vessels of 150 passengers capacity each are under construction at Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin and another vessel of 700 passengers capacity is under construction at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Vizag. Further, a long-term perspective plan on shipping requirements of Union Territory of Lakshadweep has been prepared.

Power Purchase Agreement with Enron

1768. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Enron willing to amend power purchase agreement' appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 9, 2001;

(b) if so, whether there is any move for amending the power purchase agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Enron has taken up this matter with the Union Government;

(e) if so, the main amendments suggested by Enron and agreed to by the Union Government; and

(f) the time by which these amendments are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) No such proposal for amending the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been received from the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) though, considering the high tariff of power supplied by Dabhol Power Company (DPC), the GOM has proposed to the Central Government to take over the entire Dabhol project either directly or through its public sector undertakings so that the power generated by the DPC is distributed to different States in the country including Maharashtra State, thereby meeting the need of those States which are facing shortage of power. GOM, vide their resolution dated 9.2.2001, have also constituted an Energy Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Madhav Godbole, Ex-Home Secretary, Government of India (GoI). The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

(i) To review the position of overall demand and supply of electric power in the State, with special reference to the supply of power by projects of independent power producers and purchase thereof by the MSEB for which Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) have either been signed or are proposed.

(ii) To examine the cost of power supplied by the DPC and the distribution of power losses and its implications on the finances/tariff of MSEB.

(iii) To review and reconsider the provisions of the PPA signed with the DPC after holding discussions with the said Company, the

MSEB and related authorities and to suggest appropriate measures to facilitate purchase of the power produced by the DPC by other agencies/parties (including Government of India or their agencies).

- (iv) To suggest the broad future course of action for reforms in the energy sector in the State.
- (v) Any other matter which the State Government may consider necessary to refer to the Committee in the above-mentioned context.

The report of the Committee will be submitted to the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) DPC have conveyed their support for any steps by MSEB, GOM for GOI for transferring the power supplied by them to Central Government utilities.

(e) and (f) No amendments as such to the PPA have been suggested by Enron to the Union Government.

Effect of Natural Calamities on Monuments

1769.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of Monuments damaged due to

natural calamities like, cyclone, floods and earthquake during each of the last three years, so far, State-wise and incident-wise;

(b) the extent of damage caused to each such monument;

(c) the action taken by the Government for repair/restoration of such monuments, monument-wise;

(d) the funds released by the Government for each of such monument;

(e) the time by which the restoration plan is likely to be completed; and

(f) the measures taken/being taken to protect the monumnets from natural calamities in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The details of monuments damaged due to cyclone, floods and earthquake during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the statement enclosed.

(f) The centrally protected monuments are conserved and preserved as per archaeological norms. As and when considered necessary, expert opinion is sought for the analytical study of the sensitive monuments and the recommendations implemented, if feasible.

Statement

No.	Type of Natural Calamity	Year	State	Extent of Damage to Monument	Action taken	Funds Released	Tenure by which restoration plan is likely to be completed
1	Cyclone	1998-99	Orissa	Nil	NA	NA	Not Applicable
2.	Earthquake	1997-98	Madhya Pradesh	Chausath Yogini Temple, Bheraghat Distt. Jabalpur, Partly damaged & cracks developed	The damages have been restored	Rs. 1.32 Lakhs	Completed
		1998-99	Uttaranchal	Rudranath Temple in District Chamoli had developed some cracks.	Estimates have been prepared	Nil	2002
3.	Floods	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Construction of Railway Station in Maharashtra

1770.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any representation has been

received to construct New Railway stations at Tenshet and Umberneli in Thane district in Maharashtra;

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

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

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

(b) Tenshet and Umberneli are operational stations on Kalyan-Kasara section on Central Railway, not open for passenger traffic. A proposal for opening these stations for passenger traffic has been examined and not found financially justified. Therefore, the proposal is not being considered at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Derailment of Goods Train

1771. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a goods train derailed near Anwala railway station in Bareilly recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss of lives and value of Government property damaged therein;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 17.02.2001 at 00.10 hours Bhul-Aonla POL Special Up goods train derailed and subsequently caught fire at Aonla station on Chandausi - Bareilly section of Moradabad Division of Northern Railway.

(c) In this accident Driver and Diesel Assistant of the train lost their lives. The value of Government property damaged is estimated as Rs. 2.36 crores approximately.

(d) and (e) This accident is being enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle and final report is awaited.

[Translation]

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Moradabad Railway Station

1772. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any progress in regard to construction of the foot overbridge

connecting all platforms at Moradabad Railway Station, Uttar Pradesh of Northern Railway;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) At present platform no. 1, 2, 3 and 4 are connected by foot-over-bridge (FOB). Platform No. 5 & 6 are connected by a pathway from platform no. 1. As such, there is no proposal at present to construct another FOB connecting all the platforms.

(c) Does not arise.

Anomalies in Pay Scales

1773. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received any representation from several employees' associations especially from Indian Railway Accounts Employees Association to remove the anomalies contained in the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in the pay and pay-scales of the accounts employees;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the CAT had recommended the matter to the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations given by CAT?

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

(b) The Railway Accounts staff are demanding improved pay scales to certain categories of Accounts staff. As Accounts staff in the Railways form common category with Accounts & Audit staff in other Departments of the Government, a decision in the matter is to be taken by Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Finance only.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) No CAT orders relating to removal of anomalies in the pay scales of Indian Railway Accounts employees has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Guidelines on Import of Fuel**

1774. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
 SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :
 SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently framed the guidelines on fuel import under duty exemption scheme.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised scheme is likely to be disadvantageous to the exporters; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to help the exporters?

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. Government has decided to allow fuel under Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for Advance Licensing Scheme, wherein fuel constitutes not less than 15% of the total cost of manufacturing.

(c) and (d) Since fuel is hitherto not normally allowed under SION, it is expected that allowing of fuel under the Norms shall be advantageous to the manufacturer wherein fuel constitutes a significant cost of production by reducing the cost of production itself. This would make Indian products more competitive in the international market.

Complaints Against Petrol Pumps in Uttaranchal

1775. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps in Uttaranchal against whom complaints have been received district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry against them; and

(c) if so, the outcome 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)

After the Uttaranchal State was formed with effect from 09.11.2000, no complaint has been received against the petrol pumps in that State. In the last one year period, no complaints against any of the retail outlets have been received.

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

Setting up of Energy Plants based on Tidal Waves

1776. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up energy plants, based on tidal waves, in the coastal regions, especially in Tamilnadu, considering that it has a long coastal line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up energy plants based on tidal waves in the coastal region of Tamilnadu as there is no potential site for tidal energy in this region. However, Techno-Economic Feasibility Reports have been prepared for 900 MW tidal power plant in Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat and 3 MW tidal power plant at Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans, West Bengal. Govt. of Gujarat has carried out a pre-feasibility study for Kalpsar tidal site in Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat.

Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited

1777. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited have sought marketing rights for controlled petroleum products before deregulation of the sector in April, 2002;

(b) the locations identified by MRPL for setting up of retail outlets;

(c) whether the Government have since given final decision to accord such permission; and

(d) if so, 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 received request from M/s. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels. They have indicated tht they would commission nearly 1800 retail outlets to market MS and HSD.

(c) and (d) The Government have not yet given their decision on the request of the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited.

Energy Generated from Garbage

1778.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from NGOs and Voluntary organisations of Orissa for supply of energy generated from garbage, solar or tidal during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of incentives provided to these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government has not received proposals from any NGO or Voluntary Organization for supply of energy, generated from garbage, solar or tidal during the last year from the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

Provision of Funds for Setting up of Projects

1779.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for granting funds for the development of the on-going power projects and setting up of new power projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The following power projects have been cleared/ appraised for grant of techno-economic clearance for the State of Uttar Pradesh:

1. Anpara 'C' TPP U-6&7 (State Sector)	2 x 500 MW
2. Vishnuprayag HEP (Private Sector)*	4 x 100 MW
3. Rosa TPP (Private Sector)	2 x 283.5 MW
4. Tehri Dam HEP (THDC)*	4 x 250 MW
5. Auraiya CCGT St. II (NTPC)	650 MW
6. Rihand STPP St. II (NTPC)	2 x 500 MW
7. Maneri Bhali - II HEP (State Sector)*	4 x 76 MW
8. Srinagar HEP (Private Sector)*	4 x 82.5 MW

*Now Uttaranchal.

The Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project (2x400 MW) proposed to be set up by M/s Jawaharpur Power India Limited in the Private Sector is presently under examination in the Central Electricity Authority.

The following power project proposals relating to Uttar Pradesh have been posed before different donor agencies through the Department of Economic Affairs for external assistance.

1. Anpara 'C' TPP U-6&7 (2x500 MW)	JBIC, Japan
2. R&M of Rihand and Obra Power Stations	Kuwait Fund
3. Maneri Bhali* HEP St.II (304 MW)	OPEC Funds
4. Rihand STPP St.II (2x500 MW) NTPC	OPEC Funds

*Now Uttaranchal.

[English]

Concessional Crude Oil from OPEC

1780.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether India is formulating a proposal to

seek crude oil on concessional rates from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for developing countries; and

(b) if so, the extent to which these proposals have been considered by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries?

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 the International Energy forum meeting of oil producing and consuming countries held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from November 17-19, 2000, India made a suggestion to the effect that oil exporting countries should consider to give concessions to the developing countries in the form of discounts, deferred payments, soft credits etc. The suggestion was well taken and the need to give special consideration to developing countries was appreciated. Later, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has written to the Oil Ministers of OPEC member countries to consider extending the following concessions to the oil importing developing countries:

- (i) Extension of credit period of 90 days by the oil exporting company instead of the normal period of 30 days;
- (ii) A price discount of 20% of the incremental price beyond an accepted crude price, say \$25 per barrel; and
- (iii) Deferred payment facility at LIBOR for a period of three years for incremental amounts due to price increases beyond an agreed level, say \$ 28 per barrel.

Qatar and Indonesia have responded conveying that India's proposal may be considered at the next meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled to be held in Vienna in mid-March, 2001.

Setting up of an Autonomous Tourism Promotion Board

1781.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Autonomous Tourism Promotion Board on the recommendations of the Task Forces on development of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the formation of this board is likely to benefit the development of tourism industry; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) An Autonomous Tourism Promotion Board has not been constituted. However, a group of Ministers and Committee of Secretaries have been constituted for coordination among different agencies involved in development and promotion of tourism.

PPA with Dabhol Power Company

1782.SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked the Union Government to purchase power from the Dabhol Power Company (DPC) and channel it on to the NTPC Grid; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has requested the Central Government to take over the entire Dabhol project of M/s Dabhol Power Company (DPC) either directly or through its public sector undertakings so that the power generated by the DPC is distributed to different States in the country including Maharashtra State, thereby meeting the need of those States which are facing shortage of power.

(b) The Government of India has advised the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra to convene a meeting with the officials of DPC to resolve the issue. GOM, vide their resolution dated 9.2.2001, have constituted an Energy Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Madhav Godbole, Ex-Home Secretary, Government of India (GOI). The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) To review the position of overall demand and supply of electric power in the State, with special reference to the supply of power by projects of independent power producers and purchase thereof by the MSEB for which Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) have either been signed or are proposed.
- (ii) To examine the cost of power supplied by the DPC and the distribution of power losses and its implications on the finances/tariff of MSEB.
- (iii) To review and reconsider the provisions of the PPA signed with the DPC after holding

discussions with the said Company, the MSEB and related authorities and to suggest appropriate measures to facilitate purchase of the power produced by the DPC by other agencies/parties (including Government of India or their agencies).

- (iv) To suggest the broad future course of action for reforms in the energy sector in the State.
- (v) Any other matter which the State Government may consider necessary to refer to the Committee in the above-mentioned context.

The report of the Committee will be submitted to the Government of Maharashtra. The question of taking any action by the Government of India will arise only after receipt of proposals from the GOM in this regard.

Financial Assistance from IFI to PGCIL for Power Projects

1783. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India have received funds from the International Financial Institutions for the on-going power projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the projects for which the financial assistance sought, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) POWERGRID has loan commitment of about Rs. 6,880 crores directly from various International Financial Institutions and about Rs. 1714 crores through Government of India for its on-going projects. The names of the projects and the regions in which they are being implemented are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Proj./Scheme	Name of the Region(s)
1	2	3
1.	N-E HVDC B/B Sasaram HVDC	Eastern & Northern
2.	Agartala Gas TL	North-East

1	2	3
3.	Lilo of Bongaigon-Malda at Purnea	Eastern
4.	Lilo of Bongaigon-Malda at Siliguri	Eastern
5.	Lilo of Purnea-Dalkhola	Eastern
6.	ICT at Malda	Eastern
7.	ICT Jeypore	Eastern
8.	ULDC North Eastern Region	North-East
9.	Kolhapur-Mapusa	Western
10.	Nathpa-Jhakri TL	Northern
11.	Kishenpur-Moga TL	Northern
12.	Jalandhar-Hamirpur	Northern
13.	Bhiwadi & Lilo Ballabgarh-Jaipur	Northern
14.	ULDC Eastern Region	Eastern
15.	Talcher-II TL	Eastern & Southern
16.	ULDC Northern Region	Northern
17.	ULDC Southern Region	Northern
18.	West-East Inter Regional Link	Western & Eastern
19.	ULDC Western Region	Western
20.	Dhauliganga TL	Northern

Gauge Conversion of Cuddalore-Vriddachalam-Salem Rail Line

1784. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have recently cleared the gauge conversion project of Cuddalore-Vriddachalam-Salem line; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the funds sanctioned for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project was cleared by the Government in their meeting held on 7.2.2001. An amount of Rs. 6 crore has been proposed for this work in the Budget 2001-02.

[Translation]

Date of effect 20.6.1998

Hike in Goods and Passenger Fares

1785.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in passenger fares and freight charges on various classes of passenger trains and goods trains since April 1, 1998;

(b) the total amount earned by the Government by this hike;

(c) the reasons for increasing the fare; and

(d) the total subsidy/loss on account of freight equalisation incurred so far by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Changes made in Passenger fares since April 1st 1998 onwards.

(iii) The fares for the following class were increased as under:

Class	Km	1-500 (Rs.)	501-1000 (Rs.)	1001-1600 (Rs.)	1601-2500 (Rs.)	2501 & above (Rs.)
Second Class (M/Exp)		5	8	12	18	25
Sleeper Class (M/Exp)		10	15	25	35	45
First Class (M/Exp)		20	30	40	50	60
AC Chair Car		20	30	40	50	60
AC - 3 Tier		40	60	80	100	120
AC - 2 Tier		60	90	120	150	180
AC First Class		180	270	360	450	540

(iv) The fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi express trains were increased by 20 percent for all distances.

(v) The fares of Second class MST were increased as under:

Distance Slab	Increase per MST
1 - 50 km	Rs. 5
51 - 100 km	Rs. 10
101 & above	Rs. 15

The fares of First class MST was fixed at four times of the fares of the Second class MST. The quarterly Season ticket was fixed at 2.7 times of the fares of MST.

(i) The fares for Second Class (Ordinary) were revised as under:

Distance Slab	Increase
1-50 km	Re. 1
51 - 100 km	Rs. 2
101 - 300 km	Rs. 3
301 & above	Rs. 5

(ii) The fares of Sleeper Class (Ordinary) and First Class (Ordinary) were increased as under:

Distance Slab	Increase
1 - 750 km	Rs. 5
751 - 1500 km	Rs. 10
1501 & above	Rs. 20

(vi) The fares of Metro Railway Calcutta were fixed as under:

Distance	Fare (Rs.)
1 - 5 km	3
6 - 10 km	5
11 kms & above	7

(vii) In Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS), Chennai, the existing surcharge of 50 paise per passenger in 2nd class was revised to Rupee 1. In First class the surcharge was fixed at Rs. 2 per passenger.

(viii) Platform ticket was increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per person.

1999-2000 1.4.1999

1. Fares were rationalised on the basis of new relativity as under:

<i>Ordinary Service</i>	<i>Index of fare</i>
Second Class	100
Sleeper Class	155
First Class	525
<i>Mail/Express Services</i>	<i>Relativity</i>
Second Class	100
Sleeper Class	155
AC Chair Car	300
AC 3-Tier Sleeper	450
First Class	525
AC 2-Tier Sleeper	720
AC First Class	1440

1. The all inclusive fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains were fixed on the basis of revised fare structure.
2. No increase was made in the fares of Second Class Ordinary, Second Class Mail/Express and Season Tickets (both Second and First Class) — no increase in the fares of Metro Railway, Kolkatta and MRTS, Chennai.

2000-2001 1.4.2000

No increase in passenger fares

Changes made in Freight Traffic since April 1st 1998

1998-99 20.6.98

No general increase was announced in the freight rates. The freight rates for (i) Coal (ii) Cement (iii) Iron or Steel were adjusted marginally through modification of taper.

The classifications were upgraded by one step in respect of (i) Iron Ore, (ii) Ores Common NOC (Baryte and Alunite), (iii) Managenese Ore (Fines & Powder), (iv) Caustic Soda, (v) Timber NOC, (vi) Rubber Crude and (vii) Soda Ash.

The classifications were downgraded by one step in respect of (i) Gypsum (Lumps) (ii) Gypsum (Powder) (iii) Lime Stone & Dolomite.

1999-2000 1.4.1999

The Freight rates of all commodities were raised by 4% (four percent) at all distances.

The classifications of Washed Coal from (135A to 140 T/L) & (135 B to 145 W/L) and Caustic Soda, liquor from (130 to 135 T/L) & (135 to 140 W/L) were raised by one step. However, the classification of Washed Coal was reversed to 135A (T/L) & 135B (W/L) w.e.f. 1.12.1999.

A concession of 25 percent in freight rates of all commodities were given for freight traffic hauled for distance of 50 km and less. There was no change in the minimum distance for charge.

2000-2001 1.4.2000

In the Railway Budget proposals implemented w.e.f. 1.4.2000, the freight rates of Grains & Pulses (classified under 95M Trainload and 100 M Wagonload), Kerosene, LPG, Sugar, Edible Salt (Salt NOC), Edible Oils (Oil Div. E), Fruits & Vegetables and Urea were not increased. The freight rates of all other commodities were increased by 5 (Five) percent at all distances, subject to revision of classification of certain commodities as under:

<i>Commodities</i>	<i>Trainload</i>		<i>Wagonload</i>	
	<i>From</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>to</i>
Chemical Manure	105	115	110	125
Div. 'A'				
Div. 'B'	85	100	95	110
Div. 'C'	85B	85	90A	90
Livestock	-	-	180	220
Oil Seeds	-	-	100	130

The classification of the following commodities were downgraded as under:

<i>Commodities</i>	<i>Trainload</i>		<i>Wagonload</i>	
	<i>From</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>to</i>
Coal@	135A	130A*	135B	130B
Cement	150A	145A*	150B	145B
Iron Ore	125	120	130	125
Limestone & Dolomite	125	120	130	125
Petroleum & other hydro	280	270*	300	300
Iron & Steel	210A	200A	210B	200B
Carbon oils (dangerous and non-dangerous)	300	290*	300X	300X

Note: * New Class.

- ② Coal for household consumption will continue to be charged at existing class rate.

(b) The Passenger and Freight earnings are as under:

Passenger Traffic

Number of Passengers (in millions)			Passenger Earnings (Rs. Crs.)		
1998-99	1999-00	%increase	1998-99	1999-00	%increase
4411	4585	3.9	8527	9556	12

Freight Traffic

Tonnes Originating (in millions)			Freight Earnings (Rs. Crs.)		
1998-99	1999-00	%increase	1998-99	1999-00	%increase
421	456	8.3	19676	21755	10.6

The additional earnings from both passenger and freight services has come from the growth of traffic as well as hike in fares and freight rates.

(c) The reasons for increasing the fares are to cover the increases in cost of inputs and also to reduce the element of cross-subsidisation.

(d) Railway's losses are as under:

(Rs. in Crs.)				
Year	Loss on Coaching services	Loss on essential commodities carried below cost	Total	%age inc.
1998-99	4165	110	4275	-
1999-00	4583	156	4739	10.9%

Railways make good these losses by charging certain commodities and class of passengers at a rate higher than the average cost, approximately up to the extent the traffic can bear.

Although railways follow the policy of cross subsidization, railways do not pursue any policy of freight equalisation.

[English]

Revival of NTC Spinning Mills of Andhra Pradesh

1786.SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not responded to the offer of the Union Government for revival of six closed spinning mills of National Textile Corporation and for sale of excess land; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh agreed to the proposal of Govt. of India for revival of all revivable mills and closing the non-revivable mills after giving attractive VRS options to the workers, with the following conditions:

- The proceeds are used for revival of the mills located in the State of A.P. without any diversion;
- The sale is being done as a national policy.

Demand of LPG in Orissa

1787.SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of LPG has increased in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the supply of LPG to the State to cope up with the demand?

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

(b) and (c) The demand of LPG of registered consumers of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years in the State of Orissa is as under:

Year	Demand (in TMT)
1997-98	49.9
1998-99	53.1
1999-2000	61.8

The demand of LPG of the consumers registered with Public Sector Oil Marketing companies has been met by and large in full.

[Translation]

Independent Candidates

1788. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of independent candidates contest the elections on certain Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to check the unnecessary expenditure to be incurred on providing security to the candidates and other administrative arrangements made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The subject of providing security to the candidates and other administrative arrangements in this regard is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union territory Administrations.

Train Accident

1789. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a train accident occurred on February 9, 2000 at a level crossing in Ratnagiri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an unmanned level crossing

accident occurred on 9.2.2001. The accident took place at about 11.00 hrs. when KR-5 Down Diva-Sawantwadi Passenger train dashed against a Tata Sumo at an unmanned level crossing between Mangaon and Veer stations of Ratnagiri Division, Konkan Railway Corporation. In this accident 10 persons travelling in the Tata Sumo died on the spot and another 4 persons travelling in the car ahead suffered injuries.

(c) and (d) The accident has been inquired into by a Committee of officers which held the driver of the Tata Sumo responsible. FIR has been lodged against him at Goregaon Police Station of Raigarh District of Maharashtra State.

Textile Laboratories

1790. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of textile laboratories functioning in the country alongwith the body under which they are functioning, location-wise/State-wise;

(b) the date of inception of each laboratory alongwith the facilities available in each laboratory;

(c) whether all the laboratories are in working condition;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, lab-wise;

(e) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of laboratories and workers;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up more such type of laboratories in near future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There are 55 textile laboratories functioning in the country under the control of Ministry of Textiles. A statement indicating location of textile laboratories, date of inception and testing facilities available is enclosed.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) and (g) There is no provision to set up new laboratories at present. However, there is a provision of Rs. 6.00 crore and Rs. 8.00 crore during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively for upgradation and modernisation of textile testing laboratories.

Statement***Details of Textile Laboratories Functioning in the Country under the Control of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India***

S.No	Laboratory	Location	Date of inception	Testing facilities available
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dept. of Handlooms & Textiles	Agartala, Tripura	April'00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
2.	Textiles Committee	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	June '76	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
3.	Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Association (ATIRA)	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	May '54	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
4.	TXCO-PSC	Amritsar, Punjab	October '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
5.	Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI)	Bangalore, Karnataka	April '84	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
6.	Textiles Committee	Bangalore, Karnataka	April '83	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
7.	TXCO-PSC	Belgaum, Karnataka	October '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
8.	ICT	Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh	September '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
9.	Central Silk Board	Bhagalpur, Bihar	October '97	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
10.	Northern India Textile Research Association - Powerloom Service Centre	Bhilwara, Rajasthan	April '98	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
11.	SASMIRA-PSC	Bhiwandi, Maharashtra	September '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
12.	TXCO-PSC	Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh	October '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
13.	Textiles Committee	Calcutta, West Bengal	January '75	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
14.	Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA)	Calcutta, West Bengal	June '37	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
15.	Textiles Committee	Cannanore, Kerala	December '98	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
16.	Textiles Committee	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	June '74	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Textiles Committee	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	June '74	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
18.	South India Textile Research Association (SITRA)	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	October '56	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
19.	Institute of Textile Technology	Cuttack, Orissa	September '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
20.	SCTH, CSTRI	Dharmavaram, Andhra Pradesh	April '00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
21.	SITRA-PSC	Doddaballapur, Karnataka	January '00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
22.	Textile Commissioner Office - Powerloom Service Centre	Erode, Tamil Nadu	Nov. '97	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
23.	Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA)	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	November '75	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
24.	Textiles Committee	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	February '01	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
25.	IJIRA	Guwahati, Assam	Dec. '98	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
26.	Textiles Committee	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	August '93	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
27.	Bombay Textile Research Association - Powerloom Service Centre	Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra	July '89	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
28.	Ahmedabad Textile Research Association	Indore, Madhya Pradesh	April '58	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
29.	Textiles Committee	Jaipur, Rajasthan	April '91	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
30.	Central Silk Board	Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir	April '97	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
31.	Textiles Committee	Jodhpur, Rajasthan	May '00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
32.	SCTH, CSTRI	Kancheevaram, Tamil Nadu	April '00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
33.	Textiles Committee	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	June '77	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
34.	Indian Institute of Technology	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	September '97	Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
35.	Textiles Committee	Karur, Tamil Nadu	April '97	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals

1	2	3	4	5
36.	TXCO-PSC	Kishangarh, Rajasthan	October '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
37.	Textiles Committee	Ludhiana, Punjab	May '82	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
38.	Textiles Committee	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	August '75	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
39.	TXCO-PSC	Malegaon, Nasik Maharashtra	July '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
40.	NITRA-PSC	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	December '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
41.	Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	July '96	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
42.	CIRCOT	Mumbai, Maharashtra	December '24	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
43.	SASMIRA	Mumbai, Maharashtra	March '58	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
44.	Textiles Committee	Mumbai, Maharashtra	April '70	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
45.	CIRCOT	Nagpur, Maharashtra	December '85	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
46.	IIT	New Delhi, Delhi	April '00	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
47.	Textiles Committee	New Delhi, Delhi	June '74	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
48.	Northern India Textile Research Association - Powerloom Service Centre	Panipat, Haryana	Jan. '98	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
49.	South India Textile Research Association	Salem, Tamil Nadu	April '75	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
50.	IJIRA	Shantipur, West Bengal	February '00	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
51.	Manmade Fibre Textile Research Association (MANTRA)	Surat, Gujarat	May '84	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
52.	TXCO-PSC	Surat, Gujarat	October '99	Physical & Chemical parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
53.	Wool Research Association (WRA)	Thane, Maharashtra	October '63	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
54.	Textiles Committee	Tirupur, Tamil Nadu	September '93	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals
55.	Central Silk Board	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	June '97	Physical, Chemical & Eco parameters of fibre, yarn, fabrics, dyes and chemicals

[English]

Enquiry Report on Gaisal Train Accident

1791. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee which was constituted to enquire into Gaisal Train accident has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice G.N. Ray set up to enquire into the Gaisal tragedy has recently submitted its final report which is under examination. As per the findings of the Commission, Gaisal accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff."

(c) Recommendations made by Ray Commission are under examination.

Projects under Generation with NTPC

1792. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of power generation projects under N.T.P.C. so far in the country,

(b) whether all the generating units are working to their full capacity;

(c) if so, whether any units under N.T.P.C. are shut down; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The present installed power generating capacity of NTPC is 19435 MW comprising 15,480 MW coal based stations and 3,955 MW combined cycle stations. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) NTPC has been utilizing full capacity of its coal based power stations except in the Eastern Region, Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) and Tanda Thermal Power Station (Tanda).

The Eastern Region power stations of NTPC are facing problem of backing down due to lack of evacuation facilities. Various constraints involved in power evacuation are (a) low generation schedule given by EREB, (b) inadequate transmission/sub-

transmission and distribution system and (c) inadequate inter-regional power transmission network. Efforts are being made for getting higher generation schedule for NTPC's Eastern Region Stations and also to transfer power to other States from Eastern Region.

The under-performing TTPS and Tanda were taken over by NTPC from Orissa State Electricity Board and UPSEB (now UPPCL). Renovation and modernisation work in these power stations is in progress with a view to improve their performance. Gas Stations of NTPC are being run as per the gas availability and grid requirements.

(c) and (d) From time to time, 500 MW units and 200 MW units of NTPC in the Eastern Region are kept under shutdown as per the directive of Eastern Region Load Despatch Centre (ERLDC) based on demand conditions.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Project	Location	Capacity (MW)
			Installed Capacity
1	2	3	4
I. Coal Based Stations			
1.	Singrauli	UP	2000
2.	Korba	Chhattisgarh	2100
3.	Ramagundam	AP	2100
4.	Farakka-I	WB	600
	Farakka-II	WB	1000
5.	Vindhyachal-I	MP	1260
	Vindhyachal-II	MP	1000
6.	Rihand-I	UP	1000
7.	Kahalgaoon-I	Bihar	840
8.	NCTPP-Dadri	UP	840
9.	Talcher STPP	Orissa	1000
10.	Talcher TPS	Orissa	460
11.	Unchahar-I	UP	420
	Unchahar-II	UP	420
12.	Tanda TPS	UP	440
Total (Coal)			15480

1	2	3	4
II. Combined Cycle Stations			
1. Auraiya	UP	652	
2. Anta	Rajasthan	413	
3. Kawas	Gujarat	645	
4. Dadri	UP	817	
5. Jhanor-Gandhar	Gujarat	648	
6. Kayamkulam	Kerala	350	
7. Faridabad	Haryana	430	
Total (Gas)		3955	
Grand Total		19435	

Fast Track Scheme

1793.SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fast Track Exit Scheme of the Company Law Board has turned out to be a failure, even after being extended several times;

(b) if so, whether out of more than 8000 companies, gone into oblivion in the eastern part of India, only 1072 opted for the FTES Scheme;

(c) whether the failure of FTES is attributed to its bad timing as it was launched just after the Company Law Settlement Scheme (CLSS); and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to track down the vanished companies and initiate legal action against them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In Eastern Region 1334 companies have opted for the Scheme. As per our records 91598 companies are registered with the Registrars of Companies in the Eastern Region.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Non-Banking Financial Companies are governed by RBI. Monitoring of the working of all listed companies that come with public issue vests in SEBI/Stock Exchanges. Only 24 companies have been identified as non-traced companies out of 142

companies identified by SEBI as vanishing companies and Registrars of Companies have been instructed to initiate action under section 433/439 of Companies Act.

Detection of Track Fracture

1794.SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether expensive machinery and equipments for detection of track fracture is lying unused;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the area in the country most affected by track fractures during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far, zone-wise; and

(d) the estimated cost incurred for its replacement?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The details are as follows:

Zonal Railway	Most affected section in 1999-2000	Most affected section in 2000-2001 (up to Jan)
Central	Lonavala-Pune	Lonavala-Pune
Eastern	Jhajha-Patna-Mugal Sarai	Jhajha-Patna-Mugal Sarai
Northern	Moradabd-Ghaziabad	Moradabad-Ghaziabad
North-Eastern	Katihar-Barauni	Katihar-Barauni
North-East Frontier	Guwahati-Malda	Guwahati-Malda
Southern	Chennai-Arkonam	Chennai-Arkonam
South Central	Vijaywada-Vishakhapatnam	Vijaywada-Vishakhapatnam
South Eastern	Raipur-Bilaspur	Raipur-Bilaspur
Western	Udhna-Jalgaon	Madar-Palanpur

The expenditure incurred on a rail fracture depends on the kind of fracture and the repair required. Rail fracture is tackled by cutting out the existing rail and inserting a good rail, which is done by adding two welds. Weld fracture is tackled by cutting the old weld and inserting a wider size weld. Depending upon the its conditions, the cost of repairs varies from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 10,000 per fracture.

Status of NCES and Renewable Sources

1795.SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of source of non-conventional energy including renewable sources which are in actual use in India including wind power etc.;

(b) the details of the potential of each of these indicating the present usage and the ultimate targets;

(c) whether the Non-Conventional Energy Sources and renewable sources including Biomass is rather unhappy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) India has a vast potential of non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro power and biomass. The various systems/devices have been developed for effective utilization of non-conventional energy sources for meeting energy needs of cooking, heating, lighting and electricity in the country. The details of estimated potential in the country and achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes upto 31st December, 2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Ministry has installed a cumulative capacity of about 3000 MW by end of 31st December 2000 including about 300 MW from biomass and is giving priority for power generation from non-conventional energy sources, including biomass. In addition, the Ministry is encouraging promotion, development and utilisation of non-conventional energy sources, by providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives including financial support, soft term loans and conducive renewable energy power policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back and third party sale of renewable energy power.

Statement

The estimated potential and achievements made under various non-conventional energy sources upto December, 2000 in the country

Sources/Systems	Approximate Potential	Achievements (as on 31-12-2000)
1. Biogas plants (No.)	120 lakh	31.1 lakhs
2. Improved Chulha (No.)	12 crores	326.2 lakhs
3. a. Biomass Power b. Biomass Gasifier	19,500 MW	273 MW 35.52 MW
4. Solar Photovoltaic	20 MW/sq. km.	
i. Solar Street Lighting - Systems	-	40764 Nos.
ii. Home Lighting	-	137212 Nos.
iii. Solar Lanterns	-	319310 Nos.
iv. SPV Power Plants	-	1078.7 kWp
5. Solar Water Heating Systems	30 million sq.m. collector area	5,50,000 sq. mtr. collector area
6. Solar Cookers		4,91,212 Nos.
7. Wind Power	45,000 MW	1269.4 MW
8. Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	15,000 MW	1341.1 MW
9. Wind Pumps		670 Nos.
10. Hybrid Systems		91.5 kW
11. Solar PV Pumps		3575 Nos.
12. Solar Photovoltaic Power		1615 kW
13. Energy Recovery from wastes	1700MW	16.2 MW
14. Battery Operated Vehicles		240 Nos.

MW = Mega-watt

Sq. m = Square meter

kWp = Kilo watt peak.

kW = Kilo watt

Sq. km. = Square Kilometer

Setting up of Power Projects

1796.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power

Corporation has identified sites at Ratnagiri and Vidarbha region for setting up of two thermal power projects of 1000 MW each;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Government and Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) have been obtained by N.T.P.C. on the said projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a), (b) and (e) The setting up of a power plant in a particular region/State by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is determined with reference to availability of coal/fuel, demand and supply position in the region, availability of key inputs like land, water, project site meeting environmental standards and guidelines with minimum displacement of Project Affected Persons and acquisition of minimum prime agricultural/forest land, ability of the beneficiary states to pay and willingness to sign Power Purchase Agreement with adequate safeguards mechanisms and other techno-economic considerations. As a part of its long term capacity addition programme, NTPC is exploring some sites in Konkan and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra to assess their prima-facie suitability keeping in view the above aspects for setting up thermal power plant there.

(c) and (d) NTPC will take steps to obtain necessary clearances and commitments in respect of availability of land, water, no objection from State Pollution Control Board, the State Government and other agencies after techno-economic feasibility of the proposed power plant is established and its location is finalised.

World Heritage Status to Khajuraho

1797.SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UNESCO has indicated that Khajuraho Group of Monuments may lose its world heritage status;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

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

Enquiry System in Trains

1798.SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to upgrade its enquiry system to enable the passengers to know where exactly the train is at the moment;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the objectives of the system;

(c) the places where such system is operational at present;

(d) whether the Government are planning to set up internet kiosks in Rajdhani and Superfast trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said internet kiosks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In order to upgrade passenger information regarding train running, the Railways have set up the National Train Enquiry System for providing train running position through terminals at enquiries of important stations, Interactive Voice Response System, display boards and announcement system at major stations. The system provides information which is updated at frequent intervals.

(c) A Statement is attached.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

Railway-wise list of places where National Train Enquiry System is operational is as under:

Railway	Names of Stations
1	2
Central	Mumbai CST, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Dadar, Pune, Solapur, Bhusawal, Nasik Road, Akola, Nagpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Bhopal, Habibganj, Jhansi, Agra Cantt.
Eastern	Asansol, Central Enquiry (Old Koilaghat Building, Kolkata), Danapur, Durgapur, Howrah, Mokama, Patna, Bhagalpur, Dhanbad, Gaya, Malda Town, Mughalsarai, Sealdah

1	2
Northern	Delhi, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Allahabad, Bikaner, Dehradun, Haridwar, Jodhpur, Lucknow, Moradabad, Ambala Cantt
North Eastern Railway	Izzatnagar, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Manduadih, Sonpur Jn., Samastipur Jn.
North East Frontier Railway	Kathihar, New Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar & Guwahati
Southern Railway	Chennai and Bangalore
South Central Railway	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Vijayawada, Hubli, Guntur, Guntakal, Nellore, Nanded, Rajahmundry, Tirupati, Vasco, Warangal
South Eastern Railway	Tatanagar, Bilaspur, Kharagpur, Rourkela, Visakhapatnam, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Khurda Road, Chakradharpur, Sambalpur & Adra
Western Railway	Separate system working, which is PC-based provides information at Mumbai Central, Surat, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Ratlam, Kota, Ujjain and Indore

[Translation]

Review of Working of Ordnance Depots

1799. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of ordnance depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the supply of ordnance materials during "Operation Vijay" in Kargil conflict was not made in time and in 48 percent cases this supply was delayed by one to three months;

(d) if so, the details of such ordnance depots; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against officers found responsible for the delays?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The review was carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General of

India and the report on "Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services" was published under reference of Union Government (Defence Services) No. 7A of 2000.

(c) No, Sir. All operational requirements were met on a war footing well within the stipulated time frames laid down in the technical instructions. The data, contained in the question, that in 48% cases, this supply was delayed by one to three months has been taken from the analysis of the issues made by one Central Ordnance Depot and relates to items which were meant for recouping the store consumed by the intermediary depot and not for operational requirements.

(d) and (e) In view of above, question does not arise.

[English]

R&D in ONGC

1800. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of ONGC takes R&D seriously;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure on each R&D unit of ONGC;

(c) whether the research work is being done at the international standard; 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) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has eight Research and Development (R&D) Institutes, viz. Keshav Dev Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), Geo-data Processing and Interpretation Center (GEOPIC), Institute of Drilling Technology (IDT), Institute of Reservoir Studies (IRS), Institute of Oil and Gas Production Technology (IOGPT), Institute of Engineering and Ocean Technology (IEOT), Institute of Petroleum Safety & Environment Management (IPSEM) and Institute of Biotechnology and Geotectonics Studies (INBIGS). R&D work carried out in these Institutes covers all facets of hydrocarbon exploration and production, including safety and environment. The Institutes attempt to harness the leading 'state-of-art' technologies in their work and endeavour to keep abreast with the international best practices and standards. Quality training is imparted

in these Institutes. The details of expenditure in respect of these R&D Institutes of ONGC are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Constitution

1801. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the move to review the constitution has been criticized widely by various section of the society;

(b) if so, whether the Commission had suggested several points in consultation paper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Sir, it would not be correct to say that the move to review the Constitution has been widely criticized. However, there has been criticism by some section of the Society.

(b) and (c) The commission has identified ten areas of immediate contemporary concern for examination. The commission has so far prepared and released seven Consultation Papers and Questionnaires for public debate and discussion. A list of the Consultation Papers & Questionnaires released by the Commission is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Government can react only after the Commission has submitted its report.

Statement

List of Consultation Papers & Questionnaires

1. Review of the Working of Political Parties specially in relation to Election and reform Options;
2. Review of Election Law, Processes and Reform Options;
3. Immunity of Legislators - What do the words 'in respect of anything said or any vote given by him' in article 105(2) signify?
4. Treaty making Power under the Constitution;

Liability of the State in Tort;

India Judicial Service; and

7. Efficacy of Public Audit systems in India; C&AG - Reforming the Institution.

[Translation]

Generation of Solar Energy in U.P.

1802. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh for generation of solar energy during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount utilised by the State Government during the said period; and

(c) the details of funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the generation of solar energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) The total financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for development and use of solar energy during each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	725.85
1998-99	894.81
1999-2000	408.21

The above financial assistance has been utilised by NEDA almost to the full extent.

A total of Rs. 2952.17 lakhs has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal during 2000-01) in the first four years of the Ninth Five Year Plan for solar energy programmes. The allocations for the last year of the Plan (2001-2002) have not yet been made.

Oil Refinery Projects of Oil Companies

1803. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether indigenous oil companies have started oil refinery projects in association with some foreign oil companies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar proposals are under consideration at present also;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(e) the equity holding of the foreign oil companies under these projects and the respective equity holdings of the Government and other parties; and

(f) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a), (b) and (e) Paradeep refinery project in Orissa with equity participation 26% each by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and the balance 48% by public etc., was approved by the Government in July, 1998. KPC has since withdrawn from the project in January, 2000.

Central India Refinery Project at Bina in Madhya Pradesh with equity participation of 26% each by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Oman Oil Company (OOC) was approved in December, 1995. OOC has now decided to reduce their equity participation to the level of actual investment till date.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Refinery companies have at present no similar proposals for setting up of oil refineries in association with foreign oil companies.

(f) Paradeep refinery project is expected to be completed by IOC by August, 2003.

Bina refinery project is expected to be completed by BPCL within 48 months from the date of commencement of project execution.

[English]

Conservation of Petroleum Products

1804. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any fresh steps to conserve petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new programme under the campaign "Save Oil" has also been introduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the contribution of PCRA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken steps to harness alternate and non-conventional fuel such as Coal Bed Methane, Gas Hydrates and Renewables. Pilot Projects on Ethanol - Petrol blend have been approved for implementation. This would result in conservation of petroleum products.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The 'Save Oil' campaign is a part of the Oil Conservation Week/Fortnight which have been regularly observed in the country since 1991. This mass awareness campaign is organized by the oil sector with Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) as the nodal agency.

Photo Identity Cards to Voters

1805. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

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

(a) the number of voters in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of voters who have been issued photo-identity cards in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have released 50% of the total cost incurred by the various States for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The scheme of electors' photo identity cards is being implemented by the State Governments/Union territory Administrations directly under overall charge of the Election Commission of India. The Central Government's role is limited to reimbursement of their share on 50:50 basis as and when the same is claimed by them. A sum of Rs. 419,45,61,710/- has been released by the Central Government to the States/Union territories specifically for expenditure on the scheme of electors' Photo Identity Cards so far since 1994-95.

Statement*Election Commission of India**Status report on progress of electors photo identity cards*

S.No.	States/UTs	Status as on (date)	Total Electors	Electors issued with defect-free Identity Cards	Percentage (5 as % of 4)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.4.2000	49,140,231	32,568,406	66.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.3.2000	622,124	373,152	59.98
3.	Assam	31.5.1998	12,575,854	67,479	0.54
4.	Bihar	31.3.1998	58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa	30.9.2000	917,222	525,575	57.30
6.	Gujarat	31.5.2000	29,631,636	23,177,051	78.22
7.	Haryana	30.4.2000	11,108,535	9,850,009	88.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.11.2000	3,814,769	2,654,733	69.59
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	30.9.2000	34,903,320	24,407,863	69.93
11.	Kerala*	30.11.2000	22,416,897	16,295,609	72.69
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31.1.2000	44,640,047	27,706,647	62.07
13.	Maharashtra	31.11.2000	57,505,567	44,455,999	77.31
14.	Manipur	31.7.2000	1,413,690	1,033,733	73.12
15.	Meghalaya	20.4.2000	1,182,672	641,459	54.24
16.	Mizoram	-	457,434	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	31.1.2000	966,275	625,996	64.78
18.	Orissa	30.9.2000	24,172,899	18,188,207	75.24
19.	Punjab	31.11.2000	15,723,949	10,810,977	68.75
20.	Rajasthan	31.10.2000	31,177,865	22,532,408	72.27
21.	Sikkim	31.1.2000	257,062	200,077	77.83
22.	Tamil Nadu*	30.11.2000	47,945,872	26,581,419	55.44
23.	Tripura	31.1.2000	1,725,809	1,229,993	71.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31.3.2000	101,943,066	53,027,456	52.02
25.	West Bengal*	30.11.2000	48,121,902	39,102,999	81.26
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	30.9.2000	252,729	194,973	77.15
27.	Chandigarh	30.4.1999	538,607	381,048	70.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	31.12.2000	103,603	81,700	78.86
29.	Daman & Diu	28.2.1999	71,931	45,645	63.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	NCT of Delhi	31.1.2000	8,707,531	5,800,683	66.62
31.	Lakshadweep	28.2.1999	36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry*	30.9.2000	658,927	555,675	84.33
All India Total			616,195,862	384,830,620	62.45

*The Election Commission has accorded highest priority to increase the coverage of electors with photo identity cards in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Pondicherry where elections to the Legislative Assemblies are due in early 2001. The progress achieved in these States is given below.

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards

S.No.	States/UT	Position as on	Total electors	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards up to July, 2000	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards after July 2000.	Total EPCI issued so far (Col. 4+ Col. 5)	Percentage (Col. 6 as % of Col. 3)
1.	Kerala	31.1.2001	22,848,899	15,327,431	1,922,258	17,294,195	75.69
2.	Tamil Nadu	1.1.2001	47,945,872	26,581,419	4,213,115	30,796,859	64.23
3.	West Bengal	1.1.2001	48,642,245	37,673,926	2,155,974	39,829,900	81.88
4.	Pondicherry	31.10.2000	658,927	555,675	-	-	84.33

Note: EPCI programme in Pondicherry is to commence after the current round of Special revision of Electoral Rolls

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Bandel Station

1806.SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foot over bridge is being constructed at Bandel railway station connecting all the five platforms with the eastern side of Bandel station and the western side in the Howrah division of Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new booking office at Bandel is being set up on the eastern side in addition to the existing booking office in the western side of the said station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to solve the severe problem of water logging in the Bagarpara subway and platform subway at Bandel railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Foot over bridge connecting platform 4&5 to eastern side

is already under construction. Another Foot over bridge connecting all platforms has been proposed in the budget of 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Three counter booking office is under construction on eastern side.

(e) Improvement work to reduce water-logging problem in Bagarpara subway has already been sanctioned. Improvement work for Bandel subway is already in progress.

[Translation]

Running of Bullet Trains

1807.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the studies towards choice of routes and feasibility for running of high speed bullet trains has been conducted;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to purchase high speed Bullet Train from Japan;

(d) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which high speed trains is likely to start running in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal in this regard is under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Pension for Ex-Servicemen/War-Widows

1808.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of beneficiaries availing pension under the category of Ex-servicemen and war-widows as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether any demand has been raised for increase in the pension amount being paid to them;

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

(d) the amount provided for rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen and war-widows during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to enhance the funds allocation for rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen and war-widows; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total number of pensioners, including family pensioners/war-widows, is presently estimated to be 19.5 lakhs. State-wise break-up of pensioners is not maintained. The pension is disbursed through more than 30,000 pension paying offices namely branches of Public Sector Banks, Treasuries, Defence Pension Disbursing Offices, Pay and Accounts Offices, scattered, all over the country.

(b) and (c) The various demands/suggestions regarding enhancement of pension of the Armed

Forces pensioners were considered by the 5th Central Pay Commission. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Commission, necessary orders have been issued for revising the pension/family pension of the Armed Forces personnel w.e.f. 1.1.1996. The minimum pension has been revised from Rs. 375/- to Rs. 1,275/- per month.

(d) and (e) There is no specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen/War-widows.

(f) The question does not arise.

Share of Power for Kerala

1809.SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have been allotting a portion of unallocated share of power to Kerala;

(b) if so, whether unallocated share for Kerala has varied from 70% to 3%;

(c) whether the Government had reduced the unallocated share of Kerala to 0% with effect from December 18, 1999;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the allocation by 4%; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The allocation from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations is generally made keeping in view the relative power shortages prevailing in the constituent systems and the emergent requirements arising out of contingencies like break down of power stations/increase in seasonal agricultural demand etc. The allocation to Kerala out of unallocated quota has varied from 65% to 0% in the last three years depending upon the relative power shortages prevailing in the Southern States from time to time.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The allocation out of unallocated power to Kerala has been increased to 4% w.e.f. 20.1.2001.

New Railway Line between Dimapur and Tizit

1810.SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a

new rail-link between Dimapur and Tizit via Chumekedima;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted?

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

(b) and (c) A survey for construction of new line from Dimapur to Chumekedima was conducted in 1986. The survey report revealed that the cost of the 13 kms. long line would be Rs. 6.29 crs with negative rate of return. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider the project for the present.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Power Generation in Public Sector and Private Sector

1811. **SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation as on date by the private sector and public sector, separately;

(b) the total demand and availability of power during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the country, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of increase in the demand of power as compared to 1998 and actual supply made by the Government during these years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to meet the increasing demand of power in the coming years;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand; and

(f) the total MW likely to be added in the power sector during the 9th Plan along with the target achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During the period April-January 2001, the electricity

generated by the power stations in private sector and public sector was 31951 MU and 383085 MU, respectively.

(b) and (c) The State-wise Power Supply Position from 1997-98 to 2000-01 upto January, 2001 is given in the Statement I and II enclosed.

(d) and (e) The following steps are being taken to meet the gap between demand and supply of power:

- (i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special fund under the Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.
- (ii) Speedy implementation of Reform & Restructuring in the Power Sector.
- (iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factor of thermal units.
- (iv) Reduction in transmission and Distribution losses.
- (v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (vi) Disbursement of loans by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the present generation capacity by 2012.
- (viii) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of transmission links and finally formation of the National Grid.
- (ix) Formulation of hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential as a faster pace.

(f) As per the review made by the Empowered Committee during January 2001, it has been observed that a capacity of 20891.57 MW is likely to be added during 9th Plan. Cumulative capacity addition during the 9th Plan upto January 2001 is 14436.70 MW.

Statement-I

Actual Power Supply Position

Region State/System	1997-98					1998-99					1999-2000				
	Reqd.	Avail.	(-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%		Reqd.	Avail.	Shortage (-) Deficit/ (+) Surplus	%		Reqd.	Avail.	(-) Deficit (+) Surplus	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Northern															
Chandigarh	941	941	0	0	1025	1022	-3	-0.3	1033	1032	-1	-0.1			
Delhi	14952	14676	-276	-1.8	16500	16184	-316	-1.9	17635	17141	-494	-2.8			
Haryana	13196	12981	-215	-1.6	14106	13808	-298	-2.1	15950	15578	-372	-2.3			
H.P.	2897	2895	-2	-0.1	2954	2949	-5	-0.2	3125	3115	-10	-0.3			
J & K	5346	5201	-145	-2.7	5784	5437	-347	-6.0	6065	4903	-1162	-19.2			
Punjab	22100	21928	-172	-0.8	24884	24340	-544	-2.2	26335	26164	-171	-0.6			
Rajasthan	20655	20288	-367	-1.8	23340	22766	-574	-2.5	25155	24024	-1131	-4.5			
U.P.	41157	36105	-5052	-12.3	42291	38138	-4153	-9.8	44525	38800	-5725	-12.9			
N.R.	121244	115013	-6231	-5.1	130884	124644	-6240	-4.8	139823	130743	-9080	-6.5			
Western															
Gujarat	40622	38489	-2133	-5.3	45685	42835	-2850	-6.2	51202	46994	-4208	-8.2			
M.P.	32101	29936	-2165	-6.7	35407	33345	-2062	-5.8	37198	34543	-2655	-7.1			
Maharashtra	61935	60149	-1786	-2.9	66332	63778	-2554	-3.9	73498	69002	-4496	-6.1			
Goa	1369	1369	0	0	1650	1445	-205	-12.4	1806	1414	-392	-21.7			
W.R.	138027	129943	-6084	-4.5	149074	141403	-7671	-5.1	163704	151953	-11751	-7.2			

(All fig. in MU)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Southern												
A.P.	41599	35606	-5993	-14.4	41958	38293	-3665	-8.7	45835	42832	-3003	-6.6
Karnataka	26577	21192	-5385	-20.3	26061	22626	-3435	-13.2	28201	25851	-2350	-8.3
Kerala	11611	9404	-2207	-19	12313	11114	-1199	-9.7	12850	11908	-942	-7.3
Tamilnadu	37870	32550	-5320	-14	37706	33268	-4438	-11.8	38873	35797	-3076	-7.9
S.R.	117657	98749	-18908	-16.1	118038	105301	-12737	-10.8	125759	116388	-9371	-7.5
Eastern												
Bihar	9350	7493	-1857	-19.9	8668	7965	-703	-8.1	8912	8348	-564	-6.3
D.V.C.	8370	8156	-214	-2.6	7921	8226	305	3.9	8464	8668	204	2.4
Orissa	10976	10776	-200	-1.8	10757	11115	358	3.3	10838	11143	305	2.8
W. Bengal	15885	15775	-110	-0.7	16319	16778	459	2.8	17951	18298	347	1.9
E.R.	44581	42200	-2381	-5.3	43665	44084	419	1.0	46165	46457	292	0.6
N.E.R.												
Ar. Pradesh	144.3	115.3	-29	-20.1	123.2	112.5	-10.7	-8.7	119.8	120.7	0.9	0.8
Assam	2987.3	2727.5	-259.8	-8.7	2876.3	2799.2	-77.1	-2.7	2868.3	2918.4	50.1	1.7
Manipur	511.6	404.7	-106.9	-20.9	506.4	500.7	-5.7	-1.1	470.5	451.2	-19.3	-4.1
Meghalaya	413	425.8	12.8	3.1	435.5	460.4	24.9	5.7	514.1	540.8	26.7	5.2
Mizoram	214.9	153.2	-61.7	-28.7	203.8	193.4	-10.4	-5.1	220.8	223.9	3.1	1.4
Nagaland	213.9	159.5	-54.4	-25.4	196.6	187.2	-9.4	-4.8	205.6	207.8	2.2	1.1
Tripura	511.3	439	-72.3	-14.1	581.2	549.6	-31.6	-5.4	579.9	590.1	10.2	1.8
N.E.R.	4996.3	4425	-571.3	-11.4	4923	4803	-120	-2.4	4979	5052.9	73.9	1.5
All India	424505	390330	-3417.5	-8.1	446584	420235	-26349	-5.9	480430	450594	-29836	-6.2

Statement-II**Actual Power Supply Position**

(All figures in MU net)

Region State/System	April '99-January '2000				April '2000-January '2001			
	Requi- rement	Avail- ability	Shortage	%	Requi- rement	Avail- ability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Region								
Chandigarh	885	884	1	0.1	926	925	1	0.1
Delhi	15050	14592	458	3.0	15935	15193	742	4.7
Haryana	13375	13004	371	2.8	14505	14210	295	2.0
H.P.	2574	2564	10	0.4	2635	2588	47	1.8
J & K	4940	4041	899	18.2	5240	4565	675	12.9
Punjab	22890	22722	168	0.7	23645	23242	403	1.7
Rajasthan	20630	19545	1085	5.3	20690	20017	673	3.3
U.P.	37105	32295	4810	13.0	38390	33012	5378	14.0
N.R.	117449	109647	7802	6.6	121966	113752	8214	6.7
Western Region								
Gujarat	42275	38977	3298	7.8	44575	40108	4467	10.0
M.P.	29905	28034	1871	6.3	32691	29015	3676	11.2
Maharashtra	60176	56904	3272	5.4	66507	58864	7643	11.5
Goa	1488	1160	328	22.0	1492	1306	186	12.5
W.R.	133844	125075	8769	6.6	145265	129293	15972	11.0
Southern Region								
A.P.	37369	35195	2174	5.8	39112	36264	2848	7.3
Karnataka	22580	20844	1736	7.7	24401	22158	2243	9.2
Kerala	10533	9764	769	7.3	11211	10463	748	6.7
Tamilnadu	31900	29491	2409	7.6	34920	32263	2657	7.6
S.R.	102382	95294	7088	6.9	109644	101148	8496	7.7
Eastern Region								
Bihar	7338	6833	505	6.9	7655	7209	446	5.8
D.V.C.	7046	7224	-178	-2.5	7048	7195	-147	-2.1
Orissa	8937	9205	-268	-3.0	9770	10136	-366	-3.7
W. Bengal	14910	15224	-314	-2.1	15541	15752	-211	-1.4
E.R.	38231	38486	-255	-0.7	40014	40291	-277	-0.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North-Eastern Region								
Ar. Pradesh	98.0	98.9	-0.9	-0.9	106.0	108.6	-2.6	-2.5
Assam	2411.1	2460.8	-49.7	-2.1	2571.8	2810.5	-238.7	-9.3
Manipur	382.8	361.6	21.2	5.5	385.8	382.9	2.9	0.8
Meghalaya	414.5	437.9	-23.4	-5.6	457.8	499.0	-41.2	9.0
Mizoram	180.8	183.5	-2.7	-1.5	203.4	210.6	-7.2	-3.5
Nagaland	168.0	170.0	-2	-1.2	186.1	192.5	-6.4	-3.4
Tripura	485.8	494.3	-8.5	-1.7	470.3	500.3	-30	-6.4
N.E.R.	4141	4207	-66	-1.6	4381.2	4704.4	-323.2	-7.4
All India	396047	372709	23338	5.9	421273	389188	32085	7.6

Free legal aid to Poors

1812.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated by the Central Government to the States to provide free legal assistance to poors during 2000-2001;

(b) whether the allocation made during the last year has been utilized properly; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments. In terms of Sub Section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds to the State Legal Services Authorities for implementation of Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes propagated by NALSA which include provision for free legal assistance to the poor. NALSA has so far allocated a sum of Rs. 3,06,85,000/- to the State Legal Services Authorities during the financial year 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Strength of MIGs

1813.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of MIG fighters with IAF as on date and the price of each of the fighters;

(b) the total number of fighter planes met with accidents or got destroyed and the total financial loss suffered therefrom during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the average rate of air accidents in India in comparison to other countries; and

(d) the steps taken on the recommendations of various Committees to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Various types and variants of MiG aircraft form part of the MiG fleet of Indian Air Force.

(b) During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till 28th February 2001), 22 and 16 Fighter aircraft were lost, respectively. The approximate financial loss is about Rs. 423.29 crores (provisional).

(c) Rate of Accidents in Indian Air Force: (Rate per 10,000 flying hours)

Decade	Rate
70s	1.29
80s	1.17
90s	0.93
2000-2001 (till 28th February 2001)	0.97

It is not possible to compare the accident rates with those of other countries due to differences in computation of statistics, such as, flying hours etc.

(d) A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted to analyse the cause of accidents, which had submitted its report in September, 1997. While some recommendations of the Committee have, already, been implemented

to prevent such accidents, certain other recommendations are under implementation.

[Translation]

Computerised Reservation Facility

1814.DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to S.Q. No. 314 on March 16, 2000 regarding computerised reservation facility and state:

(a) whether all the 80 locations included in the works programme 2000-2001 for the provision of computerised reservation facility have been computerised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the locations which have not been computerised so far along with the reasons for delay;

(d) the time by which these locations are likely to be computerised;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend the computerised reservation facility during 2001-2002 at various railway station; and

(f) if so, the locations thereof, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. So far, 31 locations have been commissioned as given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Name of the locations not commissioned so far are given in the statement-II enclosed. There are no delays in commissioning of these PRS locations as the normal commissioning time for PRS locations is one to two years. The work of commissioning these locations is underway and most of the locations will be commissioned in the financial year 2001-2002.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 71 locations have been included in the Annual Budget 2001-2002 as given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Locations Commissioned so far

Central Railway

1. Vidisha
2. Navy Nagar, Colaba

3. Lalitpur
4. Piparia

Eastern Railway

1. Russa Road CBO Hazaria
2. Dum Dum Airport
3. Hazaribagh

Northern Railway

1. Hardoi
2. Karnal
3. Kurukshetra
4. Jalore
5. Rajpura

North Eastern Railway

1. Gontinagar
2. Sitamarhi

Northeast Frontier Railway

1. Raiganj
2. Coochbehar
3. New Alipurduar

Southern Railway

1. Kovilpatti
2. Palani

South Central Railway

1. Bijapur
2. Satara
3. Godavari
4. Tadepalligudam
5. Nandyal
6. Parli

South Eastern Railway

1. Contai
2. Srikakulam Road
3. Uluberia
4. Palasa
5. Rayagada

Statement-II*Name of the Locations not Commissioned so far***Central Railway**

1. Byculla
2. Daund
3. Latur
4. Yavatmal
5. Guna
6. Belapur

Eastern Railway

1. Bongaon
2. Dakhineswar
3. Nabadwip Dham
4. MG Road CBO
5. Daltonganj
6. West Bengal Assembly
7. Chopan
8. Singrauli

Northern Railway

1. Shamli
2. Hamirpur
3. Joshimath
4. Mohali
5. Nazibabad
6. Dasuya
7. Meerut Cantt.
8. U.P. Vidhan Sabha
9. Fatehpur
10. Bhadohi
11. Gopinath Bazar
12. Sena Bhawan

North Eastern Railway

1. Lakhimpur
2. Khalilabad

3. Belthara Road
4. Balrampur
5. Kasganj

Southern Railway

1. Jayanagar (Bangalore-Sat)
2. Tirunagar (Madurai-Sat)
3. Tirupanithura (Ernakulam-Sat)
4. Kayamkulam
5. Chengulpet
6. Ambur
7. Chalakudi
8. Coonoor

South Central Railway

1. Tandur

South Eastern Railway

1. Rajnandgaon
2. Chasbokaro
3. Titlagarh
4. Hirakund
5. Paradip
6. Bhilai Township

Western Railway

1. Sirohi Road
2. Rani
3. Mandsaur
4. Bairagarh

Statement-III*List of PRS Locations included in the Annual Budget 2001-2002***Central Railway**

1. INS Shivaji, Lonavala
2. Badnera
3. Betul

4. Burhanpur
5. Ashok Nagar
6. Malkapur
7. Sewagram
8. Orai
9. Manikpur
10. Hoshangabad

Eastern Railway

1. Fort William
2. Patna Sectt.
3. Shantipur
4. Baidyanath Dham
5. Gomoh
6. Pakur
7. Dhakuria
8. Andal
9. Murshidabad
10. Dankuni
11. Chaneswar

Northern Railway

1. Phagwara
2. Jaunpur
3. Etawa
4. Barabanki
5. Tundla
6. Unnav
7. Chandausi
8. IIT Kanpur
9. Churu
10. Dharmasala
11. Palam Airport (Domestic)
12. North Block - Delhi
13. Aligarh University

North Eastern Railway

1. Narkatiaganj

2. Kalyanpur
3. Kashipur

Northeast Frontier Railway

1. Aluabari
2. Karimganj
3. Mariani
4. Islampur
5. Eklaki
6. Malbazar

Southern Railway

1. Villupuram
2. Kodaikannal
3. Pamba
4. ICF Complex
5. Vellore Town

South Central Railway

1. Adoni
2. Bapatla
3. Karad
4. Sirpur Khagaznagar
5. Amlapuram

South Eastern Railway

1. Bhandara Road
2. Panskura
3. Chaibasa
4. Shahdol
5. Dongargarh
6. Talcher
7. Chhindwara
8. Kolaghat
9. Bagnan
10. Bishnupur
11. Jhargram
12. Dhenkanal

Western Railway

1. Godhra
2. Marwar Jn.
3. Nimach
4. Hapa
5. Okha
6. Bharatpur

*[English]***Chinese Activities along L.A.C.**

1815. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
 SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report that appeared in the "Hindustan Times", dated January 15, 2001 under the caption, 'Chinese activities along LAC creating problems';

(b) if so, the main difficulties that are being created by the Chinese along LAC;

(c) whether this question was taken up with the Chinese military authorities; and

(d) if so, the extent to which China has agreed to reduce activities on LAC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 15.1.2001 under the caption "Chinese activities along LAC creating problems".

2. The resolution of boundary question between India and China is outstanding. The two sides also have differences in the perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas. Pending clarification of the LAC, the two sides have been carrying out normal border management activities including construction of tracks and patrolling upto their respective perception of the LAC. The perceived violations of the LAC are taken up by both sides through diplomatic channels and also at the ground level through Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings. In response to our protests, the Chinese

usually respond that their activities are restricted to their side of the LAC.

3. The statement of the Chief of Army Staff quoted in the press report referred to above needs to be viewed in the above context. COAS had referred to certain degree of stabilisation on the LAC, even while speaking of the differences in the perception of the two countries about the actual alignment of the LAC.

4. India and China have been discussing the boundary question within the framework of India-China Joint Working Group and the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials. Both sides have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. The situation along the India-China LAC has been generally peaceful and is under control.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps on Lease Basis

1816. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
 DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the criteria adopted for the allotment of petrol pumps on lease basis; and

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted in the country on lease basis, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Retail Outlets are developed by the Oil Marketing Companies in line with the approved Marketing Plans. Dealers for the retail outlets are selected by the Dealer Selection Boards as per the prescribed procedure. There is no Scheme as such for allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) by Oil Marketing Companies on lease basis.

In retail outlets operated on 'Company Owned Company Operated' (COCO) basis, an officer of the Oil Company is over-all in charge of the outlet. Labour assistance is provided to the Company officer through a contractor for its day-to-day operation.

Shifting of Petrol/Diesel and LPG Outlets

1817. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have

permitted L.P.G. and Petrol/Diesel outlets to shift from North-Eastern States to other parts of the country; 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) and (b) Government have permitted the resitement of a LPG distributorship, M/s Bahniman, Tangla, District Darrang, Assam to Siliguri, West Bengal and a Retail Outlet, M/s Poonam Service Station, Gotanagar, Guwahati, Assam to Delhi - Jaipur Highway. Both the cases have been considered by Government for resitement on compassionate grounds due to threats from local militants to the concerned distributor/dealer.

Construction of Karur-Salem Rail Line

1818.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on the new railway line between Karur and Salem is moving at snail speed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 30% of land has been received with Owner's consent and work is in progress over 45 kms. length. Land acquisition work is making good progress. Earthwork and minor bridges in this section are in progress and the major bridge over the Cauvery river is also progressing well. Contracts for construction of station buildings at Kalangani and Mallur have been awarded.

Indo-Israel Defence Contract

1819.SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multicore defence contract has been signed between India and Israel recently for purchase of Barak Missile Defence system;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and condition agreed for;

(c) whether a similar system was assigned to be developed by DRDO sometime back; and

(d) if so, the progress made in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Contracts for procurement of Barak Anti Missile Defence Systems for installation on front-line ships of the Navy and for procurement of missiles have been signed with Israel last year. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in the matter.

(c) and (d) The Anti Missile Defence System being developed by DRDO is different as it does not employ vertical launch system technology.

[Translation]

Construction of Divisional Railway Headquarter at Ahmedabad

1820.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has provided land for construction of Divisional Headquarter in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the total area of land provided and the extent to which construction work has been completed so far;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Railways for completing the construction work at the earliest;

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

(e) the time by which the construction of Headquarter in Ahmedabad is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) About 28000 sqm. of land of R.C. Technical Institute, which included 8820 sqm. building has been identified for the construction of divisional office at Ahmedabad. State Government has agreed to handover this premises in exchange of Railway land of equivalent value at Thaltej, Ahmedabad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of the resource constraint setting up of new divisions is under review. No time frame can be given for the present.

[English]

**Declaration of Museum as
Institution of National Importance**

1821. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to declare the Government Museum, Chennai as the Institution of National Importance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent on each of the four general museums of National Importance in the last three years, till date year-wise?

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

(b) The following funds have been released to the museums under the administrative control of the Department of Culture, Government of India:

Name of Museum	(Rs. in Lakhs)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01 Till date
National Museum, New Delhi	683.00	638.00	805.00	935.00
Indian Museum, Calcutta	399.00	449.00	585.00	578.00
Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad	492.00	541.00	477.10	613.00
Allahabad Museum, Allahabad	109.81	096.05	087.00	105.00

Approval to Fast Track and Mega Power Projects

1822. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of fast track/mega power projects approved during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in this regard, project-wise;

(c) the details of policy changes under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) the details of new mega power project proposals under the consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Details of the private power projects which have been extended counter guarantee of Government of India during the last three years, are given below:

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of counter guarantee
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, M/s Central India Power Co. Ltd., Maharashtra	1082	August 1, 1998

1	2	3	4
2.	Neyveli (Single Unit Lignite based) Thermal Power Project, M/s ST-CMS Electric Co., Tamil Nadu	250	August 14, 1998
3.	Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project, M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	1040	August 19, 1998

The Bhadravati TPP and the Visakhapatnam TPP are yet to achieve financial closure and start construction activities. The Neyveli TPP has achieved financial closure on November 3, 1999 and commenced construction activities.

Government of India approved extension of counter guarantee, through the revised procedure for the 500 MW Ib Valley Thermal Power Project in Orissa of M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation and the 1013.2 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project in Karnataka of M/s. Mangalore Power Company Ltd. The draft counter guarantee and tripartite agreement documents in respect of these two projects have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for comments/necessary action. Further action for extending counter guarantee for these two projects will be taken after necessary action is taken by the concerned State Governments for adherence to the terms and conditions for extension of the counter guarantee of the Government of India.

The details of the mega power projects, as per the revised mega power policy of the Government of

India of November, 1998, indicating their executing agency, installed capacity and the present status are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government have not accorded mega power project status of any project other than those indicated in the Annexure.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project/State	Capacity (MW)	Present status
1	2	3	4
Private Sector			
1.	Hirma Thermal Power Project, M/s. Southern Electric Asia Power Ltd. (SEAP), Orissa	3960	Review petition regarding tariff filed by the SEAP is under consideration in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. PTC has finalised majority of the heads of terms for the Power Purchase Agreement.
2.	Cuddalore Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	1000	The Request for Qualification (RFQ) bidders of the project was first issued in February 1999. However, due to problems in availability of land and readiness of Cuddalore Port, the bid opening date was extended indefinitely
3.	Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1500	The implementation of the project has been held up because Coastal Regulation Zone clearance for the project has not been obtained. This is due to the stay granted by the Andhra Pradesh High Court on the Notification of Ministry of Environment & Forests on the petition of an NGO in the matter of two private power projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh to be executed in the area adjacent to the mega power project land.
4.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000	The presentation on the RFP process was submitted to CERC on 12.1.2001. Revised RFP document Volume I covering project capacity, bidding methodology, functional and technical specifications, evaluation criteria and tariff structure was submitted to CERC on 31.1.2001. For Vol. II & Vol. III of RFP document, time extension of 3 months was requested as Payment Security Mechanism and State Support Agreement are yet to be finalised. The next date of hearing is awaited.
5.	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000	Implementation has not yet been initiated
Public Sector			
1.	Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar	1500	The scheme, with a revised configuration of 2x660 MW, is under examination in CEA for techno-economic clearance. Stage-I environmental clearance for plant/ash dyke is available.
2.	North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar	2000	Feasibility studies being carried out by NTPC. Stage-I environmental clearance for plant/ash dyke is available.

1	2	3	4
3.	Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC, Bihar.	2000	Detailed Project Report (DPR) with a revised configuration of 3x660 MW, is under examination in CEA for techno-economic clearance. Stage-I environmental clearance for plant/ash dyke is available.
4.	Maithon Thermal Power Project, Damodar Valley Corporation	1000	The project is to be set up by a joint venture of DVC and BSES. Revised DPR with all the inputs/clearances tied up is to be submitted by the joint venture company.
5.	Cheyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I NTPC, Tamil Nadu	1500	Clearance from the Coastal Regulation Zone and the Ministry of Environment & Forests is awaited.
6.	Anta CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Rajasthan	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 21.5.1998 for 650 MW. Beneficiaries are to agree to indicated price of LNG and to their future variation in fuel prices. NIT to be issued.
7.	Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 28.5.1998 for 650 MW. Beneficiaries are to agree to indicated price of LNG and to their future variation in fuel prices. NIT to be issued.
8.	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 1.5.1998 for 650 MW. Beneficiaries are to agree to indicated price of LNG and to their future variation in fuel prices. NIT to be issued.
9.	Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300	Capacity identified under mega power policy is 1300 MW. Being implemented in two stages of 650 MW each. Stage-II cleared by CEA on 16.10.1998 for 650 MW. Beneficiaries are to agree to indicated price of LNG and to their future variation in fuel prices. NIT to be issued.
10.	Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar	710	The project cost has undergone revision and PIB clearance for the revised cost has been issued on 16.3.99. CCEA clearance for the project is awaited. Power Purchase Agreement has been signed with DVC on 31.12.1999.
11.	Chamera HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	300	CCEA clearance for the project has been accorded on 18.5.1999 and the project is under execution by NHPC
12.	Teesta HEP Stage-V, NHPC Sikkim	510	CCEA clearance for the project has been accorded on 19.1.2000 and the project is under execution by NHPC
13.	Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh	800	Project originally identified for implementation by NHPC as per mega power policy. Now being implemented by NTPC in accordance with Tripartite

1	2	3	4
			Agreement signed between NTPC, Government of Himachal Pradesh and HPSEB on 26.2.2000. CEA's clearance issued to HPSEB's transfer in NTPC's name on 16.5.2000. Technical bids received for primary consultation work are under evaluation by NTPC.
14.	Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	800	TEC transferred to NHPC on 12.10.1999

[Translation]

Surajkund Fair

1823.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of the Government on the recent incident of falling of joy-ride in the handicraft fair on Surajkund in Haryana;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry this incident;

(c) if so, the details of findings of the committee including the cause of the incident;

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons;

(e) the number of casualties occurred in the incident along with compensation paid to each victim;

(f) whether any directions are issued to fair organising companies by the Government; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken to control such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) It was an unfortunate incident wherein four people were killed and 11 were injured.

(b) to (d) The Surajkund Craft Mela is organised by the Tourism Department of Haryana Government. Government of India only sponsors craftpersons and weavers for participation in the Mela and provides financial assistance to the Government of Haryana.

According to the report received from Government of Haryana, the district police of Faridabad has registered an FIR No. 123 under Section 304-A, 337 & 34 IPC at the Police Station, NIT, Faridabad on 11th February, 2001 i.e. the day of mishap against the owner and contractor of the Swing

and three others. Within 24 hours of the accident all accused were arrested. The matter is still under investigation.

The report states that accident occurred due to shifting the movement of swing from the first gear to the fourth gear directly thereby causing breaking of the shaft of the swing.

Since Government of Haryana is responsible for organising the event, the Government of India does not propose to conduct an enquiry unless a request to that effect is received from Government of Haryana.

(e) As per report of Government of Haryana, in all four person died and eleven sustained injuries. A total of Rs. 9.50 lakhs has been disbursed to the next of the kin of the deceased and the injured as ex-gratia assistance.

(f) and (g) As per report, Government of Haryana, is issuing instructions to the Fair Organising Companies to ensure the safety of visitors.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies to wards of Kargil Martyrs

1824.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers killed in Kargil conflict and the number of martyr families for whom recommendations were sent for allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies. State-wise with particular reference to Jodhpur district of Rajasthan;

(b) whether this facility is being provided to all the soldiers killed during 'Operation Vijay' in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the criteria followed in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the remaining names are likely to be recommended for allotment of the Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) 527 Defence service personnel were killed in Kargil conflict. So far, 446 widows/next of kin of Kargil casualties have applied for allotment of oil product agencies under the special scheme and their applications have been recommended to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. There was only one casualty from Jodhpur and application received from his next of kin has also been recommended. The State-wise details of Kargil casualties and applications, recommended to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are given in enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Under the special scheme, only 500 petroleum product agencies were to be allotted. Keeping in view the limited number of agencies to be allotted, the scheme was restricted only to the Next of Kins of the soldiers killed in Kargil operation.

(d) No application from the eligible family of the soldier killed in Kargil Operation is pending consideration.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Casualties in Kargil Conflict	No. of Applications Received from Widows/ NOK and Recommended to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06	05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	01
3.	Assam	03	03
4.	Bihar including Jharkhand	17	16
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	08	08
7.	Haryana	58	58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	41	37
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	69	44
10.	Karnataka	05	05
11.	Kerala	09	08

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh including Chattisgarh	03	03
13.	Maharashtra	07	06
14.	Manipur	05	05
15.	Mizoram	01	00
16.	Meghalaya	01	01
17.	Nagaland	02	02
18.	Orissa	07	07
19.	Punjab	46	43
20.	Rajasthan	53	53
21.	Sikkim	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	04	02
23.	Tripura	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal	145	129
25.	West Bengal	07	05
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman and Diu	-	-
29.	Delhi	06	05
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total		506*	446

* 21 soldiers of Nepal domicile were killed in Kargil conflict, whose dependants are not eligible for allotment of Oil Product Agencies, as the special scheme is meant for Indian Nationals.

[English]

Revival of Oil Fields by ONGC

1825. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has submitted a proposal to co-operate and collaborate with foreign companies to revive its sick oilfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether oil fields have been mis-managed over the years by ONGC;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Government on such mis-management by ONGC;

(e) if so, whether the losses have been computed by ONGC on loss of production; and

(f) the details of oilfields of ONGC which are irreparable due to mis-management

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) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Judgement of National Consumer Redressal Forum

1826.SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a recent judgement the National Consumer Redressal Forum had declined to come to the rescue of investing public duped by non-banking finance companies/agro plantation companies, leaving the issue justiciable by the Company Law Board;

(b) if so, whether this judgement has created confusion and panic among many litigants in the Consumer Forum whose cases are in very advanced stage;

(c) if so, whether this judgement also makes the functions of the Consumer Courts redundant and superfluous;

(d) if so, whether the Government would revamp the functioning of Company Law Board to make it more responsive to complainant's interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Power situation in the Country

1827.SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite various incentives given by the Government an average growth rate of power generation has been just 3 per cent in the country during the last six years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the reasons for sluggish growth in power generation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) No Sir. The growth in energy generation from 1994-95 to 1999-2000 was as under:

1994-95	8.5%
1995-96	8.3%
1996-97	3.8%
1997-98	6.6%
1998-99	6.6%
1999-2000	7.1%

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, the following steps are being taken to further improve power generation in the country:

(i) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old and inefficient generating units. Special fund under the Accelerated Power Development Programme for undertaking R&M schemes is being provided to States.

(ii) Speedy implementation of Reforms & Restructuring in the Power Sector.

(iii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factor of thermal units.

(iv) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses.

(v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.

- (vi) Disbursement of loan by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (vii) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme to enable doubling of the present generation capacity by 2012.
- (viii) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and finally formation of the National Grid.
- (ix) Formulation of hydel policy for exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.

[English]

Constitution Review Commission

1828.SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended the term of Constitution Review Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Commission in its consultation paper has given some suggestions in regard to the States, entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The term of the National Commission of Review the Working of the Constitution has been extended upto October, 2001.

(b) The Commission indicated that it would need some more time for finalizing its report.

(c) and (d) The Commission has released a Consultation Paper on 'Treaty making Power under the Constitution' for generating public debate and discussion. In this Paper the Commission has not given any suggestion in respect of the States entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries. The Commission has also clarified that the views expressed and suggestions contained in the Consultation Papers are not the final views of the Commission.

Requirement of Concrete Sleepers

1829.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of annual requirement of concrete sleepers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap existed between placement of orders and actual supply of the sleepers; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to eliminate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Annual requirement of concrete sleepers is finalised on the basis of sanctioned works and budget allotment. Assessed annual requirement of concrete sleepers is approx. 60 lakh nos.

(b) The production from the existing firms gets commenced within one month from placement of orders. New firms getting orders are given a time period of 12 months to set up facilities and start production.

(c) Does not arise.

LPG Distributors in Delhi and Maharashtra

1830.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG distributorships functioning in Delhi and Maharashtra;

(b) whether a large number of LPG Distributorships are being managed by Non-Allottees/Non-selected persons in Delhi and Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether LPG Distributorships are being managed by partnership system in Delhi and Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the procedure laid down for conversion of the same into proprietorship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As on 1.10.2000, number of LPG distributorship in Delhi and Maharashtra are 305 and 749 respectively.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected.

Loss suffered by Konkan Railway

1831. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation is suffering heavy losses during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken to make up the losses good by the Government;

(d) whether Railways have failed in exploiting its commercial land; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Corporation is able to meet its working expenses from the revenue generated. However, on account of provisions required to be made for the financing cost incurred on market borrowings during the construction phase and on depreciation, the Corporation is showing a loss in its Balance Sheet. The net loss during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 154 crores, Rs. 340 crores and Rs. 385 crores respectively.

The Corporation has made out a Business Plan enumerating various steps being taken to reduce the losses. These are as follows:

- (i) Augmentation of traffic earnings by carrying out a strong marketing drive.
- (ii) Marketing is construction expertise by:
 - * Trying to bid for international contracts for Railway construction.
 - * Taking up specialised construction works such as highways and tunneling within the country.
- (iii) Exploiting the potential of the optical fibre cable network laid by the Corporation.
- (iv) Implementing the installation, after testing, of an Anti-Collision Device (ACD) developed by the KRC on the Indian Railway System.

While no commercial exploitation of Konkan Railway Corporation land has been done so far, several proposals are presently being finalised by the Konkan Railway Corporation for this purpose.

Use of Bambooply for Defence Works

1832. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bambooply is equivalent to Marine

grade plywood and a best substitute for wood and other plywood;

(b) whether the Government propose to utilize Bambooply under various departments of Defence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provision of Escalator at Secunderabad Railway Station

1833. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed in 1996 to construct Escalator at Secunderabad Railway Station;

(b) whether the proposed proposal is pending till now;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

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

(c) Due to paucity of funds and inadequate experience on performance, reliability and safety aspects.

(d) No decision has yet been taken.

Gas Pipeline from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad in A.P.

1834. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gas pipeline from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is likely to be commissioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred 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) No, Sir. The proposed pipeline of approximately 600 kilometers length of Gas Authority of India Limited is for the transportation of liquefied

petroleum gas (LPG). The project is expected to be completed by March 2004 at an estimated cost of Rs. 492 crores.

Suggestion made by CII

1835.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry have recently suggested to the Railways to make wagon placement details in advance, make rake load booking available for a specific date, extend the concept of roll-on-roll off, reduce damage caused by multiple handling and the cut rates for single wagons required for capital goods;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to implement the said suggestions; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that the Railways do not suffer any loss in the event the oil and gas business currently being handled by the Railways shifted to new pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The said suggestions have been made by Confederation of Indian Industry in a seminar held in December' 2000. These suggestions are part of the consultation process with chambers of industry to get the industry's feedback. These are considered based on their feasibility and their expected benefit to Railways.

(c) Despite construction of pipelines, no drop in volume is expected in the transportation of petroleum products by rail although there may be a decline in market share. With a view to create capacity for rail movement of petroleum products, the Railways are now procuring 100% of the tank wagons on replacement account and 50% on incremental account. A close coordination is being maintained with the oil Industry and Railways at all levels.

Funds to Library

1836.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance given to Connemara Public Library at Chennai and Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur for different development activities during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the funds spend by these two libraries during the said period;

(c) whether the conservation works on the Connemara Library Building has not been completed so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a show cause notice was served to the Superintending Archaeologist, Chennai circle for not been able to complete the work in the stipulated time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance given by the Government of India during each of the last three years, till date, for different development activities to Connemara Public Library and Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur is as under :

Year	Name of Org. C.P.L. Chennai	Name of Org. T.M.S.S.M.L. Thanjavur
1997-1998	Rs. 52.8 lakh	Nil
1998-1999	Rs. 68.00 lakh	Rs. 50 lakh
1999-2000	Rs. 32.5 lakh	Nil
2000-2001	Rs. 15.00 lakh	Nil

(c) to (f) The conservation work of Connemara Public Library Building has not been completed so far due to considerable delay in the procurement of 5 m. long teak wood logs and also the glass tiles to be fixed on the roof.

In view of this the question of issuing a show cause notice to the Superintending Archaeologist, Chennai Circle does not arise.

Increase in Productivity of Port Trusts and Dock Labour Board

1837.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the productivity of Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed interchange ability between dock and shore workers;

(d) whether any productivity based reward scheme for port officers and employees has been finalised; and

(e) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in productivity has always been the concern of the Government. Various steps have been taken from time to time to increase the productivity such as, Productivity Linked Reward Scheme, Incentive Scheme, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Productivity Linked Reward Scheme for Port and Dock employees has already been implemented w.e.f. 1994-95 and productivity linked reward has been paid to them every year on that basis. The Scheme is presently being modified by the Port Management in consultation with the Major Federations of Port and Dock workers.

Generation Capacity of Thermal, Hydel and Gas based Power Projects

1838. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major power projects that are nearing completion and the additional power capacity is likely to be generated therefrom;

(b) the steps being taken to supplement the generation capacity through Mini-hydel projects in Himachal Pradesh and North-East Wind Energy Projects;

(c) the measures adopted to conserve energy through public awareness campaigns and hiking tariff slabs for higher consumption category;

(d) whether the Government have also plans to phase out subsidy on power supplied for agriculture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The list of hydro and thermal power projects likely to be completed in the remaining period of 9th Five Year Plan is given in the statement enclosed. With the completion of these power projects, the likely capacity addition during the 2000-01 and 2001-02 will be of the order of 3968.17 MW and 4922.40 MW respectively.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is giving various incentives for the development of small hydro power projects in the entire country including Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States. These incentives include financial support for conducting detailed survey and

investigation, detailed project report preparation, capital subsidy for State Sector projects and interest subsidy to the private sector to develop commercial projects. Higher level of incentives are available for the development of Small Hydro Projects (SHP) in the North-Eastern States. The Ministry is also carrying out wind resource assessment to identify potential sites suitable for generation of power from wind energy.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to increase public awareness about the need for energy conservation. These include:

(i) Using mass media like newspapers, radio and T.V. for spreading message about energy conservation, as well as other agencies, including youth.

(ii) Institution of Energy Conservation awards for industries.

(iii) Observing December, 14 every year as Energy Conservation Day.

In the proposed Energy Conservation legislation a new body called the 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency' is proposed to be set up. This organization will take measures to initiate action on public awareness on the subject of energy conservation.

Regarding hiking tariff slabs for higher consumption categories, it is stated that tariff is fixed by the State Governments, which are reviewed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, wherever set up.

(d) and (e) In the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001, it was unanimously resolved that subsidies on power supply may be given to the extent of State Governments' capacity to pay for the subsidies explicitly through budget provision. It was also resolved that the past decision of Chief Ministers of a Minimum agriculture tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

Statement

Capacity Addition during balance two years period of IXth plan

(All figs. in MW)	
2000-01	2001-02
1	2

Central Sector

i. Faridabad, NTPC	144 (July '00)
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	1	2
ii. Simhadri, NTPC		500
iii. Neyveli Extn. NLC		210
iv. Doyang, NEEPCO	75 (Jun.'00)	
v. Ranganadi, NEEPCO		405
vi. Tehri HEP, THDC		250
vii. RAPP, NPC	220 (Nov.'00)	
viii. Kaiga, NPC	220 (Oct.'00)	
Overall	659	1365
<i>Private Sector</i>		
Western Region		
i. Dabhol-II (Maha.)		1444
ii. Ratlam DGPP (M.P.)		118
Southern Region		
i. Kondapalli (A.P.)	112 (Jun.'00)	
(Liquid Fuel)	112 (Sept.'00)	
	126 (Oct.'00)	
ii. Vemagiri (A.P.)		132
iii. BSES (Padapuram) (A.P.)		200
iv. Bellary - DG (Kar.)	25.2	
(Liquid Fuel)	(Sept.'00)	
v. Tanir Bavi - Barage Mounted (Karn.)		200
vi. Eloor (BSES) (Kerala)	39 (Nov.'00)	
(Liquid Fuel)		
vii. Samaynallur DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)		106
viii. Pillariermalnallur (T.N.)	GT - 225	
	ST - 105.5	
ix. Samallapati DG (T.N.) (Liquid Fuel)	105	45
x. Bamboo flat DG (A&N)		20
Eastern Region		
i. Jojobera (Bihar)	120 (Oct.'00)	120
Overall	969.70	2385

	1	2
State Sector		
Northern Region		
i. Panipat (Haryana)	210	
ii. Ghanvi (H.P.)	11.25 (July'00)	
	11.25 (Dec.'00)	
iii. Thein Dam (Punjab)	150 (July'00)	
	150 (July'00)	
	150 (July'00)	
	150 (Aug.'00)	
iv. Pragati CPP (Delhi)		104.6
Western Region		
i. Khaperkheda (Mah.)	210 (May'00)	
	210 (Jan.'01)	
ii. Sardar Sarovar (M.P.)		450
iii. Bansagar Ton (M.P.)		40
Southern Region & Island		
i. LVS DGPP (A.P.)		36.8
ii. Rangat Bay DG (A&N Island)		5
iii. Kovikalappal (T.N.)	107	
iv. Srisaillam (A.P.)	150	300
v. Sharavati (Karnataka)	60 (July'00)	180
vi. Kuttlyadi Extn. (Kerala)		50
vii. Kolpaong (A&N Island)	5.2	
viii. Dg (A&N Island)	5.72 (Nov.'00)	
ix. DG (Lakshawdeep)	3.0 (Nov.'00)	
Eastern Region		
i. Bakreshwar (W.B.)	210 (May '00)	
	210	
ii. Upper Indravati (Orissa)	150 (Sept.'00)	
	150	
iii. Potteru (Orissa)		6
North Eastern Region		
i. Leimkhong DG (Manipur)	36	
Overall	2339.47	1172.40
Cumulative target	3968.17	4922.40

Decentralisation of T&D System

1839. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to decentralize State run Electricity generation and distribution system by replacing it with a community based network which can be linked to a reliable national grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Group of Ministers on power discussed this issue in the meeting recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

[Translation]

Improvement in Power Situation

1840. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether targets fixed for Five Year Plan to improve the power situation has not been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare any new scheme for increasing power generation and bring improvement in its distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A target of 40245.2 MW was envisaged for the 9th Plan. However, a mid-term review of the capacity addition for 9th Plan, carried out in July, 1999 indicated a likely capacity addition of 28097.2 MW during the 9th Plan. A subsequent review was conducted by the Government during January, 2001, and it was observed that a capacity addition of 20891.57 MW was likely in the 9th Plan. The break-up is as under:

	(In MW)			
	Central Sector	Private Sector	State Sector	Total Sector
	1	2	3	4
Thermal	3294	6735.20	4941.67	14970.87

	1	2	3	4
Hydro	790	0.00	4250.70	5040.70
Nuclear	880	0.0	0.0	880
Total	4964	6735.20	9192.37	20891.57

(b) The reasons that have adversely affected the progress of projects are:

- (i) Delayed financial closures of private sector projects due to non-availability of escrow.
- (ii) Flash floods.
- (iii) Delay in land acquisition.
- (iv) Relief & Rehabilitation problems and environment related issues.
- (v) Law and order problems.
- (vi) Hike in gas and naphtha prices in concert with oil prices in the international markets adversely affecting the viability of LNG and liquid fuel based projects.
- (vii) Contractual problems.
- (viii) Inter-State disputes in respect of hydro projects.

(c) and (d) The Government is closely monitoring the ongoing projects through the Empowered Committee and various Task Forces which have been set up for this purpose. For private sector projects, the government has constituted a Crisis Resolution Group to resolve the 'last mile' problems. To improve availability of power and generation capacity and to make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken:

- (i) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.
- (ii) Liberalization of investment procedures.
- (iii) Promotion of measures for demand side management.
- (iv) Renovation and modernisation of existing generating units.
- (v) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under the Accelerated Generation Programme.
- (vi) Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.

- (vii) Coordinated operation of Hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- (viii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.
- (ix) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

For strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution systems and also for assisting Renovation and Modernisation programmes, the Government has initiated the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) this year with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 1000 crore.

The Government has also initiated and evolved a national consensus on power sector reforms to improve the financial health of the power utilities in the States. A conference of Chief Ministers and State Power Ministers on Power Sector reforms was held in New Delhi on 3rd March, 2001 and took a series of decisions to accelerate reform and to restore the financial health of the power sector. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

[English]

Accidents caused by Derailment

1841.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have given top priority to safety in view of the 75% accidents caused by derailment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which railways has been able to control derailment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways give top priority to safety, with particular emphasis on derailments, in view of the fact that derailments constitute about 75% of consequential train accidents. Review of safety measures is a continuous and ongoing process and railways always endeavour to further improve their safety performance. Following are some of important measures being adopted to curb derailments:

- (i) Up-gradation of track structure is being undertaken by replacing 90R rails by heavier rails of 52 kg. and 60 kg. per meter weight. Even the strength of rails has been increased from the earlier 72 UTS to 90 UTS at present.

- (ii) State of the art Pre-Stressed Concrete (PSC) sleepers are presently being used.
- (iii) Short welded 3-rail panels are gradually being converted into long welded rails (LWR) and continuously welded rail (CWR) panels by welding and removing of fish-plated joints for greater reliability.
- (iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- (v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (vi) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors are being used. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (vii) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernized and upgraded at many depots.
- (viii) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

As a consequence of the above mentioned measures, the number of derailments during last 10 years have reduced from a level of 446 in 1990-1991 to a level of 329 in 1999-2000.

Camp building by Pakistan on Indo-Pak Border

1842.SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is building Field Filling Range and Camps in the Kipro Region on Indo-Pak border; and

(b) if so, the details of the information gathered in this regard and the measures being taken to counter the Pak moves?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Government have information on the subject.

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 elements hostile to India.

Use of Coal in Power Sector

1843.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the coal intake trend by the coal based Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any potential for increasing use of coal in the power sector;

(d) if so, the main impediments for using coal in production of Power; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Growth in coal sector is mainly driven by power sector coal consumption and a detailed exercise is carried out by the Planning Commission for estimating the thermal power station-wise coal demand in the beginning of each five year plan and on annual basis and is broadly consistent with the projected growth of the economy. Further, the country's energy demand estimates are based on the Electric Power Survey Committee report of the Central Electricity Authority and going by the trend, about 70% of power generation is coal based. There has been an increasing trend in the coal off-take by the power sector utilities and during the past decade, the average annual compounded growth of coal off-take has been 6.93%. Coal as a principal source of energy is playing a major role in meeting the commercial energy requirements of the country both as primary and secondary source of energy supply. Coal is likely to remain the most suitable and least cost option for the bulk of the country's energy requirement for the foreseeable future in view of resource endowment, lower specific investment required for coal based thermal generation capacity, lower gestation periods for commissioning the plants when compared to nuclear or hydro and the dependability of fuel supplies and the related energy security net of the country. The main impediment for use of coal in production of power is high ash content in Indian coal and associated environment related problems. To mitigate the adverse effect of coal burning on the environment, emphasis is being laid on clean coal technologies for power generation.

Energisation of Irrigation Pumpsets

1844.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are implementing

programme of energisation of irrigation pumpsets in the rural areas in Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set and achievement made so far in this regard;

(c) the total funds allocated/released for this purpose during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether this scheme has shown encouraging results during the Eighth-Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to allocate more funds for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The priorities and targets for carrying out pumpsets energisation programmes are determined by the State Governments concerned depending upon the availability of financial resources. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance for rural electrification programme including pumpsets energisation to the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities. During the Ninth Plan (up to March, 2000), REC has disbursed Rs. 171.67 crores to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for energisation of pumpsets. Besides, a sum of Rs. 11 crores has also been allocated by REC during the financial year 2000-01 for implementation of MSEB's rural electrification programme. According to information available with CEA, during Ninth Plan upto November, 2000, 205902 pumpsets have been energized in Maharashtra.

(d) During Eighth Five Year Plan 388557 pumpsets were energized against the target of 1,88,000 pumpsets (four years' target) in Maharashtra State since the target for pumpsets energisation for the year 1996-97 was not finalized by the Planning Commission.

(e) From the year 2000-01, the Government has decided to release funds under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) directly to the States instead of the earlier practice of being routed through REC. The Government has also envisaged to provide funds for augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas under the Accelerated Power Development Programme. The programme of pumpsets energisation is implemented by the SEBs/State Governments from their own resources and partly out of loans extended by REC which provides finance against eligible projects. The resources of REC are proposed to be augmented by enabling REC to access cheaper sources of funds.

Fake L.I.C. Policies for Armymen.

1845. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'CBI unearths racket involving fake LIC policies for Armymen' appeared in 'Indian Express' dated September 4, 2000;

(b) whether the CBI has since completed its investigation into the cheating of LIC by Army personnel, LIC officials and others;

(c) the modus operandi adopted to cheat the LIC and the measures taken to plug those loopholes; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation/Anti-corruption Unit, New Delhi has registered a regular case against some unknown officials of Indian Army and some private persons under related provisions of law to investigate into some fake LIC claims, purported to have been preferred by Army men.

2. The modus operandi adopted by the accused persons was that they used to submit proposals for life insurance of non-existing Army personnel, which were accepted by the LIC of India. These Life insurance policies continued to be subscribed for some time at the original branch, whereafter, these were got transferred to some other Branch of LIC. Then, the accused persons used to submit false death certificates purported to have been issued by "Field Mobile Hospital" of the Indian Army. The cause of death, shown in these certificates, used to be mine-blast, landslide etc. Attempts have been made to cheat LIC of India by submitting fake claims, amounting to about Rs. 12.75 lakhs. However, the CBI investigations reveal that the actual amount of cheating comes to around Rs. 7 lakhs. The CBI, who have completed field investigations, are, now, doing legal scrutiny of the available evidence, for further action.

ONGC at Uran in Raigad District of Maharashtra

1846. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge loss due to wastage and burning of the ONGC gas at Uran in Raigad district of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such wastage;

(d) whether the Government has proposed to supply this extra gas through pipeline to the local area and in Mumbai suburbs; 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 (e) There is no wastage or burning of natural gas at Uran in Raigad district of Maharashtra State, except for flaring of a very small quantity of gas which is required on technical and safety considerations.

Funds for Development of Major Ports

1847. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total plan outlay for the development of major ports during 2000-2001;

(b) the total outlay utilized by these major projects during the said period, port-wise;

(c) whether the ports have not utilized the allocated amount during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken or being taken to use the full amount of allocation and expedite the work on these projects during the stipulated period to avoid cost over run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The total plan outlay allocated for the development of major ports during the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 1589.99 crores.

(b) The Port-wise plan outlay and anticipated outlay utilisation by major Ports during the year 2000-2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The allocated outlay is not anticipated to be fully utilised by major ports. The reasons for shortfall in plan outlay utilisation, inter-alia, are:-

(i) Delay in sanctioning of new schemes.

(ii) Delay in commencement of work due to monsoons.

(iii) Contractual disputes/litigation

(iv) Delay in finalisation of tenders and award of contracts.

- (v) Deferment of projects/schemes.
- (e) The measures taken to improve the plan outlay utilisation include:
- (i) Delegation of enhanced financial powers.
 - (ii) Simplification of procedure for acquisition of equipment/floating craft and for disposal of obsolete unserviceable equipment.
 - (iii) Close monitoring of project implementation.

Statement

Anticipated Plan outlay utilisation by Major Ports during 2000-2001

		(Rs. in crores)	
S. No.	Name of Major Port	2000-2001	
		Outlay	Anticipated Expr.
1(a)	Calcutta	5.04	5.55
(b)	Haldia	59.76	43.19
(c)	RR Schemes	214.34	0.00
	Total Calcutta	279.14	48.74
2.	Mumbai	217.99	129.13
3.	JL Nehru	101.70	30.82
4.	Chennai	228.50	183.76
5.	Cochin	26.00	18.73
6.	Visakhapatnam	138.40	97.00
7.	Kandla	109.93	63.20
8.	Mormugao	50.21	17.20
9.	Paradip	275.52	153.00
10.	New Mangalore	90.00	99.00
11.	Tuticorin	72.60	26.26
	Total	1589.99*	866.84

* Out of this, Rs. 42.98 crores was transferred to the Pool of NE States out of the gross budgetary support portion leaving the effective outlay at Rs. 1547.01 crores.

Problems faced by Passengers

1848.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the compartments are not cleaned for days together from inside and outside;

(b) whether the windowpanes both metal and glass cannot be closed properly which causes difficulties to the passengers;

(c) whether the quality and quantity of coffee served in the trains by the dining car is very poor;

(d) whether the TTEs are checking all these shortcomings and taking action for the comforts of the passengers;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the beddings provided in the trains is also of poor quality; and

(g) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to improve the situation and provide necessary desirable facilities to the travelling public who pay for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. All compartments are cleaned from inside as well as outside at the base depot prior to commencement of journey. Cleaning services are also provided at nominated stations enroute and on some long distance trains, travelling safaiwalas have been provided. The condition of trains is monitored through special drives and surprise inspections in addition to the regular inspections.

(b) There are instances of defective latches or damaged window shutters, which occur due to normal wear and tear and also on account of vandalism by anti social elements but care is taken to repair or replace the window shutter during maintenance at base depot.

(c) No, Sir. Railways make all endeavour to serve good quality coffee in trains. Railways serve coffee with separate sugar pouch in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains. Frequent and surprise checks are conducted by Officers at various levels from Commercial and Health Directorates. Whenever any discrepancies come to light, stringent punitive action is taken to curb complaints of such nature.

(d) TTEs are recording the deficiencies, if any, in the coaches and are bringing the same to the notice of concerned maintenance staff.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir. Instructions already exist in Zonal Railways to provide clean good linen to all passengers travelling in AC classes so as to enhance customer satisfaction. Surprise checks are conducted from time to time and suitable action taken against those staff responsible for the lapses.

(g) The following special measures have been taken by Railway to improve the facilities available to

passengers beside ensuring proper upkeep and maintenance attention in Depots and Workshops:

- (i) Provision of cushioned berth in second class sleeper coaches.
- (ii) Improved 110 volts lighting in place of earlier 24 volts system.
- (iii) Fitment of improved polyvinyl flooring in coaches with stainless steel inlays in the coach toilets.
- (iv) provision of enclosed UIC type vestibules.
- (v) Use of fibre reinforced plastic window shutters to discourage theft and vandalism.
- (vi) Regular disinfection of coaches through specialized pest control agencies.
- (vii) Mid life rehabilitation of coaches.

Transporting of Cattle

1849. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ghaziabad police have recovered 700 cows and 400 calves from a goods train on their way from Qila Raipur in Punjab to Howrah, allegedly proposed for export to Bangladesh for slaughter, alongwith 65 persons escorting them to Howrah;

(b) whether any certificate from veterinary surgeon is required for transportation of cattle;

(c) if so, the details of such certificate;

(d) whether it is also against the railway rules by boarding as many as 40 cattle in a wagon as against the stipulated number 12 thus breaking the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. The Ghaziabad police had seized 624 cattle with their 549 sucklings, and detained 65 attendants from a goods train booked from Qila Raipur to Howrah in West Bengal.

(b) Yes Sir. A certificate of qualified veterinary surgeon regarding the fitness of the cattle to undertake the rail journey, is required.

(c) to (e) The veterinary surgeon in charge of Central Veterinary Hospital, Qila Raipur, Ludhiana had issued the certificate of fitness in December 2000. A joint spot verification report was prepared by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ludhiana, Veterinary

Surgeon, Qila Raipur (Ludhiana), Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Ludhiana, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dakha, Deputy Superintendent of Police, CID, certifying the booking of cattle as per rules.

As per Railway Rules, 16 cattle with their sucklings can be booked together in an eight-wheeler wagon. According to the joint verification report, the booking had been done in observance of the Railway Rules and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

12.01 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)(a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3331/2001]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3332/2001]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3333/2001]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3334/2001]

- (v) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel

Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3335/2001]

- (vi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3336/2001]

- (vii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3337/2001]

- (viii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3338/2001]

- (ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Gurdaspur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3339/2001]

- (x) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3340/2001]

- (xi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3341/2001]

- (xii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad, for the

year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3342/2001]

- (xiii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3343/2001]

- (xiv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3344/2001]

- (xv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3345/2001]

- (xvi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3346/2001]

- (xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Patna, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3347/2001]

- (xviii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3348/2001]

- (xix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3349/2001]

- (xx) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3350/2001]

- (xxi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3351/2001]

- (xxii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of working of the Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Goa, Gurdaspur, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, National Council for the Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi and the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3352/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3353/2001]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3354/2001]

- (2) A copy of the defence Services Estimates for the year 2001-2002 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3355/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3356/2001]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statement

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of

recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Fourth Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Limited Mobility through WLL for Fixed Service Providers relating to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 12th March, 2001 will consist of:

1. Further discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address.
2. Consideration and passing of the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:

(a) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers & Servants of the Delhi High Court Bill, 1994.

(b) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers & Servants of the Supreme Court Bill, 1994.

5. General discussion on the Railway Budget for 2001-02.

6. Discussion and voting on the following Demands and Introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills:

(a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2001-02.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2000-01.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) Need to discuss the National Slum and Housing Policy.

(ii) Need to discuss the Power Sector reforms. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

(i) The erosion of land at the tidal bank of Bay of Bengal in 'Diviseema' area of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh and the consequent threat to the habitations and the properties of the people and the need for construction of RC walls on the bank.

(ii) The plight of handloom workers in Andhra Pradesh due to stiff competition with mill cloth and the request for opposing certain recommendations in 'Satyam Committee' report, and also earmarking certain varieties of cloth only for handloom sector.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. A bill for the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been sent to the

President by the Maharashtra Government for his approval.

2. Under the market intervention scheme, Maharashtra Government had purchased onions and on account of it, it suffered losses. The Central Government have to share half of the total amount of losses worth Rs. 65 crore to the Maharashtra Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to allot the share of water among the riparian states by formulating a National water policy by treating the water flowing through these rivers as national wealth.
2. The need to withdraw 16 percent liked excise duly on readymade garments and branded readymade garments to check the flow of imported cloths India.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need for monthly allotment of coal to retain coal dealers by the Central Coal Fields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal.
2. The need to ensure, the allotment and supply of coal as per demand, to the small scale industries in Jharkhand State by the Central Field and BCCI.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The discussion should be held in the House regarding the implementation of reservation policy for recruitment of people belonging to SC and ST and other backward classes in the private undertakings.
2. The discussion in the House should be held regarding the full payment of salaries to the 'rural health workers' under the Health Department who are working at a honorarium at the rate of R&SO per month.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Revival of six closed public sector undertakings like MAMC, RIC, Wage Board, National Instrumentation, Tannery and

Footwear, National Bicycle Corporation of India and also revival of BOGL, HFCL Durgapur unit, and other units of HFCL and FCI, Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and other PSUs.

- (ii) Non-payment of wages in HSCL Durgapur unit and other PSUs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

MOTION RE: NINETEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th March, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th March, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

RE: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero Hour. Shrimati Margaret Alva.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Today is the International Women's Day...*(Interruptions)* Please allow us to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Today is the International Women's Day. First, there will be women Members and then only male Members. Seven women Members are there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, this is the day to mark women's struggle for recognition and acceptance as equal citizens. It unites women around the world as we celebrate achievements and raise our voice in support of those who are still denied their rights, like Su Ki in Myanmar, women of Kuwait who still do not have the right to vote, women in jails, in war-torn countries, victims of disasters, especially in Gujarat, Nicaragua and large areas of Africa and Asia.

In India, we have come a long way but we are still victims of violence, discrimination and neglect. The girl child in her mother's womb cries for the right to live, the child widow begs for her childhood days, innocent girls sold into prostitution peep out of brothel windows wishing for a life of dignity outside. The aged and the widows seek love and care, the young brides cry freedom from dowry harassment, the working women equal wages with the men, and recognition of their work in the family farms and enterprises, while all of us seek a place for women in the decision-making power structures of our society and the nation.

Some of us may believe that the aspirations of Indian women can be silenced by our shouts and slogans against their rights, in the well of this House. But we are too many and too strong and too determined for that. The Government promises the pending Reservations Bill every session, but bows to pressures and withholds discussion. It refuses to discuss the proposed Policy for Women with us. The National Commission lacks autonomy and authority and the Finance Minister reduces interest rates on small savings which is women's only safe investment. WTO and globalisation's spurned reforms, are destroying the small enterprises which were the life line of women, while indiscriminate imports of farm and food products are ringing the death knell of rural women. We seek today, the right to live in dignity, as free citizens; to participate as equals in the decision making processes; and to be accepted as partners in national development. This nation cannot march ahead leaving behind 50 per cent of its vital human resource.

We, therefore, ask the Government and the nation to respond to our call for equity and accept us as

equal citizens in our own motherland. It is not charity we seek but justice.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, I am very grateful to you for having given me this opportunity. I do agree with what Shrimati Margaret Alva had already stated in this august House.

Today, the world over International Women's Day is being observed. I need not go into the details of the struggles and agony the women all over the world have gone to for what little achievement we have already made. The Indian women are, of course, far ahead of many others in other countries.

At the same time, I would like to explain the condition of women in India on this occasion. Here, in India, the Central Government have proclaimed the year 2001 as the Year of Empowerment of Women and they have chartered some official functions also. But these functions have nothing to do with the suffering of the ordinary poor masses of women, which form 50 per cent of the total population of this great country. Sir, certain functions are held in Delhi alone where the invitees are all upper middle class women and some lucky men also.

Sir, a logo, in this connection, has been published by the Government of India, which is a very backward looking and also which reveals the retrograde attitude of the Government. I would just like to say that this logo is containing the figure of a woman and a child and the woman is looking backward. This shows the ideology of the present Government led by BJP...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : On the occasion of the Women's Day, the entire House should support the Government...*(Interruptions)* Here everything is criticised...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, he can look at the logo which has been published by the Government of India...*(Interruptions)* I am not inventing anything...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, it should not be controversial.

[Translation]

Everybody should support the views of Margaretji...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is not the way of speaking on this occasion ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, let me be allowed to speak. I do not disturb others when they speak ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, I was listening to him when he was speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam please.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, this is the way we are treated even in this august House ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : They bring politics in every matter.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : This is not politics, this is the condition of women...*(Interruptions)* They have politics and that politics is still revealed in this House through this logo...*(Interruptions)*

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

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, it is more than one year since the Eighty-Fifth Constitution (Amendment) Bill for reserving 33 per cent of seats for women in Parliament and also in State Legislatures has been listed in this House, that is on record, to be precise, on the 23rd of December 1999. But it has not been considered so far. We are asking that this should be considered and put to vote.

I would like to know what is the intention of the Government with regard to Eighty-Fifth Constitution (Amendment) Bill which aims at reserving 33 per cent seats for women. We are asking only for 33 per cent of seats whereas we have a right to have 50 per cent of seats in this House and in State Legislatures ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the women Members first.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the Budget, presented this year, is actually against the women of this country.

Actually when the benefits given to the family are taken away, it is actually the women who suffer the most. So, I request you, Sir, to give a direction to the Government to take up the 85th Constitution (Amendment) Bill during this Session, get it considered and also put to vote.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to

congratulate the Government that it has declared the year 2001 as the year of women's empowerment. I would like to draw your attention to the national agenda of the BJP and its allies in which it has been mentioned that laws will be formulated for providing 33 percent reservation to the women in the Parliament and the State Assemblies for the empowerment of women. I would also like to draw your attention to the address of the President in which he has said that the women's reservation bill which is pending must be unanimously passed by the House. For providing 33 percent reservation to the women. Our civilisation and culture is 5000 year old and we believe that 'the God's abode is where women are worshipped'. In our Gujarati there is a saying that 'Jekar Julane Parma Tekar Jagat Par Shasan Kare'. So I request you that you should unanimously pass the Women Reservation Bill without discussion on the occasion of the International Women's Day so that backward women may get justice. We worship gods and bow to them and it our culture and tradition that we worship trees, river and ponds. You might be remember that the biggest Kumbh Mela of this centenary was held in which more than three crore people took body dip in river Ganga.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the other lady Members to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why I want the Women's Reservation Bill should be unanimously passed by the Parliament. At the end, I would like to say that:

'Tera Valbhav Amar Rahe Maa, Ham Din Char Rahen na Rahen, Bharat Mata Ki Jai.'

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Sir, it is a tribute to women if you have this Bill listed and discussed. Please have it listed...*(Interruptions)*

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I totally associate with the senior Members, Shrimati Margaret Alva, Prof. A.K. Premajam and Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhalia.

This year is a year for upliftment of women. Today is International Women's Day. The Government will not get more auspicious day than this day. All the people of India, all the women of India, and almost all the political parties in the country are on record that they are for the Women Reservation Bill. The Government is not serious on this issue. Hence, I

request the Government to introduce this Bill, get it discussed and passed.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Women's Day come like a weather with so many unanswered questions. We raise pending issues and with some false assurances and messages and with some functions the Women's Day come to an end. We all support the issue that has been raised today by Margaret ji on the occasion of the Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1922 Gandhiji had wrote in 'Harijan' magazine that the independence and the Democracy will be meaningless if the equal right is not given to all the people standing first and last in a queue. But we were nowhere in that queue.

Constitution has given us right yet our mindset has not changed. Our condition remains the same as far as empowerment and other issues are concerned. That is why some of us have come to the Parliament to represent those women. Through you I would like to tell the Government that this matter which was raised by Gandhiji has been lying pending since a long time and the Panchayat Bill was also passed by the efforts of Rajiv ji seeking to give 33 per cent representation to the women, we want that 33 per cent participation be ensured to us in Parliament and in Legislative Assemblies. Other issues are also attached to it. But the most important thing is the government's attention on this issue. If the Government is determined to bring this bill then it will definitely be passed. Since almost all the political parties have mentioned in their manifestoes to get this Bill passed they will have to give categorical support to the women in this context.

Hon. Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the condition of women particularly in regard to malnutrition over work, lack of education. We are observing the first women's Day in the new millennium, but the situation is critical. Sir, I would like to remind you that if we talk of anaemia, then in your state alone 67 per cent girls in the age group of 6 years are suffering from anaemia, which is not a healthy sign. Today 15 million baby girls are born and out of which not even 25 per cent are able to complete 15 years and they die. Everybody is aware of the condition of women struggling with maternal mortality rate and pollution. Through you, I... (Interruptions) Please listen in regard to the women. We were expecting something in regard to women empowerment in this budget but they have been completely ignored in this budget. That is why we want the Government to take some decision in regard to rehabilitation of the victims of dowry, making regulations for small scale industries vocational education and making technical education completely free for women... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, what is this? It is to mention the problems of women and to send important messages only.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, I can only say that this is our destiny. Just now, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji was reading next week's agenda and we were apprehensive of our fate. Women's Representation Bill is not mentioned anywhere even in the next week's agenda. It will be coming on the last day and perhaps its fate is going to be the same that it will be torn and some people will be glad that this should have been its result... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : You should first try to convince your neighbour before reaching here... (Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : That is why you should understand the relevance of Women's Day and the Parliament must take some decision not only on providing 33 per cent participation to them but also the economic, social and political condition of women be taken care of only then this Women's Day will have some relevance... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Please tell us the names of 'some' persons... (Interruptions) We are in favour of this Bill.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude with a couplet:

"Abhi Tewar Kahan badle hain inke abhi bhi apna daur hai Inqlabi ka,

Abhi bhi Sehra hai tapish baki hai, abhi mausam kahan Gulab gulabi ka."

But the weather will definitely come since majority of the people and their mindset is in our favour.

*SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Vishnupur) Hon'ble Mr Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the important discussion. Today, being the International Day for Women is a very significant day especially for women. We feel proud for what we have achieved in all these years. But we are equally agitated for what we have failed to achieve so far. So I feel there is a need to discuss certain issue in this regard. I totally agree with what my hon'ble colleagues have mentioned so far. I would like to raise certain issues about the

position and condition of women in the prevailing situation. Today we the women have remained the backward lot in spite of so many agitation promises, programmes, seminars and legislative procedure because of the prevailing social system and that is why women are being suppressed and oppressed. Because of the faulty policy of the Government the public distribution system has gone haywire. Women have to look after the family and find ways and means to maintain everything properly. All of us have grave concern over the staggering rise in prices of essential commodities causing great hardship to women who have to manage the family somehow with limited means.

The Government also fails to provide adequate fund in health and education sector causing grave repercussion for the development of women. Although health and education are very important, yet these two sectors have been neglected since long. Adequate fund has not been allocated either for health and education. The mother must be healthy so that the child she bears is born healthy. And also the mother must be properly educated so that the children have the benefit of education. Emphasis has been laid on women's health, education, rape inside and outside the family, domestic violence and abduction and transfer of women and girl child for flesh trade in Beijing five plus Conference. Stringent punishment has also been advocated for persons involved in these crimes. But it is a matter of regret that the report of Government of India on these issues is very disappointing. It has been admitted in the report that most of the suggestions and commitments of 4th Beijing Conference held five years back have not been implemented so far. 6% of internal production was promised to be spent on education. Now the percentage in the field of education is only 3.8% for the anti people policy of the present Government. 7 crore more people are now in below poverty line. The large part of this population is women. Government have initiated the process of closing down many factories so as to curtail expenditure. The women working in the factories have to face the brunt of the faulty plan of the Government. Attention has to be focused on these facts.

Society is passing through a very alarming situation. The economic condition of the poor has dwindled so low that many girl children have been forced to go for flesh trade. The income out of prostitution in the country is to the tune of Rs 40,000 crore. 12% of this amount is being earned by girl below 12 years. It is a matter of concern for all of us. As per study report of National Human Rights Commission, 2 lakh 70 thousand women occupied in flesh trade are girls between 12 and 14 years old. If we fail to take adequate steps so as to stop the

menace, the situation in the society would become all the more bleak. I urge upon the voluntary organisations, the NGOs and above all the Government to adopt some appropriate measures to check this trend. I also urge upon the Government to bring the Bill for empowering women so that they can be a party to decision making. Women from poor class, women who are economically educationally challenged can take up their own problem and discuss it with others. Women have been playing a commendable role in Panchayat. If they can function so well in Panchayat level, why they should not be able to do so or even better in the Assembly and Parliament. Every time we find that an attempt is made to introduce the Bill on Empowerment of Women in every session with all fanfare. But the attempt always remains futile because of stiff opposition by some members and party. This farce should be stopped once for all. I urge upon the Government to adopt an honest and sincere attempt to introduce this important Bill and pass it. After the introduction of the Bill, people can present their views and participate in the debate. It is only when the provisions of the Bill are discussed and debated in the House, one can take the decision about the merits and demerits of the provisions in the Bill. So before I conclude I once again urge upon the Government to introduce the Bill and after discussion pass it in the present session. It is only after providing 33% reservation to women, some kind of empowerment can be achieved. Thank you once again to participate in the observation on International Day for Women.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is International Day for women. I will very briefly present my views. We know that women have been respected since ancient age. In the ancient age women were given so much respect that their cooperation was sought even in the compilation of vedas. Women like Gargi and Maitreyee used to cooperate in the composition of Richas of the Vedas. We all know that even in the era of Mahabharath or Ramayana women have been giving their contribution. We may not have forgotten that once upon a time when king Dashratha was fighting the enemy in the battlefield one of the wheels of his chariot broke down. His wife Kikayee kept her hand underneath the wheel, due to which King Dasharatha was able to continue fighting and won that battle.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is why Kaikeyee sent Rama in exile to the forests so that Ravana could be killed. If she had not done so, Ravana would not have been killed and had such a situation not been created then those evil forces in the society which are still there

could not have been eliminated. The society has vehemently condemned Kaikayee but I feel that in that era she was the only such a woman who was a well wisher of the society. Had she not sent Rama in exile and made him only the King, he would have remained restricted within the four walls of the palace and the sinner like Ravana would never have been killed. That is why Kaikayee ordered Rama to go in exile in the larger interest of the society.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please speak about the problems of women.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Mr. Speaker, women have given great contribution in the independence struggle. Be it the Queen of Jhansi or Ahilyabai, Kasturba Gandhi, Indira Gandhi or other women. The history is full of the acts of bravery of women. We can never forget their contribution. They were brave women only who gave birth to brave men those who gladly embraced the gallows. If such women were not there then who would have given such men to the country who kissed the gallows and gave up their lives. If women were not there, the country would not have been listened.

Mr. Speaker, in all the wars that have been fought, women have suffered the maximum loss. Women have lost their sons in wars, they were rendered childless, they have lost their husbands and it is they who were deprived of tying Rakhis on their brother's hands. These are women who have always made maximum sacrifice. That is why it is written in the shastras: "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramnate Tatra Devta".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the women who is known for making extreme sacrifices is suffering a lot today and they are forced to live in a very dismal and humiliating condition to the society. Famous socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had remarked that a development and progress made without the co-operation of the women is incomplete and half finished. Hence, I demand from the Government that the Women Reservation Bill be brought and passed in the current session. Instead of taking derogatory steps against and indulging in contempt of the women, the House should ensure the passage of the Bill. The women are capable and powerful lot. The discriminatory attitude being fostered against them is shameful. I also urge upon you to come forward for passage of this Women Reservation Bill meant for the upliftment of the women. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, a lot of male Members also want to participate in the debate. Please give them also a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : I will first allow lady Members; then male Members.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have declared this year as the 'Women Year'. I would like on behalf of the women of the country to congratulate the Government for declaring this year as 'Women Year'. The Government of India have formulated many schemes and programmes for the upliftment of the women. The Government has also decided to award four eminent women personalities under these various schemes. This is a good beginning.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far the question of advancement of women is concerned, the main thing in it is as to what attitude we have towards women. The women can turn from a simple womenfolk to the living goddess in case the need arises. While on one hand they give birth to men, on the other they protect and bring them up by assuming the role of goddess for them. This way, they can also lead the role of the protector of the society. Hence, the status of women has never been a subject of debate in our country. Women have been considered and truly so, as the very basis of national strength. The women have played its role with full responsibility and it will continue to do so. Our history is a witness to this fact that there have been a large number of learned and scholarly ladies in our country who have played the role of serving and protecting the country. I accept that no other country reverse the women as much as our country.

The issue of providing 33 percent reservation should also not be debated. Bhartiya Janata Party has made up its mind to get this Bill passed and it is with the efforts of this party that the resolution in this regard has been passed and laid on the Table of the House. Now I would like all the Members and leaders of political parties to make their mind to support this Bill seeking to provide reservation to the women. I would also like to stress that women will not face any problem in their new role as parliamentarian for they do their job with full devotion and efficiency. I would also like to thank hon. Mamataji for taking the initiative in allotting election tickets to 12 percent women in her party. I am of the view that if all the political parties decide to play more and more women candidates in the forthcoming elections, it will speak volumes about their intention to champion the cause of the women.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All the other lady Members who could not give notices, may also associate with these

lady Members. Now, the Government will say something.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the occasion of International Women's Day ...*(Interruptions)* if you want that I should not speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We want a woman Minister to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Today is Women's Day and I have the heartiest congratulations and good wishes for them but unfortunately ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : But he is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee wants a woman Minister to reply. I appreciate his concern. But the only woman Minister is fighting with him in West Bengal. So, she is not here to reply...*(Interruptions)*. I am talking about Cabinet Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the solemn occasion of International Women's Day when the women Members from all the political parties have expressed their feelings and sentiments in the House, we tend to forget, for a while, our political differences. The House agrees that the women comprising half the country's population, represent more conscious and aware segment of it. Though the male to female ratio in India is 52:48 in India, the figure is reverse in context of the world. Women comprise more than half of the society. The society cannot progress unless the women are empowered for even the body cannot grow full if half of its part cease to function. Hence, on behalf of all the male Members of the House, I would like to assure the lady Members that we support and associate ourselves with the sentiments and feelings expressed by the lady Members. As many lady Members have spoken on this subject today, I cannot specifically address any lady Member for my reply. Except two ladies, all other lady Members have left the House...*(Interruptions)* However, as I have said that it is true that the ladies are a part of every home and are associated closely with the lives of everyone. Hence, I do not think that any Member can imagine ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the Minister must accept them as colleagues, not as wives or sisters or children alone. He should accept them as equal partners.

MR. SPEAKER : You should accept them as your colleagues.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do not mind, Sir, but in my place if a women describes man, she will say that

[Translation]

the men assume the role of a father, son and the husband. I do not intend to evaluate the women rightly anyway. You are trying to trace class struggle even in what I said regarding the identification of roles. I am of the view that man and woman are like the wheels of the same chariot. None of them is smaller or longer than the other. Similarly, both men and women are equal in all respects and only their mutual coordination can ensure a smooth life.

I think it necessary to give a clarification regarding the women reservation. It is a fact that the same Parliament had unanimously passed the bill seeking to provide 33 percent reservation to the women in local autonomous institutions like Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika etc. However, when the issue of providing reservation for Lok Sabha seats was raised, controversies began to originate. I would also like to clarify, on behalf of the Government that the Government is very much willing and mentally prepared to ensure the passage of women Reservation Bill in its original form but the hon. lady Members sitting here are well aware that it is Parliament and not the Government which can and does provide reservation to the women ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Brought the bill in the House for discussion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Once it was brought.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You had only introduced the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are mistaken. Is this your knowhow about the women amendment, the bill was brought not for the sake of introducing it but for consideration and passing it, however you did not pay heed at that time.

[English]

This amendment was brought before the House for consideration and passing, but the House was not in a state where they could consider it.

[Translation]

I can once again introduce it on Monday but this is not the issue...*(Interruptions)* It does not and will not add to the decorum of the House if the bill meets its earlier fate. Hence I submit to all the political parties that they should evolve consensus over this issue so that the smooth passage of this Bill seeking to provide reservation to the women could be assured. Hence, I would like to say that there is no lack of will power and honesty on the part of the Government to pass this Bill in original, however I would like to remind that the right to passage rests with the Parliament and not with the Government. Once a proper atmosphere in this regard is made in the House then it will not be difficult to ensure its passage.

[English]

At 24-hour notice, I am ready to bring this Bill for consideration and passing, if there is a general agreement in the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the countrywide strike and indefinite strike in Delhi as a result of the proposed 16 per cent excise duty on the readymade garments industry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Khurana ji, this matter was raised yesterday.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : He said only few words.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you speak in detail, now?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : 14 people have given in writing. About 2.5 to 3 lakh units of the small and cottage industries are operational in the entire country. There are 1.5 lakh units in the eleven cities of the country wherein twenty to twenty five lakh persons are employed. I can say that this industry has developed a lot and made heavy exports during the past few years. It has a major contribution in the country's exports. Yesterday, I spoke to the Minister of Finance. He told me that he levied duty only on the business having trade mark. But those people say that even those people have got themselves registered which are having Rs. 15-20 lakh turnover. Four per cent tax was recently imposed by the Delhi Government, there is 6 per cent central tax. This 16 per cent tax will be in addition to the said taxes. If 26 per cent tax will be levied on one industry within one year then that industry will be completely ruined. If the Government wish to levy tax on the brand owners then it should impose it on the basis of turnover and

the tax should be levied on the industries which have a turnover of more than Rs. 3 crore. We have no objection. But the small scale industry whose turnover is less than Rs. three crore should be exempted. I have even spoken to the Minister of Textiles. Even he is unhappy over this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : No body listens to him.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is my request that the Government should look into it since countrywide strike is going on and the labourers have come on street and there is already largescale unemployment in the country. It would be highly unjust to render 30, 40, 50 lakh people unemployed. Through you, I would request to convey our sentiments to the hon. Minister. Today, it is the demand of the country that tax should be levied only on the units having more than Rs. 3 crore turnover and not on registration of 'brand' and small scale industry be exempted from this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Even I wish to speak in the same context what Khuranaji is saying. There is a lot of agitation in Delhi owing to this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can associate with Shri Khurana.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I have received several representations which I have forwarded to the Finance Minister and have requested his immediate intervention because serious misery is being caused to a large number of small scale units. Lakhs and lakhs of workers are being affected.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. I request him to pass it on with a strong recommendation that this should be done. I request immediate intervention by the Government.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, not only the CPM but also the whole House is supporting Shri Khurana on this point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : However, the CPM always gives the lead...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, you can also support him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, I would like to lend support to what Shri Khurana said.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana, you are getting a lot of support.

12.47 hrs.

RE: NON-PROCUREMENT OF RICE BY FCI IN ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am raising a most important issue which needs the urgent attention of the Government of India.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is the rice bowl of the country. The Government of India has decided to procure 55 lakh metric tonnes of rice this year. So far, they have procured 38 lakh metric tonnes of rice. Due to lack of money, the FCI is not paying the money to the millers. That is why, the FCI stopped the procurement. In Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are agitating. The FCI, and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, have requested the Prime Minister, and Shri Shanta Kumar, to give directions to the Reserve Bank of India to give credit facility to the FCI as a result of which they can procure more. Whatever credit facility has been given to the FCI has been exhausted. Due to lack of money, the procurement process stopped and, that is why, the farmers are agitating.

Secondly, we asked the Government of India to increase the procurement from 55 lakh tonnes of rice to 70 lakh tonnes of rice. Shri Shanta Kumar held already one meeting, but so far, he has not given any direction to the Andhra Pradesh Government. This is a most important issue and, that is why, we are agitating. Therefore, Sir, through you, we are requesting Shri Pramod Mahajan to take up this matter with the Government. The FCI has almost stopped its procurement process. This is an urgent matter of public importance because it relates to thousands of farmers...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, we also associate with what Shri Yerrannaidu has said...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Jagannath, you have given the notice. You can also associate yourself with Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every time, we are not demanding the Government to give immediate reply. However, this is an urgent matter of public importance which relates to the farming community in Andhra Pradesh. It is a fact that the FCI has stopped its procurement process, and the farmers are agitating. Now, they are planning to start a movement. Moreover, it is a normal thing to provide credit facility to the FCI. It is a matter of urgent public importance...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, you can also associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, we endorse the viewpoint of Shri Yerrannaidu ...*(Interruptions)* It is also going to aggravate the situation.

MR. SPEAKER : You can also associate with him.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, it is a very serious situation, and we all associate with what Shri Yerrannaidu has said.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Miryalguda which is one of the rice bowls of the country. I completely concur with Shri Yerrannaidu. I think, the FCI must be raised from 51 lakh tonnes to 75 lakh tonnes. There is tremendous slump in the market. We have been discussing this issue for so many months and for so many Sessions. This Government has not been responsive; it is very unfortunate. I am sure, Members on the BJP side will also endorse my view. It is a view, which cuts across the party barriers.

Sir, I would like to request you to give direction to the Government to do something in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Government like to respond to it?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, during the lunch recess I would contact the concerned Minister and the hon. Prime Minister and convey to them the feelings of the Members of this House.

12.51 hrs.

RE: REPORTED INTERVENTION BY THE SUPREME COURT ON BALCO

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, certain developments are taking place which cannot but be matters of concern to this House.

Sir, as you know, in regard to the BALCO deal, the State Government of Chattisgarh had a particular perception and the State Legislature had passed a Resolution in this regard about the rights of the tribal people and such other things. That perception too was based on a judgement of the Supreme Court. Now what has happened there is a matter of grave concern because it involves the federal principle of the Constitution. There is already a strained relationship between the Centre and the State and this relationship may further deteriorate because of the moves initiated by the Union Government to

achieve certain goals with which the State Government may not be in agreement.

Sir, this House represents the will of the people. It is a sovereign House. In our present set up, the federal principles would have to be upheld. I am not questioning or commenting on the verdict itself but when such a directive goes directly to the DG and the Chief Secretary by-passing the political Executive of that particular State then...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, is he commenting on the judgement of the Supreme Court? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No, I am not commenting on the judgement of the Supreme Court ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is a judgement of the Supreme Court...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the question of the Centre's attitude...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am not commenting on the judgement of the Supreme Court ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pal, you should not discuss the decision of the highest Court here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he is asking me as to why the Government went to the Court ... (Interruptions) Is going to the Court a crime? ... (Interruptions) I am surprised at his question ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pal, you are well-versed with the procedure of the House. We should not comment on the judgement of the highest Court here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Union Government has never cared to consult either the State Government...(Interruptions) or the workers themselves in respect of BALCO...(Interruptions) Sir, the Government owes an explanation to this House ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pal, there are other Members as well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am not questioning the verdict of the Court, but it is a denigration of the authority of the elected bodies...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, please allow me one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We already had a lengthy discussion on BALCO.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister would like to respond now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is going to say something. The Minister is going to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, the Government is shirking its responsibility ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The matter which can be solved through political and administrative negotiation, why other ways are being resorted to ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is a serious matter.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : If he is allowed to speak, let me also say something.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, we have also given notices. Please allow us.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor) : Sir, even they have not given any notice. What they will speak? Why they are being listened to? ... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Even you will be called.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am not saying that the Central Government has no right to go to the Supreme Court. But I am raising the question of Propriety.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Is what Shri Ajit Jogi did proper? Did he not commit any impropriety?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am raising the question of propriety. Of course, the Supreme Court is open for us. They can sit in the evening; they can sit in the morning; they can sit in the day; it is entirely for them. I am not raising that question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are indirectly again commenting on them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If you think so, then you have a guilty conscience.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No, you are commenting on the sitting of the Supreme Court.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are commenting.

Sir, shall we decide about the Centre-State issues by going to courts?... (Interruptions) Why should you be so impatient? You had written tonnes and tonnes of lengthy articles and we have very patiently read your articles.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Sir, the hon. Speaker had called me and you have not allowed me to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : After that he called me.

Sir, this disturbs the equilibrium that is there. I know that it is not a perfect federal structure that we have in this country. But whatever our Constitution-makers had decided, there are in-built mechanisms for solving the Centre-State issues. The Government is either threatening the States with article 356, or it is taking recourse to procedures which are not contemplated by the Constitution of India.

I would like to quote the statement of the Minister Shri Shourie which has gone forthwith to the press. This is from *The Times of India* of today. It says:

"Shourie said, the court was also told that if immediate orders are not granted, an alarming situation will arise with 'irreversible consequences'..."

We would like to know what those consequences are. It further reads:

"...and the process of disinvestment and the declared economic policy of the Centre would suffer a grave setback."

The Court was told that disinvestment policy will not be given proper effect to unless court immediately intervenes. This was the statement of the Minister. He is raising this question in the courts of law. He is inviting courts to intervene to help his sinister disinvestment policy in this country which is against the people. This is the way the Government is utilising the courts. Why do they not make a *suo motu* statement here? Why is it that the matter has to be raised in the House by us? I know they are trying to destabilise the Constitutional set up in this country.

13.00 hrs.

They have set up a Review Commission ... (Interruptions) ... Sir, we must express our strong protest... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject. If he is allowed to speak, I may also be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I have called his name.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, we are talking about propriety for the last few days. What is happening in Chhattisgarh? Chief Minister is violating laws. He is instigating the labourers. The Ambulance which reached there, was put on fire. The agitators are not allowing people to take food inside for the people who are trapped inside. The Chief Minister is threatening the centre and challenging the Federal Structure. In such a condition if any Chief Minister violates the law... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra says.

...(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If they are raising their issues, you are not allowing them and if you are raising your issues, they are not allowing you. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I have called the name of Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Please allow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : If a Chief Minister stirs an agitation...(Interruptions) Damage to the tune of Rs. Hundred crore has been caused there. If it were to the tune of Rs. Two hundred crore then the Central Government had powers to interfere but instead of exercising it's powers it moved the Supreme Court and said that it is the duty of Supreme Court to protect them. The Fundamental Rights are being violated and it is being said that nobody can enter. They have said within Fundamental Rights that water should be made available to the people trapped inside and people be allowed inside...(Interruptions) I am saying that even if he has slightest moral compunctions then the Chief Minister should resign and leave Chhattisgarh...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, He cannot use this forum...(Interruptions). He has made charges against a Chief Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, I want to say that it is being said that water would not be allowed inside. Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh has said that facilities will not be allowed inside...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : It is very difficult for the Chair to accommodate all the Members who have given notice on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Again, you are discussing the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, it is not correct. You have allowed him to speak. You please allow me to speak after him...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Leader of Chhattisgarh said officer will not be allowed inside. Whether officers and employees sitting inside are not human beings? Whether it is not the moral duty of the officer to abide by law? Whether his duty is to become labour leader?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, please. How can you discuss the same matter in the House?

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : BALCO was discussed in the Lok Sabha and passed. Who challenged the constitution keeping Lok Sabha aside?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow any State matter to be discussed in the House. It is not a debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister is responding. But you are not allowing him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. If you want to submit anything, you may do so after his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called the hon. Minister. First listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, I entirely agree with Shri Somnath Chatterjee...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radha Krishnan, please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have given a notice to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Many Members have given notices. How can I accommodate all the Members on the same subject?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him first.

...(Interruptions)

13.05 hrs.

At this time Dr. Charan Das Mahant came and stood near the table of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please go to your seat.

13.05½ hrs.

At this time Dr. Charan Das Mahant went back to his seat

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, I entirely agree with the sentiments expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee about the delicacy of the matter, about the Center-State relations.

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : For that reason, I wish to clarify four or five facts first.

It is not we who went to the Court. Others went to the Court and we filed a transfer petition. What we went to the Court yesterday for was in pursuance of the transfer petition filed earlier....(Interruptions) We

have listened to you. Would you not allow me just for one second?

We received information from officials on the spot about several factors that totalled to an alarming portent. One was a specific statement by the most responsible person there that water and electricity to the plant would be shut out. The second was a statement on record by the highest person in the Government there to the effect that the management, whether of the Central Government or of the new 51 per cent holder, would not be allowed to step into the State of Chattisgarh. The third was that a CISF *jawan* was beaten up, a CISF van was overturned and an ambulance was burnt. We were told that this could result in an imminent law and order problem. Therefore, the Secretary, Department of Disinvestment wrote to the Chief Secretary of that State on the 6th March, 2001. There was no reply. We had written, 'These are the circumstances. What steps are the Government taking?' No reply came at all. It is for this reason that we went to the Court, to say that if these circumstances came about, irretrievable - my word was not 'irreversible', I said 'irretrievable' - damage would be caused to the plant

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, I have not allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We went to the Court to safeguard the plant.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why did you go to the Court? That is my objection...(Interruptions) Do you talk to the State Governments only through the Courts?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We wrote to the State Government first...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please do not try to misuse the Judiciary for your political purposes.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, what do you mean? We wrote to the State Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Whom did you write to?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We wrote to the Chief Secretary of the State...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bansal, please let him complete. Let the hon. Minister complete his speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We wrote to the Government of Chattisgarh. We wrote to the Chief Secretary...(Interruptions) We went to the Court because of the imminent danger to the plant, because of these threats and because of the information that there was not even a charter of demands that had been put forward to justify the agitation...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Why did you not ask the company to make the case? Why should you go to the Court?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Why should we ask them?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Government is not the owner of this company. The property belongs to the company, not to the Government. The property does not belong to the shareholders. Shri Arun Jaitley should know this. The property belongs to the company and not to the shareholders. You are only shareholders there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. Let him complete his reply first. Why are you not allowing the hon. Minister to speak?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : We were told that the harm to the plant would cost Rs. 100 crore and 49 per cent of that would fall on the Government...(Interruptions) We were told by technical experts that the harm could cost almost Rs. 100 crore. Forty-nine per cent of that would have to be borne by the Central Government. Therefore, we went to the Court...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : It is for these reasons that the Court passed far-reaching orders. These orders are now apparently 'inconvenient' to some.

The court has said that all the issues concerning this matter and all controversies shall be considered only by the Supreme Court of India. Therefore, they have directed the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police to ensure compliance with their orders...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to raise issue on the same subject?

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : How long do you want to discuss this same subject? Shri Chaturvedi, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This issue was already raised by them and the hon. Minister also has replied to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Hon. Speaker, I have also given notice, today you should also listen to me...(Interruptions) I also want to speak on an important subject...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Would you like to take up this matter again.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaturvedi, do you want to discuss this subject again? Whatever issues they have raised, the hon. Minister has given replies to them

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.40 p.m.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at 13.47 of the Clock

[SHRI SRINIVAS PATIL in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, important discussion is being held on the President's Address and there is hardly a quorum in the House. You are aware that today the elections of the block Chiefs are taking place in Uttar Pradesh and approximately 75 Members of Lok Sabha are not present in the House. I am of the

opinion that the discussion over the President's Address should be deferred till Monday for a large number of Members are absent even while the discussion on such an important matter is due to take place. The discussion over the problems of the farmers is scheduled for 12th of March. I do not have any objection over extending the duration of the Session for two more days. Shall we wait for the completion of the quorum when the discussion over such a serious matter is to take place? Very few Members are present in the House, some of the Members are not attending the House owing to their festive mood to celebrate Holi, some are absent due to their involvement in the block elections of the Uttar Pradesh. Hence I request you to postpone today's discussion for it is a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singhji, the Quorum is very there. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, please set the discussion in motion.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Today, the time has been fixed for discussion in the BAC which was agreed upon by all the parties...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Look at Shri Malhotraji, what type of Ram supporter he is? He does not adore Sitaji...(Interruptions). Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that there are not even 75 Members from Uttar Pradesh alone present here. As you know that elections for the block pramukhs are being held in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have a limited time, so you resume your seat, please.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mulayam Singhji, when we fixed this date for discussion we knew that the elections are being held. If we further postpone the debate then the debate on issues relating to farmers will not be possible to be held even during the next week. Therefore, I feel that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why it will not be possible, we will definitely hold discussion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It will not be possible, since we are bound to stick to the time.

Schedule in the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We will get the budget passed on time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : How will you get it passed like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Somnathji, now you may speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

13.51 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr Chairman Sir, like the previous years under this Government, the President's Address, which is a very solemn constitutional occasion under our set up, has become almost an empty ritual. The Address this year has the distinction of having the length of boring proportions but no depth, and reads like a contrived compilation of the so-called achievements of different Ministries without any credible content.

I cannot but sympathise with our most respected Rastrapatiji as he had to go through a concoction full of rigmaroles, containing nothing but a litany of shibboleths and inanities. When I was listening to the speech and also went through it, it seemed nothing but statements of different Ministries as to what they have supposedly done and what they are going to do. It gave the impression that the Ministries are all now working under the omnipresent PMO vying with each other to get some mention in the Address only to make their presence felt.

In the present dispensation of Vajpayee Variety, the entire constitutional system of which the full Cabinet is responsible has been subverted by the throttling and overbearing presence of the PMO, which has become the biggest agency of all sorts of people from power seekers to power brokers and what not. They are acting as minions of some shady industrialists and business houses. Obviously, we cannot assume that the hon. Prime Minister is ignorant about it.

The Cabinet system of Government is the very basis of our constitutional set up. But Sir, this very important system of Cabinet responsibility is being deliberately sabotaged today. And the Ministers are acting as mere obliging satraps of the PMO which, for that matter, is controlled by two or three persons whose names I need not disclose as they are known to everybody. They are the people who have no constitutional responsibility and are working really as extra-constitutional authority in this country. The power centre under this Government has shifted from the Ministries to the PMO and different Ministries and Departments are acting as mere executive agents, administrative officers of the Prime Minister's Office. They are implementing their dubious decisions taken at the behest and for the benefit of the selected few in this country.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, what has happened and what is happening has been very graphically set out and disclosed in a well-circulated magazine in this country named *The Outlook* which has showed how governance in the country is being manipulated and controlled at the highest level and has almost been taken over by the people who have no accountability to Parliament at all. The result is, today the Cabinet system of Government has been decimated and the victims are transparency in administration as well as probity.

Recently, we have seen how a conscientious and a well-known officer had to tender his resignation. I am referring to the case of Dr. E.A.S. Sarma. There is a reason for my referring to this case. I am not trying here to espouse the cause of only a single officer. But it is now disclosing the state of affairs which has affected the entire administrative set-up. And that is why, Parliament is also being ignored steadily. We are discussing the President's Address in the absence of the Prime Minister and even the Home Minister who are conspicuous by their absence which shows that they treat this house probably as an unavoidable appendage or unavoidable nuisance. And because they have been able to contrive a majority and are leading a motley combination, they need not bother about Parliament and the Ministers are also too happy to dance to the tune of the PMO or the GoM, as it is called. They are more concerned probably with playing *holi*, if they get an opportunity, in the lawns of 3, Race Course Road or 7, Race Course Road for that matter! So, this has become a very serious matter. An officer who has been known for his uprightness and conscientiousness was made to resign. In his 36 years of service, he was transferred 22 times and he has said that the trouble began when the PMO crossed its avowed objectives of monitoring the activities of different Ministries and informing the Prime Minister about what was going on. Now, it has taken over the role of the Ministries and Departments.

14.00 hrs.

The Departments are told what to do or not to do. I know that there will be some feeble protests somewhere. In the heart of hearts, they know what is being said is absolutely correct.

Dr. Sarma has said and nothing has ever been said against him.

"The immediate fall-out of the PMO's present role is that Ministries have stopped applying their minds and have begun to depend more and more on the directives from the PMO. Business lobbies like Reliance, Essar and the Hinduja have begun to exert their influence on the PMO and this is not a desirable trend."

He says:

"When the roles and responsibilities of the Ministries and the PMO get blurred, as is the case now, lobbying becomes the order of the day. All this erodes the credibility of the Government."

He says further:

"Unhealthy lobbying is known to take place through brokers and intermediaries. This can have dangerous implications and can even be a threat to our democracy"

Then, he has named two gentlemen. I do not wish to read here those things. He has referred to the fact that how the Hirma Project was sought to be manipulated and sought to be utilised for the benefit of one business house to get undue favours. Ultimately, for some reasons, it has not yet been done. Dr. Sarma has said how these big industrialists have been calling them; trying to talk to them and create influence. He says and I am quoting it:

"They are very close to those in power. It was the Hinduja who got me out of the Power Ministry."

Sir, I know Shri Suresh Prabhu is a very dear friend of ours. I have a lot of affection for him. I have developed a lot of affection for him. But he cannot do anything. He has to sign on the dotted lines. Shri Prabhu, because of your leader, you may not lose your position just now. But they are not happy with you. I know of it. Dr. Sarma says further:

"When I was Power Secretary, I tried to straighten these fellows out who were pushing for counter-guarantees. And then one fine morning, I was transferred."

Uptil now, the Government has not come out with its own version. A serious charge has been made against a very senior civil servant against whom nobody has spoken anything... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, has he taken the permission from the Chair to quote from the *Outlook*?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : For that, permission is not required.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I think, it is required.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a public document. Yesterday also, so many Members were referring to it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Whenever somebody is just quoting from something, should he not take the permission?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members from your side were also quoting the examples from the newspapers only. Yesterday, you were not present. I was in the Chair. Prof. Malhotra was referring to certain things from the newspapers. Kindly take your seat. There is no need of permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : They objected to it. You heard that also...(Interruptions) His entire speech is based on only newspaper writing. He has got nothing to say...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday, Members from your side were quoting from the newspapers only. Please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Yesterday also, the Chair was objecting to it. Sir, I think, you objected to it. Accordingly, you should object to this also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not necessarily. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have so many advisors these days!...(Interruptions) The Chair has so many advisors!

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, kindly take your seat. There is no rule.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Has it got anything to do with the President's Address?

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Definitely.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I raised this issue after a great deal of deliberations. It is because today the President's Address has to represent the policies and programmes of the Government for the future in the coming year and also to give an account of what happened or not happened. That necessarily brings in the way of the functioning of the Government.

It is also about the responsibility that is being discharged by this Government. Serious allegations are being made that the Ministry itself has been hijacked today and it is run by either a Group of Ministers under the benign influence of the Prime Minister's Office or it is done at the instance and for the benefit of a handful of people who are looting this country with the connivance of this Government. This is the situation. Therefore, it is my duty
...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is a very serious allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get a chance

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is a very serious allegation...(Interruptions) He is making allegations against the Prime Minister's Office. He is saying that they are looting. It is very surprising. He should substantiate it...(Interruptions) How can he just go on making all sorts of wild allegations because something appeared in a magazine?...(Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He should substantiate these allegations. It is made against the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can rebut it in your reply, not now. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Both are provoking each other.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, attention has been drawn to this article in a well-circulated magazine. Some sort of denial has come out. I feel that the Government owes an explanation to this House and to the country, instead of giving vague denials. Therefore, I am bringing it here in this House. The Prime Minister is conspicuous by his absence. I have never seen earlier that the Prime Minister or even the Home Minister, the second in hierarchy, is showing callous disregard to the debate which is taking place. Now a days everybody says, 'I am hearing you on television.' Very well, then let everything happen on television.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, several projects have been mentioned as to how they have been sought to be organised or arranged to confer the benefit on selected few. Where is the denial? Now, there is serious charge that the Chairman of the Telecom Commission has been transferred because one of his letters has been printed/published in this magazine. It is not a case only of referring to the newspaper comments or the article's comments. It has been said that direct fall out of what appeared in *'The Outlook'* is the transfer of Shri Shyamal Ghosh, Chairman of the Telecom Commission. The Minister of State for Communication has admitted that the transfer of Shri Shyamal Ghosh, according to him, is 'a routine decision and the PMO wanted him in Gujarat because of his past experience. Then the question is: "But you and Shri Paswan spoke to the PM on the issue?" He says: "We did but nothing came of it. Besides, it is the PMO's decisions."

Senior officials are being transferred because some comments made by an official in an official correspondence, somehow got published in the newspaper or a journal, which shows the Government in a bad light, which shows that the PMO imposed a decision on the Ministry on a very vital aspect of the future of telecom industry in this country.

In this sector thousands of crores of rupees are involved. This sector provides the most modern infrastructural facilities in this country and there it is being done in this manner. Both the Ministers of Communications - of course, they have no sense to protest because they really do not count in the present dispensation - admit that it was due to the PMO's decision.

Now we have a concept of Group of Ministers. I do not know how many Group of Ministers Shri Chandra Shekhar had constituted during his tenure. At present, I find there are 25 or 27 GoMs. This is a concept which has been developed to bypass the Cabinet. The decisions are taken by involving the Cabinet Minister of the Ministry concerned and with the active participation of the PMO representatives. They get things done, have a cursory approval of the Cabinet and then, lo and behold, they become the decisions of the Government. I do not know in how many GoMs the Ministers from the party to which Dr. Nitish Sengupta is associate are there; hardly they are present here. In the Group of Ministers, the Defence Minister is there and we know about his proximity to the real power centre. I am sure Shri Omar Abdullah will have no place there.

Sir, there are two groups. There is a Strategic Management Group. They are supposed to monitor the activities of different Ministries. They have become

the deciders of policy and they are consisting of those two gentlemen in the PMO - Lord No. 1 and Lord No. 2; of course, Lord No. 3 is also there, but he is not an official position holder. Then, there is an Economic Affairs Group. They are to decide the economic policies of this country. We all know what is being said outside this Chamber about the last Budget, who are happy, who are not happy, we know all that. But you are bonded labour here; you have no courage to stand up and protest.

Sir, two gentlemen came today and met me, because I am the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, with regard to something pending before the Government and which has been brought before the Committee. They say: "We have to support the Government; otherwise, we shall be in trouble." This is the attitude of the industry also. Naturally, we do not expect the President's Address to refer to this very serious aspect which has developed in the functioning of the Government in this country, but I want that a proper reply should come from the Prime Minister on this matter. That is why I have decided to raise it on the floor of the House. This is not a matter which should be described as an internal functioning of the PMO and has nothing to do with the responsibility of the Cabinet. I am sure, in the heart-of-heart every Minister agrees with me.

Sir, this concept of Group of Ministers is also very important. In the Group of Ministers, among those who are involved, only one or two of them are representatives of other parties than the B.J.P. It is not a case of Dr. Sharma alone. Shri M.R. Sivaraman, former Revenue Secretary, referring to the functioning of the Government says:

"After seeing the postings of officers now, it seems pressure has clearly been brought to bear on the establishment. How else can one explain those in the 'not above integrity group' occupying important offices?"

It was further said by another important Finance Ministry officer:

"Remember, some business houses are able to get any material from any Government department at any time."

I am sure, the Ministers do not get appointments from the Prime Minister easily, but they can do so. We all know that they are having the easiest access to the Government, that is, the Race Course Road. That brings us to a very important aspect, namely, what is the present political set-up, which is ruling this country. We have a very peculiar political entity, called 'NDA'. It is supposed to be National Democratic Alliance. It is neither 'national' nor 'democratic'. It is for 'alliance'.

We had thought, we have been told, and everybody says that coalition politics has come to stay in this country, that no party alone can form a Government whatever may be its dreams. But what is this coalition politics we are having in this country? It is nothing but a motley combination, as I say, a sinister conglomerate devoid of any principle and ideology. Shri L.K. Advani has repeatedly said that there is no question of ideology, policy or principles in a Government of this nature. It is a question of remaining in power. Therefore, you are aligning with anybody and everybody whatever may be their policies or ideologies. Now, they are openly supporting and helping those who want to create trouble by even creating new States in this country, asking for the division of different States, and who are asking for secessionism. They are even aligning with them. I would like them to respond to this issue.

Where is my great and good friend, Shri K. Yerrannaidu? We find, on certain occasions, they are making noises. The recent example was 'BALCO'. They even oppose the Railway Budget strongly. But ultimately, they are raising both their hands and supporting the Government. Has policy or principle any relevance in this country? This is the state of affairs.

The Trinamool Congress raised a lot of objection about disinvestment of BALCO. They have been objecting to the principle of disinvestment. They are objecting to privatisation. They are objecting to the diminution of Public Distribution System or decimation of Public Distribution System. All that is for West Bengal only. Here, they are surrendering everything. This is one of their coveted allies and the Prime Minister is submitting to the tantrums of these alliance partners. Whatever they demand, he has to concede that. We see the wonderful spectacle. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Railways are fighting. The Prime Minister has to call them to sort out the differences and, at the same time, saying that the Railway finances are in great trouble. But you can do whatever you like because you have an election to face in your State. This is the way the Government is running in this country.

I appeal to my friends here. I hope that not all of them have given up all principles and ideologies permanently. Consider the future of this country. Consider whether we are a nation just for the sake of remaining near the power centre and to be the beneficiaries of what is happening in this country and whether they should submit themselves to this compromising situation. I say, they are compromising their principles. But they want to be in power. That is the reason that the coalition Government is not for the people, the Government is not for the development of the country but the Government is for allies.

We cannot but expose the total decimation, total desecration of the system of governance in this country. The Prime Minister is not concerned about the workers who are today leading a united struggle against the deliberate sell out of BALCO, but he is concerned about the Sterlite getting in, utilising and exploiting the unit which it has got as a favour from this Government.

Sir, look at what has happened in Gujarat. We have said, 'the situation has been critical and most of the damage that has been caused is of serious proportion.' We have called upon the Government that every possible effort should be made to stand by the people, our brother and sisters of Gujarat. I am happy and proud as an Indian that the whole country has risen as one and has come to the aid and support of our suffering people there. It is the obligation of the Government and the country as a whole that there should be proper rehabilitation, proper restoration in Gujarat. We had made our humble contribution in response to your desire. We have already decided it before your intimation came and I am happy that the hon. Speaker has also taken that initiative.

What I wanted to say once more and that is necessary is that when serious natural calamities occurred in Orissa and West Bengal, why did we have to run to the Government of India for the purpose of survival of our people in Orissa and West Bengal, who are also the people of this country, the citizens of this country? The minimum thing that they expected was that there should be proper approach, proper steps taken by the Government of India which have got the purse strings in their hand.

The hon. Minister admitted that there was serious situation. The Prime Minister pleads lack of resources as the excuse. He said, 'where is the money?' For the people of Orissa the damage of such magnitude took place and the international agencies were not allowed to come and help them on the ground that we would compromise with the country's status and sovereignty. Then, the Government of India should have stepped in. We wanted Rs. 1500 crore. Our loss is over Rs. 5650 crore which has not been denied by the Agricultural Ministry. But we got Rs. 102 crore for which we had to hold *dharnas* and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and other leaders had to go and support us to whom we are all obliged.

Now, it has been thought of National Disaster Management, it was not thought of earlier. It was being demanded time and again. I am glad, at least, that the Government has woken up, but I doubt very much what will be the ultimate shape that it will take.

Sir, since the Address has been delivered, we have had two Budgets, the Railway Budget and the General Budget. Now, the people are under the

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severest attack. The so-called economic reforms in this country have brought havoc to the terming millions and millions of the people. The vulnerable section of the community, the workers, the peasants, the middle class, the lower middle class today are under severest attack. Unemployment has reached the most alarming proportions.

The Finance Minister does not even talk one word, subject to correction, in his Budget Speech about unemployment. What is going to happen? The whole country has been sold. BALCO is a recent example as to how the national interest is being compromised, is being effected deliberately to suit one individual or one group.

Sir, I do not know what the policy or the programme of a Government can be or will be and for whom. Because of the policies and programmes of this Government, the majority of the people are at the receiving end. Workers after workers are losing their jobs. Factory after factory is being closed down. The whole country has been sold to MNCs. Somebody, I believe, correctly forecast that within 10 years, this country would again become the slave of the economic super powers.

Sir, the Government does not seem to realise and it is patting itself on its back. We are told of all sorts of jargons - first generation reforms, second generation reforms, strategic sales, and strategic partner. These are the days of the fancy jargons being used. Shri Prabhu, you are a literate, you are an intelligent man. Kindly tell us when did the first generation reforms end; what happened at the end of the first generation; what is meant by it; what is meant by second generation reforms; what does it mean; what does it mean to the common people of this country; and what is the proposal now.

Crocodile tears about the workers and about the common people of this country are being shed but now they are adopting 'hire and fire' policy. They propose a change in the law, which will make the units having not less than 1,000 workers come within this 'hire and fire' policy. It will cover 99 per cent of the workers in this country.

If you think that by pampering to the wishes of your handful of supporters, who are ruling the roost in this country, you will be able to get the support of the common people and the working class, then you are in a fool's paradise. You are dreaming. Nobody can stop them. The people will rise in unity and will see that this Government is forced to change this anti-people and anti-worker policy in this country. They will never accept this. You are busy only to placate a few handfull of people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that this country's economic interest has been sold. What is

happening to the agricultural sector? What will happen after the Quantitative Restrictions are finally removed? Sir, even today both sides of this House spoke of the serious situation faced by the Government industries in the small-scale sector. Nearly five lakh people are affected because of the rise in the excise duty. What will happen to these people? Who are thinking of them? Unless somebody here raises the issues, some sort of a support is being given, and the House cannot function for sometime, then some attention is being paid. Now, when both sides of the House are raising this question for the sake of workers, at least I find Shri Khurana is now being acquiescing to some of these issues. These days, probably, he is not in the mainstream of their party and he is raising these issues. I am happy that he is raising these issues.

Therefore, this is the Government, whose policies and programmes have been read out, have been set down in the President's Address, which makes a mockery of our very survival in the way we are functioning.

There is another serious thing which is going on, which significantly does not find mention in this year's Address. This is the constitutional review that is being made. After the respected Rashtrapatiji's admonition when he referred to the speech of President Ayub Khan of Pakistan, I find this time you have not raised it. But this objective has not been given up.

Today we have seen one example of how you are trying to sort out the Centre-State relations, how you treat the Chief Ministers of other Parties as people who are not fit to talk to. Either you are threatening Governments run by other Parties with article 356 and trying to destabilise them just to keep one of your, even minuscule, partners happy, or you are trying to utilise other forum, not the Parliament, for the purpose of settling your political scores. At the same time, your objective is of changing the very basic structure of the Constitution. What is this exercise going on for? Parliament is kept in dark. Political Parties are not consulted. Who can change the Constitution? It is the Members of Parliament but in lieu thereof, you have now set up a big, huge establishment. You have set up your own selected people for the purpose of carrying on this constitutional review. I do not know what is the object and what is the objective behind this. What are the articles you wish to change? You are bothering so much about changing this. I do not know what articles, what objectives, what are the areas of the Constitution, which are creating hindrance for this Government. We have got many things to say about it. But this is not the way to bring about constitutional amendment.

We want greater and greater power for the State than those in the hands of the Centre. This is their method of concealing. There is already the Sarkaria Commission Report. You have not implemented it. The BJP used to shed tears over it. They used to criticise the Congress Government for not implementing the Sarkaria Commission Report. Which one you have implemented? Which electoral reforms, proposals you have accepted or implemented? There are so many unanimous reports.

Sir, I had the distinction of being in some of the Committees. Shri L.K. Advani generally represented the BJP until he became the Minister. Even the last Report about State funding of elections is a unanimous Report. The Committee was headed by our great leader, Shri Indrajit Gupta whom we are missing here every minute. What is the respect that you are showing to his Committee's Report? Nothing has been done. Everything is kept in the cold storage. What is the real intention of this Government?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another very important issue has not been mentioned. That is of the serious threats that are being held out by VHP, Bajrang Dal, and what not, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad about the forcible construction of temple at Ayodhya. Most disquieting reports are coming out that the structure is almost ready, it is just to be taken there and put there. I do not know whether he is VHP President or Secretary. Their great friend, Shri Singhal has openly said he is fixing the date. Ayodhya does not find any mention but the President's Address does mention the great management of the Maha Kumbh as if that is a matter of great Governmental achievement. It is a very serious matter also. I want the Government to explain....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : You should also mention the statement given by Sahi Imam ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I will do ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It should be stated here also. The entire country witness it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What difference does it make whether he speaks or I. I will speak about Taliban... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He becomes tightlipped when these issues come up... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What has happened to the judgement that has discharged our Minister of Home Affairs and the two other Ministers in the Ayodhya case? Now the CBI has filed the charges. The CBI has been conducting the case. If there is any technical error, I would like to know what the Government of India is doing to support the CBI's charges. The report was that there was some minor technical error. We find that the Government of India - which is a minority shareholder in a company - goes to the Supreme Court, requests the Supreme Court to hold a Special Session in the Judge's Chamber - it goes to the residence - gets an *ex parte* order, but they do not bother so far as correcting the technical error which had allegedly crept into the charge-sheet filed against Shri L.K. Advani and the other Ministers.

What has the Government of India done? The silence on the part of the Government is absolutely telltale. Now even the Judges are being transferred conveniently. And I charge that this Government has deliberately kept quiet so as to spare Shri L.K. Advani and the two other Ministers from being prosecuted in this case. After a good deal of consideration and after a good deal of judicial time was spent on it, then only the cases were filed. This is a very very serious matter and I want that the Government must come out and tell us what it is going to do to rectify the errors so that the prosecution can continue against these high dignitaries who are representing this Government.

Today is the International Women's Day. Our Comrade (Prof.) A.K. Premajam had raised it and the other women colleagues had also raised it. It is not a matter concerning women alone and we feel that this is a matter which requires to be brought up as early as possible, so far as the Government's coming programmes are concerned.

There is one serious matter. More and more encroachment is being made into the State sector, the State-Centre functioning. So far as the power sector is concerned, the Prime Minister has advised that every State Electricity Board should increase the power tariff by 50 per cent. Now, what will happen to this country? What will happen to agriculture? What happened to the small scale industry? What will happen to the common people?

We would like to know the Government's stand on Enron. We would like to know what prompted the Government, when it had opposed it earlier. The Government has now called upon the Government of Maharashtra to pay a huge money. Is the Government

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of India taking any steps to have it reviewed? Are they taking it up with Enron? Nothing has been mentioned in the whole Address. And we hear now that there are moves going on to provide counter-guarantees for several other projects in this country. We would like to know what the Government's policies and programmes are.

Our esteemed friend, Shri Ram Naik has come...*(Interruptions)* There are some exceptions within the circle and all are my friends, fortunately. All are my dear friends. But some have given it up very easily, some have little resistance.

Sir, the oil and telecom sectors are vital sectors for the country's future. Who are coming here in a big way and taking over these sectors - either foreign companies and monopolists or capitalists? This is a matter of great concern and we lodged our emphatic protest.

Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is a very important matter. We supported the Government and the hon. Prime Minister to sort out the differences in the Cabinet and in his Party. They called a Leaders' meeting after they had already decided to extend the cease-fire. But it was known that there were differences of opinion. The hon. Prime Minister wanted that the Opposition Parties should support the Government and he got the support because we feel that we should support. But we have always been saying that mere cease-fire cannot be the end to an itself, it can only be means to an end. The end is peace and progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. But what is being done?

Sir, when the matter came up before the Consultative Committee, on behalf of my Party, we had made that request. We had also mentioned the other day that what will be achieved by cease-fire unless there is a dialogue, unless there is a proper political initiative, trying to bring all political parties together; bring about a change in the atmosphere; trying to remove the suspicion of the people there? It can only be stepping stone. But, unfortunately, nothing is being done. There is a laxity in the security also.

Sir, our heart goes to the families of those who have been guarding our frontiers; who are trying to maintain peace for the losses they have suffered. There have been a number of killings, but the Government is totally oblivious of its obligation to bring about normalcy. We feel that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be given proper priorities, proper emphasis and proper attention so that they

are developed in a manner, which will be consistent with their rights.

14.43 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

Madam, so far as the foreign policy of this country is concerned, I do not know what will be the effect of the new Bush Administration. Shri Jaswant Singh has lost his great friend, Mr. Strobe Talbott. He had 11 to 12 meetings with him. Now, he has to start anew with some other Under Secretary of State. We had raised the question as to why our Minister of External Affairs spent so many hours meetings with an Under Secretary of State in the U.S. Government. Now, we do not know as to what has been achieved. But you are very happy if you can get the good wishes, the smile of Mr. George Bush, if not Mr. Bill Clinton.

Madam, what has happened to the Hirma Project? It was said that the U.S. Government wanted it. Prior to the hon. Prime Minister's visit, the U.S. Government expressed a desire that this project should be finalised. That is why the hon. Prime Minister's entourage had people of that group which is seeking to implement this project. You entered into an MoU just to keep them happy and keep your American friends happy.

Madam, we have lost our position in the Non-Aligned Movement. In the Third World, people used to look up to us with respect that the new India would provide the leadership to the developing countries, to the former colonies. We had the unique position of earning the respect and the support of the struggling people of the different underdeveloped and developing countries. Where do we stand today? What is our policy after the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which has been resurrected? What is our policy after the renewed bombing of Iraq? In these matters, complete silence is there and the Government is hardly taking any move. It is a complete reversal of policy of Non-Alignment. The foreign policy of the Government was India's foreign policy, but now you have made it a party's foreign policy. You never bothered about having a united foreign policy. Hardly have we even discussed the foreign policy on the floor of this House.

I submit that the President's Address tries to suppress more than it discloses. It has no sense of direction. It does not refer to the burning problems of the common people of this country. It has become just a parchment. It is treated as a parchment of promises which will never be fulfilled. The basic issues are omitted. The burning topics are being ignored. We cannot but express our total reservation about this Address. This does not mean any reflection

on the President, but in the Constitutional set up that we have, he has to read out the product of this Government, a Government which itself has not direction, a Government which somehow wants to remain in power. And the cementing force between them is to share the spoils. There is no commitment to the people as a whole. The emergence of the communal forces in this country and the emergence of the divisive forces in this country are spreading danger. The threat to disturb the communal harmony is extremely great and we must take notice of it. As such, we cannot but express our strongest reservation and our objection to the contents of the President's Address which has only become a formality and nothing else.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar)
: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The President's Address is the reflective index of the steps taken by the Government, its intentions and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government. I rise to thank Mr. President for delivering a concise speech throwing light on each aspect of the performance and intentions of the Government.

This Government has been running for the last one and a half years under the stewardship of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. During this period of one and a half year, the country has faced several natural calamities whether it be the problem of floods in Bengal, cyclone in Orissa or the catastrophic earthquake in Gujarat. The President's Address reflects the policies and the intention of the Government under these trying circumstances. Not only this but the President's Address also assumes importance in view of the fact that it has thrown light on the emergence of war like situation on our borders owing to the wrong policies presumed by our neighbouring countries and the growing phenomenon of intrusion and sponsored terrorism which is proving to be a threat to our internal security.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the Golden Jubilee Year of our Republic. I would like to say that the hopes and aspirations of the people have been reflected through the President's Address. I congratulate the Government and the hon. President for delivery an excellent Address. Reflective of the guidelines regarding the development of the farmers and the villages. The mention made in this Address of the various guidelines for the development of villages is indeed praise worthy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an elaborate discussion was held in the House over the recent earthquake which struck Gujarat. Several arguments and counter

arguments were made by the Members of the ruling party as well as the opposition. It is a fact that due to some immediate reasons, the Government could not extend the assistance in the desired magnitude but the intention and policy of the Government remained honest. There is no doubt about these fact that the kind of assistance and cooperation extended by various NGO's people from every nook and corner of the country, various neighbouring and other countries besides the involvement of all three forces i.e. Airforce, army and navy, was undoubtedly, due to the stewardship of hon. Atal Bihar Vajpayee.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, during the discussion pointed out that though the Government magnanimously provided the financial assistance to earthquake hit Gujarat, it did not do so in case of flood affected Bengal and the cyclone stricken Orissa. I would like to say Shri Somnath Babu that the intention of the Government is quite honest and it does not hold any bias towards any State. The Government have provided financial assistance as per the need of the hour. The Government never took a myopic view of the situation but thought of the entire country in this phase of crisis. Hence this allegation by hon. Chatterjee does not sound convincing. I would like to apprise the House that an all party meet was held under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister. The National Calamity Relief Committee constituted to deal with these natural calamities is undertaking the task of rehabilitation and the relief operations in a way efficient and speedy manner. The hon. Prime Minister has kept in touch with the entire situation and has constantly been issuing instructions to the effect of expediting the rehabilitation and restructuring work in Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the census operation has started in the country for the last fortnight. The population of our country has crossed a billion mark. In such a scenario, the Government after having received the correct and exact information of the population of the country, honestly intends to put a check on this uninhibited and alarming growth of population. However, the Government does not want to adopt the undemocratic and anti-people measures like those adopted during the emergency period to achieve the target in this regard. Rather the Government propose to formulate and pursue a definite policy in this regard. Besides, this Government is also committed to the welfare and upliftment of the women by providing them the opportunities to progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that it has been explicitly mentioned in the President's Address that the protection of the country from the internal aggression and internal disturbances is of

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paramount importance for the country. So far as the question of protecting the country from internal aggression is concerned, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Government have proved beyond doubt that no enemy can harm us. However, it is the internal disturbances in the form of terrorism and separatist movement which are a cause of concern for us. Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of our country but the intrusion by the Pak sponsored terrorists in that state is a constant source of headache for us. The Government have declared unilateral cease-fire and has shown its honest intention by doing so but we are yet to enjoy the fruits of this act. Our innocent citizens and soldiers are being killed. Sometimes we even get to know from the newspaper that the people belonging of a particular community are being forced to migrate out of their birth-land owing to these terrorist acts. Our neighbouring country is approving a nuisance to us by taking resort to diplomacy and crafty manoeuvres splashed with malafide intention. I am of the view that the steps like unilateral cease-fire should only be taken by the Government when they prove fruitful rather than counter productive. I am of the view that the Government should give befitting reply to these perpetrators of terrorism and separatism keeping in mind the foul play being resorted to by our neighbouring country so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir may feel secure. Today efforts to create an atmosphere of terror are being made through ISI. Pakistan is especially promoting the circulation of fake currency notes through ISI.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is claimed that the foreign policy of our country is successful. I accept that we have friendly ties with Russia and our ties with America have also been strengthened but we have failed to cement our bonds with our tiny neighbours like Nepal which has become the focal point of all ISI activities. The regions of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh contiguous to Nepal are also turning into a hot bed of ISI activities. I would like to submit to the Union Government to hold discussion with the Nepal Government for resolving the issues of contention and making joint efforts to check the ISI activities of sponsoring terrorism, intrusion, smuggling etc. or else the border areas contiguous to Nepal will remain disturbed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to draw your attention towards the use of a particular word in the President's Address to which I have an objection. It has been mentioned that the creation of three States namely Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand was one of the important events of the last year. Sir, the creation of these three States can not be termed

as an event and I have an objection to it. The motion seeking creation of these States were passed by respective legislative Assemblies of the concerned States while the Union Legislature i.e. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha also underlined their consent by passing the bill seeking the creation of these States. Hence it is beyond my comprehension as to why the word 'event' was used in this context. Moreover, nothing significant has been reflected in the President's Address to show as to what attitude the Union Government nurtures in regard to the upliftment and progress of the States. It is especially true in context of Bihar, the demand for a financial package for which was already going on.

15.00 hrs.

In his replies during the speech, hon. Minister of Home Affairs had said that the Government will take concrete steps for the development of Bihar. A long time has passed since then. No mention in the President's Address has been made about the financial package. The economic condition of Bihar is deteriorating day by day. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government to delete the word 'event' from the President's Address and to take firm and concrete steps for the development of Bihar. Merely talking about Bihar is not going to help this cause.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Bihar is affected with terrorism from earlier on owing to which Central Police Forces were deployed there but now these forces have been called back from that region after the division of the State. Due to it the people of this area extremely terrorised and fearful. Through you, I would like to submit that the Central Forces should be redeployed in the area of Central Bihar comprising Jahanabad, Gaya and Aurangabad so that people of that area may live in peace.

I would like to make one more submission regarding Bihar. An IAS named Ajay Kumar was killed in Palamu district of Bihar. However, this matter was put aside without any investigation having been made into it. This might be the first event of this kind wherein such a senior officer like S.P. is killed and the DGP does not visit the site of the incident. I smell a rat in the whole episode and I would like the matter to be reopened and properly investigated against the guilty persons. If the Government of Jharkhand do not think itself to be competent enough to probe into this case then it should handover the case of CBI so that the truth about the death of the S.P. may be revealed before the country. It is a very serious matter and I would like it to be taken seriously by you and the Government and hope that the Government will take necessary action in this regard.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Union Government and the President for it is mentioned in the President's Address that—

"Relations between Centre and the States have become friendly. It has helped in evolving better understanding and coordination. The Central assistance for modernisation of State Police Force has been increased from 200 crore rupees to 1000 crore rupees for the coming ten years on the basis of State giving equal amount of grants."

My congratulations for it since it is necessary to make the police administration active but at the same time I would request to spend most of this amount on imparting training. Arms can be made available, it is not to be said as it is the apex body but how will the Government teach the Police about ethics, how will the Government train them about honesty, this should be given a serious thought. The region to which I belong, I do not know what kind of training is imparted to the police force over there and which authority trains them? That is why I am saying that more attention should be paid on training and it will not do to provide them only with arms. Unless your soldiers are strong and trained, it would not be possible for them to encounter the terrorists.

Madam Chairperson, the issues relating to farmers and agriculture have been discussed here and the hon'ble President has expressed his gratitude towards the farmers and we do express our gratitude. We would like to draw the attention of the Government through you that a new policy has been declared for the farmers. I have read the agriculture policy and I feel that some what it has been modelled on the lines of America's policy. Therefore, the agriculture policy needs to be reformed since in America only 1 lakh people are engaged in agriculture while in India more than 30 lakh people are engaged in it. There are around 60-70 lakh people in this country who derive their livelihood from agriculture. Our policy as formed on the lines of America's Policy but it should have been kept in mind that in America, agriculture is done with a commercial viewpoint while in India it is not done only with a commercial viewpoint but people are culturally attached to it. People depend on it for their livelihood. They don't look upon it as an industry. Therefore, the Government should seriously consider the shortcomings of the agriculture and try to improve it.

Just a few days back, a discussion was going on the support prices. Recently, the prices of wheat have increased slightly which has sent waves of happiness among the farmers, but during the month of September, farmers all over the country, remained disturbed due to the situation in which they found themselves regarding paddy. The Government says that it is protecting the interests of the farmers by

increasing the custom duty on the goods from World Trade but it can not protect their rights by just increasing custom duty in competition with the world market, until we equip our farmers fully, nothing will happen. The World trade is there and the farmers should be told not only to lay emphasis on the production of wheat and rice but produce other crops also, otherwise they would face many problems due to decline in the prices of their traditional products which are easily available in the world market.

I would request you to be concerned about the farmers as the whole House is. I particularly wish to congratulate the Prime Minister as he has shown much concern about the welfare and development of villages and he has promised to provide 2500 crore rupees every year for the construction of roads in the villages. Moreover, I would like to make a request that there should be clear directions to spend this money. I do not know about the whole country and Bihar but I had attended a meeting of D.R.D. in Chapra convened by the Collector who was a lady. I was asked to give a list in this regard in that meeting. I gave a list. MLAs were also present in the meeting. I have a copy of the list for Chapra which has been sent by the Government of India. The list which I gave has not been mentioned. That list has vanished. It is a different list. I do not know anything about this list but it has been sent to Delhi. I wish there should be clear directions to spend the money provided by the Government. I would suggest that a master plan should be invited from each state and after receiving them and after taking the MP of the area into confidence a priority list should be prepared for the construction of roads, that would be better.

As far as fertilizer and public distribution are concerned, the Government has promised to contribute a lot but you should develop a coordination between the Central Government and the State Government regarding the distribution system. Until the distribution system is improved, its benefits will not reach the villagers for whom this policy is meant. This distribution system has many drawbacks. It is a fact that the things you send for poor persons are not getting the benefits meant for them. Everybody over here says that he is giving this much percent to the people. Your role is not very important regarding the improvement in distribution system because State Governments have to play their part in their respective States. Until you coordinate with the State Governments and get some control over the system, you would not be able to make the benefits reach the targetted people. Therefore, through you, I request that a coordination committee should be constituted to get this job done.

It has been mentioned here that we are making great advances in the field of communications and there is no doubt about it. We get to read numerous

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statements of the Minister of Communications in the newspapers but the condition of telecommunications is very bad in villages. The quality of work that was going on earlier has only declined. New exchanges are being opened to make the telecommunications facilities available to the people of villages. But, although machinery has been installed, there are no operators. One day, I asked the hon. Minister that you are setting up, the exchanges but there will not be any operators then who will operate them and how will the machines remain in perfect order? He replied that the Finance Minister has not sanctioned new recruitments. When recruitments are not to be done then why are you wasting the exchequers money by setting up new exchanges. It is my request that if you want to link villages and cities through telecommunication and if you want the rural populace to get the benefits of telecommunication facilities as the people in urban areas are getting then you have to recruit employees also alongwith setting up a new exchanges. Do not fire the workers who were hard working. Until they start operating the exchanges, people of rural areas will not get the benefits of telecommunication facilities.

I want to put up one more question. It has been written that there should be 24 hour T.V. transmission in Jammu and Kashmir and efforts have been made in this direction so that people may avail the benefits. It is a good thing. Television is informative but I would like to say that obscene presentation of women on television is wrong. If this policy continues then it may not affect the cities but it will definitely harm the villages. Cities are already under the influence of western culture. Now villages are also getting affected by it. Therefore, through you I request the Government that a ban should be imposed on obscene presentation of women atleast on Television. So that Indian culture is not adversely affected.

I will conclude my speech with this last sentence because I have to catch a train. Regarding highways. The Centre has approved new highways. When respected Nitish Kumar was incharge of this department, even then approvals were granted. But this is just a paper work and I can see that funds have not been allocated for this purpose. Many things have been said in the books that we are going to do this and we are going to do that. But the job will be done only when money is sanctioned. I request the Central Government that money should be sanctioned for atleast those highways regarding which notifications have been issued so that the highways may, be constructed.

With these words, I thank the hon. President for his Address and congratulate the Central

Government and hope that whatever they have written, they will follow in true letter and spirit and not limit themselves to paperwork only, show interest in the development of villages and fulfil the role of promoting the welfare of people in the villages

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the address by the hon'ble President is the policy document of the Government and the Cabinet. We would say that it was a statutory compulsion for the Government to make the President deliver an address full of wrong facts and untruths. The entire address is a pack of lies. This I shall disclose later. There are several issues which should have been incorporated in it. The hon'ble President has stated in his address, that the growth rate has been pegged at 9 percent. This is whole truth. Over the years the growth rate has increased from 6 percent to 7 percent only. However, the target of 9 percent is not realistic and can not be achieved. Therefore for what reasons the hon'ble President has been made to state this wrong fact. In fact there is no direction in this address and the whole Government is directionless. The allies in this Government can not function with collective responsibility. When I raised this question in the morning, I did not get the reply. When the Government itself is directionless, you can not find any direction in the address and the masses can not nurture any hopes and aspirations therefrom. The whole Government is completely directionless and I am afraid to say that the present Government has in fact, become symbol of corruption. A corrupt and directionless Government can not give any direction to the country and can not motivate its masses. Therefore, the targeted growth rate of 9 percent, other policy statements and announcements are pack of lies. Just now Shri Prabhunath Singh was praising this Government for good works being carried out in the villages but all these things are being said on the basis of Prime Minister office and Ministry of Finance. However, the bureaucrats of the Ministry, economic experts and the industrialists have categorically stated that this budget is not going to help achieve the growth target and expedite development process in the country. This has been reported by the newspapers and whole nation is well aware of it.

I would like to say it categorically that this is not economic reforms rather it is economic slavery. With these liberal economic policies, the external loan on the country has increased 8 fold in the last 10 years. 26 crore people have gone below the poverty line and one crore people engaged in small scale industries have been rendered jobless. Poor people, farmers and labourers have been worst hit by these liberal economic policies. Therefore, this is economic slavery of the country. Through this economic slavery, the political slavery of the country is nearing.

We are very much clear about the world trade Organisation, I had also raised this issue when this matter has come up and today also I would like to reiterate that the statement of the hon. President in which he has stressed upon that these policies which have become ageold now should be reviewed. Even people from the treasury benches are passing comments on the President Address in which he has said something about the poor, backward and downtrodden people what feel is that he has added something on his own and this is the sole reason that even people from the ruling side are criticising the hon. President. This is not fair, not proper. The President can at least give one direction, now it is another thing whether you follow it or not. That is why I would like to state on WTO issue that it is destroying agriculture and industries. Hon. Members sitting on that side are saying something or the other daily. Khuranaji is repeatedly uttering something and as and when he is given a chance to express his point, he never turns up, out of fear of the Prime Minister or something else. The other day when he got a chance, he did not turn up. At that time, I was speaking, Chandrashekharji and Somnath Chatterjee were also speaking, then Khuranaji came to know that we are discussing about the small scale industries coming up in trans yamuna area he peeped in and saw that hon. Prime Minister has sitting there so, he thought if he say something in this regard then this could annoy the Prime Minister, so he left the House. Perhaps he is doing all this because of the temptation of becoming a Minister. Just now, Prabhunath Singh ji has saying that his train is about to leave and as he has visit his village on the occasion of Holi. Even I have to go. I had asked to postpone this discussion further and we could take up something else. We were prepared for that, but it did not happen. You can very well see that none of our Members is sitting there. The congress which is such a big party, it too have only seven to eight members present at this moment. Therefore, this discussion is of no use. Some time could have been spared for this purpose. Uttar Pradesh, which is such a big state, and block level elections are likely to take place there. Our Members cannot come here leaving those elections but we were not taken into confidence. That is why we said that there should be no meeting today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that no provision has been made to contain increasing unemployment in the country. Just now, Hon. Prime Minister has issued dangerous statement, which even has a mention in the budget speech that there would be ten percent retrenchment every year so far as Central Government employees are concerned. Where they would be absorbed after retrenchment for this no provision has been made. If this goes on,

although it is not going to happen, but if this Government continues for ten years then no Government employee will be left there for the next 15-20 years. People from foreign companies will be there and the unemployment burden on the country will be more. That is why we want to warn the government that this may lead to giving way for laying foundation to a new extremist cult which will be difficult to control in the years to come. This all show as to what would be your policies for future. You are making disinvestments and this can't be called disinvestments but an act to auction the country's wealth and property. I would like to submit with regret that this is the first government which is selling the country's immovable property. Everyone knows that Hindustan Lever is well known for fast food and that its property was worth Rs. 500 crore only. If a little attention was paid this could be increased by Rs. 125 crore more but it was not done and it was sold for just a meagre amount of Rs. 125 crore.

We had a wide ranging discussion on BALCO in the House. Its one component alone is worth Rs. 1300 crore. Its total property/assets would be worth about Rs. 4000 to 5000 crore. Insurance corporation is one of the best corporations of the world. It is a profit earning Corporation, not blemished with corruption. It was freed from the Clutches of few moneylenders and taken up to the villages. The villages share more than 50 percent in this. It was also sold by the Government. This Government is selling profit earning institutions, the country is being auctioned. All the public sector institutions running in loss are not being sold because there is no buyer. Thus, all the profit making Government institutions are being sold. Their budget is a deficit financing budget that is why it is augmenting all the sales deeds. Even the State Governments are so enthusiastic about it. What they are thinking is that if disinvestment is done then this deficit can be made up by making a provision in the budget. Please tell us about the extent of development which took place in the past ten years and benefits accrued by the poor people from it?

We are still making an appeal through the House to the Government that agriculture be first excluded from WTO. There is a provision of its exclusion by serving a six months notice. Steps will have to be taken and are being taken to make the country self-reliant.

I am citing the example of Iraq in the House where there are no medicines, needle, an ordinary pen but for the pride and prestige of its country, it is not knowing in front of an imperialist capitalist country. These people are kneeling down in front of everybody. The manner in which the property of our forefathers is being sold here. These institutions were raised

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after spending millions and billions and this practice continued for years. How much disinvestment has been made so far? If we have been doing it for the last ten years then where it has gone? House should be told about it because the economic liberalisation policy should have had at least be mentioned in the President's Address. Which loss incurring institution has been sold by the Government? They are all profit making. Nobody is going to buy institutions running in loss and whether target fixed for disinvestment has been achieved? As per my knowledge only 41 percent disinvestment has been done during the ten years. The poor, the working class of our country are becoming indifferent. Our agricultural production is decreasing. Our agriculture is getting ruined, therefore it is not disinvestment. This is the measure the Government can adopt in a big way to auction the property of the country and the Government is doing that. Today you see that right from pharmaceutical industries to insurance companies, about which I have already stated, all are going into foreign hands as a result of which no poor person can purchase such expensive medicines for curing his illness. We also take medicines. Recently I had a sore throat when I thought to purchase medicines from the nearby shop and supposed it to be of Rs. 250-300. I came to know that one capsule was of Rs. 95. I am speaking the truth. I did not know that the medicine would be so expensive.

The Government has patented the turmeric. Turmeric is a very good anti-biotic. When a child is born in a village our sisters would over their fever etc. by eating the 'Halwa' made from turmeric only. Ultimately what is the compulsion, who is compelling us to get the turmeric patent. It should also be stated that ultimately what were the compulsion that you allowed the patent of Basmati rice? Somehow Neem was saved. The Government has made arrangement to sell the immovable property of the country. This will not be an economic slavery but political slavery will come through it and has all along been coming through it. The same method was adopted by the East India Company to rule our country. We have been reiterating this fact time and again that country will have to be saved and we are here to save the country. Now the only excuse made by the Government for every incident is the I.S.I. I would like to know whether Prime Minister would intervene in this discussion? I would like to ask him whether India is being run by I.S.I. or he is running it? If some sabotage occurs, it is said that ISI is behind this mischief. If somewhere riot spreads, it is said that it is the handiwork of ISI. If somewhere major dacoity takes place in a train it is called the act of ISI. If ISI is doing everything then I would like to ask whether the country is being run by the ISI or this Government? If the ISI is doing everything then what this Government is doing, why

are you sitting? How many ISI men have been caught by you? You took the big leaders of ISI in plane and left them in Kandhar. The Minister of External Affairs took them to Kandhar. This Government kowtowed before the Taliban also. Now why don't you speak about Taliban? Where all those people went who used to say that they would speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Taliban is destroying Buddhist statues. The present Government is the weakest of all. The Governments formed so far such a weak Government has never been there in the country till date. I am too young to the Prime Minister I cannot say any unpleasant word. I would like Chandra Shekharjee to say, something as he is Chandra Shekhar's friend and at times he considers him his 'Guru' as well. There is a little difference between his and your age. He can say to the Prime Minister as to why he is so weak and what sort of decisions he takes and what Chandra Shekharji suggest to him. He wants to raise the country against ISI. We are in favour of ceasefire and we have supported it. I am saying this because today morning this question was raised time and again. Sir, when Bangladesh was not formed, then also we had said that India and Pakistan should be integrate. This partition is artificial. If unity is not possible, then there should be good relations under a working confederation. We again want to say that we are the supporters of ceasefire but not at the cost of continued killings of the innocent civilians and the soldiers of the country. We are not in favour of truce if attacks on army camps continue innocent civilians and soldiers are killed. We are in favour of peace. If friendship with Pakistan is established and we want friendship with them. We want friendship with Bangladesh also. We want that three countries in which the interest and prosperity of these three countries rest, but we are not in favour of truce at the cost of the attacks on innocent civilians and on the army camps. Whether truce will restore after getting 5 lac more soldiers killed. You please rethink how long you will maintenance the truce. You were great patriot, opponent of Pakistan and if we have asked for financial assistance to Pakistan, we have been declared Pakistani agent. We are not agents of Pakistan. We had said in Mumbai that Pakistan is economically weak in comparison to our country, Pakistan will go into the hands of another country. We had also said that if we make this offer to Pakistan, they can refuse to take assistance, but the citizens of Pakistan will acknowledge that India is their friend in difficulty, adversity. We had said for creating a conducive atmosphere. It is true that persons occupying chair will not allow friendship between India and Pakistan, because they are anxious to save their chair. It may be the Government of Atalji in India or some one else, all those, who are making alliance, are doing so to save their chairs.

Even Parvej Musharf in Pakistan, is also engaged in cursing Hindus of the Hindustan, so as to save his chair. Here Hon'ble Prime Minister is engaged in it, so as to save his chair. The persons, who are holding these positions, would never allow Hindustan and Pakistan to be friends of each other.

So far as the question of earthquake is concerned, the people from all over the world helped during earthquake that occurred in Gujarat. Even our enemies also sent assistance. Even the morale of the Government boosts for providing help during the hour of need and it was a good chance to have friendship with Pakistan. We should have responded immediately that even our enemy like Pakistan has helped us and whenever the people of Pakistan will be in such a difficulty, we would stand up with them and provide even ten times help. Was there any difficulty in responding to their assistance sent by them. If Mulayam Singhji says, so the pistol of Mahatma Gandhi is lying ready. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, these are the feelings of the persons holding position in this Government. We made a speech in Mumbai, so as to save Pakistan from going in the hands of rich countries. But thereafter we procured sugar amounting to Rs. 1300 crores from Pakistan. From whom the sugar was procured. It was procured from the sugar mills belonging to the relatives of Nawaj Shariff. We are taking tea prepared by their sugar. What type of atmosphere are you creating and how it would be formed? You are talking about creating a congenial atmosphere. The leader of your Vishav Hindu Parishad passes sermon that the assistance given by the Pop should be returned. I would like to ask as to where you want to take the country. Are you being honoured at the international level. Whether you have such type of leader? In this bold letters it is printed that the earthquake relief sent by the Pope should be rejected, Singhal has said so. We do not know who is Singhal... (*Interruptions*) You must be knowing. You do adore him. We do not know who is Singhal is it a good statement, it has been denied? He has said that the assistance sent by the Pope should be returned. What is the mentality behind it? Then he is saying so and if Pakistan has sent us assistance help and you cannot even praise him what impact it will leave on the people of that country. Lal Bahadur Shastri has raised the whole country in a simple war by giving the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" and you could not raise the country during even earthquake and the Kargil war. You could not raise the country because you can come to power by inciting communal feeling among the people, you can occupy high posts, but with communal harmony in India or in world you, cannot do so while occupying chair. It is true that you have formed the Government. You were able to do so only by flaring communal sentiments among the people. Therefore today I want

to say that there is major crisis before the country and in such a situation the Government should withdraw from World Trade Organisation immediately. We should protect our farmers and by taking all party in confidence the economic liberalisation policy should be reviewed with a view to ensure as to what extent it has benefitted the country and helped in the development of village.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

You are making the education costly. This is your conspiracy to deprive the poors of education. You are continuously changing the syllabus. You are making the books costlier. You have increased the student fees to a great extent. What is to be included in the history? You want to rewrite the history. By doing so, you want to spread hatred in this country. You are trying to present Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav as Non-Hindu in the history who killed the Hindus just like birds in Ayodhya. This is what is being taught in the schools. This syllabus is being incorporated in the books. It is being propagated in speeches that you are running a coalition Government. Shri George is not present here at the moment. I don't know what has happened to Shri Paswanji. Why is he supporting the Government? Therefore, we urge you that a thorough review of economic reforms should be done. The present economic policy should be reviewed by calling a meeting of leaders of all the parties. You talk of consensus and give threat in the speech. How dare you threaten? I am very much surprised over your anger. I asked the Prime Minister twice in the last session as to why he is angry. We want to hear your view. You want to create such an atmosphere in the House. We only want to listen to Prime Minister. He speaks well. I have listened to his fiery speech and will listen in the future as well. The people have not levelled an allegation that facts have been ignored. How can you run the country on consensus in this manner? The Government says that Kashmiri Militants do not attack rather it is Pakistani terrorists who attack. The senior Minister and Prime Minister say that Pakistani terrorists attack, not the militants of Kashmir. If Pakistani terrorists attack in Kashmir is it not the attack of Pakistan? If not, then what it is? Why do you not accept it. That the attack of Pakistani terrorists is the attack of Pakistan itself. When Atom-Bomb was tested you had claimed that our country had acquired nuclear power and we should note the time, date and location of this event. Now where is your Atom Bomb? Has Pakistan been frightened by your Atom Bomb?

They say that the image of India at the international forum has improved a lot and the image

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of Pakistan has worsened. If the image of Pakistan has got damaged, could you get it declared a 'terrorist state' and if the image of India has improved, could you get the economic sanctioned removed? It will be better if Hon. Prime Minister is listening to me. Do not create your own image. If you solve the problem of Kashmir, the problem of local people there; the problem of road and transport; the problem of poverty and unemployment; your image will be created automatically. If you could make your image in the eyes of people of Kashmir, who once had accepted to be a part of India by rejecting the Two-Nation theory of Jinna, they will themselves annihilate the terrorism. You are not engaged in annihilating terrorism rather you are engaged in creating your own image. We want that you should create an image in the hearts of farmers. But you are more worried in creating your image on international level.

One more Prime Minister had created his image. When we were students, China had attacked India and this Prime Minister's image was destroyed completely. In the same manner he is also engaged in creating his own image. I would like to ask what is your image in the hearts of labourers, farmers, students of the country and people of Kashmir. You have no image rather you are looked down upon. Everyone knows what is your image. So do not challenge.

This is right that Pakistan has been successful in its intentions. It had said that by intrusion in the valley terrorists want to give freedom to the people repressed in Kashmir. It has been successful in its intentions. Now it depends upon you what decision you take. We were called in the name of ceasefire. But when we asked, it was replied that there was no ceasefire at all. We said that now the Prime Minister will have to explain because we people were called to discuss issue of cease-fire. He will have to tell whether it is ceasefire or something. We all people were called in the name of ceasefire only. I told my journalist friends that today onwards they should not use the word ceasefire. They should try to find another technical word for it. It is very clear that there are serious differences between Prime Minister and Home Minister. Over the issue the Prime Minister favours the ceasefire but the Home Minister does not. Even the Home Minister says so that we know and understand that Pakistan would not desist even after this ceasefire. Was this news not published in the newspapers? You can deny it if you want to, but would you deny it? What message has been conveyed to the public? The message is conveyed at first day even if you give any clarification in this regard. This is old convention. I have come across a number of people who first give statement and later on deny

it. I see such a situation everyday and know about it. Such persons change their statements later on. Why are playing with the security of the country in this manner? That is why I said that this is a directionless Government.

Now I would like to say about Mahakumbh. The Hindus visit Allahabad on the occasion of Mahakumbh in the same manner as Muslims go to Mecca-Medina for Haj pilgrimage. A 'Dharma Sansad' is Mahakumbh. What decisions were taken in it? A large number of foreigners visited Mahakumbh. Why do Hindus in such large number visit Allahabad and what is the reason behind it? Many people across the world visited Kumbha. A seed of hatred was sowed in the Dharma Sansad of the Mahakumbha. That was not Dharma Sansad, it was rather a Adharma Sansad. It has put a question mark on the Mahakumbha festival in holy city like Allahabad. Should we go there or not? I do not want to say anything in this regard. But one thing is clear that it has resulted in shrinking the faith of people towards it. The crores of Hindus took a holy dip there. What will it result? Even Rome-born congress leader also visited the place. But God knows why she went there? The leaders of congress party advised her to visit the place? I know that she was sent there despite refusal of local administration. So there was no fault of this congress leader in it. I do not believe that she was at fault in any way. But congress leaders did not tell her that a holy dip should be taken in the Mahakumbha. That is why she sprinkled some water on herself. In the villages the people say that water is sprinkled on other persons in case of someone's death. She went there and got herself sprinkled with water. You did not tell her that only a holy dip is taken there. After sprinkle of water where she went and what kind of Shankaracharya she approached for blessing? She approached that Shankaracharya whom I had sent jail. She went to have blessing from him. That is why I say that you should change your policies. Both of you are same. Did she not do so in mahakumbha? That Shankaracharya incited communalism and jeopardised the unity of the country in Adyodhya in 1990. I was compelled to send this Shankaracharya in jail. I have respect for him. He is a freedom fighter. We have delivered speech from the same dais. I respect him. I had clearly said that country is more important than Shankaracharya. Nothing can be more important than the country. At that time I could not take Shri Chandrashekhar in confidence.

I got him arrested and sent him to jail. The leader of Congress went to seek the blessings of the Shankracharya. I would like to ask you whether you people will fight against communalism?

SHRI SATYAVRATA CHATURVEDI (KhjuraHo) :
Have you never touched the feet of Shankracharya?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have never touched his feet and will never do so. Tell everyone that I have never touched his feet and will never do so in future. I have full faith and regards for Shankracharyas. Our friend from Congress should not compel me to speak as to what the Congress Government did. We are suffering due to that. You have formulated policies and this Government is implementing them speedily. It is clear from it that they are expeditiously implementing those policies. Some people tell me that you repent on formulating these policies and that is why I keep silent.

If you ask many questions then I will be constrained to disclose that you seek the blessings, your head touched with their feet neither. I have full faith in the saints but I will not let my head touched with his feet nor I have never touched the feet of any Shankracharya. I have very good opinion about Shankracharya in my heart. He has tried to unite the country. It is due to our Indian culture that people belonging to all the religion live here. Due to this culture our country is being called a great country. Our's was a country which used to pay regard to all the religious but now what has been done by some people belonging to the BJP sitting in the Government? Now they say that Islam is being Indianised, what is it? I would like to ask you whether you want to go for Indianisation of Islam? I want that at least of this Sangh Privar should be Indianised. Whether it is Indianisation? Do you consider me a Hindu? The Sangh family in 1990 had announced that only one who is devotee of Ram can enter the Ayodhya Temple - what does it mean? Who will give us the certificate of being a devotee of Ram? You know that how much they opposed me in Ayodhya issue? When I say that make friendship with us and both the communities should hold the panchayat jointly or let the court decide, then they say that it is the question of their belief and sentiments. When Government was compelled to open fire, then it was said that not water but blood is flowing in Suryu. You people told such a big lie. Nobody can contest you in speaking lies? I alongwith the entire nation came to know that you told such a big lie. You feed milk to the idols of the entire world. Whether the idols consume milk? It was good that the scientists and journalists did their job and said that when someone takes food he must be attending to the call of the nature. I would like to ask as to when the idols attend the call of nature? This country was put to such a high hypocrisy. The people were deceived and a joke was made with the country. Is it religion? Communal people can never be religious and religious people can never be communal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask to the people belonging to the BJP that when Gautam Buddha came, was Islam in existence at that time? Islam

religion came at a very later stage. At that time there was Jain religion, Bodh religion and Hindu religion. Whatever is being done by Taliban is all due to the weakness of the Government and the leadership of the country. They are doing so due to the inactive BJP Government. I severely condemn this action of the government. Today what is the repute of India in Asia? Is there any reputation? No country can dare to challenge the nation, whose line you have been toeing. It drops missile in Afghanistan. What pressure you exert and how can you do that? Do you follow Gautam Budha? Did not the Shankaracharya of this country demolish the stupas and got the temples constructed? When you would not follow preaching of Gautam Budha and had killed Gandhiji then what can you expect from Taliban? Will that country follow you or submit to your pressure? Letters were written at international level but could you got demolition stopped? Yes. Had you been powerful, had there been your pressure and had there been the strong leadership in India then Taliban would not have the courage to do so. I agree to what has been said by Chandrashekharji. I do not like those who have made the statement that whatever is going on in Taliban is right. I would like to know that when the people who are called Hindus in this country can assassinate Gandhiji, who can get the temples constructed by demolishing the Buddh stupas. Will our colleagues from BJP ponder over it? It has been done in our country but if Taliban does that then we condemn it. But again we admit that it has all happened due to the weakness of the Government. Due to the weakness of the leadership of the Government your reputation has got tarnished which has become clear from the Taliban incident. You write letter and give statement. If you had courage then the incident of Taliban would have never occurred. Had there been everything right, had you followed Gautam Buddha and had not you killed Mahatma Gandhi then Taliban could not have done so. First of all you ponder over it seriously as to where the traditions were set. Whatever is being done by Taliban is not being done in retaliation. Had they done so we could have condemned. If the Government has courage then it should stop them and we will support you and the country will be united against the deeds of Taliban. We are the supporters of Gautam Buddha. Socialist movement and Samajwadi Party are influenced by the thoughts of Gautam Buddha. We are that sort of people. It is said about our country that it is a country of Gandhi and Gautam but you have tried to eliminate both of these. You do not have the face to oppose Taliban. Only the people belonging to the Samajwadi party can do so. You do not have the courage. BJP do not have the moral courage. Where do you want to lead the country and where it is going today? A serious situation cropped up in the country after the Ayodhya issue but why that has not been mentioned

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in this address, while people belonging to your party are challenging that they will get the temple constructed by the next March. Why does not the Prime Minister make a clear statement in this regard? He should tell clearly as to what is his opinion. When he comes here he should be informed. I will come here to listen him. Irrespective of my business I have come to know that he will deliver his speech on 13th. I will be here otherwise I would not be here on 13th. I would like to listen him as to what is his opinion about the Ayodhya issue. Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Sangh Parivar are challenging that the temple would be constructed in the next March, he should tell his opinion about that. Why it has not been included in address of Hon'ble President?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The reply is not on 13th, it is on 12th March.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want that reply should come. Otherwise I was not interested to speak. I knew that nothing should be uttered on this topic today but even then with your direction I am constrained to say in this House that the congenial atmosphere of this country, the unity and integrity of the country and the borders are not safe under your leadership due to terrorism which is rampant from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, it has been proved by your weak leadership. Red Fort was attacked, your soldiers were killed and terrorists fled away after killing them. Then you give vent out your anger on the Muslims. It was said that Aligarh University is the base of ISI activities. The DIG there ordered for its closure. Nadwan was also called the base of ISI. Firing was resorted to at the students there and seven students were arrested and being brought to the Red Fort. You cannot safeguard the country and you cannot keep the country united. You cannot save the country from the economic slavery.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very sad that under the pressure of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and America, the laws are being enacted against the interests of the farmers of the country, while the laws favourable for the farmers of the foreign countries are being enacted. There is Lok Sabha in India. Today Lok Sabha is not under our pressure. It is under the pressure of World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Foreign companies and America. The Government is working under their pressure. Government is running after these rich countries. Would you say that you are against them? Do you want to lag behind in international competition? No, you do not want so. We want to go along in international competition, rather we want to lead in that. But Samajwadi Party would not allow India to become a blind follower. You are a blind follower. You are behaving like servants. When

American President Bill Clinton came in Central Hall, some of your members were ready to touch his feet. I saw it in the Central Hall. Sir, we stood behind. When he was going out of the Hall, many persons were eager to touch his feet. Is this your self-respect?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : They were in front.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They were also there. I am saying so far them also. We stood near our seat waiting for his departure. But you were eager to touch his feet. I have seen it.

16.00 hrs.

Is this the self-respect of the country? BJP cannot save the respect of the country and neither can it guard the borders of the country. You made Kargil the election issue. I am sorry to say that you fought a war on the land of Mother India. I was the Defence Minister. My statement used to at that time agitate the minds of the people as I had made it clear that if someone dared to touch the borders of India, the war would be fought on the land of the enemy, not on our land. But you fought on the land of our country, got our Military men sacrificed and then you observe victory day. We know why you do so. You want to run the country on the basis of falsehood. I want to say that the Government should change its policies and it should convene an all party meeting and change its policies and agriculture should be excluded from WTO otherwise our country would face difficulty. If development of roads is not and electricity is not available, we may tolerate but the whole of the country is ready to co-operate in regard to the respect, unity and defence of the country. So, the Government should change its policies. If our country becomes weak economically, the pressure of the World Bank, Foreign Companies and IMF would increase on our country. It is a conspiracy of the rich countries. They are investing money in instalments. A noble Minister Ram Naikji is present here. After going through the facts he should tell whether investment has been made here as per the target? They make investment in instalments, make profit and take it away.

I want to give an example that the whole of the textile trade here has come to standstill. Even 4 per cent cotton textile is not being exported as per agreement. In the export of iron, there is a decrease of about 1300-1400 crore rupees. Review all these things and then consider over changing your policies. Come out of the membership of the international market. We can give up the membership of World Trade Organisation after giving notice of six months. If it is necessary, you can sell off the loss making undertakings. But you are selling off profit earning ones. I know it because no one would take the loss

making undertakings. You have won the election and want to run the Government for five years. Would you sell office Lok Sabha also? If I talk about selling off Lok Sabha, you would say that it is unparliamentary language. If I oppose it, you would say that you are doing unparliamentary work. If Lok Sabha is sold in India, we would oppose it even in unparliamentary way. Then we would not listen to it that it is unparliamentary and undignified. We are prepared to do so for the sake of the country.

So, I appeal that you should change the policies and I reiterate that farmers should be saved and a review may be done as to what has been achieved or lost during the 10 years of economic liberalization. Save the small scale industries. No one is buying the loss making undertakings but profit-making undertakings are being sold off. Stop it, do not sell of those undertaking which were set up by investing millions of rupees by our forefathers. You have let down the prestige of the country by selling off its immovable property. So, we feel that President's Address is nothing but bundle of lies.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Sir, first of all I congratulate the President of India. When the dignity of the country was at stake, when big guns of the country were ready to touch the feet of the foreigners, at that time the President of India said that the world is becoming a village but we had never accepted that someone would be the head of this village. This statement was criticized very much. I am sorry to say that the Government of India also did not consider it necessary to make a statement in this regard to save the respect of the President of India. The opposition leaders also thought it proper to keep mum on this issue because of that time a new star emerged...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We were not among them...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I do not know as to who were or who was not among them...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It should be ascertained...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : If you were not among them, it is good, but I think that no economic and political policy can be effective if it does not save the dignity, glory and respect of the country. President has a prominent place in the Parliamentary democracy. If President of some other country comes here and say that our soldiers did not save our borders but it was done through his order, there can not be anything of more insult than this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when this address was being read out in the Central Hall of Parliament, our hon'ble

President had said that our aim behind the policy of liberalization would be development in the country, equality, a new morning in the lives of the poor and there would be a wave off development in the whole of the world. Shri Mulayam Singhji has said first now that and it is true that their policies are being implemented in our country for the last 10 years. One or one and half year earlier I had written a letter to the Prime Minister of India that nine years have passed, now we should sit and evaluate as to what we have achieved or lost. From the address of the President, which has been prepared by the Government, it appears that the country is heading towards gloomy future. Whatsoever dreams of development were there in the country, all those have remained only dreams. Small scale industries of our country have been eliminated and cottage industries closed. The factories which were established by our forefathers with their labour and hard work are being closed. The Government was declared last year that the property worth Rs. 10,000 crores of these factories will be sold out.

Shri Manohar Joshi is sitting here. Some people have opposed this but sell of property continued. I am sorry to say that I have never heard any statement of the Prime Minister of India that we will revive those factories we will create new capacity in these factories. He has been saying that the work of disinvestment will be accelerated. Other day, our Finance Minister was making a statement. He was also reiterating this fact that inspite of every efforts of selling we could not collect money. We had expected ours is a such country where we have a Minister who will see role of industries. The name of this in English is Disinvestment Minister. Shri Arun Shourie is our old friend. He is quite young and we had great expectations from him. We have a saying in our villages that a boy who sells his father's property is an unaorthy person. But he is a worthy man who is selling the property of this country one by one.

Just now, Shri Mulayam Singh mentioned the name of Shri George Fernandes. He is an old friend of ours. I can feel his agony with which he is holding his chair because I know that a man who has sacrificing his life for the sake of his country and if he has restrictions, he has been provided no facilities for doing his work of fighting we can not forget his difficulties. This is also a fact that our army is well disciplined. This is also a fact that on the order of our Defence Minister, our 450 soldiers have laid down their lives in Kargil. But this is also a fact that we could cross our border. We were ready to sacrifice our soldiers because the whole world was saying that if we cross those borders of Kargil which is our line of control then there will be full fledged. At the

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

time of atomic test which were conducted at Pokhran, George Sahib you were not informed. I know one of your colleagues had thrown a challenge to Pakistan and wanted to know the place and time suitable for Pakistan for fight. They forgot that they are members of our family. If we can make a mistake then they can also make a mistake. We have conducted five nuclear tests and they have conducted six tests. Now you have forgot those differences and proceeded for Lahore Agreement in a bus. Governing the country is not child's play. When we had not conducted atomic test, at that time our strength was five times more than Pakistan. Now we are equals. Either they can destroy us by first use of nuclear bomb or we can destroy them by doing. Shri George Fernandes is present here. He believes in quick action. Probably he will act before them. But when a bomb is dropped at Lahore what will happen. Once I said in this House that we should see as to what effect it will have on Amritsar. We should think about this. I would not like to say that thing. People fight the battle with courage. But everything is spoiled by one step taken by you.

What is ceasefire in Kashmir. I do not know who has declared this ceasefire. This ceasefire is for our soldiers and army only. Killings are taking place everyday. This is not happening in Kashmir only it is happening in Nagaland also. I used to have a dialogue with people like Farookh Abdullah or Jamir Sahib. No one might have felt their feelings but George Fernandes can feel them. He has just come in at the right moment. Therefore I request you to remember those days when these people look at you will hope. They thought that India as a powerful country will not only save herself but she will give an assurance to the poor countries also that if they are in pain and agony, India will be there to help them. Today we are absolutely helpless. I have mentioned these things in the beginning because seeking George Sahab reminded me old times. But if you look at the economic condition of our country, then this document which Hon'ble President has read in one hour, is very much confusing. How long shall we remain in such confusion. All know that the last ten years, since these policies were implemented during this Government's tenure as well as the period of previous small scale industries have been closed down. Where are our cottage industries. What is condition of our weavers, craftsmen, blacksmiths. Where is their art, what is the condition of Arts of Adivasis villages. After all, India was the richest country of the world before the arrival of Britishers. There were no multi-national companies, there were farmers. There were not big plants but we had skilled people who were spread all over India and they used to create wealth. Their products used to be sold throughout the world. Suddenly one thing was spread in India when Mahatma Gandhi came to India to fight

against Britishers. Mr. Gokhale told Mahatma Gandhi: Go to villages and recognize the strength of villagers and with their inspiration you can build new Hindustan. Gandhiji had urged the tradition and strength of rural India. He infused a new life into a country which was inactive and from 1914 to 1942 Gandhiji infused a new strength and raised a weaponless country fight against British colonialism who gave the slogan of "do or die" and "Quit India" may not have any mention in Government's files but still his voice can be heard in every part of India. This voice can be heard not only in the heart of Indian but also in the hearts of the people of the world. I remember day Mahatma Gandhiji died. At time Einstein said that one day people of the world would remember that such a lean person was born in this world. At that time Mr. Romya Rola told if ever the world will think when was human civilization and culture begun, name of only one country will come to mind and that is India. Gandhiji has given courage to such country. In 1991, an attempt was made to lower that courage and it is still going on today. It is said that we are helpless, if people of other countries do not give us money then nothing can be done in our country. Why do we need money. What is the use of money that we have received. George Sahab, do you remember, we opposed Cocacola in the year 1977 and Mr. George Fernandes who introduced 77 has now become George who is welcoming Pepsi and Cocacola. It is painful that intention of our forces is not good but our farmers are diligently farming the land and have made our country self-sufficient in agriculture. I think our farmers have faced many problems and still made India self-dependent in many fields. In the past we could not make even small pin but now India's is among 13 industrial countries. George Sahab, you remember that day when you called for railway strike. Thousands of workers got ready and now if the same workers are not agreeing to the sell of BALCO. You approach Supreme Court and act as agent of this company and ask for permission to send force there. You want to compel them to work on the basis of gun power and political power. This is not your company. Remember, this company belongs to a capitalist. A friend of the capitalists has raised this question. On behalf of capitalists disinvestments Minister tells us how to run this country. He tells us as how favouritism is done how the Government at Centre works. Where was the Central Government when bureaucrats did whatever they wished. You may criticise the speech of Somnath Chatterjee. However, I would not use that language but when a Government officer openly gives an interview and that is published in the newspaper and when the Member of National Executive of your party, which is a major party has been referring to the deeds of the Prime Minister's Office on TV daily for the last two months, then where is the Information Ministry, the Department of Information and the PMO,

why those things are not refuted? If that is not refuted then why a young man gets agitated when our friend, Somnath Chatterjee makes a mention of that. You can suppress the feeling of the people by showing anger, you can get any resolution passed with majority in the Parliament, but friends, remember one thing that the revolutions in the world, never occur as a result of the resolutions of the Parliament and the judgement of the Supreme Court. The people choose the way of revolution by setting aside the judgement of Supreme Court and the Parliament also keeps mum. Today whatever is going on in BALCO is not a good sign. If a Chief Minister challenges than the Government approaches the Supreme Court. The Government do not think of coming before the Parliament and the Union Cabinet and tell them that this work is not been done. But the Government approaches the Supreme Court. A day will come when the Supreme Court may ask you to resign. The Supreme Court can impose restrictions on you one day. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg your pardon. I have seen many times in this Parliament that the summons of the High Court and the Supreme Court have been ignored by the people occupying this Chair, which you are holding today. It is said that the person occupying the chair is not bound to comply with the orders of the court. I have written to the hon. Speaker that I feel that the rights and duties of the person holding that post is decided by the Parliament only. The Supreme Court can neither reduce it nor it can increase it. But today the Government which have failed to do the duty has been working forward to that only. It is creating fear among the people. It is not a good sign that the country which was not afraid of the British imperialism is being cowed down by this legal gimmick. I would like to submit whatever sector one casts his glance over, they one by one including industries face closure. It was said that the companies running in losses would only be sold. Ten thousand crore rupees would be collected. Then it was said that there is none to purchase the company running in losses and therefore, the companies earning profit would also be sold. Our hon. Disinvestment Minister who is not present here made a statement in this regard. That was supported by our friend, who is the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Is it your property? Today you are in power, but tomorrow you may not be in power. Suppose tomorrow any other person becomes Prime Minister, any other party comes to form Government, then what will happen to this country if you sell those companies. What will be the situation? Today, you are making such policies which lead to further worsen the problems of the poor country. The policies of present Government are responsible for pushing the country to such a situation.

A few days back, the Chief Minister of poor states and Chief Minister of rich state began challenging

each other on the issue of the report of 11th Finance Commission. Such things have never happened during the last 50-52 years, but it is your grand success. My friend Mulayamji observed that I used to call Atalji as Gurudev. I have no hesitation in calling him even now as 'Gurudev' but remember that Arjun was compelled to use his bow and arrow even against his Guru Dronacharya. Therefore, I am asking in which direction the country is being led to in which embarrassing situation you want to land the country? Today, foreigners are openly dictating that which agriculture policy we should adhere to, what should be done with our workers. Government will ask nothing if a company employing upto one thousand workers is closed down. Where is the courage once characterised trade union leader George Fernandes. Manohar Joshi, I would like to ask you, you are responsible for the condition of those workers.

I was in favour of nationalisation of Banks. At that time, I had said that nationalisation of banks are essential because capital is flowing from poor areas to rich areas, it is being accumulated in the hands of a few capitalists which is leading to regional imbalance and to check that trend, nationalisation of Bank was essential. There were a few shortcomings in the nationalisation of banks. Bank employees also committed a few mistakes but whether it is not a fact that Banks helped lakhs of people to buy tractors for farmers buying pumps, for opening shops to small traders, whereas earlier only 14 families have permission to use the capitals of the Bank. The capital which was controlled by a few hands, reached to a number of persons after the nationalisation of Banks. There is mention of high ideals in it. I do not want to repeat one by one. You want to educate, you want to provide health services to the villagers, you wish to make electricity available where is my friend Suresh Prabhuji, he knows how the electricity will reach and where. The policies which you are following, there shall be nothing but darkness everywhere in the country within two years. Enron will not recover only 30-35 rupees, Shivraj Patilji, your state is facing most grave situation in this regard. One of our friends had signed it and another respected friend had given approval. I had termed it as a disastrous move at that time. Now it is creating problems for Mr. Suresh Prabhu. The Government of Maharashtra is trying to transfer it to the Union Government and the Union Government are in dilemma as to who would purchase power at such an exorbitant rate of Rs. 7.80 per unit? Threats are being given. Our coming generations would pay that price when you would be no more in power and we would be no more in the Parliament. Having pondered over these objects, I considered to raise my voice, be it heard or not. I should tell the countrymen as to where you are leading the country to? Fees are being hiked in the

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

country. The University Grant Commission is pronouncing to offer no help in next five years. They raise the fees at the rate of ten per cent per annum and offer no help. I went to Allahabad and Lucknow Universities. The youth over there pleaded that our parents make us study with their hard earned money and the Government provide us no employment. The Government is engaged in retrenchment and by way of VRS 90,000 bank employees are seeking retirement. What happened to those constitutional safeguard passed by the Parliament? Now this Government seek to adopt to policy of hire and fire in one stroke. There is no discussion. I have to say it with regret Mr. Shukla and Mr. Shivraj Patil you also support the Government. It is a pity that the Government and the opposition are singing in the same tune on the issue of selling the country. I would like to ask you as to where you are leading the country to? How can the country progress when a poor man's son finds himself unable to go to "university or a college?

Mr. Mulayam Singh often pleads for reservation. But, what's the fun of having provision of reservation in the absence of any job opportunities? Foreign companies won't obey your legislation in regard to reservation. Have you gone through it, where would it lead? We are selling one major industry after other. I am not talking of BALCO alone. Now, we are heading towards privatisation of Indian Airlines and Air India. This Government is working towards selling this country and feeling pride in it. The same sort of breach of trust is being meted out to labourers and government employees. They too are treated in the same manner. Five or eight ministries have been abolished. Now you would not decide in the Cabinet regarding abolishment or otherwise of a ministry, rather it would be decided by the World Bank or International Monetary Fund. I can show you the reports of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which mentions about the number of persons to be retrenched in India and the economic system it should adopt. Now a new agriculture policy would be formulated. Our friend, the Finance Minister was saying that the agriculture policy has been framed for the first time in the country. Has he forgotten that the *jamindari raj* was abolished here. Has he forgotten the massive agitation launched for cooperative farming. Has he forgotten about the massive investment made by the Government during green revolution. I have been against the working of Government but nevertheless I would say that revenue building work has been done between 1947 to 1990 in the country and we have started selling it from 1991. How any Government, any Prime Minister or Finance Minister or Disinvestment Minister could

speak with pride after listening to it. This is the situation in the Parliament today then what would be the morale the poor people of the country. For how long would you keep them in illusion? For how long would you keep them in confusion? Today awareness is coming in that society too. We want to say this because the Adivasis, poor dalits have got pain in their hearts. Many boys and girls of the dalits and adivasis are studying in universities and colleges. Who are those persons to whom not only today but several years ago it was said that the Almighty has given to them only this life and they are born only with this destiny. These boys and girls are not ready to accept it as they have read about the revolutions and history. They have seen the revolution the world over. They knew about the revolutions of Vietnam, Cuba and France. They know about the revolutions of Russia and China. They know that there exists no God. These policies of the Government make them poor, that is why they wish to make them poor, that is why they wish to make their place in the history as a result thereof. You demand your rights. We have got only one way, either to make policies as per their aspirations or remember our friends sitting in Parliament, suppress their feelings by your proposals and power. Please remember that human minds awakening can never be confined in a cage. No one can make human consciousness a prisoner. Pain born out of hunger destroy palaces. Beware lest fire should destroy the Parliament, our whole set up politicians and bureaucrats sitting in the PMO. Therefore, I am here to warn you. I want to warn such people of the world who are dreaming of making India their slave. The East India Company had arrived but no with their own army. They succeeded in dividing brothers, Hindu-Muslims, Sikhs-Marathas and captured power. Today there is no East India company. Mahatma Gandhi had given the slogan Quit India in 1942. Today, we are giving the slogan that our doors are open for the Britishers, Germans, Japanese, Canadians or Americans or anyone else who wishes so. Hon. Chairman, Sir, our world is a selfish one. No one comes to help others out, but for their profit, they come to exploit the poor. One who invests money, say ten rupees would like earn twenty rupees. Today, we are claiming that we have made immense progress. We have got enough stock foreign exchange in the Reserve Bank. I have often heard that Chandra Shekhar ji had mortgaged gold. However, I took no loan in those four months. People in power before me had taken loans but it was not their fault. It is another matter that the policies were wrong. Questions may be raised regarding the wisdom of it. Poor women folk in our villages say that their husbands have mortgaged their jewellery in the same way as the politicians have mortgaged gold and moan over it. What do they do by moaning over it? Whether the honour of the country or gold was supreme? If it was honour of the country gold

could be mortgaged. Now you are not mortgaging only gold but selling the land too. You have said that lands of farmers could be given on lease to big capitalists of India or other countries, where they can establish big farm houses and use machines for agricultural purposes. On the other hand, Shri Shanta Kumar ji has said that we have not enough storing capacity for keeping foodgrains. I had heard and read it as well that the Americans use to throw foodgrains in the sea or burn the crop, but you have left the foodgrains to rot and people of Kalahandi are dying out of starvation. Is this way to run the country. If some accident take place like what happened in Gujarat and suppose someone says something wrong, our Prime Minister becomes agitated. I was not present here that day. He had said to a senior member that he would put him in the dock. Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, you are standing in the dock. You are put in the dock by your own Government servants who make statements in newspapers everyday. You have been put in the dock by your national executive member who are making statements not only in newspapers but on television everyday and the entire country listens to it. One lady member who is present at the moment, was saying on Women's Day that Atalji has done great on Women's Day, so he should be awarded the Nobel Prize for peace. I was listening about the cease-fire where helpless youths have been left at the mercy to meet cold blooded death, it was because we could tell the world that Pakistan is enemy to peace and we are the messiah of it, so we should be given the Nobel Prize for Peace, but where is Mr. Burhanuddin of Afghanistan. Two embassies of America have been blown up and their ships destroyed. If they could not fire missiles against them it would not be helpful to you. Our friend, the Foreign Minister, who used to talk to them and assure you too has gone somewhere else. No one bows down to the setting sun. Those who bow down to the setting sun and wish for a new morning cannot run the country.

Sir, I am saying with regret that attempt has been made to be little the stature of the President through this address. I would certainly say that the President has not only maintained the stature of his post by sounding warning to the country from time to time but has also served the country well too. I, therefore, congratulate the President. I request to the Government to play hide and seek game with the world and the people of the country as well. It is necessary to work and impress upon the people the correct facts in the hours of trials. I, therefore, constrained to give vent to my sentiments.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks on the President's address. We shall certainly express our thanks to the Government for the good deeds

performed by it but we shall criticise its action which are aimless and without any proper guidance.

Sir, there are certain issues mentioned in the President's address which we should not and congratulate the Government for the same. We have discussed the communal tension at length in the House. I do not have the data, but during last 52-53 years, since Atalji has taken our Prime Minister in these three years, I feel that there has been a considerable decline in communal disturbances. Though persons say a lot but you see whereas thousand of persons have died in the country in the past, serious riots took place but during these three years no such riot has taken place in which even hundred people have died or the property of people have been destroyed. Solitary incident have taken place here and there.

Sir, this is a vast country, where different types of people live. Here people belonging to all religions and communities live. It is natural that in such a big country, where population is more than hundred crores a few such incidents take place. Just now many speakers were talking about the cease fire in Kashmir. It has also been said that government is extending cease fire again and again to glory Atalji. I don't think so because Atalji command a lot of dignity. Government is not extending cease fire to inflate that dignity. In President's address and when Shri Malhotraji was speaking on the motion. Prime Minister had envisaged that entire country is to be connected from east to west and from north to south and for that purpose the plan proposed by Prime Minister to provide means of communication and construction of roads, is not mere a question of road and communication but it bears the feeling of national integrity. Hence we fully support the programme envisaged by him.

On the day of presentation of Budget, the Revenue Minister has said that in order to check the adverse effects of W.T.O. he has raised import-duty considerably. I believe that in the near future this will ensure the well being of farmers

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few steps taken by the Government are very good. A lot of criticism has already been made in this session regarding earthquake in Gujarat. People all over the country and world have sympathy towards the people who lost their lives in the Gujarat earthquake. I wish that people of Gujarat should be provided with maximum help because earthquake of such a severe intensity has not occurred in the country during last 50 years. Thousands of people have died and lakhs of people have been rendered homeless and the people of Gujarat should be provided maximum help, to overcome this situation. All the same we should not

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

forget those states also who have suffered because of natural calamities.

Mr. Chairman Sir, One and half year ago Orissa was hit by a cyclone and according to official data more than ten thousand people died while according to unofficial information the member of the deceased exceeded 25 thousand. More than 100 villages have been inundated by sea water. The persons who died in Gujarat were living in big apartments whereas the persons who died in cyclone in Orissa were poor people living in the coastal area whose names were not included ever in the voter list. Therefore, official data can not be corrected. When cyclone hit Orissa, lots of help poured in for Orissa and for that I wish to thank Government of India but Blank-cheque was not issued in favour of Orissa. Two thirds of Orissa was destroyed

Mr. Chairman Sir, you are aware of the economic condition of Orissa. Today and outstanding of more than Rs. 20 thousand crores is due to Orissa. Orissa Government will have to pay Rs. 2900 crores as a principal and interest amount. Today Orissa Government have no funds even to pay the salaries to its employees. When I asked for more money for Orissa, it was said that economic condition of Government is not bound.

Mr Chairman Sir, I would like to reiterate that more help should be extended to Gujarat Government but states like Orissa should also not be neglected. At times there is a feeling that whether there are two criteria in the country? This Government is a National Government. Government should treat the people of all the states equally. Eight lakhs houses were fully destroyed and converted into debris.

[English]

We got help only to constment three lakh houses. How will the Government of Orissa build up other Houses?

[Translation]

One and half years have elapsed, still thousands of cyclone affected people are living under open sky. Last year it was hit by cyclone and this year it is hit by drought. Government of Orissa had requirement of Rs. 70 crores for Mega plant but only four and a half crore rupees were granted and rupees fifty thousand were given for N.P.A. Apart from that Orissa got 16 thousand M.T. of rice and 4100 M.T. of wheat for only three months. Free of cost food grains were given as a component for food for work. How the state Government which had no money to pay salaries to their employees, can provide for cash components for food for work? Government should take care of the people of the entire country.

Lot of discussions took place here about farmers. We have representatives of many states here. They have raised question regarding distress sale. Distress sale was on in your state and so happened in Orissa too. I am surprised by the speech of Chandrashekharji. Report of starvation are coming from Kalahandi. Still there are many areas in Orissa where paddy crop was grown but it could not be sold as there are no buyers for the same. What a system it is? I do not want to speak against any particular state but in which direction Government is moving? Wheat of farmers in Punjab could not be sold which led to the loss to the farmers in Punjab. You made up the loss of Rs 300 crores. Why did you not compensate the loss of farmers belonging to Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa? Will you pay compensation of them? If Government's every decision will be guided by the political compulsion then how this Government and country will run? I have failed to understand it.

Just take the report of 11th Finance Commission. A short while ago discussion was being made in this regard. Report of 11th Finance Commission has infused hopes in a few backward states. I would like to cite the example of Orissa again. It suffered a loss of Rs. 6 crore.

[English]

due to wrong recommendations wrong calculation of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

[Translation]

Wrong calculations were done regarding pension. No repayment was made. Wrong calculations were done about the amount to be accrued as interest. Government of Orissa raised a hue and cry about it, and issue a memorandum in this regard but no action was taken.

I remember that in the last session there was a discussion regarding coal in the House. Orissa has 24% of total coal reserves of India Earlier the largest coal reserve was in Bihar but now it is in Jharkhand. You have not revised the coal royalty for the last seven years. It seems that the largest coal reserve was found in Bihar, perhaps Laloo Prasad will grow stronger if Bihar gets more money for coal. You did not revise it. Now coal mines have gone to Jharkhand and now these are out of Laloo's control. Why royalty is not being given?

[English]

Orissa State alone is losing around Rs. 180 crore against coal royalty every year because there is no revision of royalty on coal.

[Translation]

It is not that Bihar and Chhattisgarh States are backward, many more states have reserves of minerals. Will you not help them? Will your decision be guided by political considerations and you will not give them what is their due?

[English]

You cannot have uniform development of the nation, of the country.

[Translation]

You are encouraging regional imbalances. I would urge upon government that it should speak its mind.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in President's address there is mention of creating independent states Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal states have been created. Government should consider this point.

[English]

You have created three States, but what are, its economic and political implications on other states of the country.

[Translation]

I belong to Orissa state. On one side of it there is Jharkhand state on the other side of it there is Chhattisgarh state. Government should consider the political implications of creating small states.

[English]

The Government has to take into consideration its impact on other states.

[Translation]

You can not sit blind. I would like to give an example that a movement has begun in Orissa to create a coastal state in Orissa. Mr. Chairman Sir, your state is also not free from such movement. Movement for Telangana state continued for long and

[English]

Now people have started demanding creation of a separate state called 'coastal state' which is adjacent to Chhattisgarh. This is immediate political implication of Orissa.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, therefore, I urge upon the Government that it should give serious thought to it. I remember that when the Bill for creating separate Jharkhand state was passed in this House. I had said at that time that Saraikela and Kharsawan should be given to Orissa State. At present Hon. Home Minister is not sitting here but at the time of giving reply he had said that when Jharkhand State will be created

[English]

then the Central Government will take initiative to start a dialogue between the Government of Orissa and the newly created Jharkhand State to sort out the matter?

appeal through you, to the Government, particularly to the Home Minister, now that time has come, the Government of India should come forward to initiate a dialogue between the State of Chhattisgarh and the State of Orissa to sort out this half-a-century old problem of Saraikela and Kharswan.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : It is Jharkhand and not Chhattisgarh as you mentioned.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Yes. Earlier, it was in Bihar; now, it is in Jharkhand. So, the dialogue should begin between the Government of Orissa and the other Government, and the Government of India should initiate that discussion.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : It is a very genuine request.

[Translation]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : . Hon. Chairperson, I do not know whether some women members raised their voice over women Reservation Bill. People have started laughing over us because we discuss over this in every session and decide that we would not allow it to be passed. I do not know about the sincerity of the government.

[English]

how far sincere the Opposition is. But at least, the Government, in this Session, should show its sincerity and bring forward the Women's Reservation Bill. Let the Bill be discussed thoroughly and let the Government take the initiative to get it passed in this House in this Session itself.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

[Translation]

Hon. Chairperson, I do not want to say much except that Orissa is the poorest state of India, earlier it was Bihar.

[English]

Sir, as per a recent survey, the State of Orissa has the highest percentage of population living below the poverty line. It is 47 per cent. The report of the survey is really alarming. I would like to urge upon the Government to rescue such a poor State where the percentage of people living below the poverty line is the highest-at the time of their financial crisis.

[Translation]

If the union government does not do it then regional imbalance would increase and the country would not grow and progress well. I want to request to the union government that it should not take every decision on political consideration. It is a wrong precedent. It should not happen in this country where under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atalji, who is not only the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party but the great leader of the Nation. I am saying this with regret that there are certain ministers in the union government who through their decision, works and national conceptions fail to show their national outlook.

[English]

Sir, they are not showing a national character and outlook. Suppose, I belong to a particular State and I am in charge of a particular Ministry, so should everything under my ministry go to my State? If the Minister for Communication hails from the State of Orissa, then should everything under the Ministry of Communications be given to the State of Orissa only? If the Railway Minister is from the State of Andhra Pradesh, then should everything under the Ministry of Railways go to the State of Andhra Pradesh only...*(Interruptions)* This thing smacks of a very dangerous mentality. Such an attitude does not reflect the true character of a national Government. I am not criticising the Government. But this what is really happening today. This is hurting us the most.

Sir therefore, I am sorry to state that in a coalition where a personality of an international repute, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the Prime Minister and is the leader of the Government, in such a Government there are people who behave in a parochial manner and do not have a national outlook.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi, please conclude within 10 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, though our Party's strength is the fourth largest in this House and is the second largest in the ruling coalition, yet you have given me a chance to speak at the fag end. If you do not want me to speak, then I would not speak. But you should give me freedom to speak. It is a very important debate...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. S. Venugopal has already spoken.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, he was the seconder of this Motion. So, he is not to be included as having spoken from the Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I have given you a chance to speak.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, as per the rules, the Secunder of a Motion is not considered to have spoken from the Party.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, His Excellency, the President has given us an opportunity to hear about the performance of this Government. He has rightly spoken on several issues.

17.00 hrs.

Our country is a great country. It can withstand any difficulty. Our democracy will continue to prosper. We have seen the Kargil war; we have seen one of the major cyclones in Orissa; we have seen the floods in West Bengal last year and now we have recently been through the devastation of Gujarat earthquake. Even after all these disasters, the stability, integrity and unity of our country are being maintained at the highest standards. We have seen all these disasters taking place but we have not been able to take any permanent measure to combat such disastrous events in future.

Shri Mulayam Singh has stated that the President has mentioned a growth rate of nine per cent. Hon. President has stated that as against the target of nine per cent growth rate, we could achieve seven per cent. Achievement of seven per cent is also not small in the midst of the problems the country has had to face over the last one year. Perhaps, we were not able to come up to nine per cent growth rate because of these disasters. Hon. President has stated that if nine per cent annual growth rate is achieved over the next ten years, we can eliminate poverty altogether. However, whether we would be able to achieve that nine per cent growth rate or not is to be seen. Over the past three years we have not been able to achieve more than 6 per cent to 7 per cent growth rate. So, the Government has to say something on this.

It is surprising to know that the agricultural production has also come down this year by 10 million tonnes. This could be because of the severe drought we have had. The coming down of agricultural production to 199 million tonnes this year is a disturbing feature. This trend has to be checked by the Government and find out as to what the reasons for our agricultural production coming down could be. Some Members said that even with this poorer agricultural production we are facing problems of storage as there is no storage space available. Farmers are not able to sell their stocks in time. Farmers are starving for want of money. Since they are not able to sell their produce, they are not able to clear the debts they have taken for agricultural operations. This is a distress situation for farmers. Poor production in itself is an alarming factor but our inability to store the produce properly, or to export it is another problem. However, the coming down of agricultural production should be our main concern now.

Two-thirds of our population consists of farmers who live in villages. We do not have the facility of safe drinking water in many villages. After 52 years of Independence, many States are yet to provide potable water to millions of their people. Even with the national water policy we are not able to tackle this problem. We have mighty rivers as well as small ones. Waters of many of these rivers are flowing into the sea wastefully.

We would not be able to save water. There may be small Inter-State disputes about water also. But it can be sorted out. So, the Government should sort out the Inter-State disputes on water management at the earliest. If water is properly diverted for irrigation and drinking purposes, our country will become much more comfortable.

Sir, many of our villages are poverty-stricken because of the high cost of agricultural inputs, low cost recovery of the end product and their produce. They are not able to send their children to schools even now, as there are very few schools, that too far away from their houses.

Sir, we say that our country is booming on the information technology. It is true that we are in the forefront in comparison with so many other countries on the information technology side but at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that the majority of the people in our country, who are living in the villages, are not being provided with the basic amenities and facilities. So, I think, it is high time that we should have all these measures.

Sir, on the industrial production side, the country's backbone is the small scale industries. Though in

the last two years, some sops had been given, some comforts had been given, some succour had been given to the small scale industries but in the recent Budget, there were some harsh measures taken. The excise duties have been increased. If excise duties are increased how can these small scale industries compete with the large ones? A majority of our population depend on running the small scale industries. So, the small scale sector should not be treated this way. They also need some succour. I am sure that this area will be looked into properly by the Government.

Sir, coming to the energy sector, I would say that there is no energy vision. They say that by 2005, all the electricity problems would be over. But I am afraid as to whether this target would be achieved. Almost all the States of our country are facing this problem, and they are not able to meet the needs of the farmers even in regard to giving a minimum hours of electricity. In my view, this is going to pose a very serious threat, if immediate steps are not taken. So, this aspect has to be looked into properly by the Government.

Sir, another aspect which I need to cover is employment opportunities for youths. Today's youths have got great hopes and aspirations on this Government, particularly on Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government, that good things would happen for them. Nowadays, employment opportunities are diminishing instead of increasing. So, they should spell out a clear-cut policy to see how the unemployed youths of this country will be productively employed. Sir, it is not only the question of employment, we should provide them the opportunities. If we are not able to save the youths of our country by way of providing them proper employment, our country will be in great distress. So, all possible steps are required to be taken in this regard.

Sir, coming to the agricultural inputs, there is every possibility of increasing the cost of agricultural inputs because of the WTO measures by way of removing the quantitative restrictions in the days to come. It is going to be a very serious problem if it is not tackled properly. For that, they need to have some serious discussion here, and the implications involved in it have to be explained to us.

With regard to healthcare, the TRIPs agreement has come into operation. Any patented drug has to be kept for 20 years. It cannot be manufactured here. Formerly, in India, at least a few varieties of drugs were being manufactured. Now, as Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said, the cost of medicines and life saving drugs has gone very high and at the same time we cannot manufacture them in India. The

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ordinary people will really be in trouble. The multinationals will come and operate here and our healthcare sector will be seriously affected. So, this is also a problem of concern and we have to hear from the Government how they are going to tackle this.

As far as the States are concerned, all the States have become very poor. Day by day, they are becoming poorer. The policies of the Central Government and the State Governments are not coming together. Let us take for example the State of Andhra Pradesh. In the recent Budget, the total revenues of Andhra Pradesh are Rs. 8,900 crore and the total revenue expenditure is Rs. 8,450 crore. So, what is left is a meagre amount of about Rs. 350 crore to Rs. 400 crore. If that is the surplus, how can they carry on the developmental activities?

The problem of the Central Government is the problem of the States also. If the State's economy is sound, the country's economy would also be sound. If all the States were in a debt trap, automatically the country would also be in a debt trap. So, instead of giving them lower measures of 27 per cent or 29 per cent of the revenues, every State should be given 50 per cent of the revenues. Instead of the Centre operating the schemes themselves, let the States operate them. They better know the priorities. The Secretary here might fix a priority that might not be needed in the State. So, how can you fix priorities through a remote control and ask the States to develop? It is unfair. The Union Government should take this seriously instead of keeping all the powers and rights in their chest.

It is not a question of keeping all the powers in your chest. It is a question of keeping the people happy; it is a question of keeping the country. So, the devolution of 50 per cent should also be thought over seriously one day or the other. I am not talking because of simple politics. I am not talking only about Andhra Pradesh. I am talking about the entire country. It is not required that all the States should develop and all the brethren of our country should be happy? How can you send money for some schemes and at the same time allege that the money you have sent has not been spent for the purpose for which it has been sent? Perhaps, you might have sent some money for road construction but somewhere else there might be starvation or floods. Do you think that money for road construction should not be diverted to meet such needs? This is a matter that should be thought over very seriously.

You should one day or the other give them self-dependence. Let them stand on their own legs. There has to be self-reliance. Ours is, after all, a Union of the States. The Government of India cannot be merely

dictating terms to the States. If you do that, the States would not prosper. This is why they are going into a debt trap. I feel, Andhra Pradesh is one of the well-managed States. After seeing the recent Budget, I can daresay that even that State would also go into a debt trap. This is a serious problem. It has to be addressed one day or the other...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : The States are also sometimes required to strengthen their fiscal discipline.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI : It applies to every State. It applies to all the States. The total fiscal deficit is 10.2 per cent for the country and approximately 5.5 per cent for the States.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Do you support the diversion of plan funds to non-plan activities in any State of India?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : It is not the question of diversion of non-plan funds to plan and of plan funds to non-plan. I am not going into those details. The States have to have their own priorities and plans.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Minister will reply to your question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I just want to know his opinion. I am also a victim as you are. I only want to know, if the plan funds get diverted to non-plan activities, how does the States grow?

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI : It is the question of priority. As the Finance Minister himself agreed, the total fiscal deficit of the country is more than 10 per cent.

However, I congratulate this Government for keeping the level of inflation within single digit. It has not crossed the single digit mark. The Government deserves congratulations for that.

At the same time, I would like to say that poor people of this country are not getting their due share and they are neglected. The total number of poor people has doubled since Independence, though their percentage has come down to 27. We have to think about them.

Similarly the job opportunities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to be improved and the backlog has to be totally cleared so that at least the poorest of the poor who come from those sections will have the same level of comfort.

The President's Address is well written, but it is voluminous. It has mentioned everything from 'Kumbhmela' to 'rapid strides in space science'. There is no need to mention about all these things. Let them have the priorities, instead of narrating all

these things. They have to just mention what is their vision for this year, like we wanted to take up such and such issues and these will be our priority issues, etc. But it has not mentioned anything like that. They only narrated those things. At least in the years to come, they have to prioritise issues in the country. Somewhere in the country there is poverty, somewhere else there is earthquake, at some other place, there are starvation deaths, and there is flood somewhere else. In such a vast country like ours, we should have some priorities. We must also use our natural resources. We are not putting to use all our natural resources and they are going waste. If all our natural resources are put to use, really our country will be on the map of 'developed countries' and really we will have fruits of freedom, which we could give to the members of our society. By this, we could eliminate poverty and we could really develop.

I am sure, our seasoned Prime Minister knows all these things.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : You have opposed everything and you supported everything also.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I have not opposed anything. I am just bringing all these things to the attention of the Government. If this Government cannot do those things, no other Government can do at the present juncture. This is the best Government that the country has ever had and Shri Vajpayee is the best Prime Minister in the post-Independence days. We fully acknowledge that he is the best Prime Minister. He sat in the Opposition Bench also and he knows everything. If the Government takes care of those things and takes those steps, our country would really prosper.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, as per the convention Hon'ble President addresses joint session of both houses of Parliament assembled together. It is established that in view of the priorities of the government, burning problems and mounting challenges of the country, are projected through this address before the country as an eco-social and political contemplation of the government in respect of these problems and challenges. It is obvious that the people of the country expect as to how to evolve these priorities in the interest of the country and how to exploit resources of the country in a planned manner. The policy and programme should be contemplated for it. There has been a tradition to provide statement and details in this address with regard to the extent of accomplishment and non accomplishment of the

targets propounded by the President in his addresses in last years. To tell truth to you, the President's address is the mirror of government's character. It is the mirror of its policies and ambitions and shows in which direction it is about to go. We observed in last two or three sessions that the government had mentioned or revealed its policies and programmes before the people through those addresses delivered by the President.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think first of all we should ascertain as to what actually happened with those targets fixed by the President in the addresses in past days. Let us have a glance on the progress made in this respect. I would like to mention the character of this Government firstly with this that it is a concluding year of golden jubilee of our Republic and it is a first address of President in the first year of new millennium. It is a matter of utter shame for us that more great leaders could not get mention in President's address who were the architect of this new built country. Even Gandhi and Nehru were left out unremembered in this entire address. No regard was paid for them. This shows the contradictions that have crept in the mind, policy and saying and doing of this government. I would like to draw the attention of the entire house towards this.

After this I would like to cite here two or three examples of the character of the Govt. the makers of our constitution had especially kept in mind that in a large part of the country, not only in Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Andhra Pradesh but in the States of north east also which are adjacent to the frontiers of other countries and in which tribals dwell in a large number, they have their own cultural traditions, but feeling the need of security of these tribals economically and socially, had made special provisions in the fifth schedule of the constitution of the country that the land of the tribals can not be confiscated unless it is necessary in public interest but it can be done only by the central Govt. and the state Govt. This provision has been made in this schedule. According to the provision made by our constitution makers all of our tribals in the country could have got jobs but I would like to show to you the character of the Govt. Recently BALCO and disinvestment were discussed in this House. BALCO company was an enterprise of the Govt. when it was put to disinvestment. The Govt. therefore had acquired thousands acres of land of the tribals in Chhatisgarh region in public interest and this land had been acquired for Public sector undertaking. Underhand dealing was started and resultantly thousand of acres of land belonging to the tribals went in the possession of the private sector violating fifth schedule. The contract was made secretly that the smell of the contract is being felt everywhere and

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the people are feeling that there has been some big economic scam. After violating the constitution an attempt is being made to give the tribals land to other people. Today I want to say one thing in the house very seriously that I know and I also got the information and through since people in the Govt it was informed that in the time to come the Govt. intends to make amendment in the fifth schedule, of the constitution and wipe out all powers, and a conspiracy is being hatched in this country to do injustice against the crore of tribals of this country. I would like to warn to the house for it that if it happened, the will of the Govt. will not let be fulfilled. Not only all opposition parties, SCs and STs but also all the citizens of the country will start agitation and it would never be allowed to happen...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I want to know the basis of the talks being done about the Constitution?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : For my sources I need not inform you and I have no compulsions either. Continuing my speech, I want to give another example. If my Congress Party-men or those of opposition criticise the Government and highlight the corruption, then it will appear that they might have been doing it due to political reasons. Such apprehensions can be raised that there might be political reasons behind it, but I am not saying. The All India Working Committee Member of his party Dr. J.K. Jain who is the Member of Parliament of his party has along with his T.V. been highlighting now-a-days such type of matters, we need not respond to it. You have to respond to the queries raised by your own people in Government, your own party-men. The people of the whole country want to know the answers of those questions, therefore I hope and expect that the Prime Minister will respond to them when he comes here for giving a reply of this discussion. The questions raised by Dr. Jain are serious questions concerning the country; they are linked with the Government and the future of the country. I do not want to bring forth the whole details in the House about what is going on within the Governemnt so that the time of the House may not unnecessarily get wasted. We all know what sort of new items are coming in the T.V. and newspapers; we should get their reply. This country wants their reply. What Bala Sahab Thakarey is doing, I am not saying that, the Congress Party is not telling that. Had Congress said that, it would have been alleged that we have been saying so far fulfilling our political objectives. But Bala Sahab Thakarey is the supporter of your party. In this regard I need not mention that the people of Trinamul Congress and of Biju Janata Dal also say this. These parties are their own coalition partners who are

criticising all these things and presenting all these matters in the House and outside the House publicly allegations are being made among the public. Due to this the Government is placed in the dock today. Mr. Prime Minister is brought into the dock today. It is their responsibility that the answers of all those questions should be given to the people of this country through the medium of this House.

Sir, not only this, I have read this address very carefully and in this crocodile's tears have been shed about women by this Government. The National Commission for women has been constituted after the passage of a bill by this very Parliament. That Commission submitted it's 12 reports to the Government, but this Government did not think necessary to have a discussion in the House over a single report till date. This Government is how much concerned, it is clear from it. Today Pramod Mahajanji was speaking that he wanted the Women Reservation Bill to be passed. Just by your saying the Women Reservation Bill will be passed? We also want, everybody wants, almost more than half, say more than two-thirds of the opposition wants that there should be discussion, debate, negotiation and deliberations over the Women Reservation Bill. There can be difference of opinions among us, there may be some parties having reservations and apprehensions, they should also discuss, argue about this. But I do not think that this Government is serious in any way for giving reservation to women. In this regard our party has not made declarations, we have started implementation within our party. The organizational elections held in our party, 33 per cent reservation for women within the Congress Party from top to bottom in the whole country has been given under the leadership of our leader and we have demonstrated the implementation to all. We did not make any declarations, any excuses. We have expounded it. Which party, which persons talk about real policies, whatever we say, we demonstrate through implementation, all these things become clear through it.

Sir, in the President's Address much has been said about the labourers and only recently we heard the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. This Government is the murderer of the labourers, if called cruel it would not be a harsh word. Till date it was provided in the law that whosoever will retrench labourers from his unit has to clarify the reasons, give justification and thereafter can not retrench anybody without the permission of the Government. But this Government has given the power in the hands of big industrialists to retrench upto one thousand labourers arbitrarily. Whenever they like as per their will they may exploit the labourers and whenever they like, they may oust them. These people do not have any right to raise their voice. It is an

autocratic Government which has given such big blow to the interests of the labourers, I think no Government till date would have done so. We are hearing from morning that there are several such units within Delhi, several such industries where 5-6 lakh labourers are standing on the verge of retrenchment, but no heed is being paid by the Government. This is the character of this Government whose actions and words are contrary to each other. This is the reality of this Government.

Sir, much concern has been expressed in the address regarding the security of the borders. We are all the more concerned from the time we were attacked stealthily in Kargil. The security of the country has run into danger. Our hundreds of Jawans had to get martyrdom and had to sacrifice their lives because it is the tradition of our armed forces that they have never taken bullets on their backs, but have taken it from the front. We will not let the sacrifices of the Jawans be destroyed at any cost. We will remember them with honour. This Government is one year and five months old. The report of the Subrahmaniyam Committee was kept in the list in every House, but every time it was kept comfortably and cunningly in the last day so that it could not come in discussion because there was risk. Had the report been immediately discussed, many such unanswered questions, which are in mind, would have been unraveled and the Government would have been forced to give the account? It has to be answered before the public that ultimately why this situation did arise? Negligence has been done with this country, with the national security and economy. Each and every person who badly needs Government assistance is nothing but a pauper and those who are billionaire have become the owners of India today. What can be more relevant example than this one that recently seven advisors to the Prime Minister of this country as I have come to know, have been appointed. The board of advisors appointed by him consists of seven prominent industrialists. This is an example of what is the character of this Government, what is their move? Not only this, I would like to provide more information. You must remember that some days back Human Resource Department had sought a report from Ambani and other industrialist, regarding the position of education policy of this country.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask Hon. Member and the House whether the industrialist will decide the education policy of this country as what type it is. If the industrialists of this country decide the education, what education policy will we frame for our children and youth of this country. We will frame only that policy which will be in the interest of the industrialists of the country. We will certainly not frame that education

policy which will be apt to face the challenges before India in the 21st century. We are going to formulate that education policy which will be in the favour of industrialists and will preserve their interests. This is the fourth example which reveals the character and modus operandi of this Government.

Sir, they say that it is not the policy of ceasefire. They do not object to that word. They might object to the words fight and cease-fire and say that they have given directions to the army not to initiate action against the terrorists. Whatever may be the directions, you might give them any name but what will be the result.

17.37 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

Madam Chairperson, I went to Kashmir myself. I stayed there for 12 days. I visited many villages and met people from all sections. I have seen the situation there. I met the Army personnel also. Please believe me and you must have seen in the newspapers which are highlighting the reports of discontent among the soldiers and officers of Border Security Force and Army who are saying that this policy is getting dangerous day by day since as a result of the leniency being shown to the terrorists, they are coming back and taking position in all those strategic positions from which they had been routed. They have again started establishing their base. Years of hard work had routed them from those positions and now our mistake has reinstated them in a few months. Not only this they have made strategic changes also which were discussed specially. The Army Officers have said that earlier the terrorists had taken refuge in forests and were hiding in hilly areas and they used to attack from their base but now they have entered the residential areas. They are now living in civilian areas from which if they attack the Army, it is not in a position to fight back. There is always the apprehension of civilians being killed while the army has been given the directions that civilians should not be killed. They are feeling hurt. I want to raise this matter in all its seriousness since the Defence Minister is also present. This aspect should not be seen in a political context. It should be taken as a national problem. We should be sensitive towards this issue and we should take the army, Border Security Force and those soldiers into confidence who are ready to sacrifice their lives. We should modify our policy according to the ground reality there. We have given our support regarding this subject with good intention so that the Government may not say that a good policy could not be brought in or a good programme could not be

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started due to lack of support. We are ready to cooperate but there is a limit to everything. We have to decide as to how long we will go on witnessing the sacrifice of our soldiers and civilians. If we lose our land once then it will have serious consequences and we will not be able to compensate even in decades.

Please read hon. President's Address. Many statements have been made about the poor in this Address but nothing has been said about employment. In response to previous two Addresses of the hon. President, the Prime Minister had said with enthusiasm that he would make one crore means of employment available to the youth every year. I had expected that the position of that scheme would be made clear in the Address and we would be told the number of persons who have been offered jobs under it. Not a single word has been said in this regard. Neither has it been mentioned in the Address nor has a grave problem like unemployment has been mentioned in the Budget Speech. This shows how insensitive the Government is towards this problem that it has not even felt it necessary to mention any measures to put an end to unemployment.

There are few of the examples but there are other things about which I wish to speak in detail. Many claims had been made about the economic upliftment of the country. If the previous two budgets presented by the Finance Minister, the targets of achieving 10,000 crore rupees through disinvestment were set. He said that he would definitely achieve that target but what was the result? Both the times, he could not even reach near the targets. What is disinvestment? We were also in its favour. Congress has been charged with initiating it. Yes, we started it but there is a lot of difference between your disinvestment and our disinvestment. Our basic norm was that there are three types of public sector undertakings—firstly, those which are incurring huge losses, secondly, those which are earning profit and thirdly, those which are neither earning profit nor incurring losses. If a little capital is invested in them then they can be turned into profit making units. Our disinvestment policy was that we should sell the units which are incurring losses and invest the money in those units which can be turned into profit earning units and upgrade their techniques. Through capital investment we should work to convert less profit earning units into Blue-chip industries so that they can become a public asset. We did not intend to start selling the units. But what is happening now, be it Indian Airlines or BALCO. It is right that you can get your resolutions passed in the House on account of the strength of the number

of MPs that you have but outside the House, the world is witnessing your acts. Nobody has welcomed this move in the country workers, farmers, students and common populace has not welcomed this. Now, the whole country feels that there is some kind of conspiracy behind disinvestment. There are certain reasons which have not been disclosed. If they are not known today, they will come in the open some other day.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell what this Government has done to tide over its losses. Hon. Finance Minister has increased the prices of kerosene, urea, fertilizer and foodgrains to meet the loss of 18,000 crore rupees. By increasing the price of the foodgrains which was sold to the poor persons through PDS, the Government has struck at the poorest section. The Finance Minister increased the prices to meet the loss. I had asked the Finance Minister and today through the House I again wish to ask the Finance Minister and Hon. Prime Minister whether they would recover the arrears of income-tax worth Rs. 58,000 crore from the big industrial houses of the country outstanding against them? Why was it that sincere efforts were not made to recover the money? Whether any scheme would be formulated to recover the money from them?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly, 52,000 crore rupees are outstanding towards NPA. Under this, loans were given to big industrialists who have not returned it. I have been told just now that the outstanding amount is 62,000 crore rupees and not 52,000 crore rupees. Thus, a total of 1 lakh 10 thousand crore rupees have to be recovered. This is the right time to recover that money but the Government is not ready to recover that money from them to meet the losses. The Government wants to exploit the poorer section. You are doing injustice to poor persons, labourers, farmers and those who find it difficult to make both ends meet. The whole country has felt it. The Government will understand when it will show its impact.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is not ready to reduce any of its expenses. During the last three years whenever the Government has presented budget, this expenditure has gone up. This should be stopped. The Government does not want to reduce its expenses and recover money from big industrial houses but wants to recover the money from the poor section which is unorganized. Though that section is unorganized yet politically it is aware. Each section of the country knows in which direction this Government is heading to. It will have disastrous consequences. Its impact will be such that it will dislodge you from where you are sitting now and it would be the public who would decide your fate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was reading in the newspaper that this Government is formulating a scheme for FCI. There was much uproar here that FCI is not procuring foodgrains from the farmers. This Government is going to put an end to procurement by the FCI. Now, the farmers of the country will be left at the mercy of traders of foodgrains who will buy foodgrains at nominal rates. This is going to happen. This is the result of the Government's policy. When the farmers of the country will rise against you then you will lose power.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We have agreed in the Leaders' Meeting held in the hon. Speaker's chamber that we would sit late today to accommodate more hon. Members so that the Leader of Opposition can speak at 1200 Noon on Monday, before the Prime Minister's reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will accommodate, but hon. Members will have to keep in mind the time allotted to respective parties while participating in the debate.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura) : Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and seconded by Dr. S. Venugopal. The hon. President has started his Address by paying condolences to the bereaved families who lost their near and dear ones in thousands in the devastating earthquake in Gujarat. I join him and all the hon. Members of this august House in expressing sympathy on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, All India, Trinamool Congress.

The President set the trend of the Address by drawing our attention to the note of caution sounded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the 25th November, 1949, at the close of the debate of the Constituent Assembly on the Draft Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar mentioned about the contradictions regarding political and social inequalities and he posed this question. He said:

"How long shall we continue to live the life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? We must remove these contradictions at the earliest possible moment."

The caution was sounded 52 years ago and I am sad to say that the contradictions continue even today putting our political democracy in peril. The inequalities in our society continue to adversely affect the harmony of national life.

We talk of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities. They are still lagging behind compared with the rest of the population. According to the latest calculation, we have been told that 26 per cent of the population of India are living below the poverty line. I do have my mental reservation about this calculation, but even accepting that, I would say that 26 crores of our population are living below the poverty line; 19 crores are in the rural areas and 7 crores are in the urban areas. Have we ever given a thought as to what is the percentage of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes among these people below the poverty line? It is much higher in proportion to the total population of the country. It once again reflects the inequalities in the society.

My friends have talked about the banking sector. When I was in service, there used to be Loan Melas and we know how much we lost due to that and what sort of example we brought before the country. The banking sector has become totally irrelevant so far as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

We have a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes now. Before that, there was a Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a constitutional body. This Commission submits its reports to Parliament annually. The Annual Report of this Commission contains specific instances of non-implementation, non-enforcement of policies and programmes meant for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and also certain suggestions and recommendations for better implementation and enforcement of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But I am sorry to say that these Annual Reports are not discussed in the Houses of Parliament for years together. If I am not wrong, even the reports which have been submitted 10 years ago also have not been discussed so far. We could not get time to discuss them and this smacks of lack of seriousness in the matter.

I was going through the Economic Survey and I am happy to say that the Government has allotted funds for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities. I would like to draw your attention that in 2000-01, Rs. 810 crore had been allotted for the development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which is more than 18 per cent of the allocation in the previous year. This is good. It could have been better. But if we look at the Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and minorities grouped together and if we leave aside Other Backward Classes and

[Shri Bikram Sarkar]

minorities, the population of the Scheduled Castes is 16 per cent which is double the percentage of the population of the Scheduled Tribes. What has been provided here? In the Budget Estimates for 2000-2001, it was Rs. 969 crore. During the previous year, it was Rs. 887 crore. There was an increase of 9 per cent, that is, half of the increase, of what was made in the case of Scheduled Tribes. I am not, even for a moment, saying that the allocation that has been made for the Scheduled Tribes is something not good. It could have been better. But so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, it is much less. I draw the attention of the Government to increase it.

The next point is about employment generation. There is a backlog of unemployed people. There is a new addition to labour force. It has been accepted as a challenging task. There is a full-stop. I do not find anything seriously mentioned as to how new employment would be generated. This is an area of concern. I would request the Government to pay attention to this.

There is hardly any growth of employment during 1999 in the organised sector. The growth rate was 0.04 per cent in 1999. If you look at the unorganised sector, it is nine times higher than of the organised sector; the situation is bound to be still worse in this case. The poor in the rural areas, the landless agricultural labour, the sharecroppers, the tenants are all at the receiving end. May I suggest that the Government should implement employment generation schemes seriously and enforce land reform measures, including measures for providing security to tenants? This will help in removing rural poverty and also in generating employment in the rural areas.

As regards industry, it has been discussed in this august House that in the current year, the industrial growth has slowed down. Naturally, the aspect of employment generation has also been adversely affected.

As regards the Public Sector Undertakings, it is my view that given the level playing ground, the PSUs can do as good, if not better, as compared to the private sector. The PSUs have been destroyed over the last 40-45 years. The Ministers concerned have used them. Therefore, I feel that the public sector undertakings that are making profit and are in good condition should be allowed to continue. The amount of Rs. 10,000 crore or Rs. 12,000 crore is not a big amount keeping in view the total requirement of funds. The Government may kindly consider it.

There is another area. Keeping in view the generation of new employment, the small-scale industries sector must be given priority consideration.

The hon. Prime Minister announced on 30th August, 2000 a comprehensive policy package on small-scale industries and the tiny sector. In addition to that, there are two new schemes, namely, Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme and Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation. These have been launched. In this context, we should remember that the small-scale industries have provided employment to 1,79,00,000 in 1999-2000, registering an increase of four per cent over the previous year. Given the desirable kind of encouragement, this percentage can certainly go up to two-digit figure. For this, what is needed is proper monitoring or policy package and a scheme. It is this aspect which, to my mind, needs more attention of the Ministries, the State Governments and of those entrusted with the implementation of the schemes. They should be made accountable. In the industrial sector, especially in the agro-industries, food processing industries should be given due importance. The Government have to take measures to prevent post-harvest losses which are to the extent of 10 per cent and extending right up to 40 per cent in some cases.

18.00 hrs.

Madam, in the case of education we have found that there is an improvement over the years. But even then today, the International Women's Day, here we note that in India the gross enrollment ratio for the upper primary stage, that is six to eight years, is still low at 58 per cent and the proportion of girls enrolled, both in primary and upper education, continues to be lower as compared to the gross enrollment of the boys. This is the condition and in some of the States, including UP, it is very poor.

Coming to the women development, I am quoting from the Economic Survey:

"The gender bias is a term commonly used to describe how far behind women have remained in seizing opportunities for improving their levels of living. The Law treats women and men as enjoying equal rights. But in reality it is not being found always.

Therefore, there is a question of focussing on the gender issues in the context of social sector development, and empowering women as agents of social economic changes. Since, the Ninth Plan has stipulated identifying women component plan, I wish something seriously was done and the amount of fund that would be provided should be adequate enough to take care of these things because in any case 50 per cent, that is women, of the population of the country is involved.

In the case of economic reforms as a whole, we find that the interest of the country and its people have to be upper most. Self-reliance, creating more employment opportunities, removal of poverty, etc. are the economic reforms that are complementary to the reforms in administrative, judicial, education and labour. This has been said. But if you look at the President's Address, we do not find elaboration on this. As it is, it is a long speech, but even then it is not finding pointed attention to some of the issues like agricultural development, which has lagged behind and which has not made progress and it has decelerated in the last two years.

So far as industry is concerned, as I have mentioned, again it has come down. It is an issue of concern. In the question of education also, we do not find much. With regard to agricultural reforms also, nothing has been said about the importance of land reforms, which is very essential for the lives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities who are below the poverty line.

Regarding rural development, there is a talk about the road infrastructure, but it has been left at that and so far as rural roads are concerned, particularly joining to the national highways, it has been left mostly to the States, and as some of my hon. friends have said, the States are not having adequate amount of funds to provide a matching grant. Therefore, the whole thing is being delayed.

So, Madam, these are the issues where the Government should have a relook. With these words I say that so far as the Address of the President is concerned, with reverence I support it and would request the Central Government to have a look on the aspects that we have mentioned.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : There is a Biblical saying, "They also serve who stand and wait." I waited for agonising eight hours and with you in the Chair, I got the chance to speak now. So, I am grateful to you.

Madam Chairperson, I stand here to support the Motion tabled by Shri Malhotra and seconded by Dr. Venugopal on the Presidential Address to the Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together.

The Address of the President has been a beacon illuminating the past achievements of this Government and indicating the aspirations for the future. Before I go into the illumination and achievements of the past and the future, I would like to say a few things about the barrage of criticisms, little bit of vituperation, and unnecessary sally into certain private or semi-private affairs.

I would like to invite your attention to the rich baritone voice of Shri Somnath Chatterjee. His was the figment of the wildest imagination that has ever been possible today, so full a voice but so empty a heart. That has really shocked me. Well, I am not much bothered because that is the hallmark of the leftist Party.

Coming to Shri Chandra Shekhar, a revered leader, I would like to say that we invoke the waning Sun as well as the waxing Sun. He made an aspersion towards the waning Sun in his speech. I would not go into the details but he should have kept it in mind. I think, because he is waning, he has said this thing.

So far as my friends in the Congress Party are concerned, I would like to say that schizophrenic temperament has been depicted yesterday and today. I would start with Shri Chaturvedi, a person who is adept in Sanskrit literature.

May I with your kind permission, Madam, invite Shri Chaturvedi to listen to me for a minute. You had indicated about the cease-fire and the implications of the cease-fire. May I invite your attention to the *Valmik Ramayan* where Marich had given a piece of advice to Ravan. The advice has been:

Rajyam Palyetam Sakyam
Na Nefan Nishachar
Nachapi Pratikulen
Naviniten Rakshasah

My dear king, you cannot be a ruler of a country be wielding your sword only.

Rajyam Palyetam Sakyam
Na Nefan Nishachar

There is necessity of having a compromise. Always you do not go in for firing, killing and all sorts of things. There must be a little bit of give and take when you want to rule the world or rule the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You are giving but not taking anything. That is my appeal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Kindly allow me to speak. You people can rebut it at a later stage. Kindly do not disturb my thought process...*(Interruptions)* Kindly do not disturb. You are such a good man, I know.

Whenever you are thinking of certain flow in the political atmosphere, we have to think of give and take. That is what has been propounded some 3,000 years back.

Madam, friends in the Congress Party had made...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will you please also enlighten in this context as to who is Marich and who is Ravan...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Everybody knows who is Marich and who is Ravan...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Marich advised Ravan. That is why, I asked you...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : It is not necessary to dilate on that.

My friends in the Congress Party, yesterday and today, spoke about disinvestment. It shows schizophrenic temperament of the Congress Party. From 1991, they had started disinvestment and the process had got a good fillip. It was put on the rails and it was taking a good speed. How do you at this juncture say that it is not proper? You have a Chief Minister in Chhattisgarh who has started twisting the tail and blackmailing the people, and the human aspect of the entire thing was lost sight of. The officers and the workers were put inside. They were denied the basic necessities of life, that is, water, electricity, and food. How do you expect that such type of tail twisting and blackmailing will pay rich dividends to you? Kindly think of 1971 when the Congress Party had leased out land for BALCO.

My dear friend, Shri Shinde, who is not here now, started from disinvestment to development, from reforms to reservations, and last but not least was the regret that his Party has not come to power for the last so many years.

May I, with your permission Madam, and with no malice towards Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, quote a little bit of John Dryden's poem?

"A man so various
That he seemed to be—
Not one but all mankind's epitome
Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong;
Was everything by starts and nothing long."

That is what I would like to say to the friends whether Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde or any other friends who spoke from the Congress party for the last two days. They were making allegations about disinvestment and casting aspersions regarding the process of development which has been taking place.

Now, I revert back to the President's Address, the beacon that has been illuminating the past deeds of this NDA Government under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership.

When we come to the illuminating process of it, we must think of agriculture. Agriculture contributes 26.8 per cent to the GDP, and about 65 per cent of the workforce of the country are engaged in agriculture. About 82 per cent to 85 per cent of the people are in the rural areas. So, whenever we think of agriculture, we have to think of the rural folks. Whenever we think of agriculture, we have to think of production, distribution and all other allied sectors. For the last two days, we have been discussing the production in agriculture. We had 209 million tonnes last year. This year, comparatively, it is less. It is because of the vagaries of nature, the super cyclone in Orissa, the drought situations in Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat and all those places and the killer earthquake. In spite of the vagaries of nature, we have not buckled. We have not buckled because we had an incremental increase in the developmental process within the last two-and-a-half years and three years. A country to be on a good base has to have an incremental increase in its developmental process.

I invite your attention to the Economic Survey that had been circulated recently wherein it has been mentioned as to what is the amount of food production in this country within the last two years. The food production, both Khariff and Rabi taken together, in the country has been 1697 kilograms per hectare this year compared to 1571 kilograms per hectare last year. As I said, surely, it is an incremental increase of food production in this country. How do we achieve the incremental increase? It is by a considerable developmental process.

So far as agriculture is concerned, all of you have already stated as to what has been done for agriculture, what are the subsidies that are being given for agriculture, what are the methods that are being employed to get a good production, etc. Now, I go into the agricultural inputs. That is most important for us. Unless we have agricultural inputs, it would not be possible to continue the process of development in agriculture. What are the agricultural inputs? The first thing is irrigation. We must have proper irrigation of big, medium and small types. Then comes the participative management in irrigation. That is what has engaged the attention of the NDA Government slightly last year and this year in a very big way. Participative management in agriculture, in irrigation is most important. That is why, I say agricultural inputs are most important to have a bright future in the coming years and to have 230 million tonnes of food production by the end of the Plan period. By the end of the Ninth Plan period, we should achieve 230 million tonnes of food production. In 10 years' time, we have to double the food production because there will be more mouths

to feed. That is what the beacon, the Presidential Address has told us. In addition there has to be free flow of agricultural credit.

Some of our friends here said that the Presidential Address did not pay adequate attention to employment. I invite the attention of the hon. Members to page seven, paragraph 20 of the President's Address where self-employment and other types of employment potentials have been mentioned.

I will come to it slightly later. So far as agriculture is concerned, I had said that it is the most important factor and watershed development also has been mentioned.

Madam, kindly give me some more time. If you ring the bell, by habit and by training, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are still four speakers from the NDA.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I am the second person from the BJP speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you have so many people in your NDA parties. I have to give a chance to all of them, from the Government to speak.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Be indulgent enough to give me another five to seven minutes. If you do not do that, I will sit down.

What I want to say is that agricultural inputs have been increasing and have engaged the attention of the Government.

After irrigation comes the question of insurance. We are all aware that in the insurance sector also for the people and in the agricultural field also different types of insurance coverage are being given to farmers to ensure that the vagaries of nature do not create any problems for the *kisan*, for the agriculturist and for the farmer. And, apart from that, for those people who do not get any employment, whether in the industrial sector or in the agricultural sector, insurance coverage is being thought of in a better manner.

And so far as seeds are concerned, seed insurance is also being introduced. So, as I said, agricultural inputs are getting the most important attention of the Government.

Now, I am thinking — I am cutting short my speech here because the Chairperson has already warned me to conclude immediately — of the poor people in the rural areas, the poverty stricken people, especially in Orissa, where poverty is up to 47 per

cent, although the country's average is about 27 per cent. Drought, floods and so many other factors have put these people in Orissa down. It is very difficult for the people there to come up. Still an attempt is being made.

My friend from Kalahandi, drought-prone area and Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo — she is not here — know it. All those people have been facing lots of difficulties not because of any other reason, but due to the vagaries of nature.

So, whenever we are thinking of giving any sort of attention to the poor, the most important factor that has been kept in mind by the NDA Government has been the food security. In food security, the first and foremost is accessibility to and availability of the basic nutritional requirements for the people. Now accessibility and availability of nutritional requirements must take into consideration the regionally differentiated strategy based on agro-climatic, regional planning.

As I had said, Orissa has been facing lots of difficulties. Some other areas are also facing problems. Some friends mentioned about floods in West Bengal. Keeping in view the Eastern States, this time an amount of Rs. 61 crore has been placed in the Budget itself to ensure that Orissa, West Bengal and the other Eastern States get all facilities for storage of water to be used for agriculture.

As I said, a differentiated strategy is required for the people who are below the poverty line. And the first thing, as I said, is accessibility to and availability of basic nutritional requirement. The second is raising farm productivity. As I have indicated earlier, *The Economic Survey* has mentioned about per hectare-produce in the farms. This is to be taken again and again so that we increase the farm productivity. When we are thinking of farm productivity, we have to think of making some areas available for cultivation. That is why drought-prone areas, and areas which are wastelands have to be developed so that we can have more productivity in those areas.

And the last is providing gainful supplementary employment through poverty alleviation programmes. This has been taken care of through the EAS, JASY, JRY and others. All those have been taken up. I am not going into the details. The basic requirement for a poor man is to ensure that he gets at least 200 to 250 days of gainful employment. A marginal farmer, or a small farmer can employ himself for 100 to 150 days a year. To give him another 100 days a year would provide him the necessity food security and also employment.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

As I have said earlier, employment potential has been created by the Government and that has been properly reflected in the President's Address.

Madam, since all aspects have been taken into account and since I do not have the time, I conclude by saying that the President's Address has thrown enough light to indicate that India is marching ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. President's Address has presented the outline of the Government's policies. In reference to that I would like to say that main problems and necessities of the common populace have been very subtly neglected, be it the farmers, the workers, the teachers or the students. Policies have been made which are only jugglery of words, they are very far from being realistic. It has been said that youth consist 37 per cent of the total population of the country. It has been said about them that they look upon Republic Day and Independence Day as relics of the past. It seems that the Government does not have confidence in our youth power or the Government only wants our youth who constitute 37 crores of our total population to remember historical dates of Independence Day and Republic Day. A person should be concerned about strengthening his present. The past is like a dream and the future is all imagination. Only present is ours. Details have not been given about what the Government is doing at present and what is happening instead it has been said what will be done in future.

Certain excerpts from Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's speech delivered on 26 January, 1950 have been quoted in the President's Address. It said:

"We are entering an era of intra-contradictions. There will be equality in political life but inequality in social and economic life."

I would like to say that Bahujan Samaj Party is pursuing the ideals of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The system which he established after untiring hard work and struggle, the economic and social struggle about which he talked even before independence, the Government has only given quotations from his speech and done nothing in this regard. Provision of reservation has been made to remove economic inequality. Today, public sector units are being privatized. Be it BALCO, Maruti, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Air India or Indian Airlines, all of them are

being privatized. It will only increase economic inequality. Therefore, by quoting from Dr. Ambedkar's speeches the Government is only playing with words to shift attention from the public's basic problems. If privatization takes place, what will happen to the dream of Baba Saheb and the provision of reservation in services on economic grounds? After privatization, the capitalist owners will not be committed to provide for reservation. This shows that this Government is very much against the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and minorities. That is why it is not doing anything for economic equality. The Prime Minister has said "our storages are full of foodgrains, yet there are five crore people who are starving." It is ironical that these people put the poor persons on a high pedestal. By doing so, they make them feel that they are in a good condition and they should be prepared to remain in that condition. Therefore, regarding the schemes of foodgrains for poor persons, it is my request that the Government should change the policies to reform the distribution system.

Three States have been set up in U.P. and other States and people have been demanding for Poorvanchal in U.P. for quite some time. Poorvanchal in U.P. which comprises of 23 districts, is very backward. There are a number of unemployed, poor persons and landless agricultural labourers and the Government has said in this paper that it is going to provide basic necessities to most of the people but the Prime Minister has made a statement that people should not think about Government jobs and look for employment elsewhere. The workers hailing from Poorvanchal had set up hutment and were running their livelihood by opening paanshops, the Government has sealed the factories in the name of pollution to take away their jobs while 83 per cent pollution in Delhi is due to the cars of the rich class. Factories cause only 15% of the pollution. Factories have been closed and they have been sent back after rendering them jobless and the Government has not made any arrangements for their rehabilitation. Neither any economic package has been implemented in Poorvanchal nor has any scheme been formulated for the extension of railways.

The Government is following disinvestment and privatization which is contrary to the amendment made in the Constitution according to the basic feeling of socialism enshrined in it. The Government is acting against the Constitution in which it was envisaged to implement a socialist economy. Therefore, policies should be changed and new policies should be formulated to establish a socialist and mixed economy. The Government is trying to

hand over power generation and distribution to private sector. I would like to tell that our poor farmers will not be able to do agriculture with so costly electricity, they will not be able to continue their profession because the electricity will be out of their reach. This will become a luxury for the rich people. It is therefore needed that power generation should be under Government control. If the power is privatised the price should be controlled by the Government so that it may be available to general public, poor farmers and labourers.

There is mention of amendment in labour laws. Certainly there appears to be nothing explicit in this matter. It should be made clear whether the labour laws will be framed in the interest of labourers or the capitalists. No provision has been made for teaching, training of the labourers alongwith relaxations in their working hours while number of schemes have been provided for the new factories and revival of old factories of the capitalists, ignoring the interests of the labourers. The Government is bent upon framing this anti labour law. The people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are being harassed. The Government is not able to formulate any scheme to check feudal atrocities being committed against them. The justice is being made costlier while it should be cheaper and easily accessible to the general public. A large number of cases are pending with Supreme Court and High Courts of the country due to which the poor people of the country are facing difficulty. In UP the court fee has been increased ten times resulting in costlier justice. It depicts the mentality of Government that this Government is against dalits, backwards, poor and poorest of the poor. Besides, Government has also made education costlier. The Ministry has stated that if a student can go to cinema and buy a ticket for Rs. 50, why can he not pay the hiked fees. It is ironical that the Ministry made such kind of statement. It is a matter of deep regret. All this is creating an atmosphere of superstition. This Government is trying to push the repressed people, the people of lower strata, and illiterate ones in this atmosphere of superstition with the help of electronic media by showing them serials like Om Namah Shivaye, Jai Hanuman, and Jai Shrikrishna. This Government wants that these repressed people should continue to live in their old life. I want that you should make a change in these policies. The Government should work for our feelings towards minorities farmers and dalits. There is mention of reduction of 12000 jobs. In Uttar Pradesh Rajnath ji has cut down 10000 jobs what kind of system are you running, whether it means providing jobs or it means increasing the

number of unemployed persons. I would like to submit that the policy in this regard should be revised and steps should be taken in the proper direction.

I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : Hon. Chairperson, I stand to support the Motion of Thanks tabled by our senior colleague Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra on the President's Address. Madam, I am conscious that I represent a small Party and I hope your bell will not ring before I try to articulate a few points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It depends on how long you take to articulate them.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : I will make it a very short speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take 15 to 20 minutes.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Thank you Madam.

In this Address His Excellency the President of India has made references to many important things about the working of the Government and the future programmes.

Madam, I cannot resist making the mention of the catastrophe which has taken over parts of Gujarat. Unfortunately thousands have parted from us within a moment. May God give peace to the departed souls. But this is a fact that may be after a pause we have arisen to the occasion. The nation and the Government together are to face the challenge. This is the tradition of this country that the challenges have never frozen us to inaction. We will make it and the process has started.

A mention has been made about the major event, the mega congregation of 'Maha Kumbh'. The managers and the Government deserve thanks for the conclusion of the great event on a happy note.

Madam, a reference has been made in this Address to the suspension of combat operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Before I talk something about the tale of two cities, that is, Jammu and Srinagar, it reminds me that the greatest speeches of our learned colleagues who have talked about privatisation and certain other things, it has made me to understand today that we have succeeded. I knew it that we have succeeded, but they have given an impression that we have failed also. We have succeeded in making it from the "midnight to the millennium," we have

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

succeeded in retaining our democratic liberal order and we have succeeded in making this country a greater democracy.

Hon. President has made a reference in his speech of the day of Independence, when our beloved Prime Minister made a very famous speech that 'the nation is redeeming the pledge of making a tryst with the destiny'. At that time, the nation was celebrating the success of freedom, but unfortunately, certain things remained which are still irritating us in Jammu and Kashmir and somewhere the problems in the North-East. We are facing a big trouble this time. We have adopted the non-initiation of combat operations policy. I have mentioned it earlier also that ceasefire or no ceasefire, we have to deal with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. They are living beings, they are flesh and blood. They have got their problems. A mention has been made in this Address that the multi-dimensional strategy is being adopted to take care of Kashmir imbroglio, but I am sorry to mention that we have certain problems over there in that State which are not being addressed to. We have the problem of militancy. We have the storm, unfortunately, gathering around our borders on the other side. Under the shadow of nuclear deterrent, they are gathering the people with their madness and they are making Jammu and Kashmir a target every day and every time, but do we pay heed to the problems of people of Jammu and Kashmir?

We have our youth without employment. We have our economic crunch in the State Government. We have many other problems there. We are time and again inviting the attention of the Government towards these problems. This year, unfortunately, our budget was finalised in the month of December. Madam, we have security related expenditures accumulated to the extent of Rs. 1,129 crore. We had a brunt of Rs. 550 crore on account of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations for our salary bill and on the accumulated fund which we had derived from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank as an overdraft, we are paying interest, and that has debilitated the economic position of the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Our youth are without employment. We have, time and again, requested the Government of India and our friends in this country that this problem is to be addressed. It reminds me of the prelude to the militancy era in Jammu and Kashmir when our youth were gathering in meetings and they were, time and again, raising this voice that they should be given proper employment because we are in a land-locked area in Jammu and Kashmir. But no heed was paid to that.

His Excellency, the President of India has made a reference to the Independence Day and to the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our Republic Day in his Address.

He has the doubt that 37 per cent youth of this country is distant from imbibing the spirit of those great days. We have to take care of our 37 per cent youth; it means 37 crore people in this country are facing a problem; they are facing a challenge this time. So, care is to be taken for providing employment to them. We cannot live without small-scale sector and the tiny sector. It reminds me of the great Sociologist, Mr. Alvin Toffler, he has mentioned, "The third wave of civilisation has started setting in". This is a unique sub-continent where we have all the three waves of civilisation operating simultaneously. We have agricultural wave of civilisation; we have industrial wave of civilisation; before its culmination, the third wave of civilisation has crept in through e-commerce and computer etc. However, it has touched only the upper crust of our society; our farmers and our people who are in the industry are toiling and they are in problems. The problems which we are facing this time are not the problems which have sprung up yesterday; they are the continuation of our follies which we have made at different occasions. The honest thing that we have to do is that we must understand our failures and we must address to them; and bipartisan approach to solving the problems of national importance is necessary. The verbosity and the encyclopaedic speeches cannot change the realities. Facts are facts, and we have to face the facts. Then, the culture which is grooming now in our country under the third wave of civilisation can lead our youth to confusion because they are in a cut-throat competition all over, in every walk of life. So, we have to address ourselves to these problems.

Then, in Jammu and Kashmir, we must understand that around our border, there is a violent storm of madness. We have seen the unfortunate iconoclasm in Afghanistan which has besmirched the image of Islam. I place on record that we condemn that action. But unfortunately, that action can be a provocation. We must understand that two million people are leaving Afghanistan and most of them have entered the North Western Frontier of Pakistan. Who knows what will be the result of that unfortunate migration from that area, and what will be the result of their ingress into our borders? We have to be alive to this factor, and we have to consider it.

Mention should have been made about the migrants, Kashmiri *Pundits* and Muslims in this Address of the hon. President, who have left their homes, who are living in a trouble some situation outside the state and who do not complain now. We

need to take care of their problems, we need to address ourselves to their problems, and that can help us to think about the solution of so many complicated situations.

Madam, the people of Kashmir are thinking to talk to themselves and to the representations across the border also. Let the people who are inclined to come over to this side, talk and discuss about their future, their problems and their complicity. Let them discuss the matters, let them understand what is happening to the future of Jammu and Kashmir State. What can be the impact of certain unfortunate things which are taking place by tacit support of certain people, that is, trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir. I am thankful to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Only two days back, on the floor of this House, he has totally denied that the Government of India is supporting such moves and that they shall never support such moves. I place my thanks on record for this statement. But I have my apprehensions that certain important people of certain organisations are giving statements which are encouraging the disgruntled elements inside the State, and they deepen the hatred among the three parts of the State. The three cultural identities have been nursed together, and they are soul and body to each other. To think about the separation of these three portions of the State will be a greater sin. It will not only be painful for us, but it will be also dangerous for the country.

Such a trend should not be encouraged in any case. I would like to humbly request the leaders of all Parties, who are giving such statements, to show restraint. They should not add to our miseries. They should not add to our problems which we already are faced with as a frontline organisation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Madam, Chairperson, I thank you giving me time to speak and I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by my colleague, Mr. Malhotra.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) :
Madam, Chairperson, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I rise to oppose the Motion. With due respect to the hon. President, I would like to oppose the policies of the Government that has been expressed in the Address of the President.

Madam, the country is passing through a critical phase today. There is industrial recession in the country; the problem of unemployment is staring at our face; there has been lay off and retrenchment in the factories; there have been atrocities on women;

there have been caste conflicts and there has been an alarming rise in crime rates. The Address of the President has neither made a mention of these problems nor has suggested any solution to these problems.

Madam, this Government talks of democracy, but they have shown utmost disrespect to the Parliament by hiking the prices of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, cooking gas, diesel, petrol etc. just before the presentation of the General Budget.

Madam, it has been claimed in the President's Address that agricultural policy aims at increasing agricultural production for reducing poverty. But we find that there has been widespread poverty in the country. Most of the people in our country live below the poverty line, but instead of giving priority to the revamping of the Public Distribution System, the Government is dealing with it very casually.

Sir, at one point of time we used to export handloom products and engineering goods to different parts of the world, but now industrial recession has led to closure of industries or they have become sick resulting in the decline of exports.

Sir, the standard of education is also quite pitiable as compared to other countries. We are lagging behind in the field of education. It is really a matter of shame for us to note that even after 52 years of our Independence, the rate of illiteracy in our country is so high.

Madam, a majority of the Indian populace live in the rural areas. But the plight of the rural people is deplorable. They do not have facilities for drinking water, education and good transport system. Even today there is no provision for drinking water in more than two lakh villages. The Minister of Agriculture has introduced the New Agriculture Policy. For whose benefit is this being implemented? We find that the small and marginal farmers, and agricultural labourers are not benefited by the New Agriculture Policy. The multinational agriculture sector is being benefited by the policy.

We all know about the problem of Kashmir. It is a matter of concern for all of us. There is an outbreak of violence in the valley unleashed by the terrorists. We must remember that the problem in Kashmir is not a law and order problem only. It has many other serious implications. Kashmir is an integral part of India and yet the situation is very serious there. The problem is a political one and it should be solved politically.

[Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal]

Ours is a vast country. We have many complex problems. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of Sundarbans. Sundarbans is the biggest delta in Asia. Sundarban area has unique and superb scenic beauty. It is indeed a spectacle. It is an island of beautiful mangroves, rivers and sea. But this area is in serious trouble now. Agriculture is the main occupation of people there. Once Sundarbans was called the *Annabhandar* of West Bengal. Today the island is going through a critical phase. The river has dried up. Accumulation of silt has raised the level of riverbed. During excessive rains, farmers cannot drain out excess water from their fields. This has become a big problem for the agriculture in the area. The problem of Sundarbans is very acute. Rivers are flooded due to natural calamities resulting in damage to crops. Farmers lose everything during natural calamities. So, the West Bengal Government prepared a master plan to build embankments to the Sunderban river. So far, the Centre has not taken any initiative to provide monetary assistance to construct embankment to the Sunderban river. I urge upon the Government to declare Sundarban waterways as natural waterways.

While talking about Sundarbans, I am reminded of Expert Committee that was sent by the Centre to Sundarbans a few years back to carry out a feasibility study for generation of power from water currents in the sea. The report of that Committee was sanguine about the project. However, so far the Government has not taken steps to set up any power generation plant on the island. The Centre has declared Sundarbans as a National park. I urge upon the Central Government to take appropriate steps to ensure overall development of Sundarbans. I urge upon the Government also to initiate measures for the economic, social and cultural development of the people of Sundarbans.

Since the President's Address fails to mention these points, I oppose the Motion. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balua, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the on going motion of thanks. For last two days, it is being discussed. I have attentively listened all the people. I liked their speeches. All have expressed gratitude and respect to hon. President. But one thing which is frequently observed is that whenever there is a joint session

and President begins his address, certain people raise slogans at that time. Sometimes even banners and posters are displayed and sometimes remarks are passed against each other. Sir, it is a constitutional ritual under which this address is delivered and we accept this process. But this kind of behaviour is certainly unbecoming there. Not to talk of Lok Sabha, now more unpleasant situation are arising in State Legislature as well. It has become a nasty job for a Governor to address the joint session there. Many kind of disgraceful slogans like 'go back Governor' are raised. The papers are thrown at him and sometimes even an attempt of physical assault is made. It has become an uphill task for a Governor to address the House. Now the issue of his security has come up. I would like to urge that since all the senior leaders are present in the House, all should adopt such convention and should frame such code of conduct that nobody would do any kind of unbecoming act at the time of President's Address or Governor's Address in the State Legislature, which may hurt their dignity and adversely affect this occasion of constitutional festival.

Madam, the senior members must be aware that in 1963 when the late Sarvapalli who was President and when he started his address in English, the seven members belonging to socialist party had raised a slogan 'Angrezi Mein Kaam Na Hoga, Phir Se Desh Gulaam Na Hoga' and they walked out from the House. But after that House took it seriously. At that time Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru was present it was not only severely criticised in the House but it was also recommended that an action against those members should be taken. At that time, Shri Hiran Mukherji was alive. He intervened and said that whichever party did it was done as a part of the policy, and it was not an act of indecency. After that, no action has taken against them. But they were given instructions in this regard. Accordingly, the people of no party considered it reasonable to behave like this and that kind of indecency stopped. But recently this misconduct has started again. I once again want to request all the parties to refrain from such misconduct and that they should frame code of conduct in this regard.

Madam, Shri Chandrashekhar has just spoken. I have worked with him for long and we hold him in high esteem. He is frank. He is having consistency. I do not want to make any comment on whatever he has said. But when hon. Mulayam Singh delivered the speech, I listened to him as well. I and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have worked in a party for a long time. There was a time when he was a President of the party in Uttar Pradesh and I was the President

of a Party in Bihar. We used to work in the national executive. Today, we are against each other due to changing political scenerio. I was listening to him when he was speaking. I was taken aback at the point raised by him. This is right that the policy of liberalisation was adopted. But under which circumstances it was adopted I do not want to discuss upon it due to scarcity of time. But today, he said that the policy of economic liberalisation has put a huge financial burden on the country and huge loss to the country leading the country to bankruptcy. I want to ask with all humbleness that what did he do from 1996-97 to 1999-98 when he was in the Government. No attempt was made to bring about any change in the policy. Nothing changed and everything went on as usual. There was no change in the policy.

Madam, he was saying that by disinvestment we had tried to sell the factory. Is this not fact that in 1991, a target of Rs. 2500 crore was fixed. During the year 1993-94, the target of Rs. 3500 crore was fixed but only little amount was received. The total amount of Rs. 380 crore was received. But you also tried to go forward in that direction. No change was made in the policy.

19.00 hrs.

I do not support the policy of liberalisation. Day before yesterday, I had said during the discussion that our party had been pursuing its policy of socialization. Therefore, I do not want to discuss the policy of liberalisation. But the people who have been in the Government and who had a chance to change the system, must have done also something. They did not do anything.

Sir, three experiments have been made in this country single party Government, secular Government and multi-party Government. Single party Government has not done any revolutionary work in this country, the secular Government which ruled from 1996 to 1998 and that did not have any communal party in the alliance also did not bring about any change. It is always very easy to criticise but it is very difficult to follow the practise. Today all the parties want to survive on criticism but not on practice and performance. Therefore, I would like to say that this Government is somehow running the country in such a difficult situation. All are aware that coalition era has ushered in the country's politics after 1967 particularly after 1977. Coalitions have their compulsions. You have to work in adverse conditions. Today the Government of the day has to work in coalition. It is 22 party Government. Even on the slightest—difference of opinion a party gets displayed

and threatens to quit on the issue of rise in price of petrol and for some other reason, some other party threatens to withdraw support to the Government. In these adverse circumstances, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is running the Government by the personal grit and political dexterity and giving new direction to this Government and the nation which should be appreciated. I personally extend my sincere thanks to him.

Sir, it is being alleged that this Government is going to retrench 10 percent employees. However, the Government does not intend to refresh any working employees but a provision has been made in the budget for a 10 percent cut in the new appointments to be made every year against the posts of retiring employees. It is all together different if some one seeks voluntary retirement. The voluntary retirement scheme was implemental during the regime of Shri Narasimharao ji.

Today, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is running this Government in very difficult conditions nevertheless he has resolved to remove economic disparities in this country. I have gone through address all the previous President particularly when the Governments have changed. I have tried to go through the address of the Hon'ble Presidents quite carefully. All are same though there may be difference of words but there gists are the same. Today Atal Government has earnestly tried to give new direction to the nation. A new dream has been envisaged with a new vision. He has firmly resolved to eradicate economic disparities and create a egalitarian society and to achieve the same, administrative reforms would be undertaken. I also strongly feel that the administrative reforms should be attempted zealously. Till date no Government have ever beared on administrative reforms. We set targets in the planning and in the budget but are not able to realise them as the machinery that executes them is rotten. We have to remember that as long as we go with this administrative set-up we can never reach our destination because this setup was given to us by the Britishers. Again we must remember that this Independent and democate country of Gandhi attempts to realise its targets through the administrative setup but it can never achieve its targets. Therefore, I whole heartedly welcome this Government's resolve to go in for administrative reforms, judicial reforms, and to amend the education and labour policy in giving new direction to the country. This has also been mentioned in the hon'ble President's address.

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

I would like to say one thing more which is not mentioned in the President's address that corruptions is rampant in our country and that is eating the country from within and also neutralising all our development and achievements.

Madam Chairperson, corruption is not an issue for any particular party or the particular Government. This is a national issue. If the Governments resolved and determined to abolish it, it will be a good thing. In fact, he will have to evolve consensus as to how to abolish the corruption from the Government, administration and public life. For this, all the parties should sit together and chalk out a programme to abolish the corruption from the country.

Madam Chairperson, if we intend to remove economic disparities then we will have to remember that our resource of income are limited and administrative expenditure is unlimited. We have to restrict it. If we will not restrict administrative expenditure then we will not be able to achieve the goal. Therefore, it is my firm conviction that we must take effective steps for administrative and judicial reforms and to abolish corruption other-wise all efforts will be futile.

Madam, with these words I conclude my speech supporting the motion of thanks on President's Address.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am thankful to you and to my Party for having given me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Kaul and Shakdher and Dr. Kashyap defined Parliament as composed of the President and the two Houses of Parliament. I, for one, am extremely thankful to the hon. President for his very subtle and diplomatic Address in which he called a spade, without ruffling many feathers in the treasury Benches. He was reflecting what the Government of the day seeks to do in the next one year.

He started his Address by mentioning about the Gujarat earthquake and the Orissa cyclone, and let the cat out of the bag. In 1999, all of us, the Members from all sides of the House, demanded that a national calamity be declared with regard to the cyclone in Orissa. At that time, the Government was not in a position to do that. They neither had the will nor the

vision. But unfortunately our brothers and sisters in Gujarat had to go through devastation, death, destruction and suffering to move this Government from their stupor and from their sleep. Now, they think of having a Committee, which will look into the definition of a national calamity. It was not there in any of the Finance Commissions.

The hon. President has also mentioned about the National Committee on Disaster Management. We are grateful that the hon. Prime Minister will be heading it. This is what we have been demanding over the last 35 years. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the Government. At last, due to the sufferings of the people of Gujarat particularly, and the people of Orissa in a minimal manner, at least the Government has got out of its stupor.

The President, in his Address, has mentioned that we are the world's largest democracy. But there are contradictions and he has quoted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. We are living in those contradictions. But the fact is that this Government itself is a contradiction. It is a conglomerate of 24 heterogeneous parties. What they speak, what they announce, what they pronounce and the actions on the ground totally belie the hopes and aspirations as well as the pronouncements and announcements. All that he has said, although very diplomatically, is that we must be proud of our achievements of the last 50 years, that is, from 1947 onwards. But there are fresh challenges.

He has also pointed out that 38 per cent of our population is youth. It is the youngest nation in the whole world with oldest civilisation of 5000 years, but not a word is mentioned about what the Government wants to do for them.

I do not want to delve too much on that because it has been articulated very ably and capably by the hon. Members, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi who spoke before me. The hon. President makes a passing reference to Kargil as well as the Gujarat earthquake, where he has paid handsome tributes to the outstanding performance of the military forces. There is ends. I will come to the contradictions. When it comes to the question of considering the issues of armed forces or the para-military forces or of the ex-servicemen, what is the attitude of our Government? What is its pronouncements? I will come to that shortly. The hon. President has also mentioned about the leakages of funds and political stability. It is a very subtle and a very diplomatic way of giving us a warning. He has spoken about the Eleventh Finance Commission. Without discussion, in the last Session

of Parliament, we were informed by the hon. Finance Minister that the Finance Commission's Report has been accepted. The BJD which is an ally of the NDA has caustic remarks to make because the State which we represent has been badly neglected. We seem to lose more than what we got from the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The President in para 21 says:

"Faster and More Balanced Development" as the common *mantra* of the decade."

He also has spoken about agriculture and the New Agriculture Policy. But there is no question of implementation. He has spoken about New Agriculture Policy, watershed development, drinking water, irrigation, people below poverty line etc. Then he has spoken about infrastructure and integrated development of transport infrastructure. He has spoken about the Indian Railways as the life line. It would require Rs. 15,000 crore to meet the aspirations of your State, Madam, my State and other States. But there is no mention as to where from this Rs. 15,000 crore is going to come from. He has spoken about public undertakings, textile, tourism, education, health, environment and water resources. The whole thing is a contradiction.

I would like to confine myself to three subjects. One is the condition of backward States like Orissa. Orissa has not got a fair deal in any of the eleven Finance Commissions. They have only done gap filling. Without accelerated, augmented and special focus, and without higher investments, a State like Orissa, or portions of Madhya Pradesh, or Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal or some of the North-Eastern States cannot catch up with the rest of India. It is because our resource base has been impoverished by historical and climatic conditions. Just by nibbling here and there, a State like Orissa cannot come up. This is what the Chief Minister of Orissa also has represented to the Prime Minister, and the Finance Minister. We also raised this issue in the last Session, in the Winter Session of Parliament. But it has fallen on deaf ears. This is the distinction and discrimination which we faced. It is said that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. But I would like to be proved wrong on the floor of Parliament. I would like the hon. Minister, or the hon. Prime Minister or the Mover of the Motion to dispel the points which I am making. You take any issue. For example, take environment. There was an Ashpond breach in Angul. For the last ten years we have been raising this issue of fly ash hazards on the environment. It is as serious as the Bhopal gas tragedy. But no action has been

taken. Twenty thousand people are affected by this. No action has been taken. Now, some Committee has been set up, like National Disaster Management Committee. There are 522 Committees and sub-Committees. This is what has come out in the papers and nobody has denied it or nobody has tried to give a clarification that how on earth these committees, without trained manpower, without dedicated manpower, and without equipment — whether earthquake in Gujarat or Latur or Chamoli Hills or Uttarakhand or the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh or Orissa or floods in West Bengal — are going to tackle them. There is no policy, no trained manpower, and there are no resources. There is nothing except the committees.

Same in the question of water resources. For Rengali Dam, Rs. 621 crore have gone in but there was not a drop of water during the worst drought of this century. Last year, we had 26 drought-affected districts out of 31 districts. This year, we have 20 districts affected by drought because it cannot cross three railway lines. Water is on the one side of the railway line and 80 per cent of the canal is on the other side of the railway line. So, somebody has forgotten to give permission. Therefore, water is there in the dams and reservoirs but the canals are dry. So is the question of pollution in Brahmani River. All the public sector undertakings — NTPC as well as NALCO — have been polluting it. The Central Pollution Control Board went there in 1990, but till now, there is no action plan for it. Here also, Shri Baalu had answered that we have told the State Government to do it. Sir, whether it is water resources or agriculture, we have left it to the State Governments. Today, I received an answer to an Unstarred Question filed yesterday about Orissa cyclone. The Orissa Government demanded Rs. 6600 crore, but what you have given is Rs. 850 crore, out of which Rs. 50 crore is grant and Rs. 800 crore is loan or advance assistance. Now, you have given Rs. 500 crore to Gujarat within three days of earthquake, but after one and a half years, Orissa still has not got what it had requested. Therefore, this is a question of distinction, discrimination, and contradiction.

Madam, now, I come to my second point, namely, service men and exservice men. I must complete it quickly. The third one is your own subject, namely, sports and physical education.

The Railways spent Rs. 416 crore on their employees and retired railway employees as per last years statistics. I had raised it on the floor of the House when the hon. Minister of defence was here who is a former Railway Minister. The Government of

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

India spent Rs. 500 per head till 1999 on the Central Government employee through the contributory health scheme or through other things or through the Railways own health units and through hospitals, the Ministry of Defence was spending Rs. 5 per ex-service man. There are 14.30 lakh ex-servicemen on the rolls of the Ministry of Defence according to their own admission. The Fifth Pay Commission had increased it to Rs. 100, but Rs. 100 will be given to those ex-servicemen who can go to a military hospital and 90 per cent of them live away from military hospitals and military polyclinics. Now Rs. 100 is of no use to a man or to a beast and certainly not to the ex-servicemen.

Now, we are eulogising their role in Kargil. The failure of this Government nearly lost us Kargil. It goes to the credit of the 509 *jawans* and the young officers who sacrificed their lives to redeem India's honour. The Government was caught napping whether it was the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Defence or the Prime Minister's Secretariat or the National Security Council. Madam, for the fourth time this subject has been on the Order Paper. I hope we will get a chance to discuss it on 22nd and 23rd. So, I would not say more on this.

While eulogising the outstanding service during the Gujarat earthquake, many Armed Forces people have also lost their lives or their limbs. They are being denied medical facilities. This is the only category of Government servants who are denied medicare from Government sources. Any number of committees may have had their sittings. The fourth meeting of the present committee have thrown up their hands that it cannot be done because the Government does not have the resources. Now if it can find the resources for other categories of persons why not for the ex-servicemen who have given their whole life to us and to the service of the nation?

I may quote what is written in the Kohima War Cemetery. It says: "When you go back, tell them of us that for their tomorrow we have given our today". This is what this Government thinks of those who have given their lives.

The third point is about sports and physical education. From 1948 to 1995 there have been any number of reports from Dr. Radhakrishnan, our second President, Dr. Mudaliar, Dr. Kothari and so on that physical education and sports should be made a part of the curriculum in schools.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think there was one report with you as the Chairman.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : No, Madam. At that time you were not the Minister. Shri Arjun Singh was the Minister and Shri Mukul Wasnik was the Sports Minister. All the education Ministers of the country unanimously accepted it. But, instead of giving infrastructure to schools, colleges and universities, the Budget takes away the field stations, the field laboratories from the universities. UGC has taken away the grants. Now there is a diabolical attempt to include sports in the Concurrent List, so that there will be more bureaucratic control and there will be more interference. Today, if the Information Technology sector is improved, if there is 50 per cent growth, it is because there is no Government interference in the IT sector. Today in sports, as it is we are not doing very well. In the Olympics we have achieved something, thanks to the Sports Authority of India, National Federations and State Associations. But by bureaucratic control and interference you will kill that too.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those are so many partners of NDA in between you are calling all of them. Their names are also shown against your name.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Madam Chairperson, Hon'ble President started his address with the mention of Gujarat which was a huge tragedy for the nation. During those tragic moments, our Government discharged its social obligation to the entire satisfaction of the people of quack turn Gujarat for which we have received affection and appreciation of the people of Gujarat. President's Address is the policy document of the Government and contains policies, planned targets which Government wants to achieve. There is no doubt that country has progress during the three years period. Under the leadership of Shri Vajpayeeji and has tackled the earthquake tragedy of Gujarat quite effectively.

The peace initiative taken by the Government. In Jammu and Kashmir by declaring cease-fire is an well intended effort to restore peace and normalcy in the strife torn state. Today India is internationally recognised nuclear power. After the Kargil victory, India's respect and honour in the international field has increased. With successful organisation of Mahakumbh, said cohesiveness and solidarity has been further strengthened.

Shri Vajpayeeji has emerged as a statesman and able leader. People had given power to him

disregarding retetories of caste, creed and religion and he has risen to this challenge. Our country has marched ahead in all the fields including that of the information and technology. Still certain aspects have remained untouched or neglected. The Government should take care of those aspects. There was much hype for achievements in the field of development. No doubt, we have made quite outstanding progress in the field of software. Shri Vajpayeeji himself has recognised that India is a leading country in the field of software. As per national association of software company there are 545 software units in the country out of which 85 per cent units are based in big cities such as Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai etc. But by promoting this industry we could educate the children of the cities only who live in these cities and have the facility to receive it. However, we would not certainly be able to achieve all round development of the country merely on the basics of information and technology. In a country where the percentage of children taking admission in class one gradually comes down to 58 per cent from 99 per cent till they reach upto class five, the importance of information technology industry can well be understood. Only 10-15 per cent people are getting its benefits. The Government should formulate a policy in this regard and it should ponder over as to why this figure of 99 per cent children seeking admission in class one gradually comes down to 58 per cent.

The number of secondary schools in our country is near about one lakh ten thousand, but the number of students studying in those schools is hardly three and a half lakh. This approves of the fact that development cannot be achieved by merely ensuring the development of Information Technology field. On one hand, we are making development and promoting Information Technology while on the other hand the fate of the children in rural areas is being doomed. We should also take this into account and should see that alongwith development a feeling of equality in the society is also developed.

In order to enhance the level of education, a sum of 200 billions of rupees is required to be spent whereas we are spending only 40 million rupees. Unless we are conscious towards our level of education, we cannot make progress by merely promoting the information technology.

About the foodgrains, we claim that the farmers of our country have produced foodgrains in abundance by dint of their hard labour. However, we are all aware of the situation. Vajpayeeji says that fruits and vegetables should be produced. Cold

storages may be constructed for their storage purpose. When the farmers get remunerative prices, they should sell their produce, otherwise they can store them in old storages. Today, foodgrains are in abundance in the country, but at the same time the number of starvation deaths is also very high. It is right that the country is self dependent in foodgrains today. Nevertheless, there are people in the country who cannot afford even one square meal a day.

Ours is an agricultural country. Farmers toil hard day and night, but the Government is not able to fulfil their requirements. Our country has the potential to generate more electricity, but we are not able to provide electricity to farmers or even to the industry. In the early Nineties power consumption in the industrial sector was 40 per cent of the total production of electricity, which has now reduced to 33 per cent. Are we able to provide enough electricity to industrial sector? Today, our country is self dependent and we have the potential to generate enough electricity. Even then, we are not able to do so. Similarly, we have enough water resources in the country, still there is scarcity of drinking water in several areas. There is acute drinking water problem in villages. Farmers are not getting water for irrigation. No such water policy has so far been formulated which can fulfil the water-requirement of the country. Of course, there are policies but they are on papers only. It is argued that there should be a National water policy but there are territorial differences. However, we cannot shy away from our responsibilities. There are pending court cases in this regard which are liable to remain pending for several years. It is our responsibility to resolve these issues through negotiations. In regard to the Sutlej-Yamuna river dispute between Haryana and Punjab which is pending for several years, the Government should take initiatives to resolve it. This will not only benefit the people of Punjab, but will also be beneficial for the arid lands of Haryana including Mahendragarh and Rewari. Moreover, farmers will get electricity who will in turn make the country more self-reliant by their hard labour.

If you go through the Address, you will find that no mention has been made about those sections of the society whose contribution and participation in democracy is maximum. There is no mention about dalits, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes backward people in the Address. There is seemingly no policy announcement for their benefits, there is no message that they are likely to get jobs or something will be done to promote education among them. There is nothing for which they can appreciate the Government.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It is there on page 47...(Interruptions)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : An open message should be given to those whose participation in voting is maximum that the Government is ready to ensure their all around development. If we look at the employment sector, we will find that in 1990-91 the growth in employment sector was 2.39 per cent which has now reduced to 1.09 per cent. This goes to show the seriousness of the Government in this regard. I am among the allies of the Government and that is why I am alerting the Government. If the Government has made some fault, it is our responsibility to make them alert. As everyone wants that Shri Vajpayee should work for social equality. I want to make the Government alert...(Interruptions) There is a big difference between 'warning' and 'alerting'. The Government is serious on every front but wherever it misses something, it is our duty to advise them. Corruptions is now eating into the vitals of our administrative set up. Particularly, the Central Government offices, whether telecommunications and Railways, corruptions is ruling the roots. The Government is not able to check corruption. The Government should take this matter seriously. The administrative set up of the country and the working system have become inefficient which require a change and improvement. In a bid to change the administrative set up, the Government has announced to reduce non-plan expenditure by retrenching the employees. I have the figures, in 1998 the number of persons appointed on administrative posts was 1459 which has now increased to two thousand. The Government says that it would reduce the non-plan expenditure. The Government should take this matter seriously.

Sir, the Government is doing well under the leadership of hon. Atal ji. Even in Gujarat the Government has taken right step. It would not be out of place to mention here that we did nothing to help the former Prime Minister of Fiji Shri Mehendra Chowdhry while he visited our country. He symbolised the people of Haryana, but our foreign policy was devoid of any help to him. There are several such people who need India's help and assistance. The Government should take some step in this regard.

In the end, I would like to say that our party support the vote of thanks moved on the President's Address. With this, I would say that the Government must pay special attention towards the suggestions given by me regarding electricity, farmers, the poor and the common men of the country.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have closely gone through the President's Address delivered by him in the joint session of Parliament on 19th February, 2001. There are some such points in the Address on which I would like to comment. The President's Address is the statement of the NDA Government headed by Shri Vajpayee ji. There are some points in it which tell only the half truth concealing something. Madam, at 12 o'clock today you spoke on the Women's Reservation Bill. Our party fully supports this Bill. However, the Presidential Address speaks about consensus on this issue. There cannot be consensus in the House on every issue, but you are talking about consensus in this regard. All our party Members are supporting it. Therefore, this Bill should be passed during the current session. It has been mentioned in the Address that

[English]

last fortnight, India launched its biggest ever census operation.

[Translation]

That the population is more than one crore is only a half truth. There are at least two lakh people living in the areas bordering Bangladesh. It is sorry state of affair that even after 50 years, no census has been conducted in that area. Mahajan ji, you may please tell us if you have any programme to implement in those areas. Is there any facility of T.V. or Radio ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Which place you are talking about?...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I am talking about the Indian Enclave...(Interruptions) There is a population of two lakh people but there is no school, no medical facility no hospitals. There is no police and military either. There is no administration, no panchayat, no Assembly and Parliamentary elections are also not being held...(Interruptions) You belong to India and so you have been recognised as Indian citizens, but those who are living there are also Indian citizens.

[English]

They are part of West Bengal, but they are surrounded by Bangladesh and rule of jungle is going on there.

[Translation]

Those people are still alive only due to the mercy of Bangladeshi people.

Sir, no census has been conducted there. No body bothers for the people living over there...(Interruptions) No census has been conducted there. For how many years such a situation will continue? Nothing has been done for the people living there during the last 50 years...(Interruptions)

Maharajaji, I am leveling this allegation against the Government that it is doing nothing and undertaking no development project there for Muslims who account for the 80 percent of population and the rest of the population, i.e. remaining 20 percent, comprise of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes...(Interruptions)

Sir, you are well aware of the condition of the seven North-Eastern States, better known as the seven sister states. Though every Government announces for providing financial package for the development of North-Eastern States, no development has taken place there. It was never given a thought as to whether or not the funds under the financial package announced for these states have actually been utilized...(Interruptions) No one has even shown a concern in this regard. you have rightly said that it is pocket deal but it should not be like this. Though the population of that region is ten crores, yet there are no means of transport there. Mahajan saheb, you may travel in aircrafts but what means of transportation are there for the common men. Besides air service which is generally not in operation. There is only one highway NH-31 linking this region to the rest of the country. This air route remains open for three days only in a week. How can the people afford to travel by air. Not many people have the money to travel by air everytime. There is no double line of rail in this entire region. Though you claim that the Government is undertaking the development works in this region but the Government has failed to accomplish anything worthwhile. You may get to know the condition of the people living in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland by asking them as to in what kind of lives they are living? No development has taken place there even after 50 years of country's independence. The issue of a separate homeland for the North Eastern States is raised because Centre does not take any concrete step to improve the dismal condition of people living in these North Eastern States and these people find themselves alienated from the mainstream of the country. If no improvement

is made in their condition, then the separatists movements will continue to take place.

Sir, 70 per cent population of our country comprise of poor farmers and landless labourers. However, the Government have not pondered over the dismal condition of these poor farmers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. His speech will get delayed.

[Translation]

More you will disturb. You will have to sit late.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that I have been demanding for long to enact a law for the landless labourers. As per the 1991 census, the number of landless labourers was approximately 7 crore which has risen to 10 crore now. I am very sorry to say that this President's Address do not have anything concrete to offer for the farmer who earns bread for the entire country through their intense hard work involving the shedding off of his blood and sweat.

The land reform laws are also not comprehensive in their nature and they have not been implemented uniformly. Except in Kerala, West Bengal and some parts of Karnataka, land reforms have not been fruitful. No land reforms have taken place in Bihar, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh and the same pre-reform condition dominates these states. The increasing poverty in these states have given birth to these burning questions and it is more than evident that the land reforms have not taken place in various states of the country as desired.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all of us should pay attention towards the questions raised by you. A couplet from a Bengali poem says, "Na Jagile Bharat Lalna, Bharti Jage Na, Bharat Jage Na" which means that Indian cannot make progress until her womenfolk progress. Hence, I would like the Women Reservation Bill to be passed in this session and the House should ensure its smooth passage. We will fully support it.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Address reflects the aspirations of the country. I rise to support the Motion of Thanks in President's Address presented by the Malhotraji and seconded by Dr. S. Venugopalji. I listened to each and everything in this regard, however no Member praised and lauded the

[Shri Jayashree Banerjee]

deed of the Government led by hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee as mentioned in hon'ble President's Address. The reason behind this thing is that the opposition has started to follow the convention of opposing for the sake of opposition only and certainly it is not a healthy convention. Some of the Members who have spoken prior to me have suggested for making a provision of doing away with the disturbances during the Governor's address in state legislative assemblies. I agree with this suggestion and would like to see this provision extended to this House i.e. Lok Sabha also. Though the Members who create chaos and pandemonium in the House are not present today, yet they may continue to disturb the House every now and then. Hence, such a provision is essential to be made for this House also. The country faced many calamities including the earthquake in Gujarat, cyclone in Orissa and floods in West Bengal and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government handled these calamities effectively and efficaciously. The more this effort of the Government is lauded, less it is. The calamities striking the country, have to be faced by all of us collectively. You are aware that the more a gold is rubbed, more lustrous it becomes. I congratulate Shri Vajpayee for doing commendable job under the difficult and trying circumstances.

No mention was made of the great Kumbha Mela. No one was invited for this procession and the name of nobody was dragged in any controversy besides no riot and disorder taking place. This all became possible owing to a orderly management of things by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. However, not a single line of praise was attributed for lauding the efforts of the U.P. Government in the President's Address. I congratulate the U.P. Government for doing a commendable job during the Kumbha festival.

Today a Women's Day. Several things were said on this occasion including the stress on bringing and passage of the Women Reservation Bill. However, two times this Bill has been denied the passage. If you are so much sensitive towards the cause of women, then Government get this Bill passed. The things like empowerment of the women are also in the air. However, it is a matter to be seen as to how much success will be achieved in this regard. Today, Joshiji said about giving the right to free education to the girls upto the age of 14 years. Several things in regard to education are being said. A country progresses only when the women of the country are educated lot and have self confidence. Vajpayee Government is doing excellent job in this regard and

I congratulate him for making incessant efforts in the direction of educating the women.

Similarly, many things are said in regard to the development of villages. 70 percent of the country's population live in villages. Prime Minister's Rural Road Scheme was formulated with an objective of linking the villages to the cities for giving a impetus to the development of villages. It is a very good and leading scheme toward the development of villages. Efforts are being made to provide each village in the country access to the cities. I would like to congratulate the Government for taking this step of linking each village having a population of 500 or more to the main roads.

Provision has been made to provide foodgrains to the poor people under the 'Antodya' Scheme. There is a village Sohagi near Jabalpur wherein 17 families of the village were identified to be the beneficiary of the scheme. These families were provided wheat at the rate of rupees two per Kg. and the rice at the rate of Rs. three per Kg. A total of 25 Kgs. of foodgrains was provided to these poor families. Even the villagers have admitted that for the first time, the children of the poor families have been given foodgrains. We are very grateful and thankful to the Government for launching such a scheme.

Today, we are fighting with the problem of unemployment due to which disorder and chaos is on increase in the country. Due to lack of means to earn livelihood, people have started to take resort to various criminal activities like snatching and looting. In view of this ever increasing problem of unemployment, Government is trying to encourage the setting up of small-scale industries by formulating new schemes and announcing for new package for promoting there small scale industries. Special emphasis is being laid upon Khadi Gramodyog industry by constituting a Board for it and designating it as 'Sarvodya' Scheme meant for the participation and enhancement of the maximum people. With the advancement of Medical Science and increasing medical facilities, the number of diseases and patients in the country are also increasing. Despite various big hospitals, people are not getting proper medical treatment. The Government is trying to promote various unconventional and alternative system of medicines like Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic system of medicines. Cultivation of various herbs and plants of proven medicinal value for preparing Ayurvedic medicines is being promoted. I would like to congratulate the Government on this count also.

A commendable step has been taken by the Government of formulating a National storage policy under the new National Agriculture Policy for giving encouragement to the farmers and agriculture. 105 lakh cards have so far been issued to the farmers under the credit scheme for the farmers' "Kisan Credit Yojna".

The farmers are extending their cooperations in it. The efforts are being made to involve the farmers into it and to make the country prosperous. Under the HUDCO scheme, more than 20 lakh houses are proposed to be built all over the country. The efforts are being made by the Government to provide shelter to the poor and destitutes people. Under this scheme the poor people will certainly be given houses. I congratulate the Government for this. Similarly it is proposed to provide training to the workers as the process of privatisation is going on. Today why is the electricity board proceedings towards privatisation as there should be some control over the officers of the board. In fact they are responsible for the present pathetic condition of the board. Attention should be paid towards this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the smaller dams should be completed on priority basis so that water may be provided to the farmers. We have 'Bargi' dam in our state but there is no canal for it. The attention should be paid towards this. Thus the Government are always ready to solve such problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to repeat all those things that were discussed during the motion of thanks on the President's speech. I would like to discuss about the active participation of the women in politics. This active participation of women are continuously increasing not only as a voters but also as people's representatives and responsible officer bearers. It is on account of this positive development that along with the men, women candidates are also elected for the Parliament and Assemblies. The similar development is apparent in the case of Panchayat. The Constitution Amendment Bill has been moved for providing reservation to the women in the House. I hope that the House will support the Government in this move. The Women's Reservation Bill will be passed by the House and the women will be given opportunity to accomplish their responsibilities. We all should cooperate towards the smooth passing of the Bill so that women should be able to fulfil their responsibility towards the great motherland and contribute to some concrete works for the development of the nation. With this hope and confidence I conclude.

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

At the outset, the President has, in his Address, referred to Gujarat earthquake and the aftermath. He has also complimented the State Government, the Central Government and also the Armed personnel for the relief and rehabilitation that have been provided in Gujarat. I would like to submit that it is unfortunate that even after almost a month since the earthquake took place, still we do not know the exact figure as to what the causality in Gujarat is. Further, people of Latur still seem to be not completely rehabilitated. People in Chamoli are also not yet rehabilitated fully. Many people in Orissa have not yet been rehabilitated after the super-cyclone which affected Orissa over a year ago.

The President, in his Address, has stated that we must look at our disaster management capabilities and modernisation. I, on my part, would like to submit that there was hardly any disaster management though it existed on paper. We never had an opportunity to look either at the State level or at the district level. I would personally think that it is high time, since the disaster management was taken note of seriously, we must organise ourselves to tackle the disasters at the district level, at the State level, and at the Taluka level.

20.00 hrs.

I would suggest that perhaps the best agency or the force that would be capable of handling disaster, would, perhaps, be the Fire Service. As it is, they are trained to certain essential fire rescue operations. I would suggest that an independent Director-General of Police in the State and an independent IG at the district level and respective Fire Services at various junctions in the towns, cities and Taluks be established to tackle the disaster of the magnitude of the one that had happened in Gujarat and the super cyclone in Orissa. The present system of the Deputy Commissioner heading a Disaster Committee and working through the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Ministry would not be an efficient one. I feel that we should set up an agency to tackle this problem.

Further, the President has referred to the cordial relationship the Centre and the States, and between the various States. I would like to submit that there have been longstanding disputes among various States, especially, Karnataka's dispute with

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

Maharashtra regarding the Mahajan Committee Report. I urge the Government to kindly resolve this dispute. Also, there are a number of water disputes that are pending between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala. These should be resolved favourably in the interest of the public who reside in both the upper and lower riparian States on an amicable basis.

The President has further mentioned about agriculture. We are one of the primary producers of milk and, subsequently, we are number two in the production of rice, vegetables and other things. But unfortunately, for the last one-and-a-half years, I am seeing this and the House has also debated it regarding the falling prices of agricultural products and the plight of farmers. Many farmers have been put to great hardships. There has been no stable agricultural price available. Many times, the farmers have sold their produce to even less than the cost of production and transportation. In some parts, they have even burnt their produce, especially, potatoes and vegetables. This is a very sad plight. In a country where thousands of people who are going without food, and who are on the brink of starvation, where there are reports of starvation deaths, it is unfortunate that we have not been able to utilise our vast agricultural potentials that we have achieved.

Thanks to late Shrimati Indira Gandhi who foresaw that there would be possibilities of drought, she gave impetus for the growth in agricultural sector. To a great extent, the agricultural sector was not, in any way, interfered by the Government. So, as our colleague, Shri K.P. Singh Deo had said, as long as the agricultural sector is not interfered by the Government, it will do well. The Government did not interfere in the agricultural sector. So, it did well. Now, the Government is interfering in it. As a result, we find there is a lot of chaos. The conditions of farmers are in a very bad shape. Added to that, the WTO has allowed us to dump wheat and rice from outside by importing them. This has caused chaos in the market. Rice is available at Rs. 5 from China. This is causing a lot of heartburn and hardship to our farmers. I think, the Government should resolve it by going in for massive agro and food processing-based industries, proper cold storage rooms and rooms to store vegetable products, wheat products and packed products.

The President has also outlined the fact that they are trying to enhance 100,000 megawatts of

electricity. The President's Address discussed the three new nuclear power plants that have come up recently. I would submit that nuclear power plants, should, as far as possible, be avoided because it is likely to cause a great deal of damage to the environment. If some reactor, like Chernobyl reactor, goes off, there is a possibility of the entire environment being spoiled and people being killed by a holocaust of that nature.

I think, perhaps, utilising the flow of the rivers, trying to tap hydro-electric power and going in for conventional, thermal and also renewable sources of energy, non-conventional sources of energy, and solar energy should be attended to at this particular point of time. In a country like ours, which is low on solar energy, wind energy can also be harnessed and utilised profitably.

The President also had dealt with the disinvestment policy of the Government. It is unfortunate that a profit-making unit like the BALCO had been privatised. The President has outlined the strategy. One is to close down those units which are not viable, to restore viable units and to go into their working and to reduce the Government's interests to 26 per cent. While I must say that I appreciate it, still a unit like the BALCO could have been retained in the Government and perhaps the Government could have thought of privatising a public sector unit like the Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

I am told that according to the analysis of the people there, the Bharat Gold Mines has reserves to produce gold till 2100. When such is the case, it could have thought of giving the Bharat Gold Mines on a clean slate to a private organisation. Perhaps, that could renew the working of the Bharat Gold Mines.

So, I would personally think that the Government should consider going in for disinvestment of all those loss-making units or those units which are not running very well; thereby it should try and get out of the hospitality industry and give them to people who can manage them better and concentrate on certain important sector of the industry.

The President also outlined the need for external and internal security. Madam, everybody knows that external security is, no doubt, important. And money is provided in the Budget for the expenditure incurred on modernising the Army, the Armoured Corps, the Navy and the Air Force. I will not go into the details regarding that, but regarding internal security, we are lagging behind because we do not have adequate surveillance, including night surveillance for which

checks, frisks and searches are being made. They are using dogs for searches. Perhaps, it limits the chances of the necessary infrastructure and if it is assigned to a special agency, it can help in securing internal security.

Then the President also stressed on the IT education. Karnataka has been a pioneer in the field of IT. The Karnataka Government has come out with a multipronged strategy to tackle software piracy. It is big crime. It has also become a big business. So, I feel that the other States as well as the Central Government should undertake steps to prevent piracy in software and in trying to help IT education. Engineering Colleges are not enough. High quality and higher educational institutions to foster greater software technicians are needed.

We are lagging behind in hardware. So, I feel that the Government has thought about the hardware which is laudable. But adequate attention should be paid to this aspect so that we can compete with hardware giants like Japan and the USA.

With these words I strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I would like to thank the Chair also. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should hear the last word from the Government's side.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) . Madam, I am speaking on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. I am exposing the wrong policies of the Government. Anant Kumar ji I have not come here merely to make noise. I have come there to save the country and the constitution. I have not come here to divide the country in the name of cast and religion. I have certainly come here to topple the Government of Atal ji'. I have not come to support the motion of thanks on the President's Address. I have come to defeat the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Madam, the entire country and the world have heard the President's Address but the President is not free to express his views in his address. He has to express only the viewpoint of the Government. Whatever the Government want him to tell he reads in the House. I request that some provision should be made in the constitution by amending it so that

the President may express his view in his address. Referring to Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar the hon. President has said that we will have to follow the path suggested by Baba Saheb Ambedkar and will have to take guidance for the progress in our public life.

Madam, while submitting to the proposal of the constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said with great confidence that they were going to enter into the contradictions of life from 26th January, 1950 and equality will be essential in politics, however, inequality will prevail in social and political life. After the independence of the country we have discussed inside the House and also outside about the equality and we are trying to abolish the caste system in the country. We have also made law to abolish the castism but even today it is so deep rooted into the mind of the village people that it is very difficult to remove it from them. We have not succeeded in removing it from their mind. There is need to uproot the castism from the society.

Madam, the Dalit and tribals of over country are asking for justice. The rights have been given to them by the constitution yet the people in the villages are not ready to give them right. They have not been benefited by the provisions in the law as the castism is being practised in the villages. So we should think seriously about its eradication. Hon. Atal ji and his Government talk big things but only talking will not bear fruit and the Government may not escape from the responsibility by saying that what was done by the Congress Government in last 50 years. I would like to ask as to what did you people did in three years. My submission is that you have worked towards destroying the country in last three years.

20.09 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to submit that the Government have worked towards destruction of the country, however, we are going to work towards removing this Government in two-three days. You should keep this in mind. The entire nation is opposing the committee that have been constituted by the Government for the review of the constitution. The Government are trying to break the faith of the Dalits of the country and towards the constitution that it has been made by Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi was the only leader in the country who said that if we have to make constitution of the country then it is only Ambedkar

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

who will have to do this. He was legal expert and was able person. That is why after the independence the task of framing the constitution of the country was assigned to Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The huminity oriented and the secular constitution has been given to us by Baba Saheb. When the BJP and the NDA Government came into power for the second time they constituted the constitution review commission. My submission is that as per the constitution, the Government have no right to constitute the constitution review commission. If the Government want to amend the constitution then the Government have right to move such constitution amendment Bill in the Parliament. Such Amendment Bill are being introduced in the Parliament every now and then but there is no need to review the entire constitution. We had staged constitution Shakti march for 24 days from 3rd of January to 26th of January in Maharashtra. Four-five lakh people had gathered in Mumbai on the occasion of 'Praja Diwas'. We only demand that there is no need of Constitution Review Commission. If the Government want to make any Amendment in that then it should constitute a committee of Members of Parliament. We won't oppose an Amendment made in this way.

The first Amendment of the constitution was made, in 1951, when Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the Member of this August House. A review commission was needed only if the provision of Amendment in constitution had not been there. Since the provision is there, therefore, no review commission is needed. We demand from the government, as well as Pramod Mahajan Ji that this review commission is not needed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was expecting that there might be some mention of review commission in H.E. President's Address, but even it had no mention either. Its mention was not done there because H.E. President had opposed it in his Address on 25th January whereas, the Prime Minister had supported it in his speech, that could be the reason why H.E. President had not raised it in this Address. My submission is only that by dismissing constitution review commission, the government should appoint a All Party Committee of Members of Parliament whatever Amendment you want to do in that, you can do because you are in power. The Govt. has 301 member's with it, therefore, you can make this Amendment. If the Amendment is good one then we will also support it otherwise we will oppose it.

It regrd to Women Reservation Bill, I would like to say that it should be introduced in the House before 23rd March. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also wanted to give reservation for women through Hindu Code but Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru intimated him of the possibility that some MP's of his party might oppose that therefore, he requested him to withdraw his bill. Opposing which Baba Saheb Ambedkar had resigned from Law Ministership. Our Republican Party supports the Women reservation but our request is that the government should provide 60% reservation for the women of SC, ST, OBC and minorities and 40% reservation for the women of general category in the draft. The Govt. is taking so much of time in adding one step. Firstly, you bring a proposal and later on you say that you need consensus of the House for this. This subject needs consensus of the House. We don't oppose this bill but along with that, I would also like to submit that the women of SC, ST, OBC and minorities should also be included in it. I would also like to request my colleagues from Congress that their party have ruled for 50 years because of the support of SC, ST, OBC and minorities categories, therefore, they don't seem to have any problem in supporting the reservation for these categories. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji was also in favour of giving reservation to women. If the women of minorities are also involved in it. I don't think it will create any problem as such. Therefore, I would like to say that Women Reservation Bill should be brought in this session.

Along with this, the efforts are being made to destroy the statue of Lord Buddha by Taliban, there also India should play an important role. If the Taliban is trying to destroy the statue of Lord Buddha, then the government of India should also think in term of waging a war against Taliban. The Government should mount pressure on Taliban. The Government should hold talks with America, Russia, Japan, Myanmar and with many other countries in this regard. There is a need to teach a lesson to Taliban, who is destroying the statue of Lord Buddha, as well as Mollah Mohammad Omar. We are burning effigies at various sites but only burning effigy is hardly going to help. Atal Ji you claim that your Government is strong. If your government is actually strong, then you should write a letter to them and warn them that whatever happened till date was enough but if they further destroy the Buddha statues, then the government of India would counter them. Such pressure is needed to be put on them. If you are afraid of them then we take over and try to challenge them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are using every occasion to speak. Please conclude, everything is important.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This is an important issue that's why I mentioned it. In brief, I would like to say that on 26th January, Baba Saheb Ambedkar memorial was constructed on 20 Alipur Road. A national Memorial of Baba Saheb is needed to be constructed there. The government should also make efforts in this regard.

A film on Baba Saheb is being screened in Maharashtra but it should also be released in Delhi and all the other states as well. Some efforts of the government are also needed in this regard.

We are against privatisation. 50% shares of BALCO have been sold out. The government should possess of atleast 60% shares and 40% shares can be sold to private sector so that reservation policy may continue there. If the government wanted to do 100% privatisation then afresh reservation policy is needed to be implemented there. At last, I would like to place a demand...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, yours is a single-member party. You have taken a lot of time. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This Government have done a very good job by carving out three new states viz. Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand but when Bhartiya Janata Party was not in power, at that time a proposal of creating a new states of Vidharbh area of Maharashtra was passed at all India level. There is a great need to create the Vidharbh States. Now, Vidharbh State should be created in Maharashtra at the earliest. Similarly, the demand of creating North-West State is also rising in Uttar Pradesh, there is also the need of creating a new state. The Union territories of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu need to be made as a new State. It should also be given a thorough consideration.

Second phase of Enron should not become a reality. The Enron Agreement took place when Shri Sharad Pawar and I were in power...(Interruptions) today, it's available at the rate of Rs. 7.80 per unit.

But by the time second phase completes, there are possibilities of it rate going up at Rs. 12-13 per unit. Therefore, its second phase should not become a reality. The government should not undertake the agreement with Enron. Shri Malhotra Ji is not doing a good job by bringing the motion of thank on the President's Address. Therefore I, on behalf of my party, oppose this motion. Jai Bhim Jai Bharat.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would only refer to a few points of the hon. President's Address because most of the points have already been covered by the hon. Members from both the sides.

Sir, I would like to refer to para 8 of the President's Address which has rightly referred to the cautionary words of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar about the inequality in the social and economic life despite our political freedom, and admits that this inequality continues in our national life even today.

The Address has mentioned about the achievement of the Government, without giving any practical solution about poverty which is prevailing in our country. In the Address, the hon. President has mentioned about production of 209 million tonnes of foodgrains in our country. At the same time, the farmers in many parts of our country are living in very difficult situations because they have to go in for distress sale of their produce. At many places, they have resorted to suicide also. Sir, while lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains are stored in the godowns of our country, because of the lack of storage facility, every year, we are destroying many tonnes of foodgrains. At the same time, people in many parts of the country are going to their beds without a square meal. They are starving. At the same time, we are not in a position to distribute our food while many people are going to their beds without food.

According to a rough estimate, even today, about 30 per cent people of our country live below the poverty line. I think, the Government has to look properly at this situation. Many things are mentioned in the President's Address and they have tried to highlight the achievement of the Government also, but there is no mention of creation of jobs. Last time, the Government had mentioned that they would create about one crore jobs every year. But this time - I do not know what is the reason - the Government is totally silent about it.

Without land reforms, rural poverty cannot be eradicated in our country. Only two States have

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

ventured for land reforms. I think, the Government has to take special steps to implement land reforms and the land must go to the tiller. Sir, there are crores of people - I think about 10 crores of people - who are agricultural labour in our country. There is no mention about the welfare of this agricultural labour though they are working very hard and producing many million tonnes of foodgrains for our countrymen. But they have to pass their days in starvation. I think, that things has to be sorted out by the Government.

Also, I think, judicial reforms should be there to provide speedy justice to the people. In our present system, people have to wait for many years to get justice. I think, justice delayed is justice denied and everybody is feeling that. The Government has to think in that direction.

Sir, I will just mention about the policy of the NDA Government which is very harsh towards the working class of our country. In the name of second generation liberalisation policy, the Government has now decided to amend the Industrial Disputes Act. The framers of our Constitution, after long deliberations, had given protection to the working class of this country. The working class has given their sweat and blood for the construction of this country.

The Industrial Disputes Act gives protection to the employees, as far as their service is concerned, but this Government has decided to do away with it. Now, they are giving the right of 'hire and fire' to the employers in the country. I think, it will be great injustice to the working-class. This protection was given by the Congress Government in recognition of the contribution of the working-class in our freedom movement, and in the development of our country. Therefore, this Government has to rethink about this move.

Sir, umpteen number of concessions and benefits have been given to the corporate sector, and the multinational corporations. The Government has decided to cut the interest rate on the hard-earned provident fund savings of the working-class. The Government mentioned about the abolition of Section 10 of the Contract Labour Act, which protects the poor workers; the workers get protection under this Section. Now, in favour of the big employers, the Government has decided to abolish this Section.

Sir, I would like to refer to paragraph 15 of the President's Address in which there is a mention about the North-East region. The North-East region is

surrounded by neighbouring countries; ninety-eight per cent of their borders is with the neighbouring countries. and only two per cent of the region has links with the mainland. You can appreciate the difficulty of those people living in that enclave of our country. Those who are the sentinels of our country are facing all sorts of trouble.

When I first came to Parliament, there were 19 connectivities by Air, so far as the North-East region is concerned. Now, they have been reduced to nine. In other parts of the country, they are opening new airport, but here, they have closed down some of the airport. There is only one train line in the North-East region. The representatives of the North-East region have been demanding North-bound and South-bound trains, but the Railway Ministry did not consider it, and no new train was given to the North-East region. Coming to the road condition, the valley of North-Eastern region is ravaged by floods every year, which destroys the roads and bridges in the North-Eastern region. The floods destroy property worth hundreds and hundreds of crores of rupees; thousands of acres of land are eroded by the mighty *Brahmaputra* and other rivers in the North-Eastern region. The Government has to have some special programmes to protect this fertile land from erosion caused by the rivers. Long back, the Government has declared the *Brahmaputra River* as national waterways, but there is no work or navigation being undertaken there. Before Independence, it used to be the main source of transport through Bangladesh. There is no effort from the Government side in this regard.

Let me mention about the burning problem of insurgency in the North-East region. The insurgency problem is the most important problem of the region. Many lives were lost, but the problems remain as they were before. There must be serious effort from the Central Government and all concerned for initiating a meaningful dialogue and negotiation with the militant organisations. There must not be different yardsticks for Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, while dealing with the insurgency problem.

Sir, Rashtrapathiji has rightly mentioned about the speedy implementation of the Special Development Package for the North-Eastern region. Sir, I am sorry to mention that the ground reality is quite different.

Sir, one of the former Prime Minister of this country laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Gas Cracker project in the State of Assam five years back, but not a single brick so far has been laid there. Whenever we go back to our State, people say that

this was the kind of treatment that was meted out to the people of Assam by the Central Government.

Sir, another former Prime Minister of the country laid the foundation stone for a bridge to be built over the Brahmaputra river at Bogibed three years back, but even today they have not completed the survey for this project. I do not know as to how these projects would be completed speedily in deference to the wishes of the hon. President.

Sir, there have been no private investments in the region saying that the law and order situation was bad. There has been no public sector investment in the area. No jobs have been created. There are lakhs of educated unemployed youth in the region. In the absence of job they are taking recourse to arms. I think, it is high time that the Government of India think seriously about the problems of the North-Eastern Region. It is because a large number of people are agitating for secession from India and this threatens the very unity and integrity of our country. The Government of India has to think over it seriously.

Sir, peace would not return to the region through the barrels of the gun. The military and the paramilitary forces have been stationed in the region for over 20 years now. But they have not been able to contain militancy. Peace has to come through the development of the region.

Sir, *Rashtrapatiji* has rightly mentioned about the leakages and mismanagement of public funds. I am sorry to mention here that the Chief Minister of Assam was chargesheeted by the CBI but he was given protection by a Constitutional authority by not allowing the CBI to file the case before the High Court.

Sir, the Government of Assam has not been holding the Panchayat elections in the State for the last four years and they are mis-utilising the funds that have been earmarked for the purpose of rural development.

Sir, I would make my last point before I conclude my speech. While a section of the people in the State is fighting for secession from India, it has become all the more important for the Government of India to take all necessary steps to ensure that people get the opportunity, through a democratic participation, to elect a Government of their choice. The Assembly elections in the State of Assam are due in another two months. But the Government in power at the State is creating a lot of problems for the Opposition parties, particularly in regard to holding public meetings and rallies.

Sir, I would like to cite one such instance here. One of the hon. Members of this House Shri P.A. Sangma and former Chief Minister Assam were prevented from holding a public meeting in the district of Nawgaon in Assam. The people should get the opportunity to elect a Government of their choice, otherwise it would not only create problems for the region but would also effect our democracy as a whole. The basic strength of democracy is derived from holding free and fair elections.

Therefore, to preserve the unity and integrity of the region, I urge upon the Central Government to take all steps for holding free and fair elections in the State of Assam. This is a must for the unity and integrity of the State in particular and of the country in general.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P.R. Kyndiah, we allotted total 10 hours for discussion of this Motion. Now, every speaker would get five minutes each.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : How two Members of the Congress will speak one after another ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are three more speakers. He is the last speaker from this side.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I would like to refer to a few areas of concern. Many of the speakers have mentioned about Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. I would only like to quote as to what he said. He said, 'in politics we will have equality and in social and economic life, you will have inequality. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest'. These are the words of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. But I can say that even after 53 years of our Independence the contradictions persist, economic disparities continue; social inequality is unabated and religious freedom is endangered. I would like to refer to a recent occurrence. I am referring to the biggest ever census operation that had taken place in the country. It is in fact the biggest in a democratic country where census operation is conducted. In the census operation, an enumerator has to go to every citizen to enumerate and also get some details about his family. There is a column in the form 8, I have that form with me here, which will reinforce what I have said, the contradiction

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

and the denial of rights to profess a religion. This particular column says, "If Scheduled Caste, write name of the Scheduled Caste from the list supplied. Scheduled Castes can be only among Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists." So, a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste cannot write his own religion, excepting those mentioned.

We know for a fact that in the country today there are many Scheduled Caste people who belong to their traditional religions, to their indigenous faiths but they cannot write them. In the area where I come from, there are people belonging to Scheduled Tribes, and Scheduled Castes, who profess their own indigenous religions. They cannot write that. Those who have become Christians cannot mention their religion as Christianity. Those who are Jains cannot write the name of their religion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, the Minister should intimate this point to the Government for proper reply on the issue.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : This is a blatant violation of articles 14, 15 and 25 of the Constitution. This point is very important. It is time that we realise the true import of these provisions under the Constitution. Article 15 of the Constitution says, "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them." Article 14 says, "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India." The most important provision in this connection, Article 25 says, "...all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion."

The hon. Minister is here. I think this is a very important matter and it is a clear and blatant violation of the Constitution. There has been public opinion expressed by a number of leaders. This concern has been conveyed in a communication to the Prime Minister, to the President, to the Minorities Commission and also to the Registrar General and Census Commissioner. The institution which have spearheaded this awareness campaign are the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes, of the Catholic Bishop Conference of India and others. They have sent letters to the Government. It has been their view, and it is my view also, that since this is an illegal means of forcing Indian citizens to enlist their religion as only Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism, it is

important that a freeze is imposed on all data that may have been already collected on this score.

Since this is the *post mortem*, we cannot do anything just now because the operation is over. But we could have a freezing on this score. That is very important. Unless we do something about it, it will mean that we still go on continuing with allowing denial of religion profession. So, I want to bring it to the kind attention of the Government to do something about it.

Sir, I will not talk about the whole of North-East. Since I would not like to take much time of the House, I would concentrate on two issue. Here is a very important question. Let me just read out from the President's Address because it is very important. Para 15 says:

"There is relative improvement in the situation in the North-East. Peace and normalcy in this strategic region require both political stability and faster socio-economic development."

I agree with it. Para 15 further says:

"This has to be combined with fair action against militant and extremist outfits."

I agree here also.

But here I think, it is very important. The President says which is, of course, the Government of India's view:

"I urge the State Governments to ensure that there is no mismanagement or leakage of public funds. For this, they should carry out effective decentralisation, strengthen democratic institutions, and increase participation of people's organisations. They must also protect the minorities in their respective States."

It looks all simple. We are against leakage or mismanagement of funds. But it should be specific. They cannot bundle the entire seven States of the North-East in one lot. How can they club it altogether? My colleague has just now said about Assam. Well, the Government may take action on the points raised by him, that is a different thing all together. But if they put all the States in the same category, the Seven-States as a Unit, that will not be fair. They are all full-fledged States. They are individually just as good as Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh or for that matter Uttar Pradesh.

There was a word "should" used by the hon. President. I have consulted Oxford dictionary. As per

the dictionary, when the word "should" is used, it is an order. And in this context, it is an order by the centre to the State Government. It is not to the Administration. There is a lot of difference between the Administration and the State Government. In the Address, there is a word used "must". It is an order. Can this statement be taken as otherwise? I have nothing to play politics out of it. This has no party politics. I will give you the break up of party position in the North-East. We have two regional parties - NDA combined in Assam and Mizoram; two Congress - Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland; one CPM - Tripura; one coalition Government in my State, regional party NCP and BJP; Samata-led government in Manipur.

What I am talking is that whether these kinds of orders can be sent, in the same manner, to any other States of the country. Can they do it? Would they dare to do it there? Can the Government of India order any State Government in this regard? They may particularise a certain State or organisation but they cannot take away the constitutional autonomy of any State. I would say that they cannot and dare do it in her state.

Now I come to the main point. The mindset of those who are in Delhi is very important. How do they look at the North-East? Yesterday, we had a meeting with the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation. During that meeting an hon. Member of Parliament said: 'We are in the North-East; not in the far-east'. A sense of alienation dominates the North East. It is the partition of India that dealt a body blow to the social, economic, psychological, geographical and every aspect relating to the North-East. On the 15th of August, 1947, with one stroke of the creation of East Pakistan, we were taken away from mainland India. So, connectivity is crucial. We have to connect.

Shri Ananth Kumar was the Minister of Civil Aviation earlier. He had dealt with this situation. We had a Jayakrishnan Report, which was very good. It had recommended the introduction of 50-seaters to the North-East. I believe, Shri Sharad Yadav agreed to it yesterday. We are looking forward to that.

Another most important aspect is that we are battling insurgency in the North-East. We, the MPs from the North-East have combined together forming a North-East MPs' Forum. Irrespective of party affiliations and cutting across party lines, our main demand is that peace could be brought through development. I would now add that peace could be achieved by generation of employment.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, to a news item. It comes from

the mouth of a very senior key official in the Ministry of Home Affairs in which he has said: 'Bad governance, prime reason for North-East insurgency' This is completely wrong. You cannot say that the fight against militancy is fight against bad governance. How can you describe the entire North-East as experiencing bad governance? This is really wrong. This is a very wrong perception about the North-East. The analysis was over simplistic.

When there was some police firing or militants' firing in Shillong, seven businessmen were killed and in one of the newspapers they said, 'Five Indian businessmen have been killed', as if shillong was not in India. Is this the media perception too? This is wrong. When there was a change of Government in Manipur and the Samata party took over power, they said: 'Kohima calling'. They did not know that the capital of Manipur was Imphal. This is how we look at the North-East. How can we solve the problems of the North-East if we do not know even the State capitals and if we do not know that Shillong is a part of India?

I was a freedom fighter when we fought for India's Independence. In Mizoram, there were freedom fighters; in Assam, there were freedom fighters; in Nagaland, there were freedom fighters. It is not as if we belong to a foreign country. This perception from Delhi should change completely.

When I was the Head of the State in Mizoram, I received a letter from the Ministry of Defence addressed to: 'P.R. Kyndiah, Governor, Mizoram, Agartala'. Agartala is the capital of Tripura. This is the kind of ignorance that is there about the North-East. This is unthinkable. I believe that this is the time to make people aware of the problems of the North-East so that we can solve the problems together. There is no party concern here. It is the concern for national integrity and integration. We are proud citizens of India. We want to see that the North-East is brought into the economic mainstream and political mainstream of India.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to oppose the Motion moved by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, on the President's Address.

Conventionally, we consider the President's Address as the declaration of policy of the existing Government. But in that context, this policy declaration is actually a proclamation of war against the general public of the country.

I will take only a very few minutes and I will not go into the details. In a democratic system, the

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

Government should work for the people, and it should reflect the aspirations and wishes of the common people of the country. The various political and economic measures adopted by the present Government are totally against the interests of the general public of the country.

The main and important points have already been covered by earlier speakers from my Party and other Parties also. So, I would like to restrict my speech only to a few other points.

First of all, I would like to mention something about the unemployment problem of the country. I am very sorry to say that not even a single mention has been made about the major issues, which we are facing in the country, that is, the growing unemployment problem of the country.

New proposals have also come up for amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act and giving sanctity for the labour contract system in our country. I do not wish to go into the details as to how it will affect the working class of the country. I will try to point out the aim of that system. Firstly, private employment exchanges are coming up in our country. I do not want to go into the details and I am cutting short my speech further.

On the one hand, with its policies, the Government is accelerating the unemployment in our country and on the other hand, the Government is giving legal sanctity to exploit the unemployed youths and masses of our country. It is very unfortunate. Not even a single mention has been made about the growing unemployment problem in our country. So, I oppose this Motion.

Secondly, I want to mention something about the agricultural sector. I come from Kerala. We are very proud of producing cash crops like rubber, pepper, cardamom, etc. Kerala is known for its coconut cultivation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may be aware of the coconut lobby of our country and the existing system. Now, what is happening is this. For that lobby, the situation has become a nightmare. The very Central Government, which encourages people for cultivating cash crops, is adopting measures that will bring down prices of those crops. The prices of rubber and other cash crops have plummeted and the people are fighting for their existence.

21.00 hrs.

Sir, as you are aware that the hon. Prime Minister had a very peaceful stay in our State. We are very

proud of it. At that time all the party leaders, including the BJP, met him and tried to explain the kind of situation that is being faced by the agriculturists and the people of Kerala. He listened everything and then he assured that he would wipe out the tears of the people of Kerala. He declared a Package Project for Kerala. That is known as Kumarakom Package Project. That was promised by the Prime Minister while he was staying in Kumarakom very recently. Then, what happened? When he came back to Delhi, he became busy with other matters. I am sorry to say that he has forgotten about the declaration and the promise that he had made during his stay at Kumarakom. After that declaration, for that project, according to the direction of the Central Government, the Government of Kerala submitted many proposals to implement that package. I would request that package should be implemented immediately. That was the promise made by the Prime Minister and it should be implemented immediately.

I would like to make a point about Public Distribution System. The State of Kerala has the best Public Distribution System in our country. But the existing policy of the Union Government is totally destroying the Public Distribution System in the State of Kerala. I do not want to go into the details. But there is no mention about the Public Distribution System in the President's Address. It is very unfortunate that the Policy of the Union Government is destroying the existing Public Distribution System in our country, especially in the State of Kerala.

My hon. friend, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, while moving the Motion has read out a statement given by the Minorities Commission regarding an unfortunate incident that occurred in Kerala very recently. I would like to say that the Union Government is badly communalising and politicising the Central Minorities Commission also. We do not have any doubt about that. We are sure that the people of Kerala have come to know of the situation and what is going on there. I am sure about it. Nobody can fool the people of Kerala. That is the reply I would like to give on that matter.

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, its 9 p.m. and only few Members are present in the House. Today, on the International Women's Day, I am the last speaker from the treasury benches have risen to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. My marriage anniversary also falls today, therefore, I would not take much time of the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Address is a document of the policies of the Government which reflects the future course of action as well. This 27 page document which contains 67 paragraphs reveals the achievements of the Government during the last year and its commitment for the next year. Often people ask me as to what is special about this Government and in what manner it has been better than rest of the Governments. One year and five months have passed since this Government came to power and the biggest achievement of this Government is that it has been functioning with the support and cooperation of 23 political parties. And no Press reporter is apprehensive about its stability. I am of the firm belief that it would complete its five year tenure.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government is headed by a person who is loved most in the country, who enjoys largest majority and who is liked even by the opposition. If hon. Prime Minister gets annoyed or agitated the opposition Members exclaim and say that Atal ji, you were not that type. Such comments were made by the opposition inside and outside the House, the day when the issue of earthquake in Gujarat was taken up for discussion. A common man's perception about this Government is that the reigns of the nation are in such hands that cannot compromise with the security and dignity of the country. Such is the Government led by Shri Atal Biharji Vajpayee. The hon. President in his address made a mention of the policies of the present Government and a Motion of Thanks on Presidential Address was moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and I rise to speak in support of the motion. The Government earned a pride of place for India among the comity of nations. By conducting a nuclear explosion, this Government established its will power by winning the Kargil War, we have established our one upmanship which speaks volumes about our impregnable security cover. This Government has made inroads into the field of information technology. I have no hesitation in saying that Shri Rajiv Gandhi also contributed a lot in this regard. It is a barometer of the progress made by us. This Government have shown its administrative acumen by making splendid arrangements during the 'Mahakumbh' which were praised the world over. The post earthquake relief work carried out by the Government in Gujarat was also praised a lot. Even the hon. President has in this address made a mention of the commendable work done by the RSS, Swami Narayan and several other organisations. He applauded the relief measures undertaken by thousands of Swayam Sevaks in Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the biggest achievement of this Government has been in the field of social reforms which perhaps none of the previous Governments did undertake. The Government imposed a blanket-ban on lotteries, which have ruined lakhs of people. One more remarkable achievement goes to the credit of this Government, that is, the Government propose to bring a legislation whereby smoking in public place will be prohibited. The Government banned advertisements promoting liquor. Thus, these are the great achievements of the Government in the field of social reform.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government deserves extra bonus points on the ground of maintaining communal harmony and not a single incident of communal riots has taken place since present Government assumed office. If I go on counting all the achievements made during one and a half years rule of the Government, it will take so much time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, role of the opposition is not merely confirmed to criticising the Government. In a democratic system, Governments keep on changing and once the party which is in power today sits in opposition tomorrow, in resorts to criticism the very next day. It has been going on for the last fifty years. One of the greatest achievements of this Government has been the creation of three new states, which reflects its will power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on several occasions the opposition has tried to place the Government in the dock. On the issue of "BALCO" opposition demanded for a division of votes wherein they had to eat a humble pie. It met the same fate when it tried to corner the hon. Home Minister on Ayodhya issue. I would like to say that the opposition tried to provoke its allies several times but the Government is still running smoothly, therefore, it deserves a part. Opposition parties tried to implicate RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal in the murder of the Australian missionary Graham Stains, which could not be substantial. Same was the situation where churches were attacked. Therefore, I would like to say if the opposition criticises only for the sake of opposition, it is not good.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, President's Address contained everything including the will power of the Government but missed its commitment, the issue of corruption. Today, we find everyone raising a finger at politicians and the police, as if only these are corrupt. Even films project only politicians and the police as totally corrupt but spare the bureaucrats. There is need of making bureaucracy accountable. Opposition parties should cooperate with the Government on the issue of

[Shri Vijay Goel]

rampant corruption and lack of accountability amongst bureaucrats. The Government should ensure that a common man gets justice and is heard. In this connection, I would like to suggest the Government to prepare a comprehensive list of all people's representatives, bureaucrats, Government officers and judges right from 1947 till today and constitute a commission to find out details of the property amassed by each one of them to ascertain as to which class is more corrupt. There are people who have purchased huge property by corrupt means and have not declared it. Such people are sending their children abroad for studies. India stands 22nd in the list of most corrupt countries. But in fact our 90 per cent population is honest and only 10 per cent people are corrupt so if we can check them we can weed out corruption.

I would also like to say that honest officers should be provided protection and incentives and they should not be subjected to frequent transfers so that they can carry out their task boldly. We have been adopting certain old rituals and practices in our Parliamentary set up. As you have observed the Hon'ble President delivered his speech in two languages viz. English and Hindi. I feel the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs can arrange translation of President's Address so that precious time can be saved. Similarly, when hon. President addresses the House, the National Flag should be behind him and all hon. Members should not only stand up but should sing *Jana Gana Mana* and *Vande Mataram* collectively which would reflect a sense of unity.

Now, it is appropriate time for the Government to take up the important issue of population. It is nice that hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Commission on Population, but it has a populous membership, i.e. over one hundred members. It is not known how often its meetings would be held. If the Government makes efforts to control population, all parties would be ready to extend cooperation. I have learnt that now even Muslim countries adopting family planning, be it Iran, Pakistan or Bangladesh. Every religion support it. The Government should launch a countrywide family planning drive.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again extending support to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I convey my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion on Motion of Thanks is over. The Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister will speak on 12th March 2001 at 1200 hours, followed by voting.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 12th March, 2001.

21.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, March 12, 2001/
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