

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XV, No. 12

Monday, March 12, 2001
Phalguna 21, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. PB-025
Block 'Q'

(Vol. XV contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. P.K. Sandhu
Joint Secretary

P.C. Chaudhary
Principal Chief Editor

Y.K. Abrol
Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

P. Mohanty
Editor

[Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version v
be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XV, Sixth Session, 2001/1922 (Saka)]

No. 12, Monday, March 12, 2001/Phalguna 21, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
*Starred Question Nos. 201, 203, 205 and 207	1-28
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 181 to 200 (9.3.2001) 202, 204, 206 and 208 to 220 (12.3.2001) ...	29-73
Unstarred Question Nos. 1850 to 2040 (9.3.2001) 2041 to 2270 (12.3.2001) ...	73-543
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	544-546
RESIGNATION BY MEMBER	546
BILLS—INTRODUCED	
(i) General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill...	546-550
(ii) Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Repeal Bill... ..	550
RE: FELICITATIONS TO THE INDIAN SPORTSMEN	552
MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS	
Shrimati Sonia Gandhi	555
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee...	558
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to look into the complaints of adulteration in petroleum products in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey ...	573
(ii) Need to bring sale of opium poppy, particularly in Rajasthan, within the ambit of Central Excise Act Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi	573
(iii) Need to take necessary steps to check recurring floods in Bihar Shri Rajo Singh	574
(iv) Need to early commissioning of software technology park at Manipal in Karnataka Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake	574

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

(v)	Need to continue giving rebate on coir products particularly in Kerala	
	Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	575
(vi)	Need to establish a cotton market at Jadcherla of Mahaboobnagar	
	Dr. Manda Jagannath	575
(vii)	Need to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. for construction of a bridge on Saryu river at Bidhar Ghat in Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency	
	Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav	575
(viii)	Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 65 in Tamil Nadu	
	Shri M. Chinnasamy	576
(ix)	Need to remove regional imbalances by paying special attention on cluster of backward zones of the country	
	Dr. Sanjay Paswan ...	577
(x)	Need to check pollution caused by a paper mill at Choudwar in Cuttack district of Orissa	
	Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ...	577

PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS BILL

Motion to Consider	578
Shri Nitish Kumar	578
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	580
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel...	593
Shri Samar Choudhury ...	595
Prof. Ummareddy Venkateshwarlu	597

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems being faced by Farmers

Shri Ramji Lal Suman	598
Shri Sahib Singh	602
Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi	607
Shri Mahboob Zahedi	616
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete ...	619
Smt. Rama Pilot ...	621
Shri A.K.S. Vijayan	631
Shri Raghunath Jha	633

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 12, 2001/Phalguna 21, 1922 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Two Minutes past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment in Industrial Disputes Act

*201. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has observed the delay in carrying out the amendment in the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the amendment has since been carried out and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the necessary amendment is likely to be carried out?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has made certain observations on Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in a case in which the question to be decided was, whether Agricultural Produce Market Committee established under the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1966 was an 'industry' under the Industrial Disputes Act. It has not been possible to notify Section 2(c) of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, for want of Alternative Grievance Redressal Machinery for the employees of establishments/undertakings who would get deprived of the existing legal protection if the amendment gets notified.

(d) Parliament had passed the amendment after taking into consideration the intention of the Government as indicated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act 1982 to have a separate law for the settlement of grievances/disputes of workmen in respect of institutions excluded from the definition of the term 'industry'.

Notification of section 2(c) of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982 will have to await finalisation of the alternative grievance redressal machinery and until then the existing definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 would continue to prevail.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Industrial Dispute Act was enacted in 1947 approximately 150 years ago. In the meantime several amendments relating to wages of labourers have been made, several issues have been raised by the representatives of trade unions and a number of changes taken place. In view of all this do the Government propose to bring comprehensive amendments in the Act, do they intend to make reforms on a piecemeal basis in pursuance of a court verdict only like the one that was passed by the Supreme Court of India in the case of Karnataka.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member desires to know as to what should be the definition of an industry. I would like to say in this connection that the present definition of industry is

[English]

Industry means any business, trade, undertaking, manufacture or calling of employers and includes any calling, service, employment, handicrafts or industrial occupation or avocation of workmen.

[Translation]

The work is being carried out on the basis of this definition. So far as finding out a new definition as per the directives of the Supreme Court is concerned. Hon. Members are aware that lots of efforts have been made in this direction. But so far nothing has been achieved in the matter of finding some way and for providing them employment. Some concrete steps should be taken in respect of those workers who have been rendered jobless as a result of retrenchment.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trade union (India) Act, 1926 is approximately 75 year old. Has any attention been paid by the Government that any concrete action been taken to amend this Act. Secondly, can a person working as a supervisor or holding an executive post be appointed as the President of the organisation?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question is about the Industrial Dispute Act and the hon. Member has put the question about the amendment in Trade Union Act. As this august House is aware, a Bill has been introduced in the House making suitable amendment in the Trade Union Act. All the suggestions made here been covered in the Bill and the

amendment will be implemented once it is passed by the Parliament.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : At least the hon. Minister can give reply to my questions. There is no objection for the passage of this Bill in the parliament but right now he should say something about it.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : What does this hon. Member want to ask?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I want to say that there are a number of shortcomings in this Act because it is a 75 year old Act. Do the Government propose to make comprehensive amendments in the Act in view of the fact that even the workers of trade union become Chairperson of the organisation. I would like to know whether the Government want to retain them in the posts.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this amendment containing all these provision has been introduced to have an a thorough discussion on all these points. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Today the situation is such that our worker of the same union indulges in all sorts of irregularities by becoming its Chairperson. . . .(Interruptions) I can also tell the name of that organisation, if the hon. Minister so desires. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to invite the attention of the hon. Labour Minister to the fact that the Industrial Disputes Act is within the jurisdiction of the Labour Ministry. Under the circumstances, can the hon. Finance Minister directly announce amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act in his Budget speech which was done this year? It is because the Act requires amendment by the Parliament. No Minister can indirectly suggest any amendment in his Budget speech as it has been done by the hon. Finance Minister as far as the principle of retrenchment and lay-off is concerned. I want a reply from the hon. Minister in this regard.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about sections of the industrial Dispute Act and in this regard he desired to know whether the Government is sincere about it as has been stated by hon. Minister of Finance. I would like to say that since the budget speech is a policy statement of the Government announcement, if any, in this regard can be made by this Government. The original question is about section-2 (j) of the Industrial Dispute Act. If the hon. Member gives a separate notice with regard to amendment in "definition of

industry" under the said section of this about act, I will definitely give reply to there.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I am asking about the Act as a whole. It is the Labour Ministry which can suggest amendment to the Act to be made by Parliament. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the new Economic Policy, and the attitude and approach of the industrialists, there is a very urgent need for bringing forward a comprehensive new Industrial Disputes Act. There was a Committee which was constituted for this purpose. That Committee had already submitted the report to the Government of India. May I request the hon. Minister to bring in a suitable legislation without affecting the existing rights of the workmen? Will he be able to bring in a legislation early?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants to know whether some new things will be included in the Industrial Dispute Act besides providing safeguards to the rights of the workers. As this august knows an amendment is made whenever a need arises. However to bring a comprehensive Act covering all the positive and necessary changes as per the need of the hour alongwith providing safeguards to the interests of the workers is definitely a tough job. A group of Ministers is looking after it and considering various aspects of this amendment. Once it is discussed and passed in the cabinet, the draft will once again be brought for a discussion in the House. I hope that we will be able to fulfill the requirements by providing safeguards to the workers taking into account the need of the hour.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I hope the Labour Minister is aware of the fact that the Industrial Disputes Act was duly amended to meet the demands of the working class. There were many agitations country-wide for certain rights to be given to the workers. Amendments were consequently made to the Industrial Disputes Act. Now, from the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, we find that the Government propose to give a legal status to the contract labour. This system is available in the USA and other Western countries where security of service to the workers is denied and other benefits are denied. They work on a contract basis.

I expect or hope that the Central Government is also introducing such a system in India against the provisions now contained in the Industrial Disputes Act. What is the

policy of the Government in these matters and did the Government take any policy decision with regard to the contract labour in India ?

MR. SPEAKER : How can you ask a question about the policy decision in Question Hour ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is the modification of the Industrial Disputes Act. That is why I have put this question.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister also is not supposed to announce any policy decision in Question Hour.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am not referring to the policy decision. I am only asking whether the Government is giving effect to the policy decision taken under the Industrial Disputes Act. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, this question pertains to the Industrial Disputes Act. . . .(Interruptions) I can reply to it but the policy decision is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking a question about the industrial policy.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, this cannot be replied to here.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the judgement of Supreme Court those industries where work is of regular nature should not follow the contract system. They should regularise their workers and their rights should be given to them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to follow this judgement. What is the opinion of the Government regarding abolition of the contract system ?

[English]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, again the question is about the contract labour.

[Translation]

I have stated that the original question pertains to the Industrial Disputes Act but the hon. Member wants to know about the contract labour. The existing provisions of contract labour have defined the responsibility of perennial nature of work, constant working and major employers. Wherever the provisions of this Act are found violated, Government takes action against them and takes measures to correct them.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last para of the reply given by the Government may be considered

again which states that after giving final touch to the alternative complaint redressal system, notification will be issued under Section 2 © of Industrial Disputes Act 1982. Through you, I would like to know from the Government about the policy matter which is restricting the issuance of this Notification. Through you, this House would like to know from the Government and the Minister the time by which this Notification is likely to be issued so that the temporary disputed could be redressed.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : I have read the detailed definition given in Section 2(j) that :—

[English]

"Industry means any business, trade, undertaking, manufacture or calling of employer and includes any calling, service, employment, handicraft or industrial occupation or avocation of workmen."

This is the existing definition of the industry.

[Translation]

As per the new suggestion, some persons have been excluded on the basis of all the definitions and the number of such employees runs into lakhs. Unless some effective solution to solve the problems of excluded employees is evolved that's why Government did not issue the notification. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You have said that notification will be issued.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : After completing the entire process.

[English]

Development of Road Projects by Joint Advisory Council

+

*203. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India, World Bank and Confederation of Indian Industries have formed a Joint Advisory Council to evaluate road development programmes of States and assess business opportunities for the international highway contracting agencies;

(b) if so, the strategy being adopted by the Joint Council to oversee the development of various road Projects;

(c) whether the Chinese and Malaysian highway contracting companies have been selected for various road projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down for them to take over the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Seven contracts have been awarded by National Highways Authority of India in which Malaysian companies are involved. In six such contracts these companies have formed Joint Venture with Indian companies. No contract has so far been awarded to any Chinese company. The contracts are awarded following Competitive Bidding procedures. The bidders are first pre-qualified on the basis of their experience, financial strength, equipment base and the managerial capacity. The bids are invited only from pre-qualified bidders and selection is on the basis of competitive price offers. The criteria for pre-qualification of contractors are available at the Website of NHAI, <http://www.nhai.org>.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, development of roads and bridges through private sector has been started in each State of the country. It has been initiated in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka already.

Central Government had constituted a joint committee in this regard. In this reply to Part 'A' and 'B' of my question, hon. Minister has stated 'no Sir.' However, as per my information, such joint committee was constituted. Advisory Council of Road Development Projects has also submitted its report to National Highway Authority through this joint committee. 'Business Standard' has also mentioned about it. It has been clearly stated in it that Deputy Director General of C.I.A. Shri Mannakhi Rai has drafted a report in respect of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and these States have given their concurrence to it. He has made a project specially for Gujarat envisaging investment of Rs. 19, 951 crores in the coming 10 years. Through you I would like to draw the attention towards a fact that due to unavailability to funds with Central to State

Governments, BOT (Built, Operate, Transfer) should be given to private agencies, foreign investors. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a good question and the Chair expects you to pose a good supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Foreign investment has been invited through BOT but what I want to know from Hon. Minister is that National Highway Authority has recently awarded 60 contracts out of which 6 have been awarded to Malaysian companies. The criteria and norms as he has stated regarding machinery, financial availability and bidding competition were found appropriate in respect of this company. That is why contracts were awarded to it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of the six roads whose contracts have been awarded on increased rates alongwith the cost thereof. Please inform the House regarding the increased percentage of rates above the old one.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked 2-3 major questions simultaneously and the way he asked the supplementary, I will try to reply one by one. First of all he has stated that the reply given by me for Part 'A' and 'B' is incorrect. He has expressed some doubts in this regard. There is such a paper like Business Standard etc. might have quoted it in reply to his question whether any joint council involving World Bank and CII has been constituted, however, I would tell the hon. Member again that there is no such body or council. I am not aware of what Business Standard has reported. Only a Joint Advisory Group of External stake holders has been constituted. A list has been formulated regarding the persons who have been included in it. It is as follows :

[English]

Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh, Chief Secretary, Bihar, Chairman, Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President, All India Motor Transport Congress, Chairman, Consultancy Development Centre, India Habitat Centre, President, Kumari Rajshree Parmar Memorial Foundation, President, Federation of Indian Automobile Association, Chairman, All India Federation of Goods Vehicle Owners' Association, and Director-General of Confederation of Indian Industry.

[Translation]

Presently it has 10 persons. Some more persons are proposed to be included. They suggest us about improvements that can be made in our work. What is the scope of improvement in the standard which have been laid and which have been mentioned by you? In this manner we interact with each other and the council has been set up to discuss and consult the matters regarding this huge project of construction of roads and we want to consult anyone who is related with this sector in any capacity. Therefore, his first question that a separate council has been constituted involving World Bank and CII is incorrect.

Secondly, you have mentioned about BOT Golden quadrangle involving expenditure of Rs. 60,000 crores is a very big project. The other one is the construction of 13,300 km. by road providing corridor in North, South, East and West.

For this purpose while arranging funds, we have proposed that additional arrangement will be made from BOT also. It is beneficial in two ways. Government will not have to provide the funds. Out of the required Rs. 60,000 crores, Rs. 40,000 have already been arranged. It also includes State Road Development Corporations. The Road Corporation has taken up many such projects in Maharashtra while some individuals are also coming up. The purpose is to get funds from private agencies also to use it for road construction.

[Translation]

For maintenance, we give them 15-30 years. As regards the contract with Malaysia — the situation is that we have awarded nine contracts to Malaysia. Some of them are in the form of Joint venture while some of them have been directly awarded to the Malaysian companies. I am not aware of the six matters you have mentioned but the number I am quoting is more than that. I can give you details of the packages involved in it, if you so want.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Please tell us the exact rate of that, the percentage of payment above that, the name of the roads and also the rate per kilometre.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I am telling you about the procedure. As per the procedure, there are some pre-qualifications for the foreign companies interested in the work. It has certain standards. The conditions of World Bank are different from the ones on which we offer contracts. All the funding agencies have to abide by some terms and conditions. Some pre-qualifications are laid down for it, the conditions are given

on our website and the whole world is aware of that. A major condition is that if the scheme is funded by ADB or World Bank, then they should have the funds to complete 80% of the work. The capacity would be determined by doubling the number of projects completed by the agency and dividing that number by the years taken in completing the works.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : You are misleading the House in the name of procedure.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I am informing you about the procedure.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I know the procedure. You are hiding the truth behind procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your second supplementary.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : As per my information, the Malaysian company has invested no funds, used no machinery in it. An Indian contractor has been awarded the sub-contract and it is using domestic funds.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Hon. Member should know that in view of the procedure, his apprehension is misplaced. Those companies are short listed which fulfill the pre-qualifications. Bidding takes place thereafter. The lowest bidder is awarded the contract. It is not awarded to those who bid high.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The Malaysian Company is not doing any work, it is being done by the Indian company.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not appropriate in the Question Hour.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Please listen to me. It is a joint venture. An Indian company is the partner of Malaysian company. They will do the work together. Therefore the Indian Company you are referring to is in joint venture and both the parties are to work. You suspect that Malaysian company is being offered the contract at high rates and the same is not being at lowest rate that is why, I am quoting the procedure to remove your suspicion.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Contracts can not be made like that. . . .(Interruptions) Thousands of crores of rupees are invested. . . .(Interruptions) you have laid down such conditions that an Indian Company can not fulfill that

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask a second supplementary also. This kind of confrontation is not good. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : With your permission, I can explain even the conditions.

MR. SPEAKER : No, we do not have time.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : You did not tell us the cost of road.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your second supplementary ?

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : How can I ask the second question when my first question has not been answered? The hon. Minister has not informed about the cost of the seven roads, what percentage above payment has been made.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : There is no such thing as above percentage. The lowest bidder has been awarded the contract. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Please tell us the cost on each road. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on here ? This is Question Hour. What is your second supplementary ? You should understand that there are other members also who want to ask supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your patronage. I asked the hon. Minister a specific information about the cost involved in seven out of the nine roads about which contract has been awarded to Malaysian company. I also want to know the name of those roads, the name of foreign companies investing money alongwith details of the money thus invested, the details of fund invested from India and the machinery used. But it has not been replied part 'B' of my supplementary question is that a number of cases have been filed in High Court under BOT Act.

The previous Government of Maharashtra had awarded on lease a contract worth Rs. 4000 crores. Public money is being misappropriated in it. Even in that you are awarding

a contract on BOT basis. In my constituency Chandrapur, a bridge has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 3 crores and in five years, Rs. 35 crores would be received as toll tax from the people. A number of such cases have gone to the High Court and it has been decided by the bench of High Court that. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Puglia, what is your supplementary question ? If you want any extra information, you can approach the Minister and get it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will Central Government and State Government would abide by the decision of High Court ? The contract awarded on the basis of BOT. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you have to ask the second supplementary. What is this ?

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : There is 20% profit on the contract cost under BOT. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you ask supplementary or not ? How much more time will you take ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : High Court has given its decision not only in one but three cases. As per that, you can recover the construction cost and interest fee from the people. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will Central Government would instruct the State Governments to comply with the directions of Supreme Court ? . . .(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards BOT, I can only say that Central Government is going by BOT basis. What the State Governments are doing about BOT, is their concern and I can not say anything about it. We have formulated a model agreement under BOT. The expenditure over all items such as its cost, other expenditure, maintenance cost etc. are laid down in it. Figures are obtained about the total number

of vehicles provided to be supplied per day. Only after that we fix the amount of toll we already have the direction of the House about the toll on cars, on trucks and on other heavy vehicles. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the question relates to formation of a Joint Advisory Council to evaluate road development programmes.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, Are you allowing that question ?

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes you must also understand the question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are very apprehensive about this deal. Please allow an half-an-hour discussion on the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are also discussing budget in the House. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, you can get time during the Budget discussion and raise all these things.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : As far as BOT is concerned, the Member's concern is not valid. It is not dependent on facts of the case.

[Translation]

If the hon. Member so desires, I can provide detailed information to him. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can give the information later.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is also a Member of this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What are you doing ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, I want a reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; the Minister is giving the reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : You are getting the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaiswal, we are also discussing the Budget.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I have got a complete list.

MR. SPEAKER : You can supply the information to the hon. Member.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I have got the figures here.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : If you permit me, I will read out the figures.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; you can supply that information to the hon. Member.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I will supply it to him.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Why is he not giving the figures ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have already directed him to give you the information. Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, you are not protecting me.

MR. SPEAKER : It is unfair. I have already asked the Minister to supply the information to you.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The House should know about it.

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the information to you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is he not a Member of this House ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why are you getting angry ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Half-an-hour is already over on this question. I have called Prof. Rawat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What are you doing.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Government, in order to evaluate the road development programmes and for the development of National Highways, has decided to award contracts in consultation with World Bank, National Highway Authority and CII through you. I would like to know from the Government whether the contracts have been awarded for the evaluation of construction and development on national highways programmes related there or whether the contracts have also been awarded for the construction of roads in States ? I would also like to know whether the Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan where the condition of roads is quite deplorable have also been included for the purpose of awarding contracts for the development of roads in those States.

MR. SPEAKER : You may ask supplementary questions now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Part II of my question is whether the tenders have been invited from the foreign company or whether tender companies have also been invited for this ? If not, the reasons therefore and also state as to whether the Indian Companies are not competent enough in this field ?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I would like to tell this much only that though detailed information on this question can be given but this question is not related to the original question. It has been asked right now, whether contracts are being awarded to CII but I would like to tell that no contracts is being awarded to the CII. As I have told just now that there is a provision of the Advisory Committee to tender advice in these matters and I have also gone through the list of suggestions for bringing improvement and removing the shortcomings. Second thing is that it is not true that all the contracts are being awarded to the foreign companies. Presently out of the 57 contracts running under NHAI 37 have been given to Indian companies, 14 are in joint venture and six belong to the foreign companies. Hence, how can you accuse that the contracts are being awarded to the foreign companies only. We have. . . . several ways for attracting the Indian companies in this field but we have to follow the conditions imposed by World Bank in case the funds are provided by World Bank. Indian people also can float their tenders for it and if they do so, they are awarded contracts.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the very tenor and the spirit of the question is whether the National Highways Authority of India is trying to debar most of these Indian contractors and Indian people to take up the works.

In the name of the World Bank funding most of the conditions that have been laid down were such that at the time of calling for pre-qualification bids itself, several Indian construction companies were eliminated thereby giving major scope only for the foreign participants in this. Ultimately, once the work is awarded, it is being sub-divided and made into smaller reaches and again at the time of execution of the work only the Indian companies are executing the works. This is the crux of the whole question.

So, why should we try to eliminate these Indian companies even at the time of calling for the pre-qualification bids who are ultimately taking up the work ? I would like to know whether this Government is going to reformulate the procedure even at the time of calling for the pre-qualification bids so that more talent from the Indian companies can be given a boost and can be encouraged even to further qualify themselves to take up such work.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for highlighting this. I would like to clarify and inform the House about what is the exact position with regard to his contention that Indian companies are being eliminated.

Sir, it may have happened in the initial stages because the total funding of the World Bank and the World Bank conditions were such that some of the Indian participants could not come. But I would like the House to understand that we have to keep two things in mind. One is that the quality of the work has to be such that we cannot just merely for eliminating somebody or bringing somebody in lower the quality requirements.

Sir, we are spending about Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 5 crore per kilometre. On these roads for developing them into 2-4-6 lane roads. Therefore, people with adequate equipment and adequate expertise have to be there.

Initially, there may be some cases but we have all along gone and tried to bring in Indians. I will give you the figures. As far as the World Bank requirement is concerned, which the hon. Member has referred, the World Bank had said that the person should have done work up to 80 per cent of the cost. Suppose if it is Rs. 1,000 crore, he should have done work up to Rs. 800 crore. If it is Rs. 100 crore, he should have done work up to Rs. 80 crore. We went to the World Bank, discussed with them, and now we have got it reduced to 75 per cent.

As far as Indian funding is concerned, we have made it 40 per cent. Their requirement is 80 per cent. We have said that work experience would be 40 per cent.

Similarly, as far as the turnover of the firm is concerned, the World Bank had said that the cost of project is to be multiplied by two and divided by the number of years. We are giving them about two to three years. So, if it is Rs. 100 crore, then it will be Rs. 200 crore divided by three and it comes to Rs. 66.6 crore. We have reduced it further. We have brought it to 40 per cent. Therefore, all along our effort is to bring in Indian people.

As far as the saying that there is no level playing field is concerned, we have all along tried to bring in Indian people. They are now gaining expertise. This Government has eliminated the customs duty on all these big equipment, which Indian people did not have. Now, all major equipment is being allowed at free customs duty in the country. So, we are all along making efforts to see that Indian people come into it. The data is given. Out of 57 people, 37 are Indians. So, I do not think that there is any cause for concern.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much loan has been taken by Indian Highways Authority from the World Bank and what are the conditions for the repayment of these loans ? Besides, I would also like to know as to whether the contracts awarded to the Malaysian Companies have been awarded as per the condition laid down by the World Bank or under the compulsion of getting loans from it ? Whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Malaysian company has been selling the contracts awarded to it to the Indian company ? If so, whether the Government will conduct probe in this regard or not and present the probe-report in the House ? I would also like to know as to whether the Malaysian company has been utilising its own funds for the projects or it is doing so from the funds mobilised from Indian company ?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, per the norms laid down the contract is awarded to the lowest bidder among those who qualify. International bidding takes place and only on the basis of that bidding contracts are awarded to the Malaysian, Indian company or to companies in joint venture. Second thing is that. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The problem is that the companies from outside wins the contracts and complete the contract with the help of Indian companies and earn a lot of money for nothing. . . (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : You are a very senior Member. At least let me complete the reply. As per the rules, fifty percent of the total project can be assigned to some other company but prior permission for doing so is necessary to be taken. The total estimate of the cost involved in a particular contract is taken into account by the NHAI Committee which further grants the permission to the company to seek the help of some other company in undertaking their work if someone does so without taking prior permission and if this thing is brought to our notice, inquiry may be conducted in that case. Every thing is done as per the prescribed norms and it is not proper to award contract against the set norms.

Water Crisis

*205. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. are facing acute water crisis due to severe drought;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have allocated adequate funds to the State Governments to overcome water crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Indian Meteorological Department has divided the country into 35 regions/Sub-divisions. All the Meteorological sub-divisions in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Rajasthan received deficient and inadequate rainfall during South-West monsoon 2000, leading to drought like situation. The rainfall during post-monsoon period has also been scanty in these States.

In Madhya Pradesh 32 out of 45 districts are facing drought like situation and 95 lakh population and cropped area of 33.48 lakh ha. have been affected. The total water available in 4 major reservoirs of Madhya Pradesh at present is 1.03 TMC which is 15.4% of last ten year's average.

In Rajasthan 31 out of 32 districts are facing drought like situation and 330 lakh population and cropped area of 89.47 lakh ha. have been affected. The total water available in 3 major reservoirs of Rajasthan at present is 0.84 TMC which is 36.6% of last ten year's average.

The Department of Drinking Water Supply have relaxed the provisions in the guidelines relating to Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for the drought affected states. A Minimum Need Programme (MNP) is also being implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply. During the year Rs. 406.11 Crore and Rs. 200.32 Crore has been released to Govt. of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively under these schemes. In addition Rs. 85 Crore and Rs. 35 Crore has been released to Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively from the National Calamity Contingency Fund.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the funds allocated to the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to combat the ongoing drought situation are being utilised properly ? Whether any arrangement has been made to conduct a probe into the fact that these funds have reached down to the village level ? I would also like to know whether the

centre and the State have made joint efforts to hold the probe or not ? If not, what steps the Government have taken to do so ? I would also like to know as to how much funds allocated to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been utilised for the funds have not reached upto village level.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the Question. I have given the amount allocated in respect of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa, etc.

Officials from the Central Government, specially, from the Ministry of Rural Development as well as from my Ministry, the Ministry of Water Resources, go and monitor whether the amount is being utilised or not and so also, the officials from the CWC, which comes under my Ministry, monitor the development or the utilisation of funds. It is a regular process, and it is being done.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that no representative of the Government goes to monitor the situation. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to make arrangement for evolving the joint monitoring system so that a member of parliament may get the information as to when does the monitoring takes place. I am once again reiterating that the funds allocated to the State Governments to combat the drought situation have not been utilised. I would like to know as to how much money has actually been spent ? If the situation has been monitored, then the figures about the expenditure should be with you. . . . (Interruptions) as both the states are in grip of severe drought.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : In respect of Madhya Pradesh, the fund allotted was Rs. 406.10 crore and the amount they utilised was Rs. 120.75 crore. In Rajasthan also, they have utilised Rs. 210.5 crore against the fund which they were allotted in February.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Even 30 percent has not been spent. What are you talking about.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, is there any mechanism to monitor the utilisation of the fund ? Is the Government making any joint effort to utilise the fund ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : As per the arrangement, these funds are being released from the Centre to the respective State Governments. They utilise the fund allotted. Sometimes, our officials from the Ministry of Rural Development as well as the Ministry of Water Resources visit the spot, and they try to have interaction with the State Government officials to see whether this amount is utilised or not. This is the process.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply of my question. . . .(Interruptions) I would like to know as to whether there is an arrangement for joint monitoring in view of the fact that only Rs. 120 crores out of a total Rs. 406 crores have been spent in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : As I told you, monitoring is being done by us.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are several big rivers in Rajasthan and the river water flows out of the State due to lack of proper means of tapping this water. This is happening despite the slogan given by the previous Government that the water will remain where it belong to but nothing has happened despite the expenditure of a large amount of funds and Rajasthan is still reeling under the severe famine. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some arrangement has been made proposed to be made to check the water flowing out of Rajasthan. Whether the Government are contemplating to complete the long pending Indian Canal Scheme which was conceived twenty years back so that the drinking water could be made available to the cities and the villages of the State. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your supplementary ?

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : What steps the Government are contemplating to deal with the critical situation faced by the State due to severe famine ?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, in the main reply, I have already stated that from the Central Government we have released Rs. 406.11 crore to meet the expenditure. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to assist the Minister please. What is this ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : This is the amount we have allotted in respect of Rajasthan. We are also monitoring every time whether this amount has been utilised or not. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, the problem of drinking water has remained unresolved. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, the problem of drinking water has assumed serious proportions.

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat, what are you doing. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : So far as the question of Rajasthan is concerned, to make use of the water that is going towards the sea, the Government of India has finalised the Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana and it is being implemented and to date, we have spent, from the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme Rs. 402 crore.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : There is some imminent drought in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu and also the Northern Part of Tamil Nadu. The Southern districts of Tirunelveli, VOC, Kanyakumari and Madurai are all drought-prone areas. So also, in the Northern parts there is imminent drought.

I drew the attention of the hon. Minister through a Statement under Rule 377 last year and also put a question. I received an answer but still we are facing acute drinking water problem in some parts of the State like Tuticorin, and the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation is paying about Rs. 58 lakh towards the hire charges for two months for water tanker lorries.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandiyan, This question relates to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Please understand it. You go through it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : To Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the Government has released the money. Why does it not release funds to the tune of Rs. 100 crore to the State of Tamil Nadu to complete the National River Action Plan on Tamraparni river ?

Shri T.R. Balu, the hon. Minister knows about it. For the National River Plan an estimate of Rs. 60 crore was drawn by the Central Government. But the Central Government has not released funds 60 crore but for the whole amount, they have asked for public participation up

to Rs. 25 crore and they have asked the Members of Parliament to release Rs. 5 crore! How can the MPs release Rs. 5 crore?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandiyan, please understand the question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the hon. Minister release fund at least now to purchase six water tanker lorries for each of the towns of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Tuticorin, Villachikulam, Ottapidapam and Kayathar I want to know this.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He is ready to answer.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing him to answer; I am not allowing him to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us are aware that the situation of drought has been prevailing in Rajasthan for the last two years and in Madhya Pradesh for the last three years and the problem of drinking water has assumed serious proportions in the far flung and desert areas of these States. The Union Government have made several announcements from time to time in this regard besides despatching survey teams there. The State Government have been constantly, keeping in touch with the centre to demand financial package for resolving the problem of drinking water. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much financial assistance has been sought this year by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to resolve the problem of drinking water and how much assistance has been given to these States by the Centre. I would like to know by when the Government is expected to release the remaining financial assistance to them. Along with it, I would also like to know the placeswise details of the funds disbursed which have been provided by the Government in this respect. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, again you are disturbing the House after asking the supplementary also.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : I have stated earlier that so far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the Centre has released Rs. 200.32 crore.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Against how much of the total was it released ?

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : We have released a total amount of about Rs. 200.35 crore. Rs. 95.29 crore under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme, Rs. 8.53 crore under the Prime Minister Antyodaya Programme and Rs. 96.53 crore under the Minimum Needs Programme. Thus, the total comes to Rs. 200.35 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking about the progress regarding expenditure.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, as I have already stated in reply to the earlier supplementary, they have utilised only Rs. 120 and odd crores. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute problem of drinking water in Madhya Pradesh. Though the Centre have released funds yet the Chief Minister of that State has been saying that no money has been received so far from the centre. The Member of Parliament are not being provided any information regarding the development works undertaken in there respective constructions. The funds are being spent in an arbitrary manner. The Members of Parliament must be given the right to monitor the utilisation of funds received from the Centre.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a supplementary. It is only a suggestion. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, it is a suggestion for action and if it is possible, we will certainly examine it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is ready to answer my supplementary. . . .(Interruptions)

Road Tax and Motor Vehicle Tax

+

*207. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for one time payment of road tax, rationalisation of motor vehicle taxes, measures to check overloading etc. is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement uniform rate of road tax and motor vehicle tax in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) (i) Yes Sir. The Government have constituted a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Transport Ministers of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as Members with a view to review/examine :

- (1) Motor Vehicle Taxation Regime,
 - (2) The system of one-time payment of Road Tax, and
 - (3) Uniformity in the rate of Composite Tax for National Permit throughout the country.
- (ii) Provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 exist to check overloading.

(c) to (e) Central Government would prefer a uniform rate of road tax and motor vehicle tax in the country. However, this being a State subject, any decision in this regard would depend upon the respective States.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the hon. Minister has received any complaint regarding the fact that some RTO's and police officers stop the moving vehicles on road and extort money from them on one pretext or the other. Sometimes in the name of toll tax and sometimes on the pretext of the violation of Motor Vehicles Act. These kind of excess take place everyday. I would like to know as to what steps have been taken by the Government to check there excesses ?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the existing provisions more powers are vested in the State Government than in the Union Government in this regard. The job of the Union Government is to take the policy decision and to implement

those with the consent of the State Government to check such extortions. Hence, the National Transport Development Council was constituted in 1958 which convenes its meeting from time to time. We are thinking in terms of taking decision on three issues to check such extortion of money. First thing is concerned with the issue of granting National Permit. Second thing is about payment of one time tax and the third is the rationalisation of Motor Vehicle Tax. All these three issues have been discussed from time to time. I would provide the details on these points later on if the House wants so. The prime responsibility of checking such extortion of money primarily rests with the State Government.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the extremely dilapidated condition of roads in several States, particularly in Bihar. Whether the Government are contemplating to construct the metalled roads and National Highways passing through various States by mobilising the revenue by making mandatory the payment of one time road tax for the public which by and large is in favour of doing so in lieu of utilising the facility of much improved roads ?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have formulated a very comprehensive plan for improving the condition of roads in the country. The road length in the entire country is 33 lakhs kilometres out of which 57,737 kilometres in the share of national highways. Except national highways, the responsibility of maintenance of the rest of the roads lies with the respective State Governments. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister has embarked upon a very comprehensive plan for maintenance of the national highways, converting them in four lane, six lane or eight lane roads and then development up to the affected 13,300 kilometres length. A sum of Rs. 2500 crores has been released to various States this year under the 'Grameen Sadak Yojana' out of which Rs. 990 crore is to be utilised for the maintenance of State highways. This fund will be provided every year. I am hopeful that the State Governments will make proper utilisation of this funds for the development and maintenance of the roads in their respective States.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the police personnel resort to stopping the vehicles everywhere on roads and charge Rs. 25 per vehicle in the name of checking pollution, yet the emission of polluting gases remains undisturbed in the vehicles. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the new anti-pollution measures will be implemented in letter and spirit or the

old practice of allowing every vehicle on payment of Rs. 25 will continue to prevail. I would also like to make this submission that only those roads are maintained properly which are prone to VIPs movement but the roads of the countryside or far-flung areas are in dismal condition. I would like to know whether the Government will issue guidelines to improve the condition of such roads?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of checking the pollution and the extortion of money is concerned, the responsibility in this regard rests with the State Government. Though the Centre can formulate some policies in this regard but the implementation aspect is to be looked after by the State Governments. We share your concern. We cannot compel the State Government to accept our advice in this regard. We also share the concern of hon. Member regarding the dismal condition of roads. As I have told a sum of approximately two to two and a half thousand crore is being allocated annually for the maintenance and construction of 57,737 kilometre long national highways. The responsibility for improving the condition of the rest of the roads lies with the State Government. Recently, a sum of Rs. 750 crore have been provided to the States under the Prime Minister Rural Road Development Scheme and Rs. 990 crore have been allotted for the maintenance of the State highways. Under this new scheme, the same amount will be provided in each financial year starting from April 1 of each year. It is the duty of Parliamentarians to oversee that the allocated for the maintenance and development of roads is being utilised properly.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned about approximately 57 thousand kilometre long national highways. The announcement of 4000 kilometres length of national highways has just been made. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to by when the Gazette notification of the roads, which is essential to be made under the Rule 5(a) will be issued and the work will be started for the construction of said road length after the allocation of funds for it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Lakhan Singh, the question is regarding road tax and rationalisation of Motor Vehicle Taxes.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am following the same. The hon. Minister should give his reply, we would like to have all the information in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Ram Lakhanji, this question is not about roads but about taxes.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is trying to evade the question by saying that it is the job of the State Governments. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Union Government should issue instructions to the State Government for passing the models of the new six seater vehicles recently launched on the roads. The private vehicles having more than six seats are not being allowed to ply on roads in Union Territories. Whether the Government are aware about it. If so, what steps the Government are contemplating in this regard?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is accusing me for evading any responsibility but if the Union Government interferes with the rights of the State Government then he will cry foul saying that the Union Government is functioning in anti-democratic fashion. I am telling you that . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the centre should issue instructions to the State Governments what the union Government is doing about private vehicles having more than six seats?

12.00 hrs.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Three issues are under consideration with regard to licensing system. A high level committee has been constituted to look into these aspects of licencing. It has already met twice or thrice. . . (Interruptions) and the next meeting of this committee will be held soon.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The problem is that the vehicles are not being passed to ply on the roads. I am saying it in the context of the union territory of Chandigarh though I do not want to name it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : This is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Surface Transport. We give the suggestions to the State Government and they formulate the policies in this regard. A high level committee has been constituted in this regard and now this issue will be looked after by the Committee. Still I will look into what you are saying. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, my question is different. . . (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Levy Sugar

*181. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the dates on which quota of levy sugar has been reduced since March, 1998, indicating the percentage of reduction on each occasion;

(b) the reasons for providing relief to the sugar mill owners by reducing the quota of levy sugar;

(c) the present status of implementation of Mahajan Committee recommendations on sugar industry; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented in full?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) The levy obligation, which was 40% in March, 1998, was reduced to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000 and to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001.

(b) The High Powered Committee on Sugar Industry (Mahajan Committee), in its Report submitted to Government in April, 1998, recommended, inter alia, complete decontrol of sugar to be phased over a period of two years. Government has decided to decontrol the sugar industry in a phased manner. This decision has been taken as part of the reforms process in the sugar sector as also to improve the financial health of the sugar mills and to enable them to make timely payment of cane prices to the growers.

(c) and (d) Government has taken decisions on all the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee. 75 recommendations have been accepted wholly or partly or with modification. Many of these recommendations have already been implemented, either fully or partly. The remaining recommendations accepted by Government are at various stages of implementation.

Impact of Liberalisation

*182. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether opening the doors to foreign capital in every form in the name of liberalisation is widening the gap between the rich and the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the achievements made under the present liberalisation policy keeping in view the interests of the poor workers, marginal farmers and rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. On going liberalisation policies have emphasized economic reforms with human face. The liberalisation of foreign capital has played an important role by supplementing domestic savings and bringing modern knowledge, technology and managerial skills. Nevertheless, foreign investment constitute only a small proportion of total investment in India.

(c) Liberalisation of the economy since 1991 has helped India to move on a higher growth path and to reduce poverty at a faster speed. Subsequent budgets of the Central Government have announced special programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation. The average real GDP growth rate has improved from 5.4% during 12 year period ending 1991-92 to 6.4% during 1992-93 through 2000-01. Percentage of poor declined from 38.9% in 1987-88 to 36% in 1993-94 and further to 26.1% on a 30 day recall basis and 23.3% on a 7 day call basis in 1999-2000. The rural poverty ratio has declined from 39.1% in 1987-88 to 37.3% in 1993-94 and further to 27.1% (30 day recall) and 24% (7 day recall) in 1999-2000. The All India average real wages for the unskilled agricultural workers have risen at an average rate of about 3% per annum during the eight year span of 1992-2000.

[English]

Mahila Urban Cooperative Banks

*183. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahila Urban Co-operative Banks in ten States have given boost to thrift movement;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the Government would encourage the establishment of such banks in the other States, so as to encourage the thrift movement throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as of date, 120 Mahila Urban Cooperative Banks are functioning in the country. The working of most of these banks is generally satisfactory and they do help in promoting savings. The total deposits and advances of these banks as on June 30, 2000 were Rs. 820.00 crores and Rs. 585.00 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) With a view to encourage setting up of Mahila Urban Co-operative Banks, RBI has prescribed reduced entry level capital norms. Mahila Urban Banks are required to bring in only 50% of capital prescribed for the general category of banks as entry level capital.

Action against Drug Manufacturers under FERA

*184. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many drug manufacturers are indulging in under invoicing and over invoicing;

(b) if so, the details of those companies;

(c) whether legal proceedings are pending against them;

(d) whether the Government propose to expedite legal proceedings against drug manufacturers under FERA;

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

(f) whether they have shifted their holding companies recently from Hong Kong to Mauritius and vice-versa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Cases of under-invoicing and over-invoicing have been detected by the Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence against M/s CIPLA Limited, M/s Warner Lambert India Limited, M/s Calyx Chemicals and Pharma (P) Limited, M/s Lupin Laboratories Limited and M/s Combitic Global, Sonapat.

(c) Show Cause Notice has been issued in two cases.

(d) and (e) A case has been registered under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 against M/s CIPLA Limited, Mumbai.

(f) No, such case has come to notice.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Restrictions on Marine Export

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is facing difficulty in export of the marine products, dye and dyeing material and leather products due to imposition of environment related restrictions on these items by the Western countries;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Exports to the United States of America of shrimp caught by mechanised trawling has been affected with effect from 1.5.1996 due to U.S. contention that trawling for shrimp by mechanised means would adversely affect certain varieties of sea turtles. India's efforts before DSB of WTO to get the US to withdraw the restriction have not succeeded. However, exports to USA of shrimps of aquaculture origin and shrimp from wild caught by non-mechanised means are continuing on the basis of certificates issued to this effect by the Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

Government are not aware of any difficulty faced in the export of dye and dyeing material due to imposition of environment related restrictions on these items by Western countries. As regards leather products, there are no specific environmental related restrictions on exports from India, imposed by any Western country. However, from time to time, some of the countries have been requiring Indian suppliers to meet certain consumer/environment security standards, which domestic industry has been ready to comply with.

[English]

Outstanding dues to the Sugarcane Growers

*186. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :
SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the production of sugar in the private and public sector sugar mills of the country during the last three years, separately;

(b) the names of sugar mills, particularly of U.P. in respect of whom matter for revival is pending with BIFR;

(c) the mill-wise outstanding dues of sugarcane growers against these mills;

(d) the reasons for large outstanding dues and the time since when these dues are outstanding;

(e) the initiatives taken by the BIFR for making arrangements for the payment of these outstanding dues; and

(f) the steps taken by the BIFR to revive and run these sugar mills ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :

(a) The production of sugar in private and public sectors in the country during the last three sugar seasons (October-September) was as under :-

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Sugar Season	Private Sector	Public Sector
1997-98	49.71	8.86
1998-99(P)	57.64	8.81
1999-2000(P)	69.46	9.97

(b) and (c) Available information in regard to the sugar mills for which revival is pending with the BIFR and the outstanding dues of sugarcane growers pending against the said mills is given below :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Mill	Outstanding cane price dues upto 1999-2000 sugar season
(1) UTTAR PRADESH	
(i) Lakshmi Sugar Mills	620.72
(ii) Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd.	508.65
(iii) Saraya Sugar Mills Ltd.	2291.23
(iv) Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd.	1959.82
(2) MADHYA PRADESH	
B.S.I. Ltd.	236.38
(3) ORISSA	
Western Orissa Sugar Ltd.	36.98
(4) RAJASTHAN	
Mewar Sugar	168.80

(d) Accumulation of cane price arrears could be attributed to a number of factors, such as poor financial position of sugar mills, high cost of production, excessively high State Advised Cane Prices, inadequate sales realisation, mills remaining closed, etc.

(e) and (f) The BIFR prepares revival package for mills including repayment of the outstanding dues of cane growers in consultation with the concerned State Governments/Central Government, Banks, etc.

Supply of Foodgrains to Drought Stricken States

*187. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab are facing problems arising out of excess foodgrains and some States like Chhatisgarh and Orissa are facing shortage of foodgrains causing starvation deaths; and

(b) if so, the details of the remedial steps initiated by the Union Government for supply of foodgrains to these States and also ensure that such a situation does not recur in future ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Bumper production in State like Punjab and Andhra Pradesh has led to procurement far in excess of the buffer norms resulting in problems like shortage of storage space in these States.

Adequate stocks are maintained by the Food Corporation of India for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System, welfare schemes, etc. Special allocations are also made for relief in cases of natural calamities like drought, earthquake, flood, etc. According to available information, there has been no starvation death in any State. However, Chhatisgarh and Orissa have been affected by drought. 1,60,000 tonnes of rice has been allotted to Chhatisgarh free of cost for organising various employment generation programmes. Similarly, one lakh tonnes of rice has been allotted to Orissa free of cost for organising employment generation programmes in the drought affected areas. Further, 96,600 tonnes of rice has been allotted to Chhatisgarh at BPL rate for the Food for Work Programme in the drought affected areas.

Duty Differential between Raw Materials and Finished goods

*188. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of small-scale units as well as medium scale industries dealing with non-ferrous metals in the country have been forced to close down in the absence of duty differential between raw materials and finished products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Government has not received any such specific information that large number of small-scale or medium scale industry dealing with non-ferrous metals are closed down due to

absence of duty differential between raw materials and finished products.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Privatisation of Banks

*189. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is working on any proposal to privatise public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by reducing the Government share in the nationalised banks, there will not be any safety and security for the public money; and

(d) if so, the schemes drawn up by the Government for the protection of public money in such banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No proposal to privatise Public Sector Banks is under consideration of the Government. It is proposed only to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 with a view to modifying the stipulation of minimum prescribed Government shareholding in nationalised banks from 51% to 33%, to enable nationalised banks to raise capital from the market without affecting the public sector character of these banks. Accordingly, Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws Amendment Bill, 2000 has been introduced in Lok Sabha in its last session. The bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

(c) and (d) Even after reduction of Government equity in nationalised banks below 51%, the public money and deposits in the banks will be fully secure and safe. All banks are under the supervision of Reserve Bank of India and function in accordance with and have to comply with the prudential norms and guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. Reserve Bank of India has prescribed norms like capital adequacy, cash reserve ratio and investment in approved Government securities and various risk management systems, to ensure security and safety of public money in the banks.

[Translation]

Ban on Indecent Programmes

*190. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

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

(a) whether the foreign television channels telecast only such programmes and films which are full of violence, vulgarity and indecency;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on the telecast of such undesired programmes by foreign television channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the programmes of satellite channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the prescribed Programme and Advertisement Codes. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act rests with the authorized officers i.e. DMs, SDMs, Commissioners of Police and other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Governments. The issue of effective implementation of the provisions of the Cable Act has been taken up with the State Governments.

[English]

Reconstitution of Coffee Board

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coffee Board has been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be reconstituted; and

(d) the details of norms laid down for the reconstitution of the Coffee Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Coffee Board has been reconstituted for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 13th April, 2000. The Board is reconstituted as per the provisions of Coffee Act, 1942 and Coffee Rules framed under the Act, which envisages representation to various segments of coffee industry like coffee growing States, coffee growers, coffee trade interests, curing establishments, interests of labour and consumers and 3 Members of Parliament. The present composition of the Board is as follows :

S.No.	Name
1	2

1. Ms. Lakshmi Venkatachalam, IAS Chairperson

Members of Parliament (3)

2. Sh. D.C. Srikantappa, MP Lok Sabha
3. Smt. D.M. Vijyakumari, MP Lok Sabha
4. Prof. A. Lakshmisagar, MP Rajya Sabha

Representatives of Governments, of Principal Coffee Growing States (4)

5. Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Environment, Forest, S and T, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
6. Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture and Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka
7. Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt. of Kerala
8. Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamilnadu

Representatives of Small Coffee Growers (7)

9. Sh. N. Bose Mandanna
10. Sh. H.R. Basanna
11. Sh. A.K. Moidu
12. Sh. B.L. Ramadas
13. Sh. M.D. Venkatasubramaniam
14. Sh. B.B. Subbaiah
15. Sh. B.D. Manjunath

Representatives of large coffee growers (3)

16. Sh. H.B. Rajagopal
17. Sh. Anil Kumar Bhandari
18. Sh. K.R. Keshava

Representatives of coffee trade interests (3)

19. Sh. B.K. Pruthvi
20. Sh. P.R.K. Bhaskaran
21. Sh. R.V. Ravindran

Representatives of curing establishments (2)

22. Sh. A.A. Kariappa
23. Sh. G.C. Chandra Mohan

Representatives of Labour interests (4)

24. Sh. Joy Thomas
25. Smt. Radha Sundaresh

1	2
26. Sh. Mahaliappan	
27. Sh. D.K. Sadashiva	

Representatives of coffee growing states other than principal coffee growing states (2)

28. Commissioner and Secretary, Deptt. of Soil Conservation, Govt. of Meghalaya.
29. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Tripura

Representatives of consumers' interests (2)

30. Sh. M.B. Nirmal
31. Shri Misa Ganesan

Representatives of instant coffee manufacturers (1)

32. Sh. Ranjit Raj

Emminent personality in the field of research/marketing/promotion of coffee (1)

33. Smt. Sunalini N. Menon

[Translation]

Pending cases in the Consumer Redressal Forums

*192. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMERS AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of pending cases in the Consumer Redressal Forums is increasing gradually;

(b) if so, the number of the Consumer Redressal Forums, where the posts of members are vacant;

(c) the steps being taken to appoint the members; and

(d) the measures being taken for speedy disposal of the grievances of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir. However, inspite of substantial increase in the number of cases being filed in the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums, the overall rate of disposal continues to be about 80%.

(b) As reported by the State/UT Governments, out of 569 District Forums set up so far, in 48 District Forums posts of Members are vacant.

(c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 selection and appointment of members of the State Commission and District Forums is to be done by the State/UT Governments. However, it is reported by the State/UT Governments that necessary action has been initiated by them in this regard.

(d) Among the steps taken by the Central Government for smooth functioning of the Consumer Forums and to facilitate quicker disposal of cases are :

- (1) To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, Central Government has provided a one-time grant of Rupees sixty one crore and eighty lakhs to the States/UTs during the period 1995-99.
- (2) Monitoring of the working of the Consumer Courts through the National Commission.
- (3) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents in various Consumer Forums on priority.
- (4) The State/UT Governments are requested from time to time to take steps for ensuring the smooth functioning of the Consumer Forums and close monitoring of their performance.
- (5) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 as and when required.

Insurance Claims of Earthquake Victims

*193. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of insurance claims received by various insurance companies from Kutch and other places of Gujarat after the earthquake that hit Gujarat on January 26, 2001;

(b) the number of claims disposed of and the amount of money disbursed so far;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for quick disposal of all those claims;

(d) the instructions issued by the Government for disposal of those claims;

(e) whether the Government has received any complaint of harassment for not settling the claims quickly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken against such officers and employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) LIC of India has reported that as on 2.3.2001, they have received 1017 claims for Rs. 848.32 lacs. Out of these, 843 claims for an amount of Rs. 742.39 lacs have been settled. Around 30,000 claims amounting to Rs. 648.41 crores have been received by the General Insurance Companies. Of these, 5137 claims for an amount of Rs. 14.22 crores have been settled.

(c) and (d) Chairmen of GIC, LIC and CMDs of all the four subsidiary insurance companies have been visiting Ahmedabad periodically to make on the spot assessment of the extent of damage and also streamline the claim procedure for early settlement. Senior officers of the Ministry of Finance have also visited Ahmedabad for the purpose. The Government has advised the insurance companies for early settlement of claims. The insurance companies have drawn up an action plan for expeditious settlement of claims and have also dispensed with many of its normal requirements for claim settlements such as :-

- (i) Waiver of post mortem report.
- (ii) If Death Certificate is not available, a letter from Sarpanch, Talati, Mamlatdar etc. can be obtained. In the absence of any of these, death claims are settled merely on the basis of Letter of Indemnity on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20/-.
- (iii) Police panchnama and Meteorological Report is not to be insisted upon in case of property claims.
- (iv) No driving licence in case of motor claims will be insisted upon.
- (v) Where salvage has been removed by the authorities, alongwith debris, requirement for collection of salvage may be waived after obtaining affidavit or Indemnity Bond.
- (vi) For death claims below Rs. 5 lakhs, successor may be certified by way of an affidavit before Magistrate or Mamlatdar.
- (vii) Higher financial authority has been delegated to Regional/Divisional incharge.
- (viii) Officers have been authorised to dispose of claims as "individual" for application of financial authority.
- (ix) Time schedule for Surveyors has been fixed for submission of the survey reports.

(e) and (f) A few representations have been received on account of delay in settlement of claims by companies and consequent harassment. As indicated above, a number of steps have been taken by the insurance companies for expediting settlement of claims. No specific complaint against any officer has been received alleging harassment.

Price Stability

*194. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not achieved the desired price stability in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) A reasonable level of price stability has been achieved during the ninth five-year plan period compared to the preceding eighth plan period during which two out of five years had recorded a double-digit inflation. The annual average inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) during the ninth plan so far is lower than that recorded during the earlier two five-year plans.

Annual Average Inflation (%)	WPI based	CPI based
7th Plan (1985-86-1989-90)	6.7	7.9
8th Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	8.7	9.3
9th Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) (upto 10.2.01)	5.1	6.9

A number of initiatives have been taken to achieve price stability in the medium term. The objective of containing the fiscal deficit of the Government as spelt out in the Ninth Plan Document is being followed resolutely and a strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act is on the anvil for medium term management of the fiscal deficit. These measures would help maintain price stability in the medium term.

Government has also been making concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management and also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Consequently, wholesale prices of important items of daily consumption like rice, wheat, atta, edible oils, salt and some pulses are presently reported to be lower than last year. Competitive

forces operating as a result of liberalisation of trade policy have ensured that prices remain reasonably stable.

[English]

Trade Relations with South American Countries

*195. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have established trade relations with South American countries;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade relations were established till December, 2000;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to further expand bilateral trade with Brazil;

(d) if so, the areas identified for the purpose; and

(e) the agreements signed between the two countries in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) India and South American countries have been having trading relations for a long time. The following major trading areas have been established for enhancing India's exports to South American Region :

- (i) Textiles including ready-made garments;
- (ii) Engineering products including computer Software; and
- (iii) Chemical products including Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken steps to further expand bilateral trade with Brazil. The areas identified are :

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Engineering Goods, Chemicals, Textiles and Software Products.

The Government of India have signed following agreements with Brazil so far :

- (i) Trade agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of Brazil, 1968;
- (ii) Double Taxation and Social Security Payment Agreement, 1992;
- (iii) Joint declaration of Terms of Reference for the Indo-Brazilian Commercial Council, 1996;

- (iv) **Equivalence in Quarantine Measures** signed in 1997.

The Government have initiated steps to have trade agreement with Brazil.

[Translation]

Serials on Renowned Authors

*196. **SHRI TUFANI SAROJ** : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doodarshan has formulated a scheme for producing serials based on the works of renowned authors of different Indian languages;

(b) if so, the number of such serials to be produced;

(c) whether renowned authors have been selected for this purpose;

(d) if so, the names thereof; and

(e) the details of the works selected on which serials are to be produced ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the Prasar Bharati Board has approved a proposal for commissioning of literary classics and masterpieces in regional languages. The languages selected are Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Oriya, Assamese, Kashir, Bangla, besides Hindi and Sanskrit.

The detailed modalities of the scheme are being worked out by Prasar Bharati to commission the best available talent to production of quality serials, on the works of renowned authors.

[English]

Negative growth by PSUs

*197. **SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY** :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings and heavy industrial units have reported negative growth of four percent during January-November 2000;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the negative growth;

(c) the target met by them during the above period; and

(d) the steps being considered to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Information on performance of CPSUs is not maintained centrally on monthly basis. However, as per information available in chapter 18 of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1999-2000 which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 27.2.2001 and is a published document, the performance of Central Public Sector Undertakings in terms of turnover, profitability and capital employed as a whole indicates a positive growth rate during first six months (April-September 2000) of the current Financial Year i.e. 2000-2001.

Performance improvement is a continuous process. Enterprise specific steps in this regard are taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of PSUs from time to time. Some of the steps taken/being taken include financial and business restructuring; formation of joint ventures; technology upgradation; modernization of plant and machinery; enhanced capacity utilization; improved marketing strategies; cost control measures; optimization of inventories; rationalisation of manpower; etc. as the case may be.

Report on Digital Television

*198. **DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV** : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received feasibility report on Prasar Bharati's planned digital terrestrial television (DTT) service;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations of the said report; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that it has received the feasibility report on introduction of digital terrestrial television (DTT) service in India, prepared by M/s BBC Resources. The study has concluded that a Public Service-led digital terrestrial television proposition is strategically important, technically deliverable, operationally challenging and financially justifiable.

(c) The report of M/s BBC Resources is under consideration of Prasar Bharati. Hence the question of any action being taken by the Government does not arise at this juncture.

Target set for Export of Tea

*199. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for tea exports for next financial year to earn more foreign exchange; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to explore new markets for Indian tea, especially in West Africa and North America ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) Govt./Tea Board has set a target of 225 mn. kgs for export of tea for the year 2001-2002.

(b) Tea Board through its offices at Dubai (UAE) which covers West Africa and at New York (USA) which covers USA and Canada, is continuously taking measures to explore new markets for tea. This initiative includes holding of buyer seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions, sending of delegations, release of advertisement and other public relation activities. The Tea Board also contributes to the Tea Associations of Canada and USA which are engaged in generic promotion of tea in their respective countries. The major market in West Africa is Morocco, which imports mainly Green Tea. Efforts have been made to increase the production of Green Tea in India which is presently restricted mainly to the Kangra Valley and to encourage the producers to export to Morocco and to USA.

[Translation]

Policy for Foreign Capital Investment

*200. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no definite policy framework regarding the quantum of foreign capital investment in various industrial and services sector of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assessment is being made regarding requirement of capital investment in the industry and its impact on domestic industry, prior to the approval of foreign capital investment in any industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b)

There is a clear policy framework for all capital investment as notified in the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, read with subsequent policy pronouncements.. As far as foreign direct investment is concerned, upto 100% foreign equity is permitted in all activities, except a specified list.

(c) to (e) Government constantly reviews the role of foreign investment with the objective of further refining it and enhancing India's attractiveness as an investment destination and also to supplement the domestic investment as per sector specific requirements.

[English]

Missing of Skins of Wild Animals

*202. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether the Government have been impounding the skins of tigers, tigresses, serpents and other protected animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government are disposing of these skins;

(c) whether the skins of such animals have been found missing from various Zoos and forest reserves during the last three years and current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise till date;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof, Zoo-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The details of the skins of various wild animals confiscated during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed. Under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, there is a ban on sale of the skins, derived from animals listed out in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Act. The Central Government has issued directives to State Governments that except those skins which are needed by the museums and scientific institutions for education and awareness purposes, all other skins should be destroyed and burnt.

(c) and (d) Information in this regard is not readily available and is being collected from State Governments.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Species	Day	Month	Year	State	Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Tiger		1	1998	Karnataka	5
2.	Tiger	20	4	1998	Maharashtra	1
3.	Tiger	25	5	1998	M.P.	1
4.	Tiger	24	9	1998	West Bengal	1
5.	Tiger	8	9	1998	West Bengal	1
6.	Tiger	20	10	1998	New Delhi	1
7.	Tiger	1	11	1998	U.P.	1
8.	Tiger	7	11	1998	U.P.	2
9.	Tiger	1	11	1998	New Delhi	1
10.	Leopard	20	1	1998	H.P.	5
11.	Leopard	2	2	1998	U.P.	3
12.	Leopard	25	2	1998	U.P.	3
13.	Leopard	4	5	1998	U.P.	3
14.	Leopard	25	5	1998	M.P.	1
15.	Leopard	19	6	1998	Maharashtra	3
16.	Leopard	14	10	1998	U.P.	3
17.	Leopard	1	11	1998	New Delhi	1
18.	Leopard	6	11	1998	U.P.	1
19.	Leopard	11	11	1998	H.P.	3
20.	Leopard	17	11	1998	New Delhi	2
21.	Deer	26	9	1998		5
22.	Varanus	13	7	1998	Mumbai	5
23.	Tiger	13	1	1999	U.P.	1
24.	Tiger	24	2	1999	M.P.	2
25.	Tiger	15	2	1999	M.P.	1
26.	Tiger	28	3	1999	Delhi	1
27.	Tiger	5	3	1999	M.P.	2
28.	Tiger	30	3	1999	Maharashtra	1
29.	Tiger	1	3	1999	Tamil Nadu	1
30.	Tiger	24	4	1999	U.P.	1
31.	Tiger	25	4	1999	And. Pradesh	1
32.	Tiger	21	4	1999	U.P.	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Tiger	20	4	1999	M.P.	3
34.	Tiger	20/21	5	1999	Maharashtra	2
35.	Tiger	16	7	1999	U.P.	1
36.	Tiger		7	1999	West Bengal	2
37.	Tiger		8	1999	U.P.	3
38.	Tiger	9	8	1999	And. Pradesh	1
39.	Tiger		8	1999	West Bengal	1
40.	Tiger		9	1999	West Bengal	1
41.	Tiger		9	1999	West Bengal	2
42.	Tiger		10	1999	U.P.	3
43.	Tiger		10	1999	Tamil Nadu	1
44.	Tiger		12	1999	U.P.	3
45.	Tiger		12	1999	M.P.	1
46.	Tiger		12	1999	U.P.	1
47.	Leopard	13	1	1999	U.P.	2
48.	Leopard	11	2	1999	U.P.	3
49.	Leopard	12	2	1999	U.P.	1
50.	Leopard	15	2	1999	M.P.	3
51.	Leopard	24	2	1999	M.P.	2
52.	Leopard	1	3	1999	Tamil Nadu	1
53.	Leopard	20	4	1999	M.P.	6
54.	Leopard	20	5	1999	Maharashtra	2
55.	Leopard	27	5	1999	M.P.	4
56.	Leopard	28	8	1999	Rajasthan	4
57.	Leopard	18	12	1999	U.P.	50
58.	Crocodile	25	2	1999	Assam	1
59.	Deer	25	2	1999	Assam	6
60.	Monitor Lizard	25	2	1999	Assam	1
61.	Pangolin	25	2	1999	Assam	3
62.	Python	25	2	1999	Assam	2
63.	Snake (skin and article)	1	4	1999	Mumbai	45
64.	Monitor Lizard	27	7	1999	Mumbai	11000
65.	Tiger	12	1	2000	U.P.	4
66.	Tiger	7	1	2000	U.P.	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67.	Cobra	14	2	2000	Mumbai	80
68.	Tiger	21	1	2000	Andhra	1
69.	Tiger	22	2	2000	Delhi	1
70.	Tiger	22	2	2000	W.B.	2
71.	Tiger	1	4	2000	W.B.	1
72.	Tiger	20	5	2000	Maharashtra	1
73.	Tiger	17	7	2000	Delhi	1
74.	Tiger	12	6	2000	M.P.	1
75.	Tiger	21	7	2000	Maharashtra	1
76.	Tiger	4	8	2000	W.B.	1
77.	Tiger	8	8	2000	Maharashtra	2
78.	Tiger	25	8	2000	W.B.	1
79.	Tiger	30	8	2000	U.P.	1
80.	Tiger	15	9	2000	W.B.	1
81.	Tiger	24	9	2000	W.B.	1
82.	Tiger	9	10	2000	Andhra	1
83.	Tiger	26	10	2000	M.P.	2
84.	Tiger	3	11	2000	Andhra	1
85.	Tiger	16	11	2000	U.P.	2
86.	Leopard	2	1	2000	W.B.	1
87.	Leopard	12	1	2000	U.P.	70
88.	Leopard	13	1	2000	U.P.	1
89.	Leopard	22	1	2000	Maharashtra	2
90.	Leopard	22	1	2000	Maharashtra	2
91.	Leopard	2	2	2000	U.P.	4
92.	Leopard	10	2	2000	Mumbai	1
93.	Leopard	10	2	2000	Maharashtra	1
94.	Leopard	10	2	2000	Maharashtra	1
95.	Leopard	13	2	2000	Maharashtra	1
96.	Leopard	21	2	2000	Maharashtra	1
97.	Leopard	24	2	2000	M.P.	1
98.	Leopard	31	3	2000	U.P.	2
99.	Leopard	1	4	2000	U.P.	6
100.	Leopard	20	4	2000	Delhi	1
101.	Leopard	6	5	2000	U.P.	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
102.	Leopard	8	5	2000	H.P.	3
103.	Leopard	15	5	2000	U.P.	1
104.	Leopard	19	5	2000	M.P.	7
105.	Leopard	21	5	2000	U.P.	30
106.	Leopard	21	5	2000	U.P.	1
107.	Leopard	20	6	2000	Punjab	4
108.	Leopard	20	6	2000	Punjab	4
109.	Leopard	16	7	2000	Delhi	1
110.	Black Buck	12	1	2000	U.P.	221
111.	Snake	13	6	2000	Chennai	2000
112.	Otter	2	5	2000	W.B.	81
113.	Otter	6	5	2000	U.P.	15
114.	Otter	18	1	2000	U.P.	5
115.	Tiger	15	1	2001	U.P.	1
116.	Tiger	25	2	2001	U.P.	1
117.	Leopard	2	1	2001	Rajasthan	2
118.	Crocodile (Article)	2	3	2001	Mumbai	5
119.	Snake (Article)	2	3	2001	Mumbai	11
120.	Varanus (Article)	2	3	2001	Mumbai	2
121.	Python and Rat Sanke	5	3	2001	Mumbai	2
122.	Lizard	5	3	2001	Mumbai	3
Total						13877

Pension Scheme in Unorganised Sector

*204. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dave Committee set up to suggest a pension scheme for the unorganised sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Dave Committee was set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to examine the policy question connected with old age income security in India. The report has recommended measures intended to help every person to build up savings during his/her

working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. These recommendations are being examined by the Government.

Employment as Fundamental Right

*206. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include right to employment as a fundamental right in the Constitution; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Growth in Employment Generation

*208. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of unemployed persons have increased to great extent with the disinvestments process in full swing;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic recession leading to slow industrial growth and closure of small scale units have contributed to the rising unemployment in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure ploughing back part of disinvestment proceeds to create new employment opportunities ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) As per the estimates obtained from the labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 the total employment has gone up. Employment in small scale sector has also shown an increasing trend during 1990-91 to 1999-2000.

According to available information, no retrenchment has taken place so far in any Central PSUs due to disinvestment.

It was clearly stated in the Budget speech for the year 2000-01 that the entire receipt from disinvestment and privatization will be used for meeting expenditure in social sectors, restructuring of PSUs and retiring public debt. The expenditure in social sectors would create additional employment opportunities.

Air Accidents

*209. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of major and minor accidents of Indian Airlines and its alliance services had taken place in the past few years due to careless handling and maintenance of aircrafts;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India propose to modernise its maintenance wing to avoid any mishap; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) There have been two accidents

involving Indian Airlines/Alliance Air aircraft during the last five years. The position in regard to the inquiries into these accidents is briefly as follows :—

- (i) A Dornier 228 aircraft of Indian Airlines crashed immediately after take off from Cochin airport on 30.7.1998 resulting in nine casualties and destruction of the aircraft. The Committee of Inquiry constituted to investigate attributed the accident to partial detachment of the aircraft's actuator forward bearing support fitting due to non-installation of required hi-lok fastener, with the poor aircraft maintenance practices at Short Haul Operation Department of Indian Airlines as a contributory factor.
- (ii) A Boeing 737 aircraft of Alliance Air crashed near Patna airport on 17.7.2000 resulting in 60 casualties and destruction of the aircraft. A Court of inquiry is investigating into this accident and is expected to submit its report by 31st March, 2001.

(c) and (d) As a part of its programme of modernization and improving airworthiness of its aircraft, Indian Airlines is introducing modern practices and processes in its Engineering Deptt., including :—

- (i) Computerisation of the key activity of the Quality Control Divisions and Production Related Divisions
- (ii) Introduction of the new concept of Central Monitoring Unit.
- (iii) Feeding of the aircraft maintenance schedules into the mainframe computer, from where they can be accessed by the engineers working at stations where Indian Airlines aircraft operate.

The facilities of Air India Engineering Department are also being continuously modernized. The aircraft are maintained as per the requirements laid down by the manufacturers and the DGCA.

Development and Upgradation of Airports

*210. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to expand/develop/upgrade to international status and modernise some airports in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose, airport-wise;
- (d) the time by which the above work is likely to be taken up;
- (e) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for upgradation of airports in their respective State; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Government has recently declared the domestic airports at Bangalore, Goa, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Amritsar, Ahmedabad and the new Cochin airport at Nedumbassery as international airports. Airports Authority of India has taken up following development/upgradation works in these airports :—

- (i) In Ahmedabad airport in Gujarat the extension of runway to 11500 feet has been completed. The construction of new domestic block, taxiway, isolation bay and extension of existing domestic building have been taken up at the total estimated cost of Rs. 107 crores.
- (ii) In Amritsar airport in Punjab strengthening and extension of runway to 10500 feet alongwith associated facilities has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 79 crores.
- (iii) The extension work of runway to 10500 feet at Hyderabad airport in Andhra Pradesh has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crores.
- (iv) The existing domestic terminal building at Guwahati airport in Assam has been expanded and modified with central air-conditioning facilities at a cost of Rs. 55.18 crores for handling 1400 passengers at a time.

There is no plan, at present, to declare more airports as international.

(e) and (f) Upgradation of airports is an ongoing process. Requests are received from various State Governments for upgradation of airports from time to time. Action is taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) depending upon the demand and availability of resources. Major upgradation/development works taken by AAI are as under :—

- (i) Development of Visakhapatnam airport in Andhra Pradesh has been planned with construction of new runway of 10000 feet length, installation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Ground Lighting facilities and construction of a new integrated terminal building.
- (ii) The runway at Calicut airport in Kerala has been extended upto 9000 feet at a cost of Rs. 9.60 crores. There is a plan to expand the international terminal building.
- (iii) In Jaipur airport in Rajasthan the extension and strengthening of runway to 9000 feet and construction of technical block cum control tower have been taken up.
- (iv) In Lucknow airport in Uttar Pradesh, extension and strengthening of runway and construction of new technical block cum control tower have been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 37 crores.
- (v) In Varanasi airport in Uttar Pradesh, steps have been taken for construction of integrated terminal building, extension and strengthening of the runway at a cost of Rs. 65 crores approximately.
- (vi) At Coimbatore airport in Tamil Nadu, AAI has plans for extension and strengthening of existing runway upto 9000 feet and construction of a new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 45 crores approximately.
- (vii) In Trichy airport in Tamil Nadu, the work for extension and strengthening of existing runway upto 7500 feet have been taken up alongwith construction of Terminal building complex at a cost of Rs. 20 crores approximately.

[Translation]

Telecom Facility in Rural Areas

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

- (a) the details of schemes approved for expansion of basic infrastructure for electronic communication facilities in rural areas of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government in this regard so far; and
- (c) the time by which these proposal are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has

embarked upon an ambitious plan to extend telecom facilities in the rural areas. Various schemes along with details are given as under :-

1. Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the remaining villages by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Fixed Service Providers.

Out of 6.07 lakhs villages in the country, 3.97 lakh villages have been provided with VPTs as on 1/3/2001. BSNL has planned to provide 1,00,000 and 77,038 VPTs in the current and next financial year respectively. The balance 55,848 villages are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Providers. WLL, C-DOT TDMA/PMP and satellite based systems will be deployed extensively for providing VPTs. 6 lakh lines of WLL equipment are being procured to provide VPTs and telephones in the rural areas. This equipment is likely to be available from March 2001 onwards. VPTs on MARR system are planned to be replaced by WLL technology and under ground cable in a phased manner by the year 2002.

2. Provision of telephone on demand.

At present, 23339 telephone exchanges with 5.88 million telephones are operational in rural areas. It is proposed to install 3331 exchanges in rural areas to

provide 1.37 million telephones in the current financial year. For meeting rising demand of telephone in the rural areas, 1.6 million telephones are planned to be provided in the next year.

3. Provision of reliable transmission media to all exchanges by the year 2002.

Reliable optical fibre media is planned for all the telephone exchanges including exchanges in rural areas by 2002. Target of laying OFC is 1 lakh Route Kilometers (RKMs) for the current year 2000-2001.

4. Provision of Internet facility in rural areas.

All 326 Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Headquarters are planned to be provided with Internet Nodes by March 2001. Similarly, all 6047 Block Headquarters are planned to be provided with Internet dhabas on franchise basis by March 2001.

Circle-wise details of targets under various schemes are given in the attached Statement.

(c) As telecom facilities in rural areas are non-remunerative, achievements under these schemes as indicated above will depend on availability of funds from the Government.

Statement

Targets under various Schemes for Expansion of Telecommunication Facility in Rural Areas

S.No.	Circles	BSNL Target for VPTs		VPT Share of Private Operators	Target of Rural Exges for 2000-2001	OFC Target for 2000-01
		2000-2001	2001-2002			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	8	0	0	6	49
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	6081	300	3750
3.	Assam	5000	3043	0	60	200
4.	Bihar	24651	29634	0	250	2500
5.	Gujarat	0	0	4202	400	9384
6.	Haryana	4	39	0	30	850
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4000	2633	0	75	1530
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2000	971	0	30	450
9.	Karnataka	1265	0	0	150	8300
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	30	3324
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5860	0	19168	100	8790
12.	Maharashtra	0	0	10926	800	10100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Nagaland	5110	5000	0	40	300
14.	Orissa	14000	10061	0	75	2100
15.	Punjab	0	0	564	75	1400
16.	Rajasthan	0	0	14907	250	8930
17.	Tamil Nadu	55	91	0	50	7800
18.	Uttar Pradesh East	18000	11206	0	350	6100
19.	Uttar Pradesh West	9000	7020	0	50	1500
20.	West Bengal	11000	7340	0	210	1600
21.	Chandigarh	47	0	0	0	120
22.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Eastern Project					4200
24.	Northern Project					5225
25.	Western Project					5602
26.	NE Task Force					575
27.	Southern Project					5321
Total		100000	77038	55848	3331	100000

[English]

Master Plan for Brahmaputra River

*212. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Master Plan for the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries; and

(b) If so, the salient features thereof indicating the phases of its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared a master plan of the river sub-basins of North Eastern States in three parts namely, Master Plan Part-I for the main stem of Brahmaputra, Master Plan Part-II for Barak river along with its tributaries and Master Plan Part-III for forty one tributaries of Brahmaputra including Majuli Island and eight rivers of Tripura. Master Plan Part-I and Part-II have been approved by the Ministry of Water Resources. These Master Plans envisage management of flood, prevention of erosion, drainage improvement, construction of multipurpose dams, development of irrigation, naviga-

tion, pisciculture etc. for integrated development of the water resources of entire Brahmaputra Basin. 24 nos. of sub-basin plans under Part-III of the Master Plan has been approved by the Brahmaputra Board and another 25 nos. under different stages of completion. The short term flood control measures as suggested in the Master Plan are being implemented by the concerned State Government.

Regarding long term projects as mentioned in the Master Plan, Harrang Drainage Development Scheme has been sanctioned for Rs. 10.81 crore and is under execution by Brahmaputra Board. The scheme is likely to be completed during the 9th Plan period.

The Subansiri, Siang (Dihang) and Tipaimukh Projects with major hydropower component have been handed over to Ministry of Power for implementation.

The Pagladiya Dam Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore has been taken up by Brahmaputra Board for execution. The project will take seven years for completion.

The detailed project report of Bairabi Dam Project prepared by Brahmaputra Board has been handed over to State Government of Mizoram for implementation.

[Translation]

Review of Labour Laws

*213. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the labour laws;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring a uniform legislation for the labourers of the unorganised sector;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for the welfare of the agricultural labour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the reviews. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring a uniform legislation for all categories of unorganised workers as a whole. However, under its terms of reference the Second National Commission on Labour, set up by the Government on 15.10.1999 is expected to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. Apart from suggesting rationalization of the existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector.

(d) and (e) Government have undertaken several schemes for the welfare of rural workers including agricultural labour in the country. These are — Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which has been rechristened as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.e.f. 1.4.1999 Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) etc. Government also propose to introduce a social security scheme for agricultural workers which will give the benefits like death cum disability benefit etc.

Cellular Telephone Companies

*214. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cellular telephone companies providing cellular telephone facility in each State at present;

(b) the present tariff being charged for the said facility;

(c) the revenue received by the Government therefrom during each of the last three years and till-date;

(d) whether the cellular services have been slowly concentrating in the hands of few companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to prevent the development of emerging monopolies of such companies over this sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Licences for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) have been granted for various service areas in the country, divided into Metro City Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas; names of the companies who have been granted the licences and status of provision of service is given in the attached Statement.

(b) The tariff for CMTS is controlled by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has specified tariffs for CMTS in its Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999, for the standard tariff package. This standard tariff package must always be offered by the service providers to subscribers and in addition, CMTS providers may offer alternative tariff packages also. The subscriber is free to choose from among all tariff packages, including the standard tariff package.

At present, the mandatory standard tariff package offered by service providers in Metros City Service Areas includes a monthly rental of Rs. 475/- and airtime charge of Rs. 4/- per minute. In Telecom Circle Service Areas, the corresponding package is Rs. 500/- for monthly rental and Rs. 4.50/- for airtime. In many service areas the tariffs offered by cellular service providers are lower. In addition, TRAI is keeping the tariff structure under review for introducing any changes in the same if so warranted.

(c) The details of revenue (licence fees) received by the Government during last three years and till date from the licensees of CMTS is as below :

(Rs. in Crores)			
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(As on 28/2/2001)			
1280.79	537.96	2216.22	1066.05

(d) to (g) No, Sir. The scheme for award of licences for CMTS envisages multiple operators in each service area. The earlier arrangement envisaged two private operators and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as the third operator in each of the Metro City and Telecom Circle

Service Areas. Tenders have now been invited for induction of additional operators(s) in each of the service areas. The guidelines announced for entry of additional cellular operators clearly stipulated that the existing operators can not bid for same service area. This will ensure that monopoly is not created in any service area.

Statement

Sl. No.	Service Area (Metro City Telecom Circle)	Name of Companies granted License for the Service Area	Status of Service started or not (any where in the service area)
1	2	3	4
Metro City Service			
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	Yes
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	Yes
		Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	Yes
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	Yes
3.	Calcutta	Spice Cell Ltd.	Yes
		Usha Maartin Telekom Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	No Yet
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Yes
		Skycell Communications (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
Telecom Circle Service Area			
5.	Andaman and Nicobar	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	No Yet
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Tata Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Bharati Mobile Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
7.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
8.	Bihar	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.*	
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Yes
9.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd.	Yes
		Birla AT and T Communications Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
10.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communication (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet

1	2	3	4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Yes
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
13.	Karnataka	Bharti Mobile Ltd.	Yes
		Spice Communications Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
14.	Kerala	Escotel Mobile Communications (P) Ltd.	Yes
		BPL Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
15.	Maharashtra	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Birla AT and T Communications Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
16.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	Yes
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
17.	N.E.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Hexacom India Ltd.	Not Yet
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
18.	Orissa	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.*	*
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
19.	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd.	Yes
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.*	*
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
20.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Yes
		Hexacom India Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
21.	Tamilnadu	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Yes
		Aircel Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
22.	U.P. (West)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	Yes
		Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.*	*
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
23.	U.P. (East)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Yes
		Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet
24.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Yes
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Not Yet

Legend : *These licences stand terminated, as at present, for default in payment of licence fee dues.

[English]

NGOs and Voluntary Institutions

*215. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ever listed those NGOs and Voluntary Institutions functioning in the area of sanitation which are employing more than 100 people;

(b) if so, whether these institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations are not following the rules of Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(c) if so, the names of such institutions;

(d) if such organisations are not listed, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such NGOs/Institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) The workers rendering services including sanitation services are eligible for ESI benefits provided such workers are employed in the factories/establishments covered under the ESI Act, 1948. The Labour Contractors and other agencies deploying sanitary workers in various organizations are also covered individually if they apply for coverage under the ESI Scheme. However, final responsibility for compliance in such cases under the ESI Scheme rests with the Principal Employer of the Organisation concerned. All establishments including NGOs/Voluntary Institutions coverable under the ESI Scheme and situated in the notified areas are required to comply with provisions of the scheme on a regular basis. Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the ESI Act is taken as and when an incidence of default is notified against the coverable establishments/institutions.

According to available information 12 NGOs employing 815 workers and 432 other agencies employing 11516 workers in cleaning and sweeping services are covered under the ESI Scheme.

National Labour Policy

*216. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new National Labour Policy in view of economic liberalisation and globalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Review and updation of Labour Policy is a continuous process in order to make it in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. The Labour Policy is, to a large extent, governed by various labour law. The Government has been amending these laws from time to time to make them more meaningful and effective. A National Commission on Labour has been set up to suggest rationalization of the existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sector. A two-year time frame has been given to the National Commission on Labour to submit its recommendations for consideration of the Government.

Employment Growth Rate

*217. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment growth rate in Government, public and private organised sectors is declining every year;

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

(c) the steps taken to arrest this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The data regarding employment in the organised sector during 1997, 1998 and 1999 are given below :

(In Lakhs)			
Sector	1997	1998	1999
Central Government	32.95	32.53	33.13
State Government	74.85	74.58	74.58
Total Government	107.8	107.11	107.71
Quasi Govt. (Central)	35.86	35.36	34.72
Quasi Govt. (State)	29.50	29.25	29.14
Local Bodies	22.44	22.46	22.59
Total of Quasi Govt. and Local Bodies	87.8	87.07	86.45
Total Public Sector	195.59	194.18	194.15
Private Sector	86.86	87.48	86.98
Total	282.45	281.66	281.13

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up

to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million jobs in each year).

[Translation]

Use of Polythene Bags

*218. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

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

(a) whether the demand of plastic has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is being recycled and made available at cheaper rate;

(c) if so, the facts thereof alongwith its ill effects on environment;

(d) whether excessive use of polythene bags is posing serious threat to environment;

(e) if so, the details and extent thereof;

(f) whether polythene bags of substandard quality manufactured by certain companies leave their colour on the food item packed inside them; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation and action proposed against the manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Indiscriminate disposal and dumping of polythene bags could result in contamination of soil and water and also cause blockage of sewers and drains. Burning of polythene bags could cause air pollution.

(f) Certain colourants and pigments used as additives during manufacture of recycled plastic bags can leach out thereby contaminating food items stored and packaged therein. Consumption of such food items can be harmful to humans and animals.

(g) The Ministry has notified the "Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999" which prohibits the use of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying dispensing or packaging of ready-to-eat foodstuffs. Inter-alia, the Rules require that carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics shall be coloured as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved list of pigments and colourants and that recycling shall be undertaken as per the BIS guidelines.

Any person violating the provisions of these Rules is liable to be punished in accordance with Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which includes imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or fine which may extend to Rupees One lakh or both.

Disparity in Wages

*219. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the disparity in wages of rural and urban labour;

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

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to bring parity into the wages of rural and urban labour ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The average wages in rural areas are generally lower than those in the urban areas due to factors attributable to cost of living, productivity, paying capacity etc. The Central as well as State Governments fix/revise the minimum wages in scheduled employments as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to safeguard the interest of workers engaged mostly in the unorganised sector. There is, however, disparity in the minimum wages in various States/UTs due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, cost of living etc. With a view to reduce the disparities within the Region the Central Government have issued guidelines for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees.

In the absence of a uniform minimum wage in the country, the Central Government floated the concept of a national floor level minimum wage and fixed it at Rs. 35/- per day in 1996 based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (1991) and subsequent rise in the price level. The national floor level wage was last revised to Rs. 45/- per day with effect from 30.11.1999 to neutralise further rise in the Consumer Price Index. No other steps are contemplated beyond this to bring parity into the wages of rural and urban labour.

[English]

Exodus of Pilots

*220. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is an exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines to international airlines;
- (b) if so, the main reasons for this exodus;
- (c) the steps taken to stop the same; and
- (d) the extent to which his Ministry has been successful in checking the exodus of the Indian Airlines Pilots ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) During the last 10 years, the main outflow of Pilots was during the period 1991 to 1995 when 165 Pilots had resigned. However, during the next five years only 21 Pilots had resigned. During the years 2000 and 2001 (till date) through 13 Pilots had submitted their resignation, only one resignation was accepted since the remaining 12 pilots had not given the requisite notice period.

No information is available whether the Pilots who left Indian Airline had joined International Airlines.

(c) Following steps have been taken to prevent the Pilots from leaving Indian Airlines :-

- * The period required for serving notice has been increased from 1 month to 6 months.
- * Issuance of Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) by DGCA on 25.2.1993 which made it necessary an Air Taxi Operator (ATO) to employ only such Pilots as had 'No Objection Certificate' from Indian Airlines.
- * Increasing the value of bond from Rs. 35,000 in 1988 to the present value of Rs. 10 lakhs with a minimum service of 10 years in November, 1993.
- * Understand with some foreign airlines not to employ Indian Airlines Pilots without consulting the Management.
- * Signing of Productivity Linked Agreements in January 1996 linking pilots emoluments to hourly rate of flying and revised career growth pattern.

(d) The above measures have helped in check exodus of pilots during the last five years.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to U.P. for Primary Education

1850 SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought financial assistance from the World Bank for development of primary education in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal of the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient features of proposed scheme;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to forward this proposal to the World Bank; and

(e) the likely date of getting financial assistance from the World Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Printing of Notes and Minting of Coins

1851 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the denominations of Indian currency notes and coins printed and minted during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the reasons for printing of currency notes and minting of coins abroad;

(c) whether the Government propose to discontinue the printing of currency notes and minting of coins abroad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of import of notes and coins respectively during the last three years, country-wise and amount-wise; are given in the statement attached.

(b) The currency notes have been printed and coins minted abroad in order to bridge the demand-supply gap.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for printing of notes abroad. The India Government Mints are being modernised to increase their minting capacity. The import of coins can be discontinued only when the demand is met through indigenous supply of coins by the India Government Mints.

Statement**Details of Printing of Notes and Minting of Coins Abroad****Notes Printed abroad**

Country	Denomination	Year	No. of pieces (in million)
Germany	Rs. 500	1997-98	245.50
		1998-99	541.50
France	Rs. 500	1997-98	133.60
		1998-99	348.40
Canada	Rs. 500	1997-98	50.00
		1998-99	281.00
U.K.	Rs. 100	1997-98	1040.00
		1998-99	325.00
U.S.A.	Rs. 100	1997-98	160.00
		1998-99	475.00

Coins minted abroad

Country	Denomination	Year	No. of pieces (in million)
Maxico	Re. 1	1997-98	700
Korea	Rs. 2	1997-98	300
	Rs. 2	1998-99	150
Slovakia	Re. 1	1998-99	700
	Re. 1	1999-2000	300
South Africa	Rs. 2	1998-99	150
U.K.	Rs. 2	1999-2000	300
Russia	Rs. 5	1999-2000	400

[English]

Cooperative Banking Sector

1852.SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jagdeesh Kapoor Committee on co-operative banking has submitted its report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations made in the Report of the Committee relate to removal of duality of control over the co-operative banks, amendments to the State Co-operative Acts for adoption of the essential features of the Model Co-operative Societies Act, constant review of all guidelines issued by Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)/State Governments, effective supervision and support to lower tiers of co-operative credit system and introduction of audit of cooperatives, rehabilitation of potentially viable units by way of one time assistance, setting up of a mutual assistance fund at State level by contribution from co-operative institutions in the concerned States, etc. The recommendations are being examined in consultation with RBI, NABARD and State Governments.

Import of Restricted Items

1853.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence has detected some cases of import of restricted items under forged Special Import Licences;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during 1998-99, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to redesign the format of Special Import Licences;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government against the brokers and defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had detected four cases of import of restricted items under forged Special Import Licences (SILs) during 1998-99. During the course of investigations, 18 persons involved in the forging and circulation of bogus SILs were arrested. Show Cause Notices have been issued to importers demanding duty of Rs. 10.65 crores.

No such cases have been detected during the years, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The SILs are being abolished w.e.f. 1.4.2001.

Credit to Minority Community

1854.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the public sector banks have set up a special cell for minorities for facilitating flow of credit to the minority community;

(b) whether the Government are receiving regular returns from these banks indicating loans/advances provided to minorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some banks are not sending returns to RBI;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the further steps taken or being taken by Government for easy flow of credit to minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. All Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are sending Half-Yearly returns on advances to minorities regularly to Reserve Bank of India. The PSBs credit outstanding to members of specified minority communities at half year ended March 1997 was at Rs. 8643.63 crores which increased to Rs.9858.26 crores in half year ended March 1998 and further increased to Rs. 11445.01 crores in the half year ended March 1999.

(d) and (e) Public Sector Banks have been generally submitting the returns in time to Reserve Bank of India on an half yearly basis details regarding Priority Sector advances granted to specified Minority Communities. In case of delay in submission of returns the matter is taken up by RBI with the concerned banks.

(f) With a view to ensuring adequate flow of bank credit to minority communities, instructions are being issued to banks by RBI from time to time.

(i) 41 districts having concentration of minority population have been identified.

(ii) The progress is reviewed regularly at the meetings of the District Consultative Committee and the State Level Bankers' Committee.

(iii) The Lead Bank in each of these 41 districts should have an officer who shall exclusively look after the problems regarding the credit flow to minorities communities, to publicise among the minority communities various programmes of bank credit and also to prepare suitable schemes for benefit of minorities in consultation with Branch Manager.

(iv) The Lead banks in 41 identified districts have been advised to organize Entrepreneur Development Programmes so that the members of these

communities to derive benefit of various programmes being financed by banks.

(v) With a view to bring about an attitudinal change in the bank's staff towards minority communities and to have proper perspective and appreciation of the 15 point programme particularly the credit facilities to minorities, banks have been advised to include suitable lecture sessions as part of relevant training programmes like instruction course, programmes on rural lending, financing of priority sectors etc. to sensitise the Branch Manager in this regard.

Closure of Department of Supply

1855. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have closed down or proposed to close down the Department of Supply and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of taking such decision;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of representations from the trade/ industry/ associations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to reformulate certain functions and to rightsize the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a decision has been taken to close down the Department of Supply and its subordinate office of the Chief Controller of Accounts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various trade/industry/Associations against the closure of the Office of Chief Controller of Accounts Viz. Federation of Engineering Industries of India, Chamber of Indian Trade and Industry, Northern India Hosiery and Textile Manufacturers' Association, Punjab Fitting Manufacturing Association, All India PVC Pipe Manufacturers Association, Association of Industries -Madhya Pradesh.

(e) The Government feels that the review of the decision is not warranted.

Russian Debt Burden

1856. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India is playing its debt to Russia by rupee payment or rouble payment;
- (b) the total debt burden of India with Russia;
- (c) whether this debt burden of India is included in the total external debt burden;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the percapita external debt including our debt burden with Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State Credits given by the erstwhile USSR to India were denominated in Rouble. The Rouble credits were converted to Rupees by an agreement between India and Russia in 1993. Repayment of these credits is currently being made in Rupees through export of goods and services from India to Russia.

(b) The Russian Rupee debt burden on India was Rs.19,128 crores as on end March, 2000.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e) Per-capita external debt as on end March, 2000 is estimated at US \$99 or Rupees 4335/- equivalent.

Performance of Special Economic Zones

1857. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements of each EPZ/SEZ as on date especially in respect of SEZ at Paradeep since its establishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) and (b) Review of the EPZ/SEZ has revealed that exports from the Zones have registered a growth of 26% during April-December, 2000 as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c) On the basis of proposal received from the Government of Orissa, in principal approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone at Paradeep. The detailed project report from the State Government is still awaited. As the SEZ at Paradeep is at project formulation stage no exports figures can be given. Export performance of other EPZs/SEZs during the last two years are as follows :

Name of the EPZ/SEZ	1999-2000	1999-2000 (April-Dec. 1999)	2000-01 (April-Dec. 2000)
Kandla Special Economic Zone, Kandla (Gujarat)	543.66	398.19	423.40
SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Mumbai (Maharashtra)	4146.57	2555.92	3186.57
Cochin Special Economic Zone, Cochin (Kerala)	241.00	155.68	205.86
Surat Special Economic Zone, Surat, (Gujarat)	0.70	—	9.98
Noida Export Processing Zone, Noida (U.P.)	845.63	542.21	655.57
Madras Export Processing Zone, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	545.42	408.32	487.35
Falta Export Processing Zone, Falta (West Bengal)	266.60	164.99	320.33
Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	119.04	75.32	140.32
Total	6708.62	4300.63	5429.38

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

1858. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned some funds for developments of basic amenities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds which have been sanctioned, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of various schemes relating to development of basic amenities in various States in India with the assistance of World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) While World Bank has not explicitly approved any programme for development of basic amenities, there are projects aimed at investigating in provision of drinking water supply, primary health and primary education.

(b) State-wise details of funds committed under these projects are as under :

Data Provisional

State	Amount in USD Million
Tamil Nadu	86.50
Maharashtra	134
Karnataka	92
Rajasthan	81.9
Andhra Pradesh	133
Uttar Pradesh	507
Kerala	65.50
Bihar	152.00
Orissa	76.4
Multi-State	1035.5

(c) The Government of India has approved these schemes for the States and is regularly monitoring their implementation.

[English]

Production Target of Public Sector Undertakings

1859 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector heavy industries have achieved the production target during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have provided any kind of assistance to achieve the target; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A statement showing the production performance in respect of Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry is attached.

(c) The major reasons for the shortfall in production are the need for modernisation, shortage of power, orders and working capital, increasing competition and excessive manpower etc.

(d) and (e) The Government has been providing financial support for working capital needs, undertaking renewals and replacements, and rationalization of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) besides assistance in securing orders etc. Government has provided during these two years an amount of Rs. 257.42 Crore for payment of salaries and wages as a part of working capital needs and Rs. 341.32 Crore for manpower rationalization under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). In addition, an amount of Rs. 76.56 Crore and Rs. 354.82 crore has been provided in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively towards capital investment under plan schemes.

Statement

Production of PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry during 1999-2000 and April, 2000-January, 2001 alongwith their targets

Rs. In Crs.

S. No.	Name of the PSU	1999-2000		April, 2000 to January, 2001	
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	AY & Co.	279.95	196.57	234.10	144.47
2.	Hooghly Ptg.	3.10	3.14	325.10	295.85
3.	BHEL	7100.00	6634.00	5125.00	3925.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	BSCL	287.80	217.71	197.34	191.02
5.	BBVL	13.69	6.61	7.75	2.49
6.	RBL	6.12	2.88	4.23	2.47
7.	Jessop	106.68	48.26	69.75	37.67
8.	Braithwaite	184.39	118.59	146.39	110.07
9.	BWEL	113.87	57.41	103.54	89.30
10.	BPME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	WIL	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.10
12.	Lagan Jute	6.79	6.32	0.00	0.00
13.	BBJ	28.89	24.18	22.77	22.66
14.	BHPV	300.00	154.00	182.00	198.00
15.	BPCL	60.00	42.53	34.50	35.08
16.	R and C	110.00	61.55	53.00	44.15
17.	TSL	50.00	14.12	10.50	11.43
18.	TSPL	40.00	40.93	28.50	23.25
19.	B and R	370.00	324.45	270.00	238.88
20.	CCIL	0.55	0.46	0.00	0.00
21.	HCL	780.20	804.31	677.43	683.39
22.	HEC	386.56	273.42	341.25	116.12
23.	HMT	1157.27	718.18	743.23	504.26
24.	PTL	30.10	14.06	25.18	5.58
25.	HMT (B)	417.01	47.36	39.12	37.28
26.	HMT (I)	80.00	40.89	40.58	32.83
27.	ILK	128.80	124.48	101.21	67.76
28.	REIL	21.62	20.33	15.41	12.51
29.	MAMC	8.70	8.98	3.90	3.64
30.	NBCIL	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	NIL	3.00	3.01	8.01	4.31
32.	SIL	141.70	132.05	126.32	102.48
33.	BOGL	5.89	3.07	4.87	3.00
34.	CCI	301.67	134.87	117.01	57.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	HPC	359.22	393.54	328.82	369.14
36.	MNPM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37.	NPPC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38.	HNL	238.02	195.77	194.55	205.55
39.	HPF	23.17	47.99	25.88	18.03
40.	HSL	6.41	3.82	6.02	3.82
41.	SSL	8.58	5.17	6.06	2.01
42.	NEPA	102.64	98.91	121.66	105.30
43.	RIC	0.36	0.89	0.00	0.66
44.	TAFCO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
45.	TCIL	135.07	127.03	142.10	79.79
46.	BLC	10.75	4.31	6.80	4.16
47.	EPI	146.43	171.05	140.58	156.99
48.	NIDC	4.05	6.85	16.36	4.72
Total		13189.17	11334.35	10046.72	7952.24

*Based on Flash results

Note : 1. Karnataka High Court in its order dated 20.10.2000 pronounced the winding up of MNPM

2. The Management of LJMC has been handed over to private party on 4.7.2000.

3. Ministry of Labour has given permission for closure of RIC and WIL.

[Translation]

Appointments of SCs/STs in PSUs

1860. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons, women belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe recruited in various Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years, till date;

(b) the Undertaking-wise details thereof alongwith the year-wise details of recruitment made in regard to the above said categories; separately; and

(c) the details of the scheme formulated to recruit such people in each Undertakings for the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) For recruitment of handicapped persons, all PSUs have been advised to comply with the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 according to which not less than 3% of vacancies are to be filled by persons with disability. As regard SC and ST, reservation is provided to these categories to the extent of 15% and 7.5% respectively when recruitment is on All-India basis through open competition and varying percentages when recruitment is on local basis. No separate reservation is provided on gender basis. Recruitments to below Board level posts in PSEs come under the purview of respective PSEs and centralised data is not maintained.

[English]

Evasion of Customs Duty

1861. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain telecommunication companies are misusing import duty exemption meant for generic software by importing embedded software under the guise of generic software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of embedded software/generic software imported by the cellular and basic service providers and Department of Telecommunications, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the first steps taken/proposed to check misuse of import duty exemption by telecom companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in a few cases certain telecommunication companies are found to have imported embedded software under the guise of generic software by manipulating declaration/values, to evade duty. The details of such cases detected in the last 3 years are as follows :

	No. of cases	Duty involved (Rs. in Crores)
1998-1999	2	3.64
1999-2000	1	1.39
2000-2001	1	0.73

In one case pertaining to 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 1.48 Crores has been recovered. The other cases are under investigation/appeal.

(c) As embedded software is assessed alongwith the machine/component no separate details of its imports are available. The details of import of generic software are given below :

	No	Assessable Value (Rs. in Crores)
1998-1999	28	51.74*
1999-2000	112	62.25
2000-2001	97	103.61

*(Figures are provisional)

(d) The field formations including intelligence agencies of the department are alert to detect any case of attempted misuse of any exemption to evade duty otherwise payable. All import documents and consignments involving various duty exemptions are closely scrutinized and import consignments are selectively examined to guard against any misdeclaration. Strict action is taken against the offenders found misdeclaring and evading duties otherwise leviable.

[Translation]

Merger of SBI with its Subsidiary

1862. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intends to merge all the subsidiary banks of the State Bank of India into a single group;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India does not agree with this policy of the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of the subsidiary banks of the State Bank of India at present and their capitals, bank-wise;

(f) whether the Government have assessed the impact of merging all these banks into one group; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (g) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. The names of the associate banks at present and their capitals; bank-wise are as under :-

	(Rs. in crores)
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	50.00
State Bank of Hyderabad	17.25
State Bank of Indore	17.50
State Bank of Mysore	36.00
State Bank of Patiala	24.75
State Bank of Saurashtra	314.00
State Bank of Travancore	50.00

[English]

Adoption of Model Bye-Laws by EPC

1863.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2127 on December 1, 2000 regarding Export Promotion Councils and state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for all the recognised Export Promotion Councils to adopt the Model Bye-Laws/ Rules and Regulations/Articles of Association;

(b) if so, the names of the Councils, who have so far adopted or shown their willingness to adopt these Model Bye-Laws/Rules and Regulations/Articles of Association;

(c) the names of the Councils who have not taken any action so far on the Directives of the Government; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in respect of these councils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) Export Promotion Councils are autonomous organisations registered under the Companies Act 1956 or Societies Registration Act 1860 and Government do not give grants to them for their recurring administrative needs. However, Councils are being prevailed upon to adopt the Model Byelaws/Articles of Association, circulated by the Department of Commerce.

(b) A list of Export Promotion Councils(EPCs) who have adopted or initiated action to adopt Model Bye-laws/Articles of Association is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai has not so far intimated their stand regarding adoption of Model Articles of Association/Byelaws sent to them. The Department is in touch with them for early adoption of Model Articles of Association/Byelaws.

(d) As none of the Councils has so far refused adoption of Model Byelaws/Articles of Association, the need to take action against such Councils may not arise.

Statement

List of Export Promotion Councils who have adopted or initiated action to adopt Model Bye-laws/Articles of Association

1. Electronics and Software Computer Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

2. Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
3. Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
4. Council for Leather Exports, Chennai.
5. The Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
6. Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.
7. Overseas Construction Council of India, New Delhi.
8. Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
9. Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
10. Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin.
11. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi.
12. The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
13. Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
14. The Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai.
15. Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
16. The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
17. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.
18. Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.
19. Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

Amount Distributed under PMRY

1864.SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan distributed by the Central Bank, Benipur, Darbhanga under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana during the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether any complaints regarding bribes in disbursement of loan had been received;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India, the amount of loan distributed by Central Bank of India to Benipur, Darbhanga in 3 cases under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 1.63 lakh till the end of February, 2001.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Export of Indian Herbal Medicines

1865. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an increase in the demand of Indian herbal medicines from the developed countries;

(b) if so, the value of herbal medicines exported during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of herbal medicines to other countries also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Country-wise export data is available in the DGCI&S publication viz., "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India."

(c) The Government of India is extending Market Development Assistance for exports including the ayurvedic and herbal exporters for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions, for mounting trade delegations and for conducting market surveys in foreign countries. Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy under Government of India exclusively concentrates on all aspects of herbal industry to redress various problems faced by the industry and to provide more focused attention to export of herbal products. CHEMEXCIL, the concerned Export Promotion Council under Department of Commerce, has a separate Ayurvedic Sub-Panel. Further, Government is constantly interacting with the herbal industry and the concerned associations to identify and deal with the problems faced by this industry.

Export of Surplus Foodgrains

1866. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to export surplus foodgrains, sugar and other agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken;

(c) the quantum of exports proposed and estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned; and

(d) the long-term policy of the Government in regard to agricultural exports and implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d)

EXPORT OF SURPLUS FOODGRAINS

Wheat

Wheat is being made available by FCI for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category, which, at present is Rs. 4150/-PMT.

Rice

Rice is being made available by FCI to the highest tenderer for export @ Rs. 6750/-PMT.

A ceiling of 20 lakh MTs has been fixed for export of both wheat and rice upto 31st March, 2001.

Sugar

Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar for the year 2000-2001 has been allowed and placed at disposal of APEDA for issuance of Registration cum Allocation Certificates.

Coarsegrains

Government has announced export of coarsegrains upto a ceiling of 50,000 MTs during 2000-2001, subject to issue of RCAC by APEDA.

The amount of foreign exchange earned depends on the total quantity exported and the price obtained with respect to every consignment of export of the above commodities. No estimate of foreign exchange likely to be earned can therefore be made.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) is primarily concerned with the food security of the country. The Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains with it in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend for procurement for Central Pool, requirement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes, open market prices, etc. The decision to import or export foodgrains on Government Account is taken depending on the overall foodgrains availability situation.

Export of Sugar is subject to the quantitative ceiling fixed by the Government. The Government, keeping in view the production trends, requirement for internal consumption, prices of sugar and availability of alternative sweeteners etc., decides the quantity to be exported, in a particular year, out of the surplus sugar available in the country.

Import of Palm Oil

1867. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Palm Oil is being imported despite the ban of its import;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the steps taken to protect the interest of local producers; and
- (d) the details of the foreign exchange spent during the last three years on the import of Palm Oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Import of palm oil has been placed under OGL.

(c) In order to protect the interests of farmers including Red Palm producers, Government has further made upward revision in the import duty structure of edible oils w.e.f. 1st March, 2001.

(d) Precise figure for foreign exchange spent on import of Palm Oil is not available, as it is on OGL.

As per available information, import of Crude Palm Oil constitutes about 18% and 34% of the total edible oils imported during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. Import of Crude Palm Oil was virtually nil during 1998-99.

Setting up of Banks by Big Companies

1868. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the Indian big companies who set up banks with minimum start up capital of Rs. 200 crores and a capital adequacy ratio of 10 per cent;
- (b) whether these companies are publishing accounts that are transparent;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for which these companies are allowed to run banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no Indian big company has set up bank with minimum start up capital of Rs. 200 crore and a capital adequacy ratio of 10%.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) RBI has issued revised guidelines in January, 2001 on entry of new banks in the private sector. These guidelines, inter-alia, prescribe that the initial minimum paid up capital of new bank shall be Rs. 200 crores, which shall be increased to Rs. 300 crore in the subsequent three years after commencement of business. These guidelines however, stipulate that the new bank should not be promoted by a large industrial house. However, individual companies, directly or indirectly connected with large industrial houses, may be permitted to participate in the equity of new private sector bank up to a maximum of 10 percent of the paid up capital, but will not have controlling interest in the bank.

Hindustan Cables, Rupnarayan Unit

1869. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Cables, Rupnarayan unit are getting more order from IT sector and telephone departments during last one year; and

(b) if so, the quantum of order already received so far in terms of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The Rupnarayan Unit of HCL received orders worth Rs. 245.19 crore in 1999-2000 and Rs. 251.73 crore in 2000-01 so far.

Seizure of Heroin

1870. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recently ceased seventeen kg heroin worth seventeen crores of rupees in Pathankot;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of heroin seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last three years and total cost thereof in the international market;

(d) whether most of the heroin is coming in India from the route of Pakistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to stop the smuggling of heroin through Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized a quantity of 16.06 kgs. of heroin, contained in 17 packets, at Pathankot, on 8.2.2001. The value of the seized heroin is estimated to be approximately Rs. 16 Crores in the International market.

(c) Total quantity of heroin seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last three years and estimated value thereof in the international market is as under :-

Year	Quantity of Heroin seized (in kgs.)	Estimated val. in International market (Rs. in Crore)
1997-98	157.132	157.10
1998-99	73.110	73.10
1999-2000	12.500	12.50
2000-2001	73.130	73.10

(d) and (e) Pakistan is one of the route from which heroin is smuggled into India. As per reports available during year 2000, a total quantity of 1240 kgs. heroin was seized in the country, out of which approximately 40% of the heroin was sourced from South-West Asian Region.

(f) The Government of India have taken a number of statutory and administrative measures to prevent smuggling of narcotic drugs in the country. Some of the important measures taken to prevent drug trafficking and smuggling of heroin, in particular through Indo-Pakistan border are as under :-

- (i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the provisions contained in NDPS Act, 1985.
- (ii) Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.
- (iii) BSF and Coast Guard, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act, 1962 to interdict narcotics drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act, 1985.

(iv) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by All Enforcement agencies involved in drug law enforcement at the highest level.

(v) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

(vi) Officers of various drug law enforcement agencies are trained on a regular basis in order to improve their effectiveness.

(vii) India is a signatory to all the UN Conventions as well as SAARC Convention, which envisage multilateral cooperation against drug trafficking.

Tea Growers Registered with Tea Board

1871. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tea growers registered with the Tea Board, State-wise;

(b) whether a large quantity of tea is being produced by growers, who are not registered with Tea Board;

(c) if so, the estimated quantity of tea being produced in the different States by these unregistered tea growers; and

(d) the reasons for which these tea growers could not be registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) The total number of tea growers registered with Tea Board at present are 71,606. The state-wise information on number of tea growers registered with Tea Board are as under :-

State	Number of Tea Growers
1	2
Assam	1575
West Bengal	386
Tripura	265
Bihar	114

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	11
Himachal Pradesh	3679
Orissa	1
Sikkim	1
Arunachal Pradesh	40
Nagaland	42
Meghalaya	7
Manipur	6
Mizoram	5
Tamil Nadu	61222
Kerala	4214
Karnataka	38
Total	71606

(b) and (c) Tea is also being produced by growers who are not registered with Tea Board. The quantum of tea produced by un-registered growers can not be ascertained in the absence of maintenance records by the tea manufacturing factories where the leaves produced by such growers are processed.

(d) The main reason for non registration is the inability of growers to produce documents in relation to the ownership of the land on which tea has been planted.

Refund of Security Amount

1872. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Cement Grinding Unit of Cement Corporation of India has now stopped production of cement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it will restart production of cement for supply to intending customers;

(c) whether the purchasers desiring supply of cement in drums are required to deposit security amount for empty drums with the approved supplier/contractor of CCI as per their rules;

(d) whether the security amount aggregating to thousands of rupees has not been refunded to consignee parties for more than three years, inspite of return of empty drums and also inspite of repeated requests for refund; and

(e) the steps being taken by Cement Corporation of India authorities to ensure expeditious refund of security amount of affected parties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Production of Cement at Delhi Grinding Unit is linked with supply of clinker from Nayagaon Clinkerisation Unit, Madhya Pradesh. Operations of Nayagaon Unit have remained suspended on account of various reasons including dis-connection of power supply, due to acute liquidity problems faced by the company and, as a result, production of cement at Delhi Grinding Unit has also remained suspended. Resumption of production activity depends on improvement in the liquidity position of the company.

(c) to (e) The security deposit for empty drums is directly charged by the approved contractor/transporters from the consignee party. Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has received a few complaints regarding non-refund of security deposit and has advised the contractors to expedite refund.

Setting up of High-Tech Silos

1873. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENTAKESWARLU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve a plan to encourage various State Governments to build high-tech silos to store rice and wheat;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the huge loss of foodgrains both in the field and during storage;

(c) whether the Government have done any study to construct high-tech silos; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, in order to reduce storage and transit losses and to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Government has notified on July 4, 2000 a National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, for creation of bulk grain handling storage and transportation facilities in the country;

(b) Yes, Sir. However, exact quantum of foodgrains losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds and microorganisms etc. is not known. A Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains at various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%), insects (2.55%), moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Govt. of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5.0%, out of which storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A joint survey conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute, during 1985-88 in Bulandshahar district of U.P. had estimated total foodgrain losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages. However, the losses in foodgrains during storage in the organised sector less than 0.5%.

(c) and (d) A Steering Committee constituted by the Government had studied and recommended the introduction of bulk handling, storage (Silos) and transportation of foodgrains in the country. Further, a team of officials from the Railways, the Central Warehousing Corporation and this Ministry had also studied the system of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation prevalent in other countries and suggested for introduction of the integrated bulk grain handling in the country.

Structural and Fiscal Reforms

1874. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes of structural and fiscal reforms undertaken by each State and Union Territory with the World Bank/Asian Development Bank support;

(b) the special features of these programmes State/Union Territory wise;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the progress of these programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh have undertaken World Bank/Asian Development supported programmes of structural and fiscal reforms.

(b) to (e) **World Bank**

Andhra Pradesh

Name of the Project	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring
Loan No.	IBRD : Ln. 4360-IN; IDA: Cr. 3103-IN
Signature/Effective/Closing Dates	4.02.1999/26.02.1999/ 31.03.2004
Loan Amount Net	IBRD : US \$ 301.3 million; IDA : US \$ 241.9 million
Cumulative Disbursements upto 31.12.2000	IBRD : US \$ 217.818 million; IDA US \$ 126.332 million

Broad features of the project are : (a) to build and strengthen institutional capacity in the area of primary education; (b) to improve the performance of the primary health care system through improvements in the quality, effectiveness, and the coverage of services; (c) to improve the nutrition and Health of young children, women particularly pregnant, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls, by increasing the quality, impact, and cost effectiveness of integrated child development services programmes; (d) to reduce transport cost and transport constraints on economic activity, and improve the management of road maintenance, and quality of life of rural population in selected districts; (e) to arrest and reverse the decline in irrigated area, place the irrigation sector on a sustainable basis through involvement of farmers in irrigation management and improved cost recovery, and improve the productivity of irrigated agriculture, (f) to reduce the fiscal burden of public enterprises and cooperatives by strengthening institutional capacity to design and implement Public Enterprise Reforms; and (g) to put state finances on sustainable path and improve the development impact of public expenditure.

The progress of the Project is satisfactory.

Uttar Pradesh

Name of the Project	UP Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restructuring
Loan No.	IBRD : Ln. 4546-IN; IDA : Cr. 3341-IN
Signature/Effective/Closing Dates	16.05.2000/23.05.2000/ 31.10.2000
Loan Amount Net	IBRD : US \$ 126.270 million; IDA : US \$ 122.966 million
Cumulative Disbursements upto 28.2.2001	IBRD : US \$ 126.270; IDA : US \$ 122.966 million

The Uttar Pradesh Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restructuring Credit/Loan would support the Government's efforts in initiating multi-year reforms to turn the situation around. The fiscal reform component of the programme is aimed at ensuring sustainability and to create additional fiscal space over the medium term of well-targeted public investments in high priority areas of development, including quantitative and qualitative improvement in social sector spending. The public sector restructuring component of the reform programme is intended to improve the quality of service delivery by reorienting the role of Government, by reforming the civil service, by reducing corruption through improved transparency, deregulation and strengthening of anti corruption institutions, by decentralization and by improving financial management and accountability. Expected direct benefits include : (a) improved fiscal situation, (b) improved governance and social service delivery; (c) higher economic growth and reduced poverty; (d) contribution to reduction in the overall public sector borrowing requirements; and (e) encouragement of similar reforms in other Indian States.

After the disbursement of the first tranche, the achievement of the programme is being reviewed to assess the impact of it. Review meeting have been held in the Finance Ministry. During the meeting, it was agreed that Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has to achieve certain agreed milestones before proceeding for a second phase of the programme loan.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Gujarat

Name of the Project	Gujarat Public Resource Management
ADB No.	: 1506 IND
Date of approval/Loan Closing Dates	: 18.12.1996/31.12.2000
Loan Amount	US \$ 250 million
Utilization upto Feb. 2001	: US \$ 250 million

The programme supports G/o Gujarat (GOG) in augmenting domestic resource mobilization, improving the allocation and efficiency of the public sector, and reducing GOG's role in commercial activities while promoting market-oriented policies to enhance private sector participation in the infrastructure sectors.

The Programme focuses on (1) strengthening of state public finances and their prudent management; (2) divesting and restructuring of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to allow the private sector to take the lead in commercial activities while reducing the burden that SOEs

put on the budget and economy at large; and (3) strengthening the policy, regulatory, legal, and institutional frameworks for private sector participation in critical infrastructure sectors (power, ports, and roads) to evolve an enabling environment.

Under the Project loan, the State Government has fulfilled majority of loan conditions. The ADB has disbursed the entire loan of US \$ 250 Million. Govt. of India finds the progress made by the State Government satisfactory given the constraints it is facing.

Name of the Project	Gujarat Power Sector Development Programme
ADB No.	: 1506 IND
Date of approval/Loan Closing Dates	: 14.12.2000/31.12.2002
Loan Amount	: US \$ 150 million
Utilization upto Feb. 2001	: US \$ 50 million

Objective of the Programme is to establish independent tariff setting and regulation, rationalise the imposition of tariffs, duties, and imposts in the sector to maintain equity among consumer categories, change management practices and enhance efficiency in the power sector by introducing competition and commercialisation and to improve conservation of water and electricity on a pilot basis through improved irrigation systems.

The project closes on 31.12.2002. The progress, so far, is satisfactory.

Madhya Pradesh

Name of the Project	Madhya Pradesh Public Resource Management
ADB No.	: 1717 IND
Date of approval/Loan Closing Dates	: 14.12.1999/30.9.2002
Loan Amount	: US \$ 250 million
Utilization Feb. 2001	: US \$ 100 million

The programme supports the Government of Madhya Pradesh's efforts to foster social development and sustainable economic growth by addressing prevailing resource and implementation constraints in Madhya Pradesh. The Programme focuses on (1) enhancing resources allocation to social sectors through focused social sector interventions to support human development (2) implementing public sector reforms including capacity building and institutional strengthening for improved fiscal capabilities and management, and policy and operational frameworks for restructuring of public enterprises; and (3)

promoting an enabling environment for private sector participation. The Programme will also assist in strengthening environmental management, and mitigating the social impact of economic development.

The project will close on 30.9.2002. The progress, so far, is satisfactory.

Corporate DEBT Restructuring Reforms

1875. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nationalized banks and financial institutions have agreed to form a corporate-debt restructuring cell to coordinate all defaulters' accounts;

(b) whether the cell would function as a consortium of banks dealing with NPAs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it is likely to help in minimizing the NPA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions have agreed to set up a frame work for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems, outside the legal process.

(b) and (c) The Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) framework would have CDR Standing Forum, a representative body of banks and financial institutions participating in the CDR System. The forum will lay down policies, guidelines and monitor the progress of CDR. It will also provide an official platform for both creditors and borrowers to amicably and collectively evolve policies and guidelines for working out debt restructuring plans in the interests of all concerned.

(d) The CDR process would assist viable corporate units facing temporary cash flow, problems on account of internal or external factors beyond their control. The CDR mechanism is expected to arrest generation of fresh NPAs by assisting potentially sick companies and would help in financial rehabilitation of sick companies.

[Translation]

Cooperative Banks

1876. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative banks operating in each State at present in the country;

(b) the number of proposals for setting up more such banks received by RBI during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by RBI thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Broadcasting Networks in Maharashtra

1877. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for development and expansion of broadcasting networks in Maharashtra;

(b) the achievements made in this regard, year-wise with amount spent during each year; and

(c) the target fixed during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 for development and expansion of broadcasting networks in Maharashtra including allocation of amount for each year ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) No State-wise targets are fixed for development and expansion of Broadcasting network. The expansion/development plans are formulated keeping in view existing facilities in any area and depending upon availability of resources and inter-se priorities. The following AIR and Doordarshan projects were commissioned during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in Maharashtra :-

	Air	Doordarshan
1998-99	—	8 (LPT-6, VLPT-2)
1999-2000	2 (conversion of VB studio from mono to Stereo at Nagpur and Pune)	17 (Studio-3, LPT-5 VLPT-9)
2000-2001	—	8 (HPT-1, LPT-7)

The expenditure incurred on AIR/Doordarshan projects in the State during these years is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Air	Doordarshan
1998-99	112.69	1790
1999-2000	123.38	890
2000-2001	109.75 (estimated)	279 (estimated)

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Edible Oil

1878. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to impose a ban on the import of edible oil; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is proposed to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) As per EXIM policy, import of edible oils is on OGL. There is no such proposal.

Number of Units of PSUs

1879. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units being run under public sectors since 1996-97, till date;

(b) the capital investment made in those units during each of the last three years, unit-wise;

(c) the number of laboureres in these units during the above period, year-wise;

(d) whether the losses have increased during the last three years;

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

(f) the increase of loss during 2000-2001 vis-à-vis 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The requisite

information is available in Public Enterprises Survey of 1996-97 to 1999-2000 which were duly laid in the successive Budget Sessions of Parliament.

(d) to (f) Some of the loss making PSUs have registered increase in losses during the last three years. The unit-wise details of loss of loss making PSUs is available in statement 7B of Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey of corresponding years. However, as per Public Enterprises Survey, 1999-2000, the period till which the information is available, the loss of loss making PSUs has increased from Rs. 9305.32 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 10059.66 crores in 1999-2000.

[English]

Export of Coconut/Coconut Products

1880. SHRI P. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coconut/coconut oil and other coconut products are being exported and imported;

(b) if so, the details of export and import of coconut and coconut oil with value thereof in rupee terms during the past three years;

(c) the impact of import of coconut and coconut products on domestic producers; and

(d) the steps being taken to safeguard the interest of domestic producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity and value of coconut and coconut oil exported and imported during the last three years is as under :—

EXPORTS

(Quantity : in MT, Value : in Rs. Crores)

Year	Coconut (fresh, dried copra)		Coconut oil (crude/ refined oil and fractions)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1998-99	231	0.76	860	6.50
1999-2000(P)	339	0.84	1535	13.06
Apr.-Oct. 2000(P)	268	1.09	901	7.93

IMPORTS

Year	Coconut dried		Coconut oil (crude/ refined oil and fractions)	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (in Rs.)	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1998-99	—	—	1373	4.33
1999-2000(P)	18	3960	3938	13.47
Apr.-Oct. 2000(P)	40	2197568	4627	9.18

(P : Provisional, Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) The imports are insignificant when compared to production and are not likely to have an adverse impact on domestic producers.

(d) NAFED is undertaking procurement of copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) Operations at the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed. Besides the import duty on coconut including dessicated coconut and copra has been increased from 35% to 70% in the Budget for 2001-2002.

Disposal of Securities

1881.SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the public sector banks at par with other financial institutions, like the SFCs, SSIDCs, for the purposes of possession/disposal of securities hypothecated/mortgaged to banks against secured loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Expert Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri T.R. Andhyarujina, former Solicitor General of India to look into the powers for taking possession of sale and securities to banks and financial institutions has submitted its report in March, 2000 to the Government. The detailed report is under examination in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Law and Justice and other concerned agencies for finalising a draft bill in this regard.

Action Against SEBI Officials

1882.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Agro-based plantation companies vanished during 1998-99 without paying crores of innocent small investors but SEBI has miserably failed to take any action against such companies;

(b) whether in CRB Banking Company a big fraud was detected wherein this company was closed usurping about Rs. 200 crores of public.

(c) If, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) If so, the outcome thereof with the number of officials of SEBI found involved in this fraud; and

(e) The action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Many CIS entities had collected funds from the public prior to being brought under the regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI. SEBI vide its press release dated November 26, 1997 and its public notice dated December 18, 1997 directed existing schemes to file details of their schemes with it. SEBI received information from 642 entities who had reportedly raised approximately Rs. 2681 crores. Subsequently, following the notification of the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999, 3 more entities applied for registration.

SEBI has identified 177 companies which are not complying with listing requirements of stock exchanges and are not traceable at their registered office addresses. SEBI has issued directions against 70 such companies and 302 directors of these companies prohibiting them from associating in any respect with capital market related activities. The names of these companies have also been forwarded to the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) and to the respective State Governments for appropriate action. DCA has initiated prosecution proceedings against 108 companies for not filing information and winding up proceedings against 25 companies.

(b) and (c) The in-principle approval given to CRB Group for setting up a private sector bank was withdrawn

when irregularities committed by CRB Capital Markets Ltd. (a non-banking finance company in the CRB Group) came to the notice of RBI. Liquidation proceedings have been initiated against CRB. The High Court has appointed an Official Liquidator.

(d) and (e) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed that their enquiry is complete and further steps are being taken as per procedures.

Bungling by Plantation Companies

1883. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bungling to the tune of Rs. 500 crore by the Anubhav Group of Companies in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Green Gold Company of Mumbai has also deceived the public by showing seven times enhancement of money within five years;

(c) whether the cheques of various schemes of these companies have bounced;

(d) whether these companies assured the investors to refund the money immediately;

(e) if so, the reasons for not refunding the amount so far; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government against these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which regulates Collective Investment Schemes (CISs), vide its press release dated December 18, 1997, directed existing schemes to file the details of their schemes with SEBI. According to information filed by M/s. Anubhav Plantations Ltd., Chennai with SEBI on 28.01.1998, they have mobilised Rs. 127.13 crores from the public under four schemes. The break-up of the amount mobilised in Gujarat is not available with SEBI.

(b) M/s. Green Gold Agro Development Ltd., M/s. Green Gold Forestry Ltd. and M/s. Green Gold Horticulture Ltd. had filed details of their schemes with SEBI. Thereafter, SEBI conducted a special audit of M/s. Green Gold Horticulture Ltd. As per the audit report, the company had launched 8 schemes offering varying returns.

(c) SEBI has received a few complaints from investors in these companies regarding bouncing of cheques.

(d) to (f) M/s. Anubhav Plantations Ltd. has been wound up by orders of the High Court dated 23.06.2000. The Official Liquidator, High Court, Chennai has been appointed as liquidator for the company. The administrator appointed by the court has intimated that the properties of the said company are being identified and sold on the orders of the court and the sale prices are deposited into the account of the Official Liquidator, High Court, Chennai. Further, he has stated that after all the saleable properties of the company are sold, the High Court will appoint a Claims Commissioner who will give a public notice in all leading newspapers inviting depositors/investors to file their claim petitions.

On notification of the SEBI (CISs) Regulations, 1999, M/s. Green Gold Agro Development Ltd., M/s. Green Gold Forestry Ltd. and M/s. Green Gold Horticulture Ltd. had applied for grant of registration. Since these companies did not fulfil the requirements of registration, their applications were rejected on February 12, 2001. Accordingly, in terms of the registrations, these entities are required to wind up their schemes and repay their investors. Further, they are required to send an information memorandum to the investors, within 2 months from the date of receipt of the intimation from SEBI.

External Commercial Borrowings

1884. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 3186 on December 08, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take now in the matter against the said companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Government had given an assurance to Unstarred Question No. 3186 on December 08, 2000. This assurance has since been fulfilled, a copy of which is attached in the statement.

Statement

Fifth Session of the thirteenth Lok Sabha

Date of fulfilment : 07/03/2001

Ministry of Finance

Department of Economic Affairs

Q.No., date & Name of M.P.	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reason for delay
Unstarred Question No. 3186 asked by Shri Prabhunath Singh on 8/12/2000	External Commercial Borrowings :- (a) whether Reliance Sterlite Industries, Tata Electric, Essar Oil etc. collected a sum amounting to 842.21 million US dollars as external commercial borrowings and did not repatriate the same into the country as is required under the provisions of FERA/FEMA; (b) if so, the dates on which these companies raised the funds abroad under ECB giving the extracts of the provisions from FERA/FEMA and the reasons for not repatriating the money into the country; and (c) the action taken by the Government against the defaulting companies?	(a), (b) and (c) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.	(a) Reliance Industries Ltd., Sterlite Industries Ltd., Tata Electric, and Essar Oil Ltd. had raised ECBs aggregating USD 1547 million + GBP 150 million. Except M/s. Essar Oils Ltd., other companies have since repatriated ECB proceeds retained abroad. M/s. Essar Oil, who were given permission by RBI for retention proceeds abroad upto December, 2000, have sought further extension upto June, 2001. Their request is under examination of RBI. (b) and (c) Dates on which above companies raised ECBs are given in Attachment. Raising funds abroad was governed by Section 8 of FERA, 1973. RBI has taken a general view that the irregularities committed by the companies in retaining funds abroad beyond the stipulated period may not be construed as warranting action under FERA 1973/FEMA, 1999, as the ECB proceeds held abroad have since been repatriated.	No delay as assurance is being fulfilled within stipulated period.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Amount (USD million)	Details of Disbursement/ Draw down
1	2	3	4
1.	Sterlite Industries Ltd.	81.00	05.06.1997
2.	Tata Electric Companies	300.00	August, 1997

1	2	3	4
3.	Essar Oil Ltd.	102.00	Dec., 1998 to Jan., 1999.
4.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	150.00 200.00 100.00 214.00	27.09.1995 24.06.1996 06.08.1996 15.01.1997

1	2	3	4
		100.00	15.01.1997
		150.00	28.07.1997
		GBP 150.00 million	13.08.1997
		150.00	25.08.1997

Fall in the Share Price of IDBI

1885.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a consistent fall in the share prices of IDBI since 1995;

(b) if so, whether the fall in share prices of IDBI is normally due to large Non-Performance Assets of IDBI;

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce NPA; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The yearly high and low of IDBI's shares prices since its listing on Mumbai Stock Exchange is given below :

Financial Year	Yearly High (Rs.)	Yearly Low (Rs.)
1995-96	130.00	95.50
1996-97	138.50	81.00
1997-98	114.50	74.75
1998-99	120.00	29.00
1999-2000	75.10	26.00
2000-2001 (till 28th February)	53.25	29.20

(b) to (d) The fall in share-prices of IDBI is not attributable to the level of NPA alone, however, IDBI has initiated several measures for containing NPAs which include :

(1) Monitoring Cells have been set up for constantly monitoring performance of assisted companies to improve recovery and initiate timely remedial action.

(2) Restructuring Committees have been set up in various zones to look into a long-term viability of projects and recommend restructuring schemes.

(3) For taking expeditious decisions, Empowered Committee and High Powered Committee have been set up to consider One-time settlement cases and restructuring proposals.

Further, in order to improve credit quality, Credit Appraisal and Delivery System have been further strengthened. In the case of infrastructure sector, a three tier security mechanism i.e. letter of credit, escrow facility and Government guarantee, has been adopted.

Release of Food Items to States

1886.SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released food items including kerosene oil and sugar to various States for the first quarter of 2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have allocated rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene to various States for the first quarter of the year 2001 for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS). No allocation has been made in respect of edible oil for the same period.

(b) State-wise and month-wise allocations of the rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene for the period January-March, 2001 are as given in Statements I, II and III.

Statement-I

Allocation of Foodgrains to States/UTs for PDS for January-March, 2001 Month-wise and State-wise.

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	January		February		March	
		Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	235.176	8.000	235.176	8.000	235.176	8.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.656	0.710	7.656	0.710	7.656	0.710
3.	Assam	64.054	10.300	64.060	10.300	64.060	10.300
4.	Bihar	56.081	84.122	56.081	84.122	56.081	84.122
5.	Chattisgarh	30.925	10.852	30.925	10.852	30.925	10.852
6.	Goa	4.085	1.927	4.090	1.930	4.090	1.930
7.	Gujarat	54.961	134.941	34.961	54.941	34.961	54.941
8.	Haryana	0	15.379	0	15.380	0	15.380
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.488	7.458	9.490	7.460	9.687	7.657
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	21.890	10.320	21.910	10.320	21.910	10.320
11.	Jharkhand	20.559	30.838	20.559	30.838	20.559	30.838
12.	Karnataka	130.068	31.767	130.068	31.767	130.068	31.767
13.	Kerala	145.697	37.720	145.697	37.720	145.697	37.720
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27.425	60.478	27.425	60.478	28.377	62.688
15.	Maharashtra	68.116	126.325	68.116	126.325	68.116	126.325
16.	Manipur	5.467	1.710	5.460	1.710	5.460	1.710
17.	Meghalaya	18.745	1.000	18.728	1.000	18.728	1.000
18.	Mizoram	8.175	2.010	8.175	2.010	8.175	2.010
19.	Nagaland	10.170	1.920	10.170	1.920	10.170	1.920
20.	Orissa	85.675	4.100	69.675	0	69.675	0
21.	Punjab	1.760	9.389	1.760	9.389	1.760	9.389
22.	Rajasthan	1.307	77.893	1.307	77.893	1.328	79.735
23.	Sikkim	7.839	0.100	7.839	0.100	7.839	0.100
24.	Tamil Nadu	135.696	0	135.696	0	135.696	0
25.	Tripura	13.745	1.280	13.740	1.280	13.740	1.280
26.	Uttar Pradesh	75.810	159.429	68.010	145.929	68.010	145.929
27.	Uttaranchal	6.190	4.241	6.190	4.241	6.190	4.241
28.	West Bengal	56.946	114.224	56.946	114.224	56.946	114.224
29.	A&N Islands*	2.651	0.820	2.651	0.820	2.651	0.820
30.	Chandigarh	0.210	1.289	0.210	1.290	0.210	1.290
31.	D&N Haveli	0.436	0.114	0.436	0.114	0.436	0.114
32.	Daman and Diu	0.163	0.067	0.163	0.067	0.163	0.067
33.	Delhi	13.610	42.640	13.610	42.640	13.610	42.640
34.	Lakshadweep	0.545	0.042	0.545	0.042	0.545	0.042
35.	Pondicherry	3.962	0.520	3.962	0.520	3.962	0.520

*Allocation for these two States are made annually.

Statement-II

Statewise and Monthwise Quota for the First Quarter of 2001.

S.No.	State	Levy Quota for 2001		
		January	February**	March
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30430	9690	9690
2.	Andaman Nicobar	377	389	389
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	809	834	834
4.	Assam	17136+ 724*	18337	18337
5.	Bihar	40545	20516+ 2260*	20516
6.	Jharkhand		6948+ 740*	6948
7.	Chandigarh	158	62	62
8.	D and N Haveli	78	48	48
9.	Delhi	12899	2610	2610
10.	Goa	541	120	120
11.	Daman and Diu	59	11	11
12.	Gujarat	18035	5841	5841
13.	Haryana	7530	2485	2485
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4330	4698+ 434*	4698
15.	J and K	6796	6962	6962
16.	Karnataka	20473	8636	8636
17.	Kerala	12858	4103	4103
18.	Lakshadweep	112	115	115
19.	Madhya Pradesh	32017	12441	12441
20.	Chhattisgarh		4512	4512
21.	Maharashtra	33741	16792	16792
22.	Manipur	1709	1763	1763
23.	Meghalaya	1651	1704	1704
24.	Mizoram	645	666	666
25.	Nagaland	1140	1179	1179

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Orissa	14741	8707+ 1000*	8707
27.	Pondicherry	627	243	243
28.	Punjab	8621	1385	1385
29.	Rajasthan	21036	7342	7342
30.	Sikkim	379	391	391
31.	Tamilnadu	23822	10820	10820
32.	Tripura	2566	2647	2647
33.	U.P.	69026+ 7968*	33013	33013
34.	Uttaranchal		6033	6033
35.	West Bengal	30326	14087	14087
Total		415213+ 8692*	216130+ 4434*	216130

* As per the choice of the State Govt. quantity mentioned was allocated out of the Annual Festival Quota.

** The Govt. have decided that the levy sugar supply under PDS will be restricted to only BPL families except in case of North Eastern States, Hill States and Islands Territories from 1st February, 2001. However, the allocation of levy sugar for the month of February, 2001 had already been made on 26.12.2000 at the earlier norms/scale. Thus, the excess allotment made vide order dated 26.12.2000 would be utilized in subsequent month(s).

Statement-III

Allocation of Kerosene to States/UTs for PDS for January-February and March 2001, Month-wise and State-wise

(Figures in Mt)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	January	February	March
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54188	54188	54188
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	863	863	863
3.	Assam	22777	22777	22777
4.	Bihar	55924	55924	55924

1	2	3	4	5
5. Chattisgarh		13065	13065	13065
6. Goa		2340	2340	2340
7. Gujarat*		69369	69369	69369
8. Haryana		14666	14666	14666
9. Himachal Pradesh		5122	5122	5122
10. Jammu and Kashmir**		9238	9238	9238
11. Jharkhand		18780	18780	18780
12. Karnataka		44554	44554	44554
13. Kerala		25816	25816	25816
14. Madhya Pradesh		44174	44174	44174
15. Maharashtra		125370	123696	126662
16. Manipur		1898	1898	1898
17. Meghalaya		1758	1758	1758
18. Mizoram		683	683	683
19. Nagaland		1198	1198	1198
20. Orissa		27382	27382	27382
21. Punjab		28594	28594	28594
22. Rajasthan		37650	37650	37650
23. Sikkim		658	658	658
24. Tamil Nadu		60006	60006	60006
25. Tripura		2731	2731	2731
26. Uttaranchal		9623	9623	9623
27. Uttar Pradesh		110693	110693	110693
28. West Bengal		68042	68042	68042
29. A&N Islands		561	561	561
30. Chandigarh		1284	1284	1284
31. D&N Haveli		270	270	270
32. Daman and Diu		203	203	203
33. Delhi		17056	17056	17056
34. Lakshadweep		77	77	77

1	2	3	4	5
35. Pondicherry		1280	1280	1280

* – Gujarat allocation includes 390 MTs to be given to fishing sector every month throughout the year.

** – The SKO allocation to J and K State is given in two blocks i.e. Summer (April-September) and Winter (October to March) @ 60% of annual allocation during winter and 40% in Summer block.

[Translation]

Consumer Courts

1887. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Consumer Courts in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases dealt with during the last three years on an average alongwith cases pending as on date, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of action plan drawn to set up adequate number of consumer courts in States to deal with the cases expedited during 2001-2002, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular; and

(d) the details of Central assistance made available to the consumer courts during the last two years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The functioning of the Consumer Courts is monitored by the Central Government and National Commission on regular basis. As per the information available the State-wise number of cases filed and disposed of by the State Commissions and District Forums since inception are given in the Statement.

(c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 the State Government may, if it deems fit, establish more than one District Forum in a district. Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to enable the setting up of benches of the State Commission is also under consideration of Government.

(d) No Central assistance was made available to the State/UTs during the last two years.

Statement*Cases filled and disposed in the State Commissions and District Forums*

State/UT	State Commissions		District Forums		Period of Reporting
	Cases filed since inception	Disposed of since inception	Cases filed since inception	Disposed of since inception	
A and N Island	26	16	217	194	Mar-00
Andhra Pradesh	11962	9842	121513	105650	Dec-00
Arunachal Pradesh	19	13	194	166	Sep-00
Assam	1332	656	7265	6285	Sep-00
Bihar	6712	4070	51593	35373	Sep-00
Chandigarh Adm.	2430	2167	17341	13542	Jun-00
D and N Haveli	0	0	41	24	Dec-00
Daman and Diu	2	0	62	36	Dec-00
Delhi	15163	10221	96587	78496	Dec-00
Goa	1224	1045	3785	3183	Dec-00
Gujarat	8067	4672	65212	45960	Sep-00
Haryana	11778	8788	83543	64320	Dec-00
Himachal Pradesh	4623	3414	21677	17393	Dec-00
Jammu and Kashmir	3627	3084	12656	10243	Dec-00
Karnataka	9767	7090	60475	54215	Dec-00
Kerala	14280	12662	112319	106413	Dec-00
Lakhsdweep	9	9	35	35	Dec-00
Madhya Pradesh	10680	7577	69711	62566	Dec-00
Maharashtra	19193	10793	108096	87802	Sep-00
Manipur	40	37	871	793	Jun-00
Meghalaya	84	60	256	202	Sep-00
Mizoram	39	12	1084	905	Sep-00
Nagaland	40	15	25	5	Mar-00
Orissa	8069	4027	39707	33937	Sep-00
Pondicherry	574	546	1756	1714	Dec-00
Punjab	8029	6010	45568	40946	Dec-00
Rajasthan	19212	7136	146953	130389	Sep-00
Sikkim	18	16	109	98	Sep-00
Tamil Nadu	12250	9380	57434	50372	Dec-00
Tripura	469	189	1022	872	Dec-00
Uttar Pradesh	29283	6436	243955	178133	Dec-00
West Bengal	6469	4065	37841	34053	Sep-00
Total	205470	124048	1408903	1164315	

[English]

Debt Recovery Tribunals

1888. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to enhance the minimum amount of Rs. ten lakh for referring the cases to Debt Recovery Tribunals in order to reduce the pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) To implement the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 initially 10 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRATs) and one Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT) all over the country were set up. Subsequently keeping in view the workload of each DRT, it was decided to set up more DRTs and DRATs in the country. At present 20 DRTs and 5 DRATs have been set up. The need for setting up further DRTs is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the number of cases with each DRT.

Difference in Rate of Interest

1889. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is disparity in the rate of interest in public sector banks and private sector banks operating in the country;

(b) If so, the extent of difference in the rate of interest; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove this disparity in rates of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has given Commercial banks in the Public and Private Sector freedom to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits. Banks have also been permitted to charge interest on loans/advances upto Rs. 2 lakh at a rate not exceeding their Prime Lending Rate (PLR) and above Rs. 2 lakh at a rate not below their PLR, except in respect of the following categories of loans advances :

(i) Loans covered by refinance scheme of term lending institutions.

(ii) Interest rates on bank lending to intermediary agencies including housing finance intermediary agencies.

(iii) Bill discounting by banks.

(iv) Advances/overdrafts against domestic/NRE/FCNR(B) deposits to the depositor.

As on February 16, 2001, PLR of five major banks range between 12.00 to 12.50 per cent per annum and the rate of interest on term deposits of more than one year maturity range between 8.50 to 10.00 per cent per annum. RBI regulates interest rate on Savings Bank deposits only and it is presently fixed at 4.0 per cent per annum.

Withdrawal of Tariff Concession by USA

1890. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Government has threatened to withdraw tariff concessions on certain categories of Indian exports to U.S.A. as reported in the Hindustan Times of February 9, 2001;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) USTR through Federal Register Notice dated 19.1.2001 has invited public comments on modification of duty free treatment for certain products imported from India (303 product lines at the 8 digit level). Embassy of India in Washington has filed Government's submission on 9.2.2001 and representations have also been made by US and Indian companies and organizations. The major seven key categories of these products are mentioned as below :

S. No.	HTS No.	Description of the Product
1	2	3
1.	2008	Fruit, Nuts etc. prepared/preserved nesoi
2.	2511	Natural Barium Sulphate or Barium Carbonate
3.	3907	Polyethers, Epoxides, Polyesters, Primary Forms

1	2	3
	3917	Tubes, Pipes, Hoses their fittings of Plastic
	3926	Articles of Plastic
4.	4104	Bovine or Equine Leather
	4203	Articles of Apparel and Accessories, Leather and Comp. Leather
5.	7113	Articles of Jewellery and Parts of Precious Metals or Clad
6.	7307	Tube or Pipe Fittings of Iron or Steel
	7308	Structures and Parts thereof of Iron or Steel
	7318	Screws, Bolts, Nuts, Washers etc. of Iron or Steel
	7320	Springs and Leaves for Springs, Iron or Steel
	7323	Household Articles and Parts of Iron or Steel or Wool of Iron or Steel
	7325	Cast Articles of Iron and Steel
	7326	Articles of Iron and Steel
	7606	Aluminium Plates, Sheets and Strips over .2MM Thick
	7609	Aluminium Tube or Pipe Fittings
	7615	Household Article etc. of Aluminium
	7616	Articles of Aluminium
7.	8205	Handtools, Blow Torches, Anvils etc.
	8483	Transmission Shafts, Bearings, Gears etc./ parts
	8708	Parts and Accessory for Motor Vehicles

One time Settlement of Bank Loans

1891. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has recently asked the banks to make use of a one-time settlement scheme for maximum recovery of bad debts before the deadline of 31 March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether in view of fresh directions from the RBI, the public sector banks have contemplated any further action;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the banks have been advised to expedite encashment of TCs; and

(e) if so, the progress of the various banks in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had taken a meeting with the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks on 14th February, 2001 regarding recovery of Non Performing Assets (NPAs), wherein the public sector banks had indicated that they could recover Rs. 793 crores of NPAs, as on 31st December, 2000.

(d) and (e) RBI has further reported that during the aforesaid meeting, the banks were advised to expedite encashment of foreign Travellers Cheques (TCs) and it was decided that RBI would issue instructions to Authorised Dealers as under :

- (i) Branches categorized under A, B, and C categories would provide encashment of foreign TCs.
- (ii) TCs upto US\$ 500 will be encashed immediately on signature by the holder.
- (iii) The customer would be required to produce passport or other satisfactory identification.
- (iv) "One window" approach for encashment of foreign TCs would be put in place.

SC/ST Posts in International Organizations

1892. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST MPs in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded posting of adequate number of SCs/STs Officers in the posts/assignments under International Organizations such as WTO, IMF, IBRD, ADB and similar financial/monetary institutions in India and abroad.

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the number of Officers working in the above posts as on January 1, 1996 and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total such posts;

(c) the number of Officers posted to the above posts during the last five years and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the posts filled in during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to SC/ST in these organizations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Re-Export of Imported Tea

1893.DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that poor quality tea is being exported from the country by way of re-export of imported tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Import of any food item including tea is subject to provision of Section 5 of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act which stipulates that no person shall import into India (i) any adulterated food; (ii) any misbranded food (iii) any article of food for the import of which a license is prescribed, except in accordance with the conditions of the licence; and (iv) any article of food in contravention of any other provision of the said act or rule made thereunder.

Item A. 14 of Appendix B attached to Prevention of Food Adulteration Rule 1955 indicates specifications for Tea. These specifications are more or less similar to the specifications envisaged under ISO 3720 Standards which have been adapted for export of tea. Since quality of tea import is subject to the standards laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, there is no scope of re-export of imported poor quality tea from India.

Supply of Kerosene to Gujarat

1894.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of kerosene oil in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether substantial imports of kerosene were made to meet its demand in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Russia Trade Agreement

1895.SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Russian delegation led by the President of the Republic of Sakha and Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relation visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held with the delegation;

(c) whether any MoUs, agreements have been signed in regard to trade cooperation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes Sir, President of the Republic of Sakha of Russian Federation alongwith other members of the delegation including Deputy Ministry of Foreign Relations of Sakha visited India in February, 2001.

(b) During the meetings various issues of mutual interest and steps for further enhancing the bilateral trade in areas other than the traditional ones were discussed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of Funds taken by Companies from Banks

1896.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of listed companies have misused funds taken from banks and Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which the Government are not revealing the names of such companies, who have misused the funds of banks and financial institutions; and

(d) the details of funds misused by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) collects and disseminates information about borrowers with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above classified as "doubtful" or "loss" and also borrowers against whom suits have been filed. Besides from, February, 1999, RBI has introduced a scheme for collection and dissemination of information on cases of wilful default of borrowers with outstanding balance of Rs. 25 lacs and above. RBI data base does not generate information about misuse of fund taken by companies from banks and financial institutions.

As on 31st March, 2000, defaulters of Rs. 1 crore and above are in 7332 accounts aggregating Rs. 43373 crore with banks and in 2332 accounts aggregating Rs. 15288 crores with financial institutions. As on 30th June, 2000 wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lacs and above are in 865 accounts aggregating Rs. 2763 crore with banks and in 46 accounts aggregating Rs. 864 crores with financial institutions.

Under the existing provisions of banking laws, disclosure of names of borrowers of banks and financial institutions is not permissible. However, there is no prohibition on disclosure of names of defaulters against whom suits have been filed. RBI has, therefore, published as on 31st March, 2000 the details of suits filed by banks and financial institutions in respect of defaulters of Rs. 1 crore and above and wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lacs and above and the same is available on website <http://www.rbi.org.in>.

Seizure of Chinese Goods

1897. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customs officials have been instructed to seize goods of Chinese and Taiwanese origin;

(b) if so, whether the shopkeepers and other retailers will have to produce credible evidence of the source of purchase of items from these countries;

(c) whether any goods from these two countries have been seized during the last six months; and

(d) if so, the details of goods seized and rates valued in open market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, any goods illegally imported are liable for seizure under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962, unless the person concerned proves otherwise.

(c) and (d) During last six months, smuggled contraband goods of Chinese and Taiwanese origin, valued at Rs. 23.80 crores (approx.), have been seized by the officers of Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Developmental Projects

1898. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has imposed some conditions before sanctioning loans for the developmental projects of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to these conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) There are no prescribed conditions for sanctioning development loans. However, the general loan conditions specify repayment period, rate of interest, commitment charges, front-end fee, service charges, etc. In addition, specific loan agreements may include action plans to be implemented over the project period, and such variation on the general conditions as may also be mutually agreed.

[English]

Disinvestment of 246 PSUs

1899. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a policy outline for complete privatisation of the 246 PSUs in the next ten years as reported in Hindustan Times dated the December 20, 2000.

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

(c) whether the Government have also a proposal to create an independent organisation to speed up the process of disinvestment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also a proposal to invest fifty percentage of money generated through disinvestment in social sectors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to create an independent organisation to speed up the process of disinvestment. The Department of Disinvestment is entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the disinvestment programme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The policy of the Government in regard to the utilisation of disinvestment proceeds is clearly stated in the Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001. The entire receipt from disinvestment and privatisation will be used for meeting expenditure in social sectors, restructuring of PSUs and retiring public debt. For the year 2001-2002 the disinvestment target has been fixed at Rs. 12,000 crore. An amount of Rs. 7000 crore out of this will be used for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net to workers and reduction of debt burden. A sum of Rs. 5000 crore will be used to provide additional budgetary support for the plan primarily in the social and infrastructure sectors.

TV Studio in Andhra Pradesh

1900. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned some Auxiliary (Supporting/Additional) T.V. Studio for Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such TV studios are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati is setting up a TV studio at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh, in addition to existing studios at Hyderabad and Vijayawada. The studio project is expected

to be completed by the end of the year 2002 subject to availability of the requisite resources and equipment.

[Translation]

TV Serials on Bhagwat Gita

1901. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Akashvani propose to relay the verses of Shrimad Bhagwat Gita from Kurukshetra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan also propose to telecast any T.V. serial on this holy book; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) AIR Kurukshetra is broadcasting a programme titled "Geeta Sandesh" from June, 1991. The programme consists of Shlokas and commentary on the Shlokas.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that, at present there is no such proposal to telecast any T.V. serial on Bhagwat Gita.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Onions

1902. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to release 50,000 tonnes onion for export with immediate effect and have decided to set up seven canalising agencies for the same;

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

(c) to what extent these export have been able to stabilise the prices of onion in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The Government released a quantity of 50,000 tonnes of onion for export on 5th February 2001. The exports of the above quantity of onion was allowed through the following canalising agencies, namely, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi, the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune, the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd, Ahmedabad, the Spices Trading Corporation Ltd., Bangalore the Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation, Hyderabad,

the Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. Bangalore and The National Co-operative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd. New Delhi.

(c) The exports have generally helped in firming up and stabilising the prices of onion in the domestic market. However, exports alone which constitute approximately 6% of the production, do not influence the domestic price trend. Other factors such as overall production in the year, carry over stock, weather conditions, rains, etc. also play a crucial role in the domestic price situation.

Transfer of Narcotics Control Bureau

1903. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Girish Saxena Task Force on Intelligence has recommended that Narcotics Control Bureau be immediately transferred to the Home Ministry so as to bring most of the security and intelligence agencies under one umbrella.

(b) if so, the other recommendations made by the Task Force; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Task Force on Intelligence Apparatus, chaired by Shri Girish C. Saxena, were examined by a Group of Ministers, which has submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Public Issue of Foreign Companies

1904. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign companies which had promised to come out with public issues in near future but have not done so;

(b) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India has sought details in this regard; and

(c) the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Assistance to Gujarat

1905. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given by public sector financial institutions and NABARD to Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the assistance is very low as compared to the other States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Financial assistance extended by All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) viz. IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI, IIBI and Exim Bank to the industries in Gujarat during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and April - December, 2000 is as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1998-1999	7855.9	6812.7
1999-2000	11623.8	7047.4
Apr.-Dec. 2000	8921.0	1990.2

During the above period, Gujarat is the second highest recipient of financial assistance from AIFIs.

NABARD is engaged mainly in providing refinance assistance to agriculture sector NABARD's refinance support to Gujarat vis-à-vis All India support is given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	ST Loans			MT/LT Loans		
	Limit Sanc.	Max. O/s	Growth Rate of Col. 3	Loans Sanctioned	Loans Disbursed	Growth Rate of Col. 6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat						
1997-98	354.57	313.62	20.6	307.54	305.04	1.6
1998-99	413.65	149.78	-43.2	345.52	348.57	14.3
1999-00	332.78	163.29	9.0	467.35	467.55	34.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All India						
1997-98	7139.88	6009.20	5.4	5255.17	5358.83	12.6
1998-99	8083.29	6339.80	5.5	6377.06	6268.17	17.0
1999-00	8165.11	6742.43	6.4	7789.61	7603.38	21.3

During the period 1998-99, there was a fall in the short term finance availed by Co-operative Banks and RRBs. The main reason for the fall in refinance of NABARD under short term are problems associated with seasonal agricultural operations, procurement activities of Weavers Co-operatives Societies etc. However, in 1999-2000, nine percent growth rate has been achieved.

Foodgrains Earmarked for Cyclone Victims

1906. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantum of foodgrains earmarked for cyclone victims in Orissa has been lying in the LNN storage at Lucknow for more than a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the official responsible for allowing the foodgrains not there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, such report has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central Warehouse Corporation

1907. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the last several year the profit of the Central Warehousing Corporation has been on the decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Central Warehousing Corporation to arrest the decline in profit;

(d) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation is planning to hand-over some of his warehouses to private operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The profit earned by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in the last five years is as under :-

Year	Profit (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	60.98
1996-97	84.95
1997-98	67.73
1998-99	41.50
1999-2000	48.30

The decline in the profit was only in two years, i.e., 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(b) The main reasons for decline in the profit of the Corporation were as under:-

(i) Severe competition for Custom Bonded and ICD/CFS business due to economic liberalisation resulting in drop in the income of the Corporation.

(ii) Increase in establishment cost as a result of pay revisions.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Corporation to arrest the decline in its profit:-

(i) Efforts are being made to increase the capacity and also its average utilisation. The percentage of utilisation during the year 2000-2001 is expected to be 81% as against 77% in the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Efforts are being made by the Corporation to diversify into different areas like cold chain, liquid storage, etc., and to set up new CFSs/ICDs, etc.

(iii) With a view to control the establishment cost, no fresh recruitment is being made by the Corporation. Further, the Corporation has proposed to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme

(VRS) in order to reduce the establishment cost. The VRS is under consideration of the Government.

- (d) No, Sir.
(e) Does not arise.

Export of Mango and Mango Pulp

1908. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests for the creation of the separate Mango Board to look after the mango pulp and mango trade in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mango and mango fruit allied units are having very good export potential;

(d) if so, the statistical data regarding the total export of mangoes and mango pulp in terms of quantity and value, year-wise for the last three years;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce new schemes to boost the export of mango and mango pulp from India, and also for the inland trade; and

(f) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total quantity and value of export of mangoes and mango pulp during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been as follows :

Year	Quantity (M. Tons)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	88770	199.00
1998-99	83542	217.70
1999-2000	107015	268.10

Source : DGCI and S, Calcutta and APEDA, New Delhi.

(e) and (f) The Government has proposed in the Budget for 2001-02 to exempt food preparations based on fruits and vegetables completely from excise duty. This step is expected to give a fillip to the fruits and vegetables processing industry including mango for promoting inland and export trade.

Global Advisors for Disinvestment of PSUs

1909. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the global advisors for all the Public Sector Undertakings decided for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether these advisors have given any recommendations for particular Public Sector Undertakings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :
(a) and (b) The list of advisors appointed for disinvestment of public sector undertakings is given in the statement. The selection of advisors is based on the process of competitive bidding.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The mandate of the advisors is to assist the Government in the process of disinvestment of its equity in the particular PSU. The mode and extent of disinvestment is decided by the Government.

Statement

List of PSEs and Names of the Advisors Appointed

Public Sector Enterprise	Name of the Advisor
1	2
1. Air India	JM Morgan Stanley
2. Hindustan Copper Ltd.	IDBI - Sumitomo Bank
3. Hind. Insecticide Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
4. Hind. Org. Chem. Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
5. HTL	KPMG India Private Ltd.
6. Hindustan Zinc Limited	BNP Paribas
7. Indian Airlines	IDBI-ANZ Grindlays Bank-Speedwing

1	2
8. IBP Ltd.	HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (I) Ltd.
9. IPCL	Warburg Dillon Read
10. ITDC	Lazard India Ltd.
11. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	ICICI Securities-Bank of America
12. National Fertilizers Ltd.	Rabo Finance Private Ltd.
13. Paradeep Phosphat. Ltd.	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd.
14. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
15. Bh. Hvy. Plts. and Vssels	S.B. Billimoria.
16. Bharat Leather Corpn.	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
17. Bharat Pumps and Comp.	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
18. Hindustan Cables Ltd.	ICICI Securities
19. Hindustan Salts	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
20. Instrumentation Ltd.	IDBI
21. Jessop and Co.	A.F. Ferguson
22. NEPA Ltd.	SBI Capital Markets Ltd.
23. Scooters India Ltd.	Price Waterhouse Coopers
24. Tungabhadra Steels	IDBI

[Translation]

Share of Black Money in GDP

1910. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the parallel economy of the country the share of black money in the total Gross Domestic Product is at least one third i.e. two lakh crore rupees as per the assessment made by Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hawala transaction is one of the main source of black money; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check this business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir,

the Reserve Bank of India has informed that it has not made any estimates regarding the share of black money in total GDP.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Hawala transactions may be one of the sources of black money.

(d) Efforts are made to check the hawala transactions by generating intelligence and taking action against the guilty under law.

[English]

Uniform in Editorial Policy

1911. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a uniform editorial policy for both in-house and private news Bulletins on Doordarshan;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to restore the freedom of Doordarshan listeners ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) New Bulletins are produced in-house and are not out-sourced. Doordarshan is guided by the News policy for broadcast media recommended in Parthasarthy Committee Report.

(c) Doordarshan/Prasar Bharati have already been provided full freedom to provide information/news, based on the factual happenings of various important events from time to time based on their news value.

Uplinking Facilities to Companies

1912. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of television channels who have applied for uplinking facility from Indian satellites;

(b) the number of applications which had been cleared so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No

application of private companies for uplinking facility for their TV channel (s) from Indian satellites has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

1913. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the World Bank has refused to give a loan of 800 crores of rupees to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has been unsuccessful in completing various projects including social forestry with the loan given by the World Bank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A proposal namely "MP Forestry Project Phase-II with an estimated cost of Rs. 1380 crores had been posed to the World Bank for assistance on 19.8.1999. The Bank subsequently suggested certain modifications in the project proposal and the revised proposal is now pending with the Administrative Ministry for clearance.

Another Project namely "MP Water Resources Consolidation Project" with an estimated cost of Rs. 442 Crores was posed to the World Bank on 7.3.2000. The World Bank initially expressed inability to consider the project due to heavy commitment in the Water Sector over the next two/three year. Subsequently, in October, 2000, the World Bank has indicated possibility of financing this project alongwith ADB.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The "MP Forestry Project" was signed on 11.4.1995 for an IDA Credit of US\$ 58 million. The project was implemented successfully and had closed on 31.12.1999. The Implementation Completion Report of the Bank has also rated the Project as "satisfactory".

[English]

'Z' Group Companies

1914. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mumbai Stock Exchange has decided to suspend trading in large number of companies listed in its 'Z' group;

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

(c) whether the ninety per cent of the 'Z' group companies have failed to pay listing fees;

(d) if so, the names of those companies;

(e) whether any other action is being taken against such companies/promoters; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) has intimated that it has suspended trading in securities of 499 companies in the 'Z' group of the Exchange with effect from 5th of February, 2001. These companies have not complied with Clause 38 of the Listing Agreement, i.e. they have not paid the annual listing fees in full for the years, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The names of these companies have been published in a Press Release issued by the Exchange dated 1st February, 2001. The names are also available on the web site of the Exchange (www.bseindia.com).

(c) and (d) As intimated by the Exchange, as on 5th March, 2001, 1475 companies have been placed in the 'Z' Group. More than 90% of these companies have been placed in this category mainly due to non-payment of listing fees. The names of these companies are available in the web site of the Exchange (www.bseindia.com/datalibrary).

(e) and (f) Companies which do not comply with the provisions of the Listing Agreement are shifted by BSE to the "Z" group as a proactive measure to protect the interests of investors and to enhance level of compliance by the listed companies with provisions of the Listing Agreement. The Exchange has further intimated that for the present no other action has been taken against such companies/promoters.

Constitution of State Finance Commission

1915. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make amendment in the constitution with a view to constitute the State Finance Commission even before completion of five years;

(b) if so, whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has also made recommendation to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government are considering the said proposal; and

(d) the time by which decision would be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) in their main report for 2000-05 has suggested amending Article 243-I of the Constitution to enable a State to set up the State Finance Commission 'at the expiration of every fifth year or earlier', akin to the provision that already exists under Article 280 for constituting Finance Commission.

Since the suggestion of the EFC would require extensive consultations with State Governments, no time frame can be fixed in the matter.

[Translation]

Foreign Currency in Foreign Reserve

1916. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries whose currency are available in foreign reserve at present;

(b) the amount invested from this reserve by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years; and

(c) the impact on the prices due to non-utilisation of this reserve in productive activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India broadly consist of convertible hard currencies of major countries where markets are deep and liquid.

(b) Investment of foreign exchange reserves by the Reserve Bank of India is governed by the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, as modified from time to time. Accordingly, the foreign exchange reserves are invested in approved foreign securities and deposits abroad with due considerations of safety, liquidity and yield of the funds so invested.

(c) Foreign exchange reserves are held by the Reserve Bank of India, with a view to maintaining a pool of liquid assets which could be utilised in case of contingencies. It is difficult to express and establish a direct relationship between productive activities, utilisation of foreign exchange reserves and the rate of inflation.

Cooperative Banks

1917. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kisanon ki madad

ke nam par dalali kar rahe hain Sahkari Bank" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 22, 2001;

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

(c) the number of such complaints received by the Government in this regard and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Supply of Defective Power Equipment by BHEL

1918. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SAGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether various power projects have come to a halt in Andhra Pradesh due to the faulty equipments supplied by BHEL;

(b) if so, the details of the heavy duty transformers manufactured by BHEL and those which have been burnt during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the electric failures which have been reported in various power projects, year-wise and State-wise in the last three years; and

(d) the Power Generator Units manufactured by BHEL which have been failed or had faced serious problems during the last three years in India and abroad, year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHARIA) : (a) The BHEL supplied equipments to power projects at Vijayawada, Rayalaseema Kathagudam, Ramagundam 4,5,6 units have recorded Operational Availability of 93.7%, 96.1%, 80%, 84.4%, 91.9% and 89.5% respectively during the period from April'00 to Feb'01.

However, recently, the Kathagudam Thermal Power Station IX tripped due to operation of generator differential protection relay. The problem occurred as the unit was not made available to BHEL for carrying out regular inspection when it was due. Apart from this, there was a minor fault at Vijayawada Thermal Power Station-V which was rectified within a short span of 13 days.

(b) The details of heavy duty transformers manufactured by BHEL and those which have been burnt during the last three years are as under :-

Details of Heavy Duty Transformers

Heavy Duty-400 KV Class and above						
		1998-99	1999-2000		200-01	
Total No. of transformers supplied		497	533		548	
Failure		1	9		5	
State-wise	State	Year of Commissioning	State	Year of Commissioning	State	Year of Commissioning
	Maharashtra	1981	Gujarat	1998	Maharashtra	1997
			Orissa	1991	Orissa	1994
			Orissa	1996	Orissa	1996
			Orissa	1996	U.P.	1999
			Maharashtra	1997	Bihar	1991
			U.P.	1997	Haryana	1982
			West Bengal	1991		
			Delhi	1998		
			M.P.	1990		-

(c) Information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) The details of the Generator that have failed during operation in the past three years are as per the table below :-

State	2000-01 (upto Feb'01)	1999-2000	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudam-IX DOS*3/97	Vijayawada-IV DOS*8/90	
	Vijayawada-V DOS*3/94		
Haryana	Faridabad-III DOS*4/81		
Maharashtra	Dahanu-II BSES DOS*1/95		
	Bombay Sub-Urban Electric Supply		
Rajasthan			Kota-IV RSEB DOS*5/89
Tamilnadu			Tuticorin-I DOS*7/79
West Bengal			Kolaghat-VI DOS*1/93

Note : DOS* Date of First Synchronisation

Disinvestment of Steel Plants

1919. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatize some steel plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) Disinvestment is a continuous process. As a part of the process, Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment in various Public Sector Enterprises from time to time. Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various Public Sector Enterprises, including those in the steel sector in accordance with the declared disinvestment policy of the Government.

Production of Rubber

1920. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production, consumption and export of rubber during the current year; and
- (b) the extent to which the success has been achieved in regard to production, consumption and export of rubber as compared to previous two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) To increase the production of rubber the Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing various schemes by providing financial and extension support to the growers directly.

For enhancing the consumption of indigenous rubber, Govt. of India has (i) banned the import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.99 and (ii) promoted the use of rubber/polymer modified bitumen for rubberisation of roads.

The export of rubber is already free under the EXIM Policy 1997-2002. Besides, the Rubber Board has been encouraging the export of natural rubber through various promotional measures.

(b) The production, consumption and export of Natural Rubber during the last two years are as under :

Year	Production (in Lakh (Tonnes)	Consumption (in Lakh Tonnes)	Export (in Tonnes)
1998-99	6.05	5.92	1840
1999-2000	6.22	6.28	5989
2000-2001(E)	6.35	6.50	12000

Disinvestment Proceeds

1921. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of proceeds of privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings expected to be deposited in Consolidated Fund of India during the financial year 2000-2001;
- (b) whether the Government propose to earmark certain amounts for infrastructure building purposes or for public services like health education from this fund; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) During the financial year 2000-2001 the Government has disinvested 51% of the paid-up equity of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. through strategic sale for Rs. 551.5 crore. The disinvestment process in other PSUs is in different stages of implementation. In view of the factors like market conditions, terms and conditions of sale of the equity, time taken by the prospective bidders for due diligence etc., it is not possible to accurately estimate the exact time of completion of the individual disinvestment transactions.

(b) and (c) As announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech, the entire receipt from disinvestment and privatisation will be used for meeting expenditure in social sectors, restructuring of PSUs and retiring public debt.

[Transaction] -

Decline in Export to EU Market

1922. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the export of Indian goods to European Union Market have declined;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase export of Indian goods in European Union Market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India constantly interacts with the European Union at different levels to address the various market access barriers being faced by Indian exports. Sector specific bilateral Working Groups with European Union have been established in different sectors having export potential such as agri/marine products, textiles and information technology. Market access issues are also taken up bilaterally with the EU member states through the mechanism of bilateral Joint Commission meetings.

These initiatives are in addition to other general export promotion activities being supported by the Government e.g. facilities for participation in trade fairs, input for upgradation of quality, market study etc.

[English]

World Bank Loan

1923. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank holds nearly 2.87 percent of the country's capital stock valued at US Dollar 5.403.8 million;

(b) if so, whether India topped the World Bank development credit ranking by managing to corner a total sanction of US Dollar 22.663 million, according to its annual report;

(c) whether in the said report, the World Bank has stated that loan absorption has been a problem with India as the country being unable to draw down of the loans extended to it; and

(d) if so, the reason of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. India holds 2.87% in the capital stock of World Bank.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has been approved a total development credit of US Dollar 22,663 million.

(c) The Annual Report of the World Bank does not make any such reference.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes in PSUs

1924. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons from SC and ST community as Heads/Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management of the Public Sector Enterprises; and

(b) the number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as on 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2001 and their percentage as compared to the total posts in the 48 PSUs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Appointments of Chief Executives and Full-time Directors in Public Sector Undertakings are made on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), official directors are appointed on ex-officio basis by the Administrative Ministries/Department and non-official directors are selected in consultation with PESB. There is no reservation for SC and ST community for appointments in Board level posts and information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Vacancy Based Rosters

1925. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in Case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as J.C. Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways has held that 'the Vacancy Based Rosters' can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(b) if so, indicate the services i.e. Class I, II, III and class IV category/grade under the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and Public Sector Undertakings Autonomous/Attached/Sub-Ordinate Organisations under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which 'Post based Rosters' have been introduced in place of Vacancy based Rosters; and

(c) the reasons if 'Post based Rosters' are introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' in those

categories of services also where representation has not reached the prescribed percentage of reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Arrears Payable to Sugar Cane Farmers

1926. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain decisions have been taken with regard to sugar sector in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concerned authorities have been empowered to recover the money with interest from the sugar mills, if they fail it pay the due amount to sugarcane farmers within 14 days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken certain decisions in the years 2000 and 2001 with regard to the sugar sector. Some of the important decisions taken are as follows :

- (i) The Government has reduced levy obligation on domestic producers from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000 and further to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001.
- (ii) The Government increased the Customs' duty on import of sugar to 60% w.e.f. 9.2.2000 along with continuance of the countervailing duty of Rs. 850/-per MT of imported sugar.
- (iii) The Government imposed levy obligations on importers of sugar at par with the domestic producers with effect from 17.2.2000.
- (iv) Stockholding limit on the recognized dealers was removed w.e.f. 7.7.2000.
- (v) Sugar mills have been allowed w.e.f. 25.1.2000 to sell up to 10% of their monthly quota of freesale sugar by the 7th of the succeeding month.
- (vi) The Income Tax assessee and their family members were excluded from the supply of levy sugar under the PDS w.e.f. 1.7.2000.

(vii) With effect from 1.2.2001, levy sugar supply under the PDS has been restricted only to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in all States/UTs except in North Eastern States/hill States/island territories.

(viii) The Government has decided to introduce futures/forward trading in sugar.

(c) and (d) Government has amended the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 on 29.11.2000 enabling the Central Government/State Government/Officers authorised by the Central/State Governments, to recover cane price arrears including interest due on it for delay in payment beyond 14 days of supply of sugarcane @ 15% per annum as arrears of land revenue.

Handover of Metro Channel to Private Institution

1927. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has handed over the metro channel to some private institution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government consider it properly and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy of the Government is that Prasar Bharati is competent to take its own decisions in programme matters.

[English]

Biscuit Scam in Super Bazar

1928. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had ordered an inquiry on identify the officials responsible for shielding the scam culprits and initiation of disciplinary proceedings against them in the Rs. 9 crore Super Bazar biscuit scam;

(b) if so, whether the officials have been identified who were responsible for the shielding the scam culprits; and

(c) the details of the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :

(a) to (c) After considering the explanation of the officer concerned in Super Bazar for inordinate delay in initiation of disciplinary proceedings in the case and keeping the Central Vigilance Commission's advice in the matter in view, Government conveyed its displeasure to the officer for not taking timely action in the matter.

Smuggling of Synthetic Drugs

1929. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to prevent smuggling of synthetic drugs into the country from across the border;

(b) whether the Government are aware that a new route for supply of drug the "Golden Corridor" has emerged in the recent years; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Significant steps have been taken by the Government of India to prevent smuggling of synthetic drugs into the country. These include notifying the precursor chemicals as "controlled substances" under the NDPS Act, constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict drugs on the border, holding of quarterly coordination meeting of all the enforcement agencies and stringent action under NDPS Act against persons arrested for drug trafficking.

(b) The reports received do not indicate the emergence of a new route known as "Golden Corridor" for supply of drugs.

(c) Does not arise.

Distribution of Wheat and Rice

1930. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any communication from the State Government of Maharashtra for permission to convert wheat and rice meant for Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders, lying unsold in its godowns, into that meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) cardholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra requested that 30,000 tonnes wheat and 20,000 tonnes rice purchased by them from Food Corporation of India (FCI) at rates applicable for families above poverty line (APL) out of the stocks lying in various godowns of the State Government may be permitted to be distributed to families below poverty line (BPL) and the differential amount on account of this conversion may be treated as due to the State Government to be adjusted towards purchase of BPL foodgrains in the coming months.

(c) The Government has decided that as soon as the State Government and/or their nominees make payment of the cost of the foodgrains allotted to them to the FCI and the latter lift the stocks from the FCI godowns/depots, the transaction is complete. As such the State Government may on their own account dispose of the surplus stocks held by them by auction or any other means as they deem fit. The decision has been conveyed to Government of Maharashtra.

Smuggling of Narcotics by Pakistan

1931. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan has been reportedly pushing new kinds of narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir to fund cross border terrorists; and

(b) if so, the action taken to stop spreading the menace of such drugs in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, the Government has not received any such report about new kinds of narcotics. However, seizure of opium, heroin and hashish has been made in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, which includes gearing up of the intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of enforcement agencies, border fencing, intensified border patrolling etc.

[Translation]

Assistance given to Uttar Pradesh

1932. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of assistance made available to various States particularly to Uttar Pradesh during last two years and in the current year, till date in the form of various Central grants in aid special assistance and loans;

(b) whether the State Government of U.P. faced some economic crisis;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the State Government utilises the grants-in-aid provided by the Union Government for purposes other than for which they are provided;

(e) if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(f) the steps taken to ensure the appropriate utilisation of Central funds; and

(g) the amount of funds for which the utilisation certificate is yet to be submitted by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Central Assistance under various items is released to all the States including Uttar Pradesh for the States' annual plans in the shape of Block Grants and Block Loans.

Also, grants, as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC)/Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), are released to all the States including Uttar Pradesh.

The total amount of Central Assistance released to all the States and to Uttar Pradesh during the last two years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and in the current financial year 2000-01 (till date) is as under :

(Rs. in crore)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01 (till date)
All States	26659.42	30633.75	26103.84
Uttar Pradesh	3191.12	3808.27	4141.24

The total amount of TFC/EFC grants released to all the States and to Uttar Pradesh during the last two years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and in the current financial year 2000-01 (till date) are as under :

(Rs. in crore)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01 (till date)
All States	2720.63	4347.19	11316.59
Uttar Pradesh	543.69	250.21	1096.22

(b) and (c) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been facing ways and means problem due to temporary mismatch between their receipts and expenditure. The Central Government has been helping the State to come out of the overdraft in their account with the RBI by making advance releases against their entitlements and other feasible measures.

(d) to (g) The State Governments are accountable to their State Legislatures for proper utilisation of funds through the State Audit Reports prepared by the CAG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution. However, if there is shortfall in plan expenditure as against approved/ revised plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central Assistance released to the States.

[English]

Shares of Public Sector Undertakings

1933. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out any schemes to offer shares of Public Sector Undertakings to small investors at discount price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Scheme for Rural Artisans

1934. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has planned to launch a new scheme for rural artisans and scheduled tribes of Bihar;

(b) if so, the assistance provided to the State during the last three years under various schemes by this bank; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries in Bihar benefited during the aforesaid period under these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently decided to adopt artisan clusters for development for providing focussed and demand based assistance to specific rural industrial clusters. In the first phase of the cluster development programme, NABARD has identified 15 rural clusters, of which "Leather Cluster in Biharsharif in Nalanda District of Bihar" is included. In the second phase, a cluster of Madhubani painting in Madhubani District is proposed for inclusion.

(b) and (c) The assistance provided by NABARD to Bihar State during the last three years for the above purposes is given below :—

- i. Refinance provided by NABARD to co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks for lending to artisans in Bihar for the last three years is as under :-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Cooperatives		Regional Rural Banks	
	Limit Sanctioned	Maximum Outstanding	Limit Sanctioned	Maximum Outstanding
1997-98	0.51	0.46	2.50	2.5
1998-99	Nil	0.46	3.25	2.7
1999-2000	Nil	Nil	3.54	3.03

- ii. Refinance provided by NABARD to co-operative banks for lending to tribals for raising crops in Bihar for the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Limit Sanctioned	Maximum Outstanding
1997-98	3.00	3.45
1998-99	3.75	4.13
1999-2000	Nil	4.13

- iii. Refinance assistance provided by NABARD to various non-farm sector activities under different schemes of NABARD and number of units assisted during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of units covered	Refinance Disbursed (Rs. crore)
1997-98	4877	20.27
1998-99	1369	18.54
1999-2000	1604	20.42

[English]

Sugar Mills in Tamil Nadu

1935.SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that sugar mills in Tamil Nadu are not making full payments for supply of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b)

According to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the cooperative and public sector mills are paying State Advised Price (SAP) while the private sector sugar mills of the State are not paying the SAP. The private sugar mills of the State have filed a Writ Petition in High Court, Madras and obtained a stay against the fixation of SAP by the State Government. The cane price paid by the private sugar mills is, however, more than the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) fixed by the Central Government. The Coop. and Public Sector sugar mills have cane price arrears of Rs. 32.69 crores for 1999-2000 crushing season as on 31.12.2000.

(c) The Central Government have taken the following measures to clear/liquidate the cane price arrears :

1. Reduction in levy obligation of sugar mills from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 01.01.2000 and again to 15% w.e.f. 01.02.2001.
2. Increased the customs duty to 60% w.e.f. 09.02.2000 on the imported sugar along with existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonnes so as to restrict inflow of sugar in the country.
3. Pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas.
4. Making advance releases of freesale sugar to needy sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price dues of the farmers.
5. Permitted export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar.
6. The sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 has been amended w.e.f. 29.11.2000 enabling the Central Government/State Government/State Government/Officers authorised by the Central Government/State Government to recover cane price arrears as arrears of land revenue.
7. Closely monitoring the cane price payment position and writing to the State Governments from time to time for timely payment of cane prices as the responsibility of cane price payment lies primarily with the State Governments.

Public Issue of Banks

1936.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5095 dated August 25, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the said information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and by when it is likely to be collected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c)

The information has been collected from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Share of collection amount in the public issue by public sector banks and private sector banks for the last three years furnished by SEBI is given below :-

(Amount Rs. in lacs)

	1999-2000		1998-99		1997-98	
	Amount	Percentage share	Amount	Percentage share	Amount	Percentage share
Pvt. Sector Bank	2120085.24	70	184218.87	33	148256.39	33
Public Sector Bank	923403.55	30	368438.96	67	300130.08	67
Total	3043488.79	100	552657.83	100	448386.47	100

SBEI has further reported that the swing of public issue collection amount in favour of private sector banks may be in view of the fact that these banks, which are fully computerized with each of their branches connected through Wide Area Network (WAN), are better equipped to handle the issue collection process, whereby they are able to consolidate the amount collected by the branches spread across the country in a short period.

Export of Grapes and Chikoo

1937. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of grapes and chikoo from Maharashtra has been increased as compared to previous years;

(b) If so, the details thereof and countries to which exports were made;

(c) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APFPDA), has been imparting training to farmers for the new technique of production of grapes and chikoo; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of programmes conducted by APFPDA for training of farmers and to what extent this programme is likely to boost export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) State-wise export statistics is not maintained and therefore the exact level of exports from Maharashtra could not be assessed and compared. The total exports of grapes and chikoo from the country during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been as follows :

GRAPES

Year	Qty (in M.Ts.)	Value (in Rs. Lakhs)
1997-98	23679	6452
1998-99	11382	3709
1999-2000	14005	5514

CHIKOO

Year	Qty (in M.Ts.)	Value (in Rs. Lakhs)
1997-98	2650	292
1998-99	1049	137
1999-2000	1572	243

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta/APEDA, New Delhi.

The countries to which grapes and chikoos were exported from India include Bangladesh, Bahrain, Hongkong, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, UAE and UK.

(c) and (d) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has organised integrated training programmes for grapes in Maharashtra and for Chikoo in Gujarat during the last three years. The training programme includes adoption of better techniques relating to pre-harvest management, harvesting, post-harvest management and pesticide residue management in order to improve quality of production. A total of 10 training programmes for grapes have been conducted in Maharashtra and one for chikoo in Gujarat. These training programmes have generally helped in improving the quality of the produce and increasing the volume of exports.

World Bank Loan to Rural Electrification

1938. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought an additional loan of Rs. 500 crores from the World Bank under Adaptable Programme Loan (APL 2) over and above the originally contemplated \$100 million for undertaking rural electrification;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide the loan;

(c) if so, the conditionalities put by the World Bank; and

(d) the amount of loan the Andhra Pradesh Government is now repaying to the World Bank and interest thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The debt Service payments to external donors are made by GOI, and therefore the question of Government of Andhra Pradesh making debt service payments to World Bank does not arise.

New Banks

1939. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has suggested that only three new banks be allowed to be formed every year;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the limit on number of new banks to be allowed every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued revised guidelines in January, 2001 on the entry of new banks in the private sector. These guidelines, inter-alia indicate that the number of license to be issued in the next three years may be restricted to two or three of the best acceptable proposals, which would also include permission granted to any Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for conversion into bank. It has been further indicated therein that if the number of acceptable proposals of the highest standards are more than three, this limit may be relaxed on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee set up to examine the applications.

[Translation]**Norms for Approval of TV Serials**

1940. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

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

(a) whether gross irregularities in the procedure adopted for giving approval to T.V. serials have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for simplifying the procedure regarding giving approval; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Golden Share Scheme in PSUs

1941. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Golden Share Scheme in the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the Companies Act, 1956 for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) At present Government have no proposal to introduce the Golden Share Scheme in Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]**Post based Rosters in Place of
Vacancy based Rosters**

1942. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1110 on the November 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the required information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The requisite information of this Ministry and all its Attached/Subordinate Offices/Autonomous Statutory Organisations and Public Sector Undertakings except Prasar Bharati and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd. is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The information is to be collected from the Field Offices, which are located all over the country, Information from Prasar Bharati and BECIL is also being expedited.

Statement

The instructions contained in the Para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 are being followed in the main Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its Attached/Subordinate Offices. Autonomous/Statutory Organisations and Public Sector Undertakings except Prasar Bharati and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd. from where the information is still awaited. As per information received, the details of excesses and Shortages found in class I, II, III and IV category of services are as under :

	Excess		Short fall	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Class I	Nil	Nil	10	8
Class II	Nil	Nil	24	45
Class III	93	Nil	Nil	18
Class IV	277	33	Nil	Nil

White Paper on PSUs

1943. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the PSUs which have been declared sick and are loss making presently;

(b) whether his ministry has prepared a White Paper on restructuring of these loss making Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds required for restructuring of these Public Sector Undertakings; and

(e) the time by which said White Paper is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Information is given in the statement attached.

(b) to (e) The White Paper on the Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Heavy Industry is under finalization.

Statement

List of PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry referred to BIFR, declared sick and reported losses in 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the PSU
1.	Jessop and Co. Limited (Jessop)
2.	Braithwaite and Co. Limited (BCL)
3.	Bharat Brakes and Vessels Limited (BBVL)
4.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL)
5.	Burn Standard Co. Limited (BSCL)
6.	RBL Limited (RBL)
7.	Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited (BPMEL)
8.	Weighbird India Limited (WIL)
9.	Triveni Structurals Limited (TSL)
10.	Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)
11.	Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)
12.	Praga Tools Limited (PTL)
13.	Instrumentation Limited (ILK)
14.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC)
15.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited (NBCIL)
16.	National Instruments Limited (NIL)
17.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL)
18.	Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI)
19.	Mandya National Paper Mills Limited (MNPM)
20.	Nagaland Pulp and Paper Corporation (NPPC)
21.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Limited (HPF)
22.	Hindustan Salts Limited (HSL)
23.	NEPA Limited (NEPA)
24.	Tannery and Footwear Corporation (TAFCO)
25.	Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL)

*[Translation]***Growth Rate in Core Sectors**

1944.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
 SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the six core sectors have shown signs of a slowdown during the first nine months of the current fiscal year and have posted a cumulative growth of 7.7 percent compared to 9.1 percent during the corresponding period of the last year;

(b) if so, the sector which have shown slowdown indicating the growth rate of each sector;

(c) the main reasons for this slowdown;

(d) whether concrete steps are being taken to improve the position of these six core sectors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The growth rate of Electricity, Coal, Crude Petroleum, Petroleum refinery products, Finished steel, and Cement during nine months of the current fiscal (April-December 2000) was 7.7%, as compared to 9.1% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) and (c) Of the six core industries three have performed better, while three namely Electricity, Finished Steel, and Cement have registered a lower cumulative growth rate during first nine months of the current fiscal year as compared to the previous year. The growth rates registered by these sectors are as given below :

Core Sector	1999-00*	2000-01*
Electricity	7.5	4.7
Finished Steel	15.0	12.8
Cement	16.0	2.3

*April-December

The reasons for the slowdown have been, mainly, slackening of demand owing to low investment in infrastructure sector, shortage of power due to shortfalls in creation of new capacities, and lack of demand in case of steel and cement.

(d) and (e) The following measures have been initiated for stimulating demand, which will improve performance of the core sectors :

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been allowed to float capital gains tax exemption bonds.
- The budgetary provisions under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) has been enhanced for the year 2001-02.
- The Government has signed MOU with five States to reform SEBs and initiated steps which include time bound programme for installation of 100% metering by December 2001, energy audit at all levels, specific programmes for reduction and eventual elimination of power theft.
- Government is providing infrastructure support to cement industry to maximize cement production.
- Rail wagons are provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.
- Reduction in custom duty on cement and clinker.
- Tax holiday for infrastructure development.
- Tax incentive to housing sector which will boost demand for cement and steel.

Loans through Financial Institutions

1945.SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the loans sanctioned by the financial institutions during the year 2000-2001 as compared to the financial years 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

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

(c) the reasons for such decline ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The total amount of financial assistance sanctioned by AIFIs (IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, IIBI, Exim Bank and SIDBI) during 1999-2000 increased to Rs. 90,598.1 crore from Rs. 73,453.5 crore during 1998-99. During the current financial year also, AIFIs sanctions during April 2000-January 2001 increased to Rs. 77,905.2 crore from Rs. 68,959.5 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year.

[English]

**Revival of Cement Factory at
Nayagaon**

1946.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement unit of Cement Corporation of India Limited located at Nayagaon in Neemach district of Madhya Pradesh is closed for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the officers/employees of this factory are being paid salaries regularly; and

(d) if so, the time by which this cement factory is likely to be revived and the details of the action being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Operations in Nayagaon unit of CCI have remained suspended from June, 1997 due to various reasons including disconnection of power supply by M.P.S.E.B. on account of non-payment of electricity charges.

(c) CCI has been facing acute liquidity problems which has led to delay in payment of salary/wages to the employees. Government have been providing non-plan support to the company, to the extent possible, for payment of salary/wages. Salary/wages have been paid to the employees upto October, 2000. The primary responsibility of payment of wages rests with the Company.

(d) CCI is under reference to BIFR and has been declared sick. BIFR a quasi-judicial body, has been exploring the feasibility of revival of the Company.

[Translation]

**World Bank Loan for Rural Water
Supply in UP**

1947.SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions of the loan being provided by the World Bank for rural water supply and environment cleanliness projects in Uttar Pradesh and the body to which the solid loan is being provided; '

(b) the salient features of the project monitoring unit set up in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the number of the office-bearers appointed so far alongwith their names and status ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The loan provided for the Uttar Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project is on the basis of the normal terms and conditions applicable to other International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loans provided by the World Bank. Government of India is the borrower and onlends to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under standard Additional Central Assistance terms.

(b) The Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) at Lucknow is a registered society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The PMU acts as an independent and autonomous body to coordinate and monitor implementation of the project. Under the PMU district project management units have been set up. It operates in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

(c) As per enclosed statement.

Statement

Office Bearers Appointed so far

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Period
1	2	3	4
1.	Mr. Parmeswaran Iyer	Director	November' 94 to February' 98
2.	Mr. S. Raju	Director	February' 98 to May' 00
3.	Mr. Mahesh Kumar Gupta	Director	July' 00 to till date
4.	Mr. Navin Chandra Sharma	Additional Director	April' 97 to September' 97
5.	Mr. Jayant Keshav	Additional Director	December' 97 to till date
6.	Mr. Jayant Keshav	Additional Director	December' 94 to November' 97
7.	Mr. Gyanendra Singh	Financial Adviser	March' 98 to till date

1	2	3	4
8.	Mr. V.K. Agarwal	Unit Coordinator (Technical)	October' 94 to October' 99
9.	Mr. Y.N. Chaturvedi	Unit Coordinator (Technical)	October' 99 to till date
10.	Late Sri V.K. Verma	Unit Coordinator (M&E)	March' 95 to September' 97
11.	Mr. V.K. Sinha	Unit Coordinator (Technical)	April' 00 to till date
12.	Mr. J.P. Shukla	Unit Coordinator (HRD)	December' 94 to till date
13.	Late Sri U.C. Pathak	Management Specialist	December' 94 to October' 97
14.	Mr. S.C. Srivastava	Unit Coordinator (Operation)	October' 97 to till date

[English]

**Smuggling of Cigarettes
VIA Nepal**

1948. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of foreign brand cigarettes are being smuggled into the country every year via Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss incurred by the Government on this account; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling activities and to save the domestic cigarettes industry ?

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

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

(d) All the field formations of Customs Department including D.R.I. have been instructed to remain vigilant and alert to check smuggling of contraband goods including cigarettes.

[Translation]

Monthly Quota of Kerosene in M.P.

1949. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CONSUMERS AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the monthly quota of kerosene oil in Madhya Pradesh is 73,522 kilo litre;

(b) whether the quota of kerosene oil is proposed to be increased in view of the increasing population and the dependence of the rural people on kerosene oil; and

(c) whether the kerosene oil is likely to be allotted to Madhya Pradesh in proportion to the national average ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The monthly allocation of SKO to the State of Madhya Pradesh is 57239 MTs (44174 MTs to MP and 13065 to Chattisgarh). Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis, i.e., last year's allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at the national level based on the principle of giving higher increase to the States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-state disparity.

Assistance to Gujarat for Relief Works

1950. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned/released by each department of his Ministry under various heads for providing assistance/relief following the earthquake in Gujarat ; and

(b) the funds sought by various departments in Gujarat alongwith the names thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Pending a decision on the quantum of assistance to be provided to the Government of Gujarat from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of earthquake, share in Central taxes amounting to Rs. 500 crore was released by Ministry of Finance to the Share Government to be converted subsequently into assistance from NCCF. Besides, the Ways and Means and Overdraft Regulation Schemes were relaxed to allow the State Government draw any amount from its account with RBI without going into overdraft.

(b) As per the memorandum submitted by Government of Gujarat to the Government of India, financial assistance sought for various departments/sectors are as under :

(Rs. in crores)	
Sector	Assistance requested
Housing	5500.00
Emergency Relief announced by Government	649.24
Education	240.00
Power	265.00
Road and Buildings	150.00
Health	125.00
Irrigation	450.00
Water Supply	250.00
Administrative Buildings	183.00
Agriculture	436.55
Industries	70.00
Total	8318.79

[English]

Transmission Facilities in Orissa

1951. SHRI BHARTU HARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the cities/towns of Orissa where Doordarshan/All India Radio transmission facilities have not been provided so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish transmission facilities in these places also;

(c) if so, the places identified so far; and

(d) the steps taken to provide these facilities at an early date ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Entire Orissa is covered by radio signals except for a few pockets in the districts of Deogarh, Angul and Malkangiri. Doordarshan coverage is available all over the country including Orissa in Satellite mode. However, terrestrial TV coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 92% population of the State (including the population in fringe areas).

(b) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide Radio/TV coverage to hitherto uncovered areas of the country including Orissa. For further expansion of Radio coverage in Orissa, the existing 100 KW MW Tr. at AIR Cuttack is being replaced by new 300 KW MW Tr.. Local Radio Stations with 1 KW MW Tr. are

also being set up at Soro and Rairangpur. For further expansion of TV coverage, one High Power TV Transmitter at Behrampur and three Low Power Transmitter at Chikti, Tushara and Baleshwar (DD-2) are presently are under implementation.

These projects are at different stages of implementation and all steps are being taken to ensure timely completion of these projects.

[Translation]

Funds for VRS in Banks

1952. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some public sector banks have sought loan from the World Bank to give the benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to their employees;

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

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Model Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) circulated by Indian Banks' Association to the Public Sector Banks on 31.8.2000 provided that the funding of the scheme will be made by the banks themselves either from their own funds or by taking loans from other banks/financial institutions or any other source. Government is not aware of any bank having approached World Bank for loan for financing the VRS.

[English]

FDI in Pharmaceuticals

1953. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in Pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received by the Government in the said sector so far;

(d) the number of proposals cleared by FIPB so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining proposals will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Government has already permitted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 74% in case of bulk drugs, their

intermediates and formulations (except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology) under automatic route. FDI above 74% in this sector is considered on a case to case basis by the Government.

(c) to (e) Receipt and disposal of FDI proposals is a continuous process. FDI proposals are normally disposed of within 30 days as per FDI guidelines and in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries. During the period from August, 1991 to December, 2000, 142 FDI proposals in the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector have been approved.

[Translation]

Telecast of DD-2/(Metro)

1954. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast the programmes of Metro Channel in the entire country;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the time by which the programmes of the DD-2/ (Metro Channel) are likely to telecast in Etawah city of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that while Metro Channel (DD-2) programmes are available all over the country in satellite mode, expansion of terrestrial coverage of the Channel is being carried out in a phased manner, depending upon availability of resources and inter-se priorities. The terrestrial relay of Metro Channel will cover 43.4% of the country's population in about two years' time, when the projects currently under implementation are completed.

(c) Prasar Bharati does not have any scheme at present to install a transmitter at Etawah city for relay of Metro Channel.

[English]

Nominee Directors in Financial Institutions

1955. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the powers of nominee directors in the financial institutions under the control of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government as the existing powers available under the relevant Acts for the nominee director on the Boards of Financial Institutions under the control of Government have been found to be working satisfactorily.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

1956. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allocated to Maharashtra under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund since its inception;

(b) the manner in which the allocation under RIDF can help in providing the much needed capital formation in the agriculture and rural sectors of Maharashtra;

(c) whether some rules and regulations exist for recovery of fund under RIDF from the beneficiaries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) since its inception during 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 1588.82 crore has been sanctioned to Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Sanctions and utilisation of RIDF shall help Maharashtra in providing the much needed capital formation for creating potential in the irrigation sector and for building roads and bridges in rural areas of the State.

(c) and (d) There is no recovery of funds envisaged directly from the beneficiaries under the projects sanctioned by NABARD to Government of Maharashtra under RIDF. NABARD obtains time promissory note (TPN) and mandate from the State Government to secure repayment of loan borrowed by them under RIDF.

Permission to German based MNC for Setting up of Stores

1957. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently granted blanket permission to a multinational company 'Metro Cash and Carry and Gmbtt' of Germany for setting up of stores in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact on the traders in the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) M/s Metro Cash and Carry GmbH, Germany have been granted FC approval in December, 2000 to establish a Wholly Owned Subsidiary to set up state-of-the-art Cash and Carry complexes for food and non food products at urban locations in India. The approval is subject to the condition that the company would sell the products stocked by it to retailers who possess sales tax registration, and not to consumers. The proposal is covered under the extant FDI policy.

Export of Meat

1958. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the export of sub-standard meat by certain exporting firms situated at Mumbai through APEDA or illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the quality of meat to be exported from India and also to stop illegal export of meat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) It is reported that the Ministry of Health, Government of Bahrain has rejected cartons of mutton cubes supplied by M/s Fair Exports (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai in December, 1998 to M/s Ali Rashid Al-Aminest., Bahrain. The dispute has been settled amicably in January, 2001 by remitting the claim to the importer.

(c) Steps taken to check the quality of meat to be exported from India and to stop illegal export of meat include :-

- (i) Laying down standards under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 for export of Raw Meat (Chilled and Frozen) which include standards for abattoirs, processing plants as well as for meat products;
- (ii) Prohibiting export of meat unless each consignment of meat is accompanied by a certificate issued by the recognized inspection agency to the effect that the meat conforms to the notified standard specifications and is export worthy;
- (iii) Registering every year the abattoirs and meat processing plants after inspection to ensure

conformity of the laid down standards by the Plants Registration Committee of APEDA;

- (iv) Providing financial assistance to the exporter for upgradation and modernization of meat processing facilities, setting up in house quality control laboratories, implementation of international quality systems such as HACCP, ISO-9000 etc;
- (v) Allowing export of canned meat products subject to pre-shipment inspection either by the State Directorate of Animal Husbandry or Export Inspection Agency or Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India in accordance with either the standards prevalent in the exporting country or standards prescribed under the Meat Food Products Order, 1973 of Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 or orders made thereunder;
- (vi) Allowing export of offals of buffalo subject to the same conditions as specified for the export of meat of buffalo in the Gazette notification on Raw Meat (Chilled and Frozen) under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963;
- (vii) Providing for investigation by the Regional Standing Committees on Quality Complaints (RSCQC) in respect of specific cases of quality complaints under the Exim policy to resolve the issue amicably and in case of findings in favour of foreign buyer taking action against the exporter as per Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Financial Assistance to States

1959. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have received some reports from various State Governments in regard to their financial problems;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government on the reports of State Governments;
- (d) the details of proposals received by Union Government from various States for financial assistance during the last three years;
- (e) the action taken thereon;
- (f) the criteria for providing assistance to States;

(g) whether the Union Government charges interest on the loan given to States; and

(h) if so, the total amount of interest outstanding against each State as on date alongwith interest paid so far by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) State Governments are responsible for management of their finances keeping in view the devaluations from the Centre. Owing to impact of the Fifth Pay Commission several States passed through periodic Ways and Means problem during the last two years and requested the Government of India from time to time for general and specific reliefs.

The Union Government through a combination of feasible measures helped the States to overcome their temporary cash imbalances and overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India to the extent possible.

The Eleventh Finance Commission was required inter-alia to review the finances of the Union and the States and suggest ways and means by which the Governments collectively and severally may bring about a restructuring of the public finances so as to restore the budgetary balance and maintain macro economic stability. Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission's report which is being implemented from 2000-01. An incentive fund of Rs. 10607.00 crore has been earmarked for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 to encourage States to implement monitorable fiscal reforms.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) A statement showing the details of total amount of interest outstanding against each State alongwith interest paid during 2000-01 (as on 28.02.2001) so far by them to the Union Government (Ministry of Finance) is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	Total interest paid by the State Govt. during 2000-01 upto 28.02.01	Total amount of interest outstanding as on 28.02.2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1720.07	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pr.	38.49	0.16
3.	Assam	353.40	34.12
4.	Bihar	1619.26	0.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	129.60	0.00
6.	Goa	53.36	27.22
7.	Gujarat	2054.24	0.90
8.	Haryana	582.07	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	354.84	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	242.90	102.53
11.	Jharkhand	148.52	0.00
12.	Karnataka	1072.52	0.00
13.	Kerala	229.28	365.04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	950.10	77.53
15.	Maharashtra	3218.58	0.00
16.	Manipur	38.99	6.23
17.	Meghalaya	41.34	2.28
18.	Mizoram	25.70	0.00
19.	Nagaland	47.50	0.00
20.	Orissa	810.44	9.46
21.	Punjab	1046.46	0.67
22.	Rajasthan	831.42	296.47
23.	Sikkim	23.87	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1258.41	3.42
25.	Tripura	64.27	3.72
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2207.26	0.00
27.	Uttaranchal	56.21	0.00
28.	West Bengal	1598.97	727.58
Total		20818.07	1657.31

[Translation]

Godowns of F.C.I. in Rajasthan

1960. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) the number of godowns of Food Corporation of India in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of godowns vacated by the Corporation during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some more godowns are likely to be vacated in the next two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The number of godowns available with Food Corporation of India in Rajasthan, as on 31.12.2000, were 101 (Covered and CAP/Owned and Hired).

(b) to (d) Storage capacity of FCI increases or decreases depending on the trend of procurement and offtake in the procuring/consuming States. Hiring/dehiring of godowns is reviewed in this context from time to time. When any godown is found surplus to FCI's requirement the same is dehired. During the last three years FCI has only hired additional godowns. Dehiring of godowns cannot be anticipated.

[English]

Protection of Small Investors

1961. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of legal and administrative measures, which safeguard the interest of the small and individual investors;

(b) whether the Government have taken some more steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the role of SEBI safeguarding interest of the investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Over the years, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken various measures such as introduction of disclosure norms, tightening of entry norms for initial public offerings, introduction of book building mechanism for issue of securities, enforcing of lock-in provisions etc. SEBI's regulations for collective investment schemes were notified in 1999. In the secondary market, SEBI has advised all stock exchanges to augment their Investor Protection Funds and to set up Trade Guarantee/Settlement Guarantee Funds. Other measures by SEBI include a margining system, implementation of circuit filters, gross exposure limits for stock brokers linked with capital adequacy and dematerialization of securities.

Companies which take deposits from the public are regulated by the Department of Company Affairs. The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 which was passed in December, 2000 proposed an amendment in the Companies Act, providing inter-alia, that every company which

accepts deposits from small investors shall intimate to the Company Law Board any default made by it in repayment of such deposits.

Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are under the jurisdiction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profits to reserve fund and empowerment of RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for contravention of provisions of the RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has recently introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha which is expected to provide better safeguards to NBFC depositors.

Negotiations with Players for DTH

1962. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan is holding negotiations with several private players to work out partnerships for Direct-to-Home services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the negotiations ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan has informed that it is examining how it can position itself in the DTH services regime. They have not taken a final decision.

Trade Balance with SAARC Countries

1963. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN QWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade balance with the SAARC countries is favourable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the items exported and imported during 2000 from Bangladesh and Nepal;

(d) whether there is any fear of dumping of articles from SAARC countries after lifting ban on quantitative restrictions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for the balance of trade with SAARC countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of exports to and imports from SAARC member countries during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details of the items exported to and imported from Bangladesh and Nepal during Financial year 2000-2001 (April-November, 2000) are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

India's Trade with SAARC Member Countries

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Bangladesh	2922.87	188.85	4188.50	262.52	2769.02	348.56
Bhutan	49.53	49.95	40.22	25.77	32.83	79.83
Maldives	32.46	0.89	35.24	0.22	33.85	1.4
Nepal	631.99	353.64	514.96	609.40	663.77	489.9
Pakistan	532.02	165.19	466.38	902.19	405.35	296.74
Sri Lanka	1818.23	112.26	1839.01	158.50	2196.16	192.79
Total	6987.1	1052.78	7084.31	1958.6	6100.98	1409.22

India's Exports of Main Items to Bangladesh

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	April 2000 – November 2000
1	2
Pulses	67.81
Rice (other than Basmati)	107.93
Other Cereals	10.05
Dairy products	18.38
Tobacco Unmanufactured	7.45
Spices	34.05
Sugar	18.59
Oil Meals	51.92
Fruits and Vegetable Seeds	4.24
Fresh Fruits	47.51
Fresh vegetables	40.95
Processed Fruits and Juices	3.07

1	2
Misc. Processed Items	12.86
Marine Products	37.18
Cotton Raw and Waste	2.19
Poultry Products	5.21
Coal	60.44
Processed Minerals	7.33
Other Ores and Minerals	28.56
Finished Leather	1.23
Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals	86.77
Dyes/Intmdtes and Coar Tar Chemical	39.62
Inorganic/Organic/Agro Chemicals	57.40
Cosmetics/Toiletries etc.	8.37
Rubber Mfd Products except Footwear	36.15
Paints/Enamels/Varnishes etc.	8.29
Gls/Glswr/Cermcs/Reftrs/Cmnt	120.36
Plastic/Wood Products	57.78

1	2
Plastic and Linoleum Products	25.00
Residual Chemical and Allied Products	8.29
Aluminium other than products	21.23
Manufacturer's of Metals	75.70
Machine Tools	10.09
Machinery and Instruments	127.33
Transport Equipments	106.59
Residual Engineering Items	1.48
Iron and Steel Bar/Road Etc.	6.69
Primary and Semi-Finished Iron and Steel	79.76
Electronic goods	23.11
Manmade Staple fibre	2.28
Cotton Yarn, Fabrics, Madeups etc.	493.33
Natural Silk Yarn, Fabrics, Made-up	1.85
Manmade yarn, fabrics, Madeups	62.53
Woolen Yarn, Fabrics, Madeups etc.	1.34
Rmg Cotton Incl. Accessories	4.27
Handcrafts (Excl. Handmade Carpets)	1.27

Statement-II*India's Exports of Main Items to Nepal*

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	April 2000 – November 2000
1	2
Tea	1.85
Rice-Basmati	4.77
Rice (Other than Basmati)	11.83
Tobacco Unmanufactured	15.55
Spices	15.77
Sugar	1.55
Spirit and Beverages	5.74
Oil Meals	1.47
Fresh Vegetables	1.59
Misc Processed Items	4.71
Cotton raw incld waste	1.06
Coal	11.80

1	2
Other Ores and Minerals	1.48
Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals	96.21
Dyes/Intermedates and Coar Tar Chemicals	1.87
Inorganic/organic/Agro Chemicals	9.86
Cosmetics/Toiletries etc.	4.84
Rubber Manufactured products, except footwear	2.76
Paints/Enamels/Varnishes etc.	5.14
Glass/Glasswares/Ceramics/Refractories/	8.87
Cement	
Paper/Wood Products	7.01
Plastic and Linoleum Products	4.03
Aluminium other than products	3.40
Non-ferrous metals	2.30
Manufactures of metals	12.45
Machine tools	1.99
Machinery and Instruments	33.23
Transport Equipments	49.10
Iron and Steel Bar/Rod etc.	1.82
Primary and Semi-finished Iron and Steel	6.05
Electronic goods	7.61
Computer Software in physical form	1.44
Cotton yarn, Fabrics, Madeups etc.	10.66
Natural silk yarn, fabrics, Madeups	2.24
Manmade yarn, Fabrics, Madeups	4.08
Carpet (Excl. Silk) Handmade	6.35
Handicrafts (Excl. Handmade carpets)	1.10

India's Imports of Main Items from Bangladesh

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	April 2000 – November 2000
Madeup textile articles	26.97
Readymade garments (woven and knit)	4.92
Jute, raw	39.54
Leather	4.66
Inorganic chemicals	68.42
Non-metallic Minerals Manufacturers Excl. Perlis	2.19
Machinery Except Electrical and Electronic	1.50

India's Imports of Main Items from Nepal

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	April 2000 – November 2000
Cereal Preparation	7.72
Pulses	21.31
Cotton Yarn and Fabrics	7.31
M-made F'mnt/spun yarn (Inc. waste)	73.20
Spices	20.77
Other Textile yarn, Fabrics, Made-up articles	7.52
Readymade garments (woven and knit)	5.69
Vegetable oils fixed (edible)	2.91
Wood and Wood products	13.76
Synthetic and regenerated fibres	1.58
Silk yarn and fabrics	1.67
Raw hides and skins	1.62
Leather	1.51
Essential Oil and Cosmetic preparation	91.36
Inorganic Chemicals	9.68
Dyeing, Tanning, Colouring materials	4.35
Medicinal and Pharmaceutical products	32.06
Artificial resins, Plastic materials, etc.	5.73
Paper board and manufacturers	5.37
Primary steel, Pig iron based items	2.78
Iron and Steel	26.03
Non-ferrous metals	45.79
Manufactures of metals	7.22
Electrical machinery except electronic	6.00

**Conference on International Press
Institute's World Congress**

1964. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCAST-
ING be pleased to state :

(a) whether India hosted the International Press
Institute's World Congress in the month of January, 2001;

(b) if so, the main purpose of this International
Media Conference;

(c) the main subjects discussed;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the
recommendations made in the Conference; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-
CASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e)
International Media Conference was organized at New
Delhi from January 26-29, 2001 by International Press
Institute, which is a non-Government body. The Govern-
ment has not received the outcome of the deliberations
of the Conference.

New Sugar Policy.

1965. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU-
TION be pleased to state :

(a) whether cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra
have been adversely affected due to implications of new
sugar policy recently announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of memorandum received from the
sugar mills in Maharashtra and the reaction of the
Government thereto; and

(d) the present status of the proposals and the
action taken/proposed to be taken on the memorandum ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBU-
TION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d)
Representations from 36 cooperative sugar factories of
Maharashtra have been received intimating that due to
change in levy freesale ratio, the demand of sugar in the
market had fallen. As a result, the sugar merchants did
not lift freesale sugar sold earlier and hence requested for
extension of validity period of freesale sugar quota released
for the month of January, 2001. In view of the existing
practice which allows sugar mills to sell upto 10% of their
monthly freesale sugar quota upto 7th of the following
month, no extension of validity period was considered
necessary.

[Translation]

Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

1966. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actions being taken by the Government to
check the huge circulation of fake Pakistani currency in the
country;

(b) whether any proposal to issue coins of Rs. 10 is under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which such coins are likely to be circulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government is not aware of any information about circulation of fake Pakistani currency in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

New Schemes Launched by LIC

1967. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether LIC has launched three new schemes recently to keep up its activity in the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether LIC is fast losing its old clients due to bad service; and

(d) if so, the action plan prepared by LIC to face competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have intimated that they have recently launched only one Plan which is a Unit Linked Insurance Plan titled 'Bima Plus' Plan.

LIC's Bima Plus provides life insurance cover, along with prospect of high growth. Under this Scheme, a portion of the premium is invested in equity and debt instruments in the capital market where scope for high growth exists. The premium under this plan is payable in yearly or half yearly instalments for a term of 10 years. The premium paid under the plan qualifies for rebate under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Plan provides, by way of benefit payment of the Bid value of the Fund units along with maturity bonus at 5% of Sum Assured on maturity and a specified percentage of the sum assured along with bid value of fund units and other benefits on death depending upon the duration of policy subject to deduction wherever applicable. The scheme also provides for payment on death due to accident.

(c) and (d) LIC has intimated that they are not losing their old clients due to bad service. LIC has registered an impressive growth in New Business during the last few

years. Servicing has been upgraded by progressively computerising various front office operations. In addition to networking of its branches in 38 centres LIC has substantially liberalised its claim settlement procedures. This includes delegating more financial powers to operating offices for expeditious disposal of claims and strengthening of Claims Review Committees.

Pay Scale of Sick PSUs

1968. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the sick units of the Public Sector Undertakings where revised pay scale had been implemented;

(b) whether the BIFR has given any decision regarding the revision of pay scale in these sick units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) As per the present policy of revision of pay scales of sick Public Sector Undertakings referred to BIFR, revision of pay scales would be strictly in accordance with the rehabilitation packages approved or to be approved by the BIFR and after providing for the additional expenditure on account of pay revision in these packages. The concerned administrative Ministries/Departments take appropriate actions after BIFR approves the package.

Suggestions from SCOPE

1969. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises strongly criticised the indiscriminated privatisations of Public Sector Undertakings being pursued by the Government;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any suggestions from SCOPE in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some newspapers of 20th December, 2001 had reported such views of SCOPE in regard to the privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings. Some major findings of the 'Study on Comparative Performance of Public and Private Sector in India' are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The report provides one possible perspective on the issue which has been noted by the Government.

Statement

(a) The public sector in India has performed the task assigned to it, reasonably well, given the constraints. There are aberrations, but all are not of its making. The acquisition and operations of bankrupt private sector companies was, for example, a result of decision imposed on it.

(b) The public sector's main objective was socially-focussed, in many cases by the conception of enterprises and in others by their mechanisms. The administered prices were not commercially viable which implied subsidies. Commercial enterprises cannot provide large subsidies and generate high profits.

(c) Empirically, the performance of the public sector, seen in its total perspective, is comparable to that of the private sector, although the former's perceived sub-standard performance has received recurrent and flashing limelight. On a rationally comparable basis, the profitability of CPRs more than matches with that of the total private sector.

(d) Performance of the public sector in terms of financial parameters has been improving markedly since the onset of the economic reforms programme.

(e) It is comparable with the private sector in terms of economic value added (EVA) and return on capital employed (ROCE). The Government has recovered during the last three years more than the total capital invested in the form of dividends, interest and taxes.

(f) Financial failures have frequently occurred in enterprises controlled and managed by some of the leading business groups and corporate managements applauded for their managements skills, let alone small and medium enterprises. The private sector has been facing tough times with the onset of economic readjustment programme and the onslaught of multinationals. Many have closed down or are sold to MNCs.

(g) Beyond financial performance, the private sector owner managements have been frequent and debilitating defaulters to all stakeholders-shareholders, lenders, depositors, vendors, customers and workers.

(h) Let alone the workers, even the shareholders have not received a fair deal from the private sector with thousands of companies not paying dividends defaulting on repayment of deposits and the share prices touching incredible low.

(i) Large NPAs damaging the results of financial institutions and banks are indicative of the losses incurred and defaults made by the private enterprise entities. So are the large number of sick units.

(j) The overall dividend record of private corporates has been abysmally poor. More than half the number of the listed companies do not pay any dividends. Even EPS of private sector companies, an indicator of profit earning capacity, is low. So is the P/E record-barring a small percentage of star performers.

(k) A large number of sick units in the public sector are a legacy of the private sector. The takeover enterprises acquired at the direction of the Government from time to time and not adequately supported by the Government have badly damaged the image of the public sector.

(l) It is universally admitted that there has been very little autonomy in public enterprises. Vital clearances for decisions-from conception to commissioning to current operations-have often been delayed for months, years and even decades. Many turnaround programmes remain non-starters. Apart from the dilatory clearances, there has been marked positive interference.

(m) Despite the bureaucratic procedures with the public sector undertakings have had to follow, a high degree of professionalism has taken place with far more focussed and efficient HRD interventions.

(n) The public sector has established management and training institutes of which any industrial or service organisation can be proud.

(o) The public sector has undertaken more effective R and D effort at the enterprise level.

(p) PSUs have attended to the welfare and social dimension of the work force in particular and the community in general in a much more effective manner.

(q) Since the onset of the last decade or so, especially since the announcement of the economic reforms programme, public sector has come under scathing

and undeserved attacks, which have tended to destabilise it.

(r) Undeterred by the changing and highly destabilising pronouncements including those on privatisation and disinvestment, which have created uncertainties and demoralisation, the public sector has produced enough evidence that it marches on to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

(s) PSUs after PSUs are working on a new agenda of global competitiveness and have envisioned-even launched-expansion, diversification, modernisation and restructuring programmes. These moves should generate handsome returns.

(t) PSUs have also entered and are proposing to enter into strategic alliances and joint ventures within the public sector and between the public sector, on the one hand, and domestic and foreign enterprises, on the other. Some of these plans will expand rather than contract the Indian public sector.

(u) Although continuing to be owned by the Government, budgetary support, sometimes critical, has been denied to the public sector enterprises.

(v) PSUs are not basing their ambitious plans of expansion, diversification and technology upgradation on fiscal support. They are confident of generating surpluses and of mobilising the resources by accessing the market on their own.

(w) Since the onset of the economic reforms programme, even the Government has taken some positive steps declaring selected CPEs as navaratna and mini-ratnas with some doses of autonomy.

(x) The structure, vision, goals and systems of the public sector have gone through a whole reformation. Almost at the threshold of the year 2001, the public sector in India is no longer the public sector of the early 1980s or even the late 1980s.

(y) Assured of the freedom to operate under new standards of corporate governance now advocated by professional dispensation, the public sector is confident to be globally competitive.

(z) Given the dictates of global competition and need for professional corporate governance, both sectors are slowly but steadily inching towards convergence. Privatisation, as such, is partly a redundant and partly an obsolete concept. There is a need to be innovative in discovering new models of corporate governance.

Registration of Cable Operators

1970. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cable operators registered under the Cable Doordarshan Network (Regulation) Act, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases recorded under violation of this Act in the country till February, 2001, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the cable operators found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The statistics regarding the number of registered cable operators in the country is no longer maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) The enforcement of the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 rests primarily with the authorized officers, DMs/SDMs/Commissioners of Police and such other officers as may be notified by the State/Central Government. In case of violation of any of the provisions of the Act, action is to be taken by the concerned authorized officers. This Ministry does not maintain any centralized record of the cases for violation of the Act or action taken by the authorized officers.

Dialogue with China in Manufacturing of Electronic Items

1971. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese products are proving to be competitive and make sense for us to tie up with them and market these products under brand name in India;

(b) if so, whether the moving over from local manufacturers to sourcing from China mainly because of better quality products at cheaper prices;

(c) whether the number of big distributors are planning to bring in Chinese products, which could well play complete havoc with the Indian market;

(d) whether refrigerators, television sets and air-conditioners of Chinese made are cheaper than Indian make;

(e) if so, whether Indian industry is making its efforts to have a dialogue with the counter-part of Chinese in manufacturing these items; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (f) Information has been received by the Government regarding import of cheap consumer goods from China. The Indian entrepreneurs are free to source the products from China and enter into dialogues with China for manufacturing of electrical and electronic items as per the existing policy of the Government.

Import of Edible Oils

1972. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than twenty-nine lakh tonnes of edible oils had been imported under Open General Licence (OGL) during 1999-2000 while the estimated shortfall was to the tune of 14.56 lakh tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during 1998-99 against a shortage of 19.38 lakh tonnes of edible oils, import was to the tune of 43 lakh tonnes;

(d) if so, the reasons for import of huge quantities of edible oils;

(e) whether the excess import had resulted in downward revision of issue price of edible oils in T.P.D.S.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources, demand and import of edible oils during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been as under :-

(in lakh MTs)

Year	Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources	Demand of edible oils#	Import of edible oils*
1998-99	70.81	91.99	38.59
1999-2000	62.20	96.43	34.55

#Source : As per Economic Parameters of Planning Commission.

*Source : DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce.

(d) Main reasons for increased import of edible oils are significant fall in international prices, rationalisation of duty structure which encourages import of crude vegetable oil by processing units and thus value addition within the country.

(e) and (f) Due to easy availability of edible oils in the open market the oil was available at the rates cheaper than the PDS retail prices. Therefore, offtake of edible oil allocated to the States was not satisfactory. To augment offtake by the States the CIP was revised w.e.f. 27.7.99 and further w.e.f. 24.4.2000.

Cost effective Strategies for Terrestrial Broadcasting

1973. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has formulated cost effective strategies to extend Doordarshan coverage to the remote and sparsely populated regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps mooted by the Prasar Bharati to exploit advantages to terrestrial broadcasting and use of local studio and programming personnel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan programmes are already available all over the country in satellite mode, and can be received using appropriate dish antenna systems or through cable networks. Terrestrial relay of Doordarshan currently covers about 88.9% of the country's population. In order to spread the terrestrial coverage to more areas, including the remote and sparsely populated areas of the country, Doordarshan is currently setting up 185 transmitters. A number of factors, such as area/population to be covered, costs involved, technological requirements, infrastructure facilities etc. are taken into consideration at the time of deciding upon the location and power of a transmitter.

(c) Between 2.30 PM and 8.00 PM, Doordarshan in its Primary network carries programmes from its Regional Kendras. In the Regional Kendras, a large portion of the allotted time is devoted to in-house programmes, which are produced with local participation.

[Translation]

Violation of Trade Agreement

1974. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Missions abroad have received complaints against the Indian public and private sector companies regarding violation of trade agreements during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details there of indicating the names of such companies, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) and (b) The Indian Missions abroad have not reported any instances of complaints regarding the violation of Trade Agreements against the Indian Public and Private companies during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998. All the complaints received by them pertain to commercial disputes, including quality complaints between the importing and exporting companies.

(c) The details of the complaints regarding commercial/trade disputes received from the Commercial Wings of the Indian Missions abroad are forwarded to the Office of DGFT. DGFT takes action against the exporters or importers concerned when it receives such complaints, in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992, the rules and order made thereunder and the Export Import Policy. The Office of the DGFT examines and investigates these complaints and after exhausting reconciliation efforts take action to de-register/debar the defaulting exporters by issue of show-cause notice/hearing etc. and/or take action as necessary, as per rules and regulations in force, including in appropriate cases legal action, depending upon the gravity of offences.

Privatisation of CCI

1975. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of cement being manufactured by the Cement Corporation of India Limited in comparison to the national consumption;*

(b) whether low production of cement by CCI is also one of the factors responsible for the increase in the price of cement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The quantum of cement manufactured by the Cement Corporation of India Limited

(CCI) in comparison to the national production and consumption during the past three years was as under :-

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Production of CCI	National Production	National Consumption
1997-98	0.985	76.74	73.89
1998-99	0.947	81.67	79.77
1999-2000 (Prov.)	0.656	94.21	92.05

(b) Since CCI accounts for only 3.5% of the national capacity and as per available figures national consumption is less than national production, it is difficult to come to such a conclusion.

(c) Does not arise.

TV Relay Centres of 10 Kilo Watt Capacity

1976. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

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

(a) the place where T.V. relay centres of 10 Kilo Watt capacity are likely to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the present position of construction work for setting up 100 KW capacity TV transmission centres:

(c) the time by which the construction work of these centres would be completed; and

(d) the percentage of population of each State especially of Madhya Pradesh which will be covered by these transmission centres after the completion of construction work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) While Prasar Bharati is not constructing any 100 KW TV transmission centre in the country, the locations where 10 Kilo Watt TV relay transmitters are presently under implementation are given in the attached Statement-I. These projects are scheduled to be completed in phases within the next 2-3 years.

(d) The percentages of population of each State, projected to be covered once the ongoing projects are commissioned, are given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

10 KW Doordarshan Transmitter projects under implementation (as on 01/03/2001)

State/UT	Location
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal Vishakhapatnam DD2
Chhatisgarh	Ambikapur
Gujarat	Surat Vadodara
Jammu and Kashmir	Kupwara Samba Kupwara DD2 Samba DD2 Poonch DD2
Karnataka	Mysore Raichur Gulbarga DD2 Dharwad DD2
Kerala	Cannanore
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur DD2 Gwalior DD2
Maharashtra	Jalgaon Pune DD2 Aurangabad DD2
Punjab	Fazilka (pmt) Jalandhar DD2
Rajasthan	Ajmer Barmer (pmt)
Tamilnadu	Kumbakonam (pmt) Kodaikanal DD2
Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur
West Bengal	Balurghat Kharagpur Krishnagar (pmt) Asansol DD2
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Statement-II

Expected Doordarshan Coverage of Population in States/Union Territories after Completion of Ninth Plan Transmitter Projects

Sl. No.	State/UT	DD-1 %	DD-2 %
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89.7	19.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.5	2.7
3.	Assam	82.8	46.2
4.	Bihar	93.4	37.4
5.	Chhattisgarh	84.8	22.5
6.	Goa	99.9	99.9
7.	Gujarat	95.8	22.9
8.	Haryana	98.7	91.1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	68.8	9.7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	95.0	95.0
11.	Jharkhand	97.4	13.4
12.	Karnataka	81.7	27.8
13.	Kerala	99.6	68.8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	77.2	37.0
15.	Maharashtra	92.1	46.5
16.	Manipur	73.6	26
17.	Meghalaya	97.2	81
18.	Mizoram	72.3	30.9
19.	Nagaland	69.6	14.8
20.	Orissa	93.3	20.9
21.	Punjab	99.9	53.2
22.	Rajasthan	79.2	30.9
23.	Sikkim	97.7	21.5
24.	Tamil Nadu	95.9	46.9
25.	Tripura	93.5	99.9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	96.4	54.0
27.	Uttaranchal	81.3	31.4
28.	West Bengal	98.5	58.3
29.	A & N Islands	99.5	30.4
30.	Chandigarh	99.9	99.9

1	2	3	4
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-65.0		
32. Daman and Diu	99.9		
33. Delhi	99.9		99.9
34. Lakshadweep	99.0		17.6
35. Pondicherry	99.9		99.1
Natinoal Average	91.3		43.4

NOTES

1. Coverage figures are inclusive of fringe areas (elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtaining reception in fringe areas).
2. Terrain conditions not taken into consideration.
3. 99.9% coverage has been indicated in respect of those States/U.Ts entire area/population of which lies in the coverage zone of existing/proposed transmitters. There is possibility of certain uncovered pockets in these States/U.T.s due to shadow areas.

[English]

Banking Audit Commission

1977. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Bank Employees Association suggested to the Government to institute an independent Banking Audit Commission on lines with Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in order to identify the areas of weakness, that led to creation of growing number of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) accounts in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a copy of the letter dated 3rd June, 2000 from the All India Bank Employees' Association, Calcutta, wherein it had submitted that there should be an independent Banking and Audit Commission on the lines of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) The Central Government and RBI are of the view that the existing arrangements relating to external audit of banks are adequate and there is no need for setting up a separate Banking Service Audit Commission.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Air Kendras

1978. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise the Akashvani Kendras to enable them to provide better service; and

(b) if so, the details of the estimated cost to be incurred on each Kendra ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of about Rs. 32 crores is projected by the Prasar Bharati for the computerization/augmentation of computer facilities at 260 AIR Stations/offices during the 10th plan.

Purchase of Sugar from Sugar Mills

1979. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government procures a certain percentage of sugar at fixed price from the sugar mills in the form of levy;

(b) if so, the amount of sugar procured as levy sugar during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the total production of sugar in each of the above mentioned years; and

(d) the rate at which the Government procured the levy sugar in the above years and how far it was less as compared to the production cost of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SRÉENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The sugar season is reckoned from October – September. Accordingly, the sugar production as also the accrual of levy sugar during the sugar seasons 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given below :

(in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	Season	Total Production	Accrual of levy sugar
1	2	3	4
1.	1997-98	128.44	45.22

1	2	3	4
2.	1998-99	155.20 (P)	45.30
3.	1999-2000	181.41 (P)	50.16

(P) – Provisional

(d) The ex-factory levy sugar price/procurement price are fixed by the Central Government on the zonal basis taking into account all relevant factors. Accordingly, the average levy sugar price/procurement price for the sugar season 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 1022.46 per qtl. Rs. 1050.99 per qt. and Rs. 1110.71 per qtl. respectively. The zone-wise cost of production of levy sugar is determined after taking into account the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) notified for sugarcane, the manufacturing cost of sugar i.e. conversion cost, the duty or tax, if any, paid or payable thereon and a reasonable return on the capital employed. However, the mills are paying cane price(s) more than the SMP and therefore the actual cost of production may be higher than the ex-factory levy sugar prices.

Fraud Detected by Customs Department

1980. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customs department of Delhi has busted a racket of exporters involved in over-billing the commodities exported causing loss of revenue of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Department of Central Excise and Customs Department of Mumbai have exposed that non-existing exporters in the guise of exports have illegally brought the foreign currency through banking system in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Customs have detected certain cases in the current financial year in which the exporters were found involved in over-billing the commodities exported to claim higher benefits under duty Drawback and other export related schemes. While 7 firms had wrongfully claimed drawback amount of Rs. 85.81 lakhs, 6 firms were found claiming wrongful credit amounting to Rs. 26.85 lakhs under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme. 3 persons were arrested during investigation in these cases. Investigations against another 14 firms are also underway, and further

action to safeguard Government revenues will be taken as per provisions of law.

(c) and (d) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence or the Department of Central Excise and Customs at Mumbai have not detected any case of non-existing exporters illegally bringing foreign currency through the banking system in the country in the guise of exports.

[English]

Smuggling of Cloves, Cardamom and Areca

1981. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom, cloves and areca are being smuggled into India;

(b) if so, the total quantity of each of these items seized during the last two years, port-wise; and

(c) the preventive steps taken to stop smuggling of these items into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantity of smuggled Cardamom, cloves and areca (betel nuts) seized by the field formations of Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (D.R.I.) during years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto February, 2001), port-wise, is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) All the field formations of Customs Department including D.R.I. are vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including cardamom, cloves and areca.

Statement

Quantities of Cardamom, Cloves and Areca seized during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto February, 2001), Port-wise

(A) CARDAMOM : NIL

(B) CLOVES :

Sl. No.	Name of the Port	Quantity seized (in Kgs.)		
		1998-99	1999-2000	200-2001 (upto February, 2001)
1.	Tuticorin	31,560	-	-

(C) ARECA (BETELNUTS) :

Sl. No.	Name of the Port	Quantity seized (in Kgs.)		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (upto February, 2001)
1.	Chennai Port	—	7,14,000	—
2.	Tuticorin Port	—	39,243	—

Note : Except as mentioned above, no seizures of Cardamom, Cloves and Areca (betelnuts) have been effected at any other ports

Entry of Banks in Insurance Sector

1982. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of proposals received from public sector banks for entering into insurance sector in the number of proposals pending with the Government out of it as on date;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to allow private sector banks to enter into insurance sector;

(c) if so, the total number of proposals received from private sector banks for entering into insurance sector; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 8 public sector banks have applied for permission to enter insurance business either by (i) setting up joint ventures on risk participation basis. (ii) making strategic investments in joint ventures or (iii) undertaking agency business on behalf of insurance companies. It has permitted the State Bank of India (SBI) to set-up a life insurance subsidiary. The application of the SBI is pending with the IRDA for grant of registration of commence insurance business.

(b) All scheduled commercial banks, whether in the public sector or private sector can enter insurance business if they fulfil the criteria/guidelines prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) and (d) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has informed that only one private sector bank namely the Vysya Bank Ltd. has applied for registration and the same is pending with them.

[Translation]**Auction of Property of Dawood Ibrahim**

1983. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the notice of auction of properties of notorious mafia leader Dawood Ibrahim was published in national newspapers according to the rules by Income-Tax authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not auctioning the properties;

(d) whether the Government are considering to auction the properties again;

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

(f) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the description of the 11 properties including the built up areas, reserve price, the date of auction, etc. was published in the Mumbai publications of Times of India (English) and Nav Bharat Times (Hindi) dated 3.1.2001.

(c) No property could be sold because of absence of bidders.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The auction is again programmed to be conducted in the last week of March, 2001.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

[English]**Trade Related Programmes for Women**

1984. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had given clearance of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development programme (TREADP) for rural women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and

Rural Industries is implementing the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) programme for women. The programme has been designed to empower women (both rural and urban) economically through development of their entrepreneurial skills by involving the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The pattern of assistance comprises loans from financial institutions such as Small Industries Development Bank of India, grants (from the Government of India) upto one-third of the total project cost, training, trade information, counseling and extension services on product and market development, etc.

Bank Officials' Role in Housing Scam in DDA

1985. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bank Officials' role in scam being probed" appearing in the "Times of India" dated February 16, 2001;

(b) whether the probe into the multi-crore housing scam in DDA has brought senior officials of over 15 nationalised and private banks in the Capital under cloud;

(c) if so, the details of the senior officers under cloud working in public and private banks, bank-wise and their role in the scam; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against those officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per available information, one of the Senior Managers of the Oriental Bank of Commerce posted at the Mahipalpur, New Delhi branch had opened saving bank accounts without complying with bank's prescribed instructions relating to the opening of new accounts and used these accounts to fraudulently collect Account Payee cheques drawn on Central Bank of India, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi Branch through clearing. 18 cheques aggregating Rs. 27,17,403/- were collected by him during the period November 1999 to July 2000, through S.B. Account No. 14369 opened by him in the name of Shri Shashi Bhushan and the entire amount has been withdrawn from the account. While collecting these cheques through this account the names of the actual payees were added/ deleted by him from time to time in the computer system so as to make it appear that the account was standing in the names of Payees. This account was closed on 20.09.2000. The bank has placed him under suspension

on 19th January 2001. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police, which is investigating the case, has arrested him on 19th January 2001 and placed him in judicial custody.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to Bihar

1986. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has asked for the financial assistance from the World Bank for the upgradation of existing industrial resources;

(b) if so, the amount of the financial assistance demanded and the number of the industrial resources proposed to be upgraded with the assistance of the World Bank;

(c) whether the group of the World Bank has agreed to provide the assistance to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for getting aforesaid assistance immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Agreement with Cayman Island

1987. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Cayman Island to avoid double taxation and FDI from that Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total investment from Cayman Island in India during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether double taxation is hampering the trade with Cayman Island; and

(e) If so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to sign the treaty to avoid double taxation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The year-wise details of the total investment from Cayman Island into India during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Foreign Direct Investment Approvals (Rs. in Crore)	Foreign Direct Investment Inflow (Rs. in Crore)
1998	00.50	Nil
1999	10.84	Nil
2000	99.83	17.38
Total	121.17	17.38

(d) and (e) The foreign investment is dependent on several factors such as domestic economic conditions; policy regime governing foreign investment; world economic trends and strategy of global investors.

Urban Cooperative Banks

1988. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that urban cooperative banks are hotbeds of irregularities in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken against these cooperative banks where number of scams have been unearthed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) It is not correct to state that urban cooperative banks are hotbeds in irregularities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported at present there are 170 urban cooperative banks in the State of which 90 have been licensed during the last few years, consequent upon liberalization in policy in respect of setting up of new banks. Serious irregularities were observed in the functioning of some of these licenced banks. About 39 banks have been identified as weak and brought under rehabilitation due to lack of prudent credit policy and proper follow-up of recovery, indiscriminate lending by the banks, management by the Boards of Management, absence of proper internal control system, incurring high preliminary and pre-operative expenses by the newly licensed banks resulting in losses, etc.

(b) RBI monitors the performance of banks through on-site periodical inspection and data collected from statutory returns. Irregularities observed in the inspection reports are pointed out to the banks for rectification and compliance within 6 weeks and thereafter continuously pursued till they are rectified. With a view to protecting the interest of depositors RBI takes action like cancellation of licence, superseding the Board of Directors, issue of show-cause notice for cancellation of licences/rejecting of licence

applications due to the heavy erosion in the value of their assets, etc.

[Translation]

Economic Cost of Wheat and Rice

1989. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether the economic cost of wheat and rice in the Food Corporation of India has been increasing during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, alongwith the percentage of increase in this cost during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the extent of increase in this percentage during the current year 2000-2001; and

(d) the fresh measures taken by the Government to check the increase in the said economic cost during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The required information is given in the statement attached.

(d) Although the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has been entrusted to study the cost of acquisition and distribution of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India, so as to arrive at ways and means for reducing the economic cost, the following important steps have, inter-alia, been taken/are being taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce/contain the economic cost :-

- (i) achieving average capacity utilisation of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grains is seasonal;
- (ii) adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Government of India to reduce the expenditure on freight;
- (iii) making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains;
- (iv) making efforts to reduce the incurrence of railway demurrage charges;

(v) releasing excess stocks in the open market to reduce the buffer stock;

(vi) controlling the administrative cost by reducing staff strength and other administrative expenses.

Statement

The estimated economic cost of FCI for wheat and rice during the years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 is as follows

	Rs./Per Qtl.		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (BE)
WHEAT			
A. Pooled Cost	507.12	510.07	565.31
B. Overhead Cost			
(i) Procurement incidentals and carryover charges to State Agencies.	126.95	190.87	138.30*
(ii) Distribution Cost**	163.09	171.38	126.03
C. Economic Cost	797.16	872.32	829.64
D. %age of increase over the year	12.86	9.43	(-)4.89
RICE			
A. Pooled Cost	787.70	861.16	907.39
B. Overhead Cost			
(i) Procurement incidentals	65.50	77.09	88.11
(ii) Distribution Cost**	173.47	172.69	152.57
C. Economic Cost	1026.67	1110.94	1148.07
D. %age of increase over the year	9.30	8.21	3.34

The acquisition costs have increased mainly due to increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in the Minimum Support Price/naked cost of grains, as also advalorem increases in statutory charges and switch over to 50 kg. gunny packings. The distribution costs have increased on account of increase in freight and handling costs, consequent upon pay revision, progressive departmentalisation of labour.

Note : * In view of recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (E.R.C.) carryover charges are to be included in buffer carrying cost from 2000-01 instead of acquisition cost.

**From 2000-01 distribution cost has gone down due to allocation of freight and transit loss to buffer cost as per revised allocation principles suggested by E.R.C.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh

1990. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the current calendar year, more than four lakh tonnes of foodgrains were allowed by the Union Government to Andhra Pradesh for distribution to the drought affected people of State :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints about diversion of foodgrains meant for relief; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

LPT in Madhya Pradesh

1991.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Low Power Transmission Centre in Aalot Nagar in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh is ready for quite some time;

(b) whether the said centre has not been able to start its function for want of certain equipment; and

(c) if so, the details of the equipment required and the reasons for not providing the same so far and the time by which the said centre is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duties

1992.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
MOHD. R. SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some countries including China and USA have raised serious objections on levying of anti-dumping duties on goods coming from these countries by the Indian Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the import of levying of anti-dumping duties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) and (b) Objections have been raised by certain countries like China, Korea and Russia in different forums

against the levy of anti-dumping duties on the products imported into the country.

(c) The Anti-Dumping Duties are imposed to protect the domestic industry from unfair trade practices and dumping of cheap products into the country under the Customs Tariff Act of 1975 as amended in 1995 which are in consonance with WTO Rules.

Income Tax Raids on Usha Group of Companies

1993.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SMT. SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the income tax authorities and other agencies recently carried out raids at various premises of the Usha India Group in the coming on 14th February, 2001.

(b) the locations where raids were carried out the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the names, number and of States of those arrested in this regard;

(d) the action taken against them;

(e) the details of the items recovered during the raids; and

(f) the number of income tax officers and employees who carried out raids on various places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. searches were conducted in the case of Usha India Group on 14.2.2001.

(b) The details of the searches conducted at various places are as under :

Delhi	39
Uttar Pradesh	11
Haryana	12
Mumbai	03
Kolkata	02
Total	67

Searches were carried out on the basis of information regarding alleged large scale evasion of tax by the group by way of inflation of expenses, introduction of bogus bills, under statement of purchase price of properties and large scale siphoning of money to the front companies floated by the Group with the help of employees, and acquaintances as benami Directors.

(c) There is no power of arrest under the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(d) In view of reply to part (c), the question does not arise;

(e) As a result of search, apart from books of accounts, the following seizures were effected :

Cash	Rs. 73,67,865/-
Share Certificate and FDRs	: Rs. 1,66,21,67,448/-
Total Seizure	: Rs. 1,66,95,35,313/-

(f) The total number of Income Tax officers and employees involved in the search was around 434.

Trade From Paradeep Port

1994. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the percentage of foreign trade carried out through Paradeep Port in the year 1999-2000 in comparison to previous two years;

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

(c) the steps taken to boost the foreign trade from this port ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) No, Sir. The value of foreign trade carried through Paradeep Port grew by 3.7% in 1999-2000 as compared to 1998-99 and by 2.8% in 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has encouraged development of hub ports on Eastern and Western Coasts of the country to avoid transshipment of cargo over the foreign ports. One Container Freight Station is functioning at Paradeep. Steps for encouraging infrastructure for handling cargo at various ports including at Paradeep Port have also been taken up.

National Film Board

1995. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a National Film Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for setting up this Board; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (Geethakrishnan Committee) has made certain recommendations about the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its Media units. The recommendations have been discussed with the heads of Media units. The consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also considered the matter on 15.2.2001. The possible alternative organizational structures have been discussed in the course of such consultations. The idea of setting up a National Film Board also came up during the discussions. However, no decision for the same has been taken by the Ministry.

Honouring Guarantee given by Government

1996. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a large number of loan applications involving huge amount of money in respect of which the guarantees given by the Union and State Governments have been involved but not honoured;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure that guarantee given by the Union Government and State Government are honoured ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir, in so far as Union Government is concerned. Information concerning State Governments is not compiled by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Representation on VRS

1997. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation from officials of public enterprises regarding liberal Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Suggestions for liberalized Voluntary Retirement compensation, over and above what is allowed in the notified scheme have been received from IBP Co., Air India, Indian Airlines etc. through their administrative Ministries/Departments. These were related to higher VRS compensation and computation formula of VRS etc. As these were not in consonance with the guidelines on VRS, these suggestions were not agreed to by the Department of Public Enterprises.

Training Programmes to Train In-House Producers

1998. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched periodically a training programme to train in-house producers and to up-date their knowledge in production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the expenditure incurred on such training programmes during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income of Doordarshan and to improve the quality of programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Tyre Industry

1999. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tyre industry has been showing a negative growth due to sharp rise in the prices of petro products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total impact analysed by the Government in this respect;

(d) whether the Government's receipt from tyre industry has also gone down; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to give boost to tyre industry in the wake of recent prices hike in petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The tyre industry has not shown any negative growth due to sharp rise in the prices of petro products. Tyre industry is only indirectly affected with the rise in the petro products. The production of tyres for 1999-2000 (April to December) and 2000-01 (April to December) was 266.47 Lac nos. and 275.45 Lac nos. respectively. Thus the production has shown a growth of 3% during this period.

(d) The Excise Revenue from tyres, tubes and flaps during the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in crores)

1997-98	1167
1998-99	1133
1999-2000	1257

(e) In the Union Budget 2001-02, Government has announced a reduction of 8% Excise Duty in the case of passenger cars (from 40% to 32%) and scooter/motor cycles (from 32% to 24%) which is likely to boost demand in the automobile sector. This in turn, would provide an impetus to tyre industry by way of growth and demand from the original equipment segment.

Telecast Permission to Private Channels/Companies

2000. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast the free private channels through Doordarshan Kendra to give more channels to the Doordarshan viewers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to telecast;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make available DD Metro Channel all over the country without dish antenna; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In terrestrial mode, metro channel (DD2) coverage is presently available to about 32.4% population of the country. With the commissioning of on-going transmitter-projects (DD2), in about two years time, over 43.4% population is expected to be brought under coverage of Metro Channel, terrestrially.

[Translation]

Limiting Advertisements in DD Programmes

2001. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms relating to showing advertisements while telecasting various programmes, channels and serials on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government propose to take steps to reduce the imposition of advertisements on the audience;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the commercial advertisements on Doordarshan are governed by the 'Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan'. Prasar Bharati have further intimated that the excess use of commercials is avoided and they are telecast only during specified breaks, taking care to keep a balance between commercial time and programme time.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Raising the Crop Size of Tobacco

2002. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco growers of Karnataka have requested the Government to raise the crop size to 30 million kilogram; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to raise the crop size as demanded by the tobacco growers in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) There have been demands for raising the crop size of tobacco in Karnataka. On the basis of the projected requirements of the traders and the availability of stock, the crop size for Karnataka for the 2001-02 season has been raised to 34.43 million kilograms, with scope for further enhancement by 3.63 million kilograms to cover certain categories of licensed growers to enable them to qualify for registration for 2001-2002 crop season.

Private Operators in LIC

2003. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences given by IRDA to private operators in the Life Insurance Sector;

(b) the number of applications still pending before IRDA for issuance of licences;

(c) the main criteria adopted by IRDA to issue licences in the life insurance sector; and

(d) the manner in which new operators are likely to provide better services in Life Insurance Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to IRDA, the following companies have been granted registration to carry on life insurance business :

(i) Max New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(ii) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(iii) Tata AIG Life Insurance Company

(iv) HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(v) Reliance Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(vi) Birla Sunlife Insurance Co. Ltd.

(vii) OM Kotak Mahindra Life Ins. Co. Pvt. Ltd.

(b) Applications pending with IRDA for grant of registration in life insurance business are :

(i) SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(ii) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

(iii) Sahara Life Insurance Corporation Ltd.

(iv) Vysya Bank Ltd.

(c) IRDA (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 laid on the Table of the House on 22.8.2000 indicates the criteria for registration of insurance companies.

(d) The new operators are likely to cover untapped potential in insurance market by introducing new products found outside India with competitive premium rates in pricing of products.

[Translation]

**Import of Paper and Ink for
Printing of Currency Notes**

2004. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether currency paper and ink for printing of currency notes are being imported in the country by the Government;

(b) if so, the countries from which import of the said items have been made alongwith the quantum thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for importing currency papers and ink for printing of currency notes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The bank note paper for printing of currency notes are being imported to meet the gap between indigenous production and requirement of note printing presses. The bank note paper was imported from U.K., the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, France and Ukraine. The quantum of paper imported is as follows :-

For Reserve Bank of India Presses

1997-98	1547 M.T.
1998-99	3225 M.T.
1999-2000	7191 M.T.

For Government of India Note Presses

1997-98	3768.34 M.T.
1998-99	3625.67 M.T.
1999-2000	6646.61 M.T.

During the last three years, the ink for printing of currency notes in the country was procured indigenously.

[English]

Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958

2005. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints/representations regarding the implementation of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the short-coming in the present Act;

(c) whether the Government have decided to amend this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and date by which the new act is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 has been repealed through an Ordinance dated 15.1.1997. Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., has filed a writ petition No. 182/99 challenging its repeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The matter is sub-judice.

**Financial Institutions Equity in State
Finance Corporations**

2006. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions have been permitted to take equity in the State Finance Corporations;

(b) if so, whether any Committee recommended such a step;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the advantage of financial institutions purchasing up equity in State Financial Corporations;

(e) whether any alternative method or system been proposed so that financial institutions expand their credit sanction for rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per Section 4(3) of State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Act, 2000, the Small Industries Bank, public sector banks, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, other insurance companies owned or controlled by the Central

Government, other institutions owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Governments as the case may be, are eligible to be the shareholders.

(b) and (c) The provision for multiplicity of shareholders was based on the recommendations of the Khan Committee headed by Shri S.H. Khan, the then CMD, IDBI to undertake a comprehensive review of the SFCs Act, 1951.

(d) Multiplicity of shareholders is expected to impart more professionalism in the operations of SFCs through their representatives in the Boards of SFCs.

(e) and (f) With a view to providing credit facilities for entrepreneurs setting up units in rural areas, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is operating a number of schemes which are channelised through the vast network of over 900 primary lending institutions (PLIs) with their branch network of over 65,000 branches. The various schemes include 1) Composite Loan Scheme, 2) National Equity Fund Scheme, 3) Mahila Udyam Nidhi Scheme, 4) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and 5) Micro Credit Scheme (MCS) etc. Besides, SIDBI's Rural Industries Programme (RIP) is aimed at the promotion of tiny enterprises in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas. As at the end of March, 2000, the programme was in progress in 44 districts in 13 States and is being implemented through 23 agencies which have so far set up 6,022 enterprises.

[Translation]

Pay Structure of Employees in RRBs

2007.SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted any committee for reviewing the present pay structure of the staff of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the terms of reference made to this committee alongwith the names of Members of this Committee and the time by which the Committee is likely to present its report;

(c) whether any interim report has been presented by this Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Mahalik Committee which was constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 5th November, 1996. As per the terms of reference, the Committee was required to make recommendations on

the changes in the present structure of emoluments of RRB employees that are feasible and also on the desirability and feasibility of introducing a performance linked incentive for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). In making its recommendations, the Committee was required to keep in view the wide difference in the performance of various RRBs. It was also required to consult the shareholders, the employees and other interested bodies like depositors/borrowers, associations. The Committee headed by Shri S.C. Mahalik with Kum. V. Vishwanathan and Shri J.V. Shetty as members. The Committee had submitted its report to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was forwarded to Government of India alongwith RBI's observations on 15th May, 1998. However, All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association (AIRRBEA) and an employee of Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary (Karnataka) had filed a Writ Petition in the Karnataka High Court, which quashed the report of Mahalik Committee. The Union of India had filed an Appeal in Division Bench of Karnataka High Court.

Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Insurance Companies

2008.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3088 on December, 8, 2000 and state :

(a) whether any action has been taken as on date regarding the proposal for filling up of the said posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the vacant posts have been filled and

(d) if not, the reasons for its delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Appointments have been made to all the vacant posts of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors in various Government Insurance Companies on 27th February, 2001 as per details given below :

1. Shri B.D. Banerjee,
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.,
New Delhi
2. Shri K.N. Bhandari,
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
New India Assurance Co. Ltd.,
Mumbai
3. Shri M.K. Tandon,
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
National Insurance Company Ltd.,
Calcutta

4. Shri V. Jagannathan,
Chairman-cum-Managing Director,
United India Insurance Co. Ltd.,
Chennai.

[English]

Separate Cell to Boost Export

2009. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate cell to boost the India's export to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which said cell likely to be set up; and

(d) the extent to which the India's export is likely to increase to these neighbouring countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) to (d) India plays an active role in the joint effort of the neighbouring countries in the South Asia region, namely, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for promotion of intra-regional export and import through removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, in a phased manner, with the intention of establishing a Free Trade Area in the South Asia region (SAFTA) within a time-frame mutually agreed upon by the participating nations who have organised themselves into an association commonly known as South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Government of India is taking special measures to promote exports from North-Eastern Region especially for boosting trade with countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. These measures include setting up of an Export Development Fund and development of infrastructure for trade under Prime Minister's initiative for North-East.

These measures are likely to give a significant boost to increased economic inter-action among the South Asian nations and Indian export to the neighbouring countries.

[Translation]

VLPT in Bihar

2010. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Very Low Power Transmitter/Low Power Transmitter centres under construction in Bihar State;

(b) the number of such centres where work has not been started so far till date;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of work; and

(d) the time by when these works are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) 4 Low Power TV transmitters of Prasar Bharati are presently under implementation in Bihar;

(b) to (d) All the four projects are at different stages of implementation. The installation work of one transmitter is already complete. The remaining three projects are scheduled to be completed during 2001-2002.

[English]

Social Risk Management System

2011. SHRI. Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to protect the poor from calamities like earthquake, the World Bank has asked South Asian countries including India, to put in place a Social Risk Management System;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also suggested that the Government should establish sound banking systems and non-inflationary policies to manage risks better;

(c) whether the Government have considered the views of the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A Social Protection Sector Strategy Report of the World Bank has suggested various measures in regard to Social Risk Management for South Asia.

(b) The World Bank has not recommended any particular action plan to Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Government of India considers all aspects including the views of the World Bank, if need be, while formulating its policy and programme in any specific sector.

Permission for Setting up of SEZs

2012. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria being adopted by the Government for granting the permission to set up Special Economic Zones in the areas selected by the State Governments;

(b) whether serious objections have been received from certain States for exclusion of certain highly potential areas from the consideration of such plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :

(a) The criteria kept in view for setting up of Special Economic Zones include the size of the zone, proximity to sea/airport, availability of basic infrastructure like roads, power and water supply, banking and communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health and educational facilities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Rural Debt Relief Scheme

2013. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers, artisans and persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes benefited from the Rural Debt Relief Scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the total assistance provided under the said scheme during the above period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No rural debt relief scheme was implemented during the last three years.

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

Liberalisation of Sugar Sector

2014. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise sugar sector;

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

(c) the extent to which the consumers are likely to be benefited therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Government has taken a number of measures to liberalise the sugar sector. Some of these important measures are as follows :-

- (1) Levy obligation on domestic producers has been reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000 and further to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001.
- (2) The Government has decided to introduce futures/forward trading in sugar.
- (3) the stockholding limit on the recognised dealers of sugar has been lifted with effect from 7.7.2000.
- (4) Restrictions on fortnightly sales of 47.5% of monthly freesale quota have been removed w.e.f. 13.4.1999. Sugar factories have been allowed with effect from 25.1.2000 to sell upto 10% of the monthly freesale quota by the 7th of the succeeding months.

These measures have been taken as part of the reform process in the sugar sector. These measures are expected to benefit the consumers, the sugarcane growers and the sugar producers.

Refund by I.T. Department

2015. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the income tax department makes a lot of delay in refunding the money and issuing permanent account number;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue some guidelines in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these will be issued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEEN. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions for prompt issue of income tax refunds. In addition, in the Finance Bill, 2001, the time limit for issue of refund is proposed to be reduced from two years from the end of the assessment year to one year from the end of the financial year, in which the return of income is made. With regard to PAN, out of 2,02,71,569 applications, 1,96,44,824 applications have been processed upto 31st December, 2000 and 1,82,66,786 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted. The balance figures represent application with deficiency and those received in the recent months. All out efforts are made for expeditious allotment of PAN and timely issue of refunds.

Per Capita Bank Loan

2016: SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of per capita bank loan in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount of per capita bank loan has been decreasing particularly in the remote and tribal areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to increase per capita bank loan; and

(e) the success achieved in regard to increase the per capita bank loan to the rural and tribal people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) State-wise per capita outstanding gross bank credit for the last four years, as furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is given in the Statement. Per capita bank credit for the country as a whole has increased during the last four years. While the per capita bank credit in the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra has also increased, separate data for remote and tribal areas is not available with RBI.

(d) and (e) The various steps taken for increasing the flow of credit particularly to the rural, semi-urban areas are as indicated below :

(i) Annual Credit Plans (ACPs) are prepared for each district every year and implementation

thereof is monitored by various fora created under the Lead Bank Scheme viz. Block Level Bankers Committee at block level, District Consultative Committee at district level and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at State level.

(ii) To go into the reasons for low credit deposit ratio and suggest measures for improving the same, Reserve Bank of India had appointed Task Forces in some States. The implementation of the recommendations made by these Task Forces is an on going process and progress in this regard is being monitored by the SLBCs.

(iii) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has constituted Rural Infrastructure Development Funds for granting loans to the State Government for development of infrastructure projects in the rural areas.

Statement:

State-wise Per Capita Outstanding Gross Bank Credit

(Amount in Rupees)

State/Union Territory	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000	Sept. 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	3092	3485	3916	4174
2. Arunachal Pradesh	486	590	746	825
3. Assam	775	856	1019	1115
4. Bihar	733	792	831	905
5. Goa	7488	8864	9399	9850
6. Gujarat	3583	4240	4909	5107
7. Haryana	2717	3095	3561	3603
8. Himachal Pradesh	1485	1764	2107	2203
9. Jammu and Kashmir	2295	2855	3527	3683
10. Karnataka	4286	4745	5365	5674
11. Kerala	3802	4270	5104	5471
12. Madhya Pradesh	1558	1655	1898	1907
13. Maharashtra	9543	10967	14070	14520
14. Manipur	706	693	666	668
15. Meghalaya	678	811	910	1039
16. Mizoram	556	681	812	882

1	2	3	4	5
17. Nagaland	635	713	703	711
18. NCT of Delhi	29529	40881	48859	52328
19. Orissa	1132	1225	1412	1471
20. Punjab	4619	5451	6400	6840
21. Rajasthan	1545	1759	2073	2133
22. Sikkim	1086	1267	1261	1501
23. Tamil Nadu	6215	7005	7969	8310
24. Tripura	798	843	862	883
25. Uttar Pradesh	1032	1157	1324	1385
26. West Bengal	2662	2942	3464	3559
27. Andaman and Ni.	993	1243	1452	1587
28. Chandigarh	34788	50381	37287	69738
29. Dadra and NH.	1203	1562	1920	1702
30. Daman and Diu	3858	3756	4134	3984
31. Lakshadweep	485	590	668	675
32. Pondicherry	3340	3646	4115	4497
All India	3403	3969	4705	4949

[English]

Insurance Claims

2017. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than ten lakh claims and 14 lakh documents are pending with insurance companies as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases out of them pending for over last three years particularly from each State and the reasons for delay in settlement of such cases;

(d) whether the Government are considering to impose penalty on insurance companies, where inordinate delay has taken in settlement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken for speedy disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trade Relation with Mongolia

2018. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have established trade relation with Mongolia;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Mongolia trade relation have been established; and

(c) the new areas identified for the expansion of trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) The Indo-Mongolian trade is governed by the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed on 16th September, 1996. The Agreement provides for Most-favoured Nation Treatment, import and export of goods and services on the basis of counter trade, barter or any other recognized form of business cooperation, payments in freely convertible currencies, exchange of visits of delegations, etc. The major items of exports to Mongolia are machinery and instruments, engineering items, jute yarn, cotton yarn, fabrics and made ups, etc. The major items of import from Mongolia, include raw wool, iron and steel, pulp and waste paper, raw hides and skins, fabrics and made ups. The items having potential for bilateral cooperation include agro processing, information technology, telecom, mining, engineering goods, tourism, etc.

[Translation]

Printing of Notes and Minting of Coins

2019. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the names of the places and the units where Indian currency notes and coins are printed and minted respectively;

(b) the capacity of the above units;

(c) the currency notes printed and the coins minted as against the capacity of these units during the last three years;

(d) whether output in some of the units is not upto their working capacity;

(e) if so, the details of such units;

(f) the reasons for under utilisation of their capacity; and

(g) the corrective steps taken for optimum utilisation of their capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The units where currency notes are printed along with their capacities are :

- (1) Bank Note Press, Dewas (M.P.) – 1800 million pieces per annum
- (2) Currency Note Press, Nashik – 4000 million pieces per annum
- (3) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Mysore and Salboni (W.B.) – 4770 million pieces per annum each.

There are four mints at Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Noida. The first three of these are currently undergoing modernisation. The capacities of these mints are as follows :

(Million pieces per annum)		
Mint	Existing Capacity	Capacity after modernisation
India Govt. Mint, Kolkata	750	1000
India Govt. Mint, Mumbai	750	1000
India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad	400	700
India Govt. Mint, Noida	1000	–
	(2000 after second shift is introduced)	

(c) The details of the currency notes printed and coins minted by these units during the last three years are as indicated in the statement attached.

(d) to (g) The production in Currency Note Press, Nashik was less on account of modernisation and erection, commissioning and trial printing of new machines. The production of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd. presses at Mysore and Salboni was less as their full capacity was installed only in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

The currency notes are produced by Presses on the basis of the Reserve Bank of India's indent. The current indent is less than the combined capacity of the presses. Hence, they are not required to utilise their full capacity.

The Mints at Kolkata, Mumbai and Hyderabad are under modernisation. After modernisation is completed,

these units will take some more time before attaining the optimum level of production.

Statement

Production of Notes and Coins during the last 3 years

(in million pieces)

Name of the Press	Year of Production		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Bank Note Press, Dewas	1801	2168	2813
Currency Note Press, Nashik	3545	3177	3159
BRBNML, Mysore	660	995	2812
BRBNML, Salboni	1098	1167	2077

(in million pieces)

Name of the Press	Year of Production		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
India Govt. Mint, Kolkata	434.18	525.11	660.09
India Govt. Mint, Noida	556.46	810.00	901.00
India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad	286.35	475.00	619.00
India Govt. Mint, Mumbai	400.99	511.60	631.58

[English]

Profit of SBI

2020. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the net profit of the State Bank of India has dropped 45.06% to the tune of Rs. 220.05 crore during the third quarter of the year ending on December 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for this steep decline; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of this bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the decline in net profit in the third quarter ended 31st December, 2000 was due to facts that (a) the entire issue expenses of India Millennium Deposits (IMD) amounting to Rs. 462 crores were provided in the third quarter of the year 2000-01 and (b) interest income on non-performing

securities guaranteed by the State Governments for the period from 1st April, 2000 to 31st March, 2001 amounting to Rs. 99 crores; has been de-recognised in accordance with revised RBI instructions.

(c) SBI has further reported that its net profit for the quarter ended 31st December, 2000 would have been Rs. 562 crores, recording an increase of 40 percent over the net profit for the quarter ended 31st December, 1999, if the after tax impact of the two items stated above are excluded.

Fake Currency Notes

2021.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp rise of fake currency notes coming from abroad in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the number of cases of fake currency notes detected by Custom officials during the last three years and value of fake currency notes seized;

(c) whether recently fake currency, notes worth Rs. 50 Lakhs were seized by Revenue Intelligence Bureau at Bombay Airport; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the Indian agents of fake currency notes in Mumbai ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMCHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to make any assessment, about the smuggling of fake currency notes. However, the detail of cases of fake currency notes detected by Custom officials including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Maharashtra, during last 3 years, are as under :-

Year	No. of cases detected	Face value of fake currency notes seized (Rs. in Lakhs)
1998-99	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	Nil	Nil
2000-2001 (upto Feb., 2001)	3	69.47

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the field formations of Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been alerted to collect intelligence in order to thwart any attempt of smuggling of fake currency notes.

[Translation]

DD/AIR Projects in Tribal Dominated Areas

2022.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of current Doordarshan/All India Radio projects specially in the country in tribal and dalit dominant areas location-wise and State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of projects already completed/proposed to be completed during the current Five Year Plan;

(c) the present status and financial provision made in this regard; and

(d) the number of such proposal pending for clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Flowers

2023.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of flowers exported to various countries during the year 2000-2001 upto 31st January 2001, country-wise;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned from export of flowers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage further export of flowers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLA) : (a) and (b) The quantum of flowers exported is not reflected in a uniform unit. The export figures for flowers is available for the period upto April to October 2000 only. The total foreign exchange earned from export of flowers including dried flowers during the period April to October 2000 is valued at Rs. 65.05 crores. The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India - Monthly/Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of floricultural products. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and boost exports of floricultural products include :

- (i) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- (ii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs, flower shows and exhibitions;
- (iii) Setting up walk-in-type cold storages and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; such facilities have been set up at Guwahati, Mumbai and Calcutta Airports. Integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities have been set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi, Bangalore Hyderabad, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports. An Integrated Cargo handling Centre for Perishables is being set up at Mumbai International Airport.
- (iv) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport, etc.

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy on exports of floriculture products.

Foreign Aided Projects in Orissa

2024. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projects undertaken with the assistance from the World Bank and other foreign agencies in Orissa;

(b) whether all these projects are being monitored properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the projects pending with the Union Government relating to Orissa, seeking financial assistance from the World Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The details of projects in Orissa undertaken with the assistance from the World Bank and other foreign agencies are as per Statement enclosed. Besides there are multi-state and central sector projects in which Orissa is one of the participating States. The monitoring of the projects is being done both at the level of State and Central Governments.

(d) No project proposal from Government of Orissa is pending for World Bank assistance.

Statement

As on 31/01/2001

Donor Currency in Million

Sl.No.	Loan/Grant Description	Starting Date	Amount of Loan/Grant	Cumulative Drawal
1	2	3	4	5
LOANS				
Germany				
1.	Lift Irrigation Orissa	19.12.1993	DM 55.00	40.57
IBRD				
2.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	10.7.1996	USD 332.67	89.95
IDA				
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	5.1.1996	SDR 194.80	109.89
4.	Orissa Health Systems Development	13.8.98	SDR 56.80	3.75
Japan				
5.	Rengali Irrigation Project	12.12.1997	JPY 7760.00	2568.64

1	2	3	4	5
GRANTS				
Denmark				
1.	Composite Watershed Dev. Proj. Koraput	5.10.1992	DKK	17.52
2.	Integrated Livestock Dev. Proj. Koraput Distt.	22.12.1992	DKK	11.25
3.	TEWA, Ph.II	1.7.1995	DKK	16.19
European Economic Community				
4.	Minor Irrigation in Orissa	3.7.1995	EUR	0.47
Norway				
5.	Orissa Environmental Programme	16.4.1992	NOK	27.56
Sweden				
6.	Orissa Forestry/Capacity Building	1.12.1997	SEK	1.75
U.N.D.P.				
7.	Natural Res. Mgf. and Sus. Livelihood for Women	3.11.1999	USD	0.80
8.	Decent. Eng. Systems Komna Block	26.11.1999	USD	0.33
United Kingdom				
9.	Orissa Power Sector Reforms, Grant 1996	29.8.96	GBP	25.06
10.	Orissa Health and Family Welfare Project Ph.-III	21.8.1997	GBP	0.42
11.	Cuttack Urban Services Improvement	20.10.1997	GBP	1.68

Export Growth

2025. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether exports from India will grow at a steady pace both in volume and value terms during the second half of the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the extent to which export growth is likely to be increased during 2000-2001;

(c) the main items being exported from India;

(d) the extent to which the exports from India to China will grow during 2000-2001;

(e) whether the Government are considering any steps to further increase the exports during the next financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) and (b) As per DGCI&S provisional data, exports are valued at US dollar 35656.91 million and have registered a growth of 20.70% during April-Jan., 2000-2001 over the corresponding period last year.

(c) As per latest available disaggregate data for April-November, 1999-2000, the main items exported from India include leather and manufactures, engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles including readymade garments, fabrics and made ups, marine products, electronic goods, chemicals and related products.

(d) According to DGCI&S data, India's exports to China during April-November 2000-2001 is valued at US \$ 485 Million which is 48% higher than that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

(e) and (f) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in

the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports.

Public Issue

2026. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether investors are losing heavily on high profile public issues;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the promoters and merchant bankers misuse book building route to raise resources;

(d) if so, whether SEBI is going to scrap book building system which is being manipulated by promoters and merchant bankers;

(e) whether National Association of Small Investors has requested the Government to take urgent steps in regard to book building system; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Once securities of public issues are listed, the prices of these scrips are determined by market forces. SEBI has not received any complaints of misuse of the book building route by promoters and merchant bankers to raise resources.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government receives suggestions from various sources including investors associations on issues related to capital markets. These are examined in consultation with the agencies concerned and appropriate action is taken accordingly.

Winding up of Genelec

2027. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has issued a show-cause notice for winding up the Genelec Limited;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the company before taking such decision; and

(d) the funds provided to the company for its rehabilitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has issued a show-cause notice for winding up of the Genelec Limited on 9.2.2001.

(b) The BIFR has reported that there was no progress in the implementation of the scheme of merger sanctioned in 1995 and the merger envisaged did not take place. The Company had not been able to make itself viable or its net worth positive during the 10 years period even after enjoying the protection under Section 22(1) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(c) and (d) Further development will depend upon the decision of BIFR where the next date is 23/5/2001.

PDS in Karnataka

2028. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the average monthly requirement of wheat and other foodgrains under the Public Distribution System in Karnataka;

(b) the average quantity of wheat and other foodgrains at present being sanctioned against the requirement thereof under Public Distribution System to the State;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought enhancement of quota under public distribution system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) With the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997, the allocation of foodgrains to States/Uts is made as per TPDS guidelines for family below poverty line (BPL) and family above poverty line (APL); and these are not demand based.

The monthly allocation of rice and wheat being given to Karnataka under TPDS is as under :-

(fig. in 000 tonnes)

	BPL	APL	Addl.	Total
Rice	50.068	37.000	43.000	130.068
Wheat	12.517	9.250	10.000	31.767

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Assistance to Maize Farmers
of Karnataka**

2029. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maize growing farmers of the Karnataka State have not been provided any assistance to fall in open market prices under Rs. 100 crore revolving fund for market intervention;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India was allowed by the Union Government to lift maize stocks following relaxation of the norms regarding moisture content and discolouration has not so far implemented the decision of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the maize growing farmers of Karnataka State are still struggling to get the assistance from both State and the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (e) In order to reduce hardship of the farmers of Karnataka and to avoid distress sale of maize, the Government has allowed relaxation in uniform (FAQ) specifications of maize in respect of damaged grains as well as slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001. However, no relaxation in moisture content has been allowed.

The Government of Karnataka have provided assistance to the farmers by creating a revolving fund of Rs. 100 crores to undertake market intervention activities in those crops which are not covered under the minimum support price programme.

As a result of the measures taken by the Government a quantity of 1.97 Lakh tonnes of maize has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies as on 5th March 2001 as against no quantity procured during the corresponding period of the Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000.

Eleventh Finance Commission

2030. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the examination of the report of the Eleventh Finance Commission on the additional terms of reference has since been completed by Government;

(b) if so, the final decisions of the Government;

(c) by what time these decision would be given effect to; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission on the additional term of reference. The action taken on the recommendations was laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 19th December, 2000.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission on the additional term of reference, the guidelines on "The States' Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05)" have been prepared.

Closed Cement Units

2031. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cement units lying closed in each State as on date;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) the total number of employees engaged in them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Fourteen cement plants are reported closed due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability. A statement showing the name of cement plants closed, State-wise is attached.

(c) The information regarding number of employees engaged in them is not maintained centrally.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units. These, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act.

Statement

Name of cement plants/ factories closed	Name of State
1. CCI, Charkhi Dadri	Haryana
2. CCI, Delhi	Delhi
3. CCI, Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh
4. CCI, Tandur	Andhra Pradesh
5. Andhra Cement Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
6. CCI, Mandhar	Chhattisgarh
7. CCI, Akaltara	Chhattisgarh
8. CCI, Kurkunta	Karnataka
9. CCI, Nayagaon	Madhya Pradesh
10. U.P. State Cement Corpn., Churk	Uttar Pradesh
11. U.P. State Cement Corpn., Dalla	Uttar Pradesh
12. U.P. State Cement Corpn., Chunar	Uttar Pradesh
13. Sone Valley	Bihar
14. HMP, Porbandar	Gujarat

Anti-Dumping Duty on Cement

2032. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Anti-Dumping Authority have imposed heavy duties on cement being brought from UAE and Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of white cement allowed into the country; and

(d) the extent to which the impact of the anti-dumping duties would be felt on cement prices in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Anti-Dumping investigations have been initiated concerning import of White Cement from UAE and Iran on 6.12.2000. The preliminary findings have been issued recommending imposition of duty on import of White Cement from UAE and Iran on 22.2.2001. The notification imposing duty is awaited.

(c) There is no quantitative restriction on import of White Cement into the country.

(d) As the Anti-Dumping duty is yet to be imposed, it is not feasible to assess its impact on the prices of cement in the country.

Statement

For Prices of non Basmati Rice for

Month	5% Broken				10% Broken				15%	
	India	Pak	Thailand	Vietnam	India	Pak	Thailand	Vietnam	India	Pak
January	275	—	234	216	—	203	229	205	—	186
February	275	—	234	200	—	200	228	192	—	181
March	275	—	234	200	—	200	228	192	—	181
April	275	—	211	185	—	193	205	182	—	173
May	285	—	198	173	—	187	193	167	—	173
June	266	—	192	165	—	188	187	160	—	177
July	260	—	184	180	—	—	179	169	—	185
August	260	—	182	183	—	—	177	178	—	193
September	237	—	177	174	—	—	172	167	—	177
October	237	—	187	176	—	192	181	170	—	170
November	237	—	188	180	—	182	184	177	—	162
December	237	—	181	171	—	170	174	166	—	154

Source : London Rice Broker's Associates, London.

FCI Godowns

2033. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION please refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 1267 on 2.3.2000 and state :

- (a) whether the investigation have been completed;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the measures taken to check the pilferages/ shortages from FCI godowns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2034. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wheat, rice and sugar produced in the country is not being exported in sufficient quantity owing to its lower price in the international market;

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

(c) the average price of the above mentioned items in the international market in the first nine months of the year 2000-2001 and the official issue price of the above items for the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) During April-November, 2000, 9.35 lakh MTs of rice and 795 MTs of wheat has been exported*. FCI has also been authorised to offer 20 lakh MTs of both wheat and rice for export till 31.03.01. A quantity of 11.97 lakh MTs (approx.) of wheat has already been lifted from FCI stocks for export till 04.03.01. A quantity of about 3.73 lakh MTs (Provisional) of sugar has been physically exported upto 17.2.2001.

(c) This information is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

*Source : DGCIS.

the year 200 (US\$ /MT)

Broken		20%	25% Broken				35% Broken			
Thailand	Vietnam	Pak	India	Pak	Thailand	Vietnam	India	Pak	Thailand	Vietnam
224	200	180	250	178	200	188	—	—	195	—
223	182	176	250	172	198	172	—	—	193	—
223	182	176	250	172	198	172	—	—	193	—
200	176	167	250	163	182	163	—	—	177	—
193	160	166	260	154	171	150	—	—	166	—
182	151	163	244	157	165	138	—	—	160	135
174	162	179	240	174	163	149	—	—	156	144
172	170	185	239	182	161	156	—	—	156	153
167	151	169	220	165	162	151	—	—	157	148
173	165	167	220	162	156	156	—	—	151	133
180	170	157	220	153	164	158	—	—	159	153
170	160	149	220	145	155	150	—	—	150	146

Source : London Rice Broker's Associates, London.

Us Wheat Export Prices for the Year-200 Net FOB Vessel Prices (US\$/MT)

Variety with Protein level	Port	Jan	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
HRW-11.0	GM (Min)	107	112	110	110	110	116	113	111	112	123	129	128
	(Max)	114	116	117	113	112	119	119	117	118	134	134	134
	PN (Min)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	(Max)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
HRW-11.5	GM (Min)	113	117	115	115	114	120	119	114	118	125	131	130
	(Max)	119	122	122	119	116	130	124	123	121	137	136	136
	PN (Min)	122	123	118	121	121	127	121	117	119	130	141	139
	(Max)	126	129	127	125	123	130	128	126	1126	141	147	146
HRW-12.0	GM (Min)	118	123	122	121	121	126	122	118	119	129	134	133
	(Max)	126	129	129	125	124	132	127	127	123	140	138	138
	PN (Min)	129	128	123	127	126	132	125	121	122	134	143	140
	(Max)	136	135	132	131	129	135	132	129	128	144	148	148
HRW-13.0 *(GM-12.5) 13.0	GM (Min)	NA	NA	NA	NA	124*	130*	125*	122*	122*	131*	136*	135*
	(Max)	NA	NA	NA	NA	127*	135*	130*	131*	126*	142*	140*	140*
	PN (Min)	137	136	131	135	130	139	132	127	130	137	146	143
	(Max)	145	142	140	138	136	143	139	136	134	147	151	151
WW	PN (Min)	111	117	113	113	110	114	109	99	101	104	108	110
	(Max)	121	120	118	114	114	115	112	107	103	108	112	111
DNS-13.0	GM (Min)	139	139	135	138	138	134	131	125	123	135	143	146
	(Max)	141	140	142	142	142	143	136	136	127	146	148	152
	PN (Min)	130	135	132	139	138	141	132	126	125	129	147	147
	(Max)	141	141	141	143	143	145	140	138	128	144	151	151
DNS-13.5	GM (Min)	141	142	138	142	141	138	134	128	127	137	146	150
	(Max)	143	143	145	146	145	145	139	138	132	137	150	154
	PN (Min)	136	139	135	143	144	145	136	130	129	134	150	150
	(Max)	142	143	141	146	148	148	143	142	132	147	153	154
DNS-14.0	GM (Min)	142	144	142	145	144	141	137	132	131	139	147	150
	(Max)	146	147	149	148	148	149	143	141	136	150	152	156
	PN (Min)	141	142	139	147	149	148	140	133	136	140	152	152
	(Max)	146	146	148	150	153	153	147	145	138	150	157	157

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	GM Min)	152	149	146	149	151	149	145	139	138	146	153	154
	(Max)	154	151	153	152	155	156	151	149	143	155	159	163
	PN (Min)	145	146	143	150	155	154	147	141	140	145	156	155
	(Max)	149	150	152	154	159	159	154	153	144	153	160	160

Source : US Wheat Associates, New Delhi.

GM : (Gulf of Mexico)

PN : (Pacific North West)

L.G.C. Grain Market Indicators - Wheat Export Prices for the year-2000 (US\$/MT)

Variety	Port	Jan	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Argentina (New Crop)	Min	92	98	102	104	112	123	119	102	120	108	112	114
	Max	103	100	104	111	127	127	123	107	125	111	113	118
2. Australia (ASW)	Min	132	133	130	131	134	138	135	135	143	153	160	160
	Max	136	138	137	132	139	148	141	145	147	160	163	164
3. Canada CRWS 13.5% ST. Law	Min	148	148	144	146	148	147	138	134	140	147	150	159
	Max	155	153	149	149	152	150	146	144	143	151	162	163
4. EC (French)	Min	89	95	96	94	99	100	103	94	102	97	99	103
	Max	98	99	99	99	106	102	103	105	106	102	102	106
5. US DNS 13% (Gulf)	Min	139	138	142	142	142	142	136	131	142	140	149	151
	Max	144	148	146	143	147	144	139	134	144	145	49	154
6. US No. 2 HAD (Gulf)* Lakes	Min	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Max	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7. US No. 2 HRW (ord) (Gulf)	Min	107	110	109	111	113	116	114	111	121	127	128	128
	Max	114	116	116	113	119	123	118	122	124	135	132	132
8. US No. 2 SRW (ord) Gulf)	Min	95	97	96	97	100	99	90	88	98	102	104	106
	Max	102	105	102	98	108	104	94	99	102	109	106	108
9. US No. 2 SWW (PNW)	Min	106	112	103	105	107	106	101	98	102	104	109	110
	Max	112	114	108	108	110	109	104	102	104	107	112	111

Source : International Grain Council London

Monthly Maximum Minimum and Average International F.O.B. Price of White Sugar (L.D.P.) (in US \$ PMT) from April, 2000 to February, 2001.

(In US\$ PMT.), F.O.B.)

S.No.	Month	Maximum	Minimum	Average
Year, 2000				
1.	April	197.00	184.40	190.68
2.	May	216.50	191.80	200.39
3.	June	249.05	216.50	234.44
4.	July	280.00	237.70	250.85
5.	August	279.00	263.30	270.86
6.	September	270.00	240.00	258.84
7.	October	270.50	242.00	259.37
8.	November	255.00	225.00	243.04
9.	December	251.60	232.50	241.41
Year, 2001				
10.	January	252.50	233.50	248.40
11.	February	247.50	223.00	234.95

Source : S.T.C.

The CIPs of wheat and rice have been revised with effect from 25.7.2000, as follows :—

(Rs. Per Quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	830
Rice		
(i) Common	565	—
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	1130

Govt. of India has also permitted the State Govt.s/UTs to purchase wheat against APL allocation from January, 2001, at the prevailing Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices. The current OMSS(D) price applicable for March, 2001 for North Zone, MP and Chhatisgarh is Rs. 650/- per quintal and for rest of the Zones it is Rs. 700/- per quintal.

[English]

Restructuring Dena Bank

2035. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dena Bank has gone in the list of banks incurring losses;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of loss/profit of first three quarters of current financial years of the Bank;

(c) the reasons for deteriorating conditions of the bank; and

(d) the restructuring plans proposed to improve the capital support needed to assist Dena Bank which is running in losses; and

(e) the other steps taken to improve the working of the bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dena Bank has reported net profit of Rs. 71.43 crores and Rs. 6.59 crores for the three quarters ending 30th December, 1999 and 30th December 2000, respectively.

(c) to (e) The Non Performing Assets (NPA) of Dena Bank have increased resulting in decline in average yield on advances and higher provisioning requirements. The Bank has taken steps to improve its performance by closely monitoring the NPA accounts, settling maximum number of cases under one-time settlement scheme of Reserve Bank of India, reducing its expenses, mobilizing low cost deposits, stepping up recoveries in written off accounts, improvement in funds management system and increase in fee based business.

Arrears of Income Tax

2036. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the arrear of Income Tax amount by the end of December, 2000, Circle-wise;

(b) the amount out of the above, which is in arrear for more than three years; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to get the arrear from the defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The amount of arrears of Income Tax, Chief Commissioner region-wise, available as on 30.9.2000 is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount of Income Tax which is in arrear for more than three years is Rs. 15741 crores as on 30.9.2000.

(c) The Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for recovery of taxes. The recovery of outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the demand notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demands by charging interest, levying penalty, attaching bank accounts etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TRO is closely monitored by the higher Income Tax Authorities.

Statement

Arrear of Income Tax as on 30.9.2000

(Rs. in Crores)

Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Region	Amount of Income Tax
1	2
Ahmedabad	1301.17
Bangalore	603.56
Bhopal	388.36
Kolkata	2264.09
Chennai	835.66
Cochin	193.75
Chandigarh	125.87
Delhi	1221.24
Hyderabad	475.51
Jaipur	173.82

1	2
Kanpur/Lucknow	1020.58
Mumbai	14375.82
Patna	255.04
Panchkula	172.49
Pune	493.34
Total	23900.30

Determining Poverty Line

2037. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria and standards for classification has been adopted by the Government for identifying the people on poverty line, with explanation of below the line and above for the purpose of servicing of benefits under the system of public distribution in the country;

(b) the cut of line between the poor and the poorest;

(c) whether the purchasing power is on the decline every year in case of every household and whether it has been taken into account for determining poverty line;

(d) whether the price of rice and wheat in the open market at present is lower than that of Government issue prices;

(e) whether the food price subsidy to the poor and poorest of the rural and urban would be considered by the Government for review;

(f) whether the Government considers distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops at the rate of fifty percent lower than that of open market; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) The identification of poor under Targeted Public Distribution

Scheme (TPDS) is done by the States as per State-wise poverty estimates of Planning Commission based on the methodology of the "Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor" chaired by the Late Prof. Lakdawala. The State-wise poverty estimates have been worked out by the Planning Commission from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The poverty line is defined in terms of expenditure per person per month. The national poverty lines are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. These percentages are applied to the estimated population in order to arrive at the number of persons living below the poverty line. The number of BPL families for TPDS allocations has been worked out on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 on the population projections of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000.

The poorest of the poor (Antyodaya families) constitute about 15.33% of the BPL families in the country. States/UTs have been asked to identify these families from amongst the number of BPL families within the State/UT. It has been suggested to the States/UTs to distribute the number of the poorest of poor families amongst districts, panchayat and municipal levels keeping in view the incidence of poverty and backwardness.

(d) No, Sir, the present retail open market prices of rice and wheat collected from selected centers indicate that it ranged from Rs. 7.00 to Rs. 13.50 per kg. for rice and Rs. 6.25 to Rs. 11.00 per kg. for wheat during February, 2001 against the central issue price of Rs. 5.65p per kg. of rice and Rs. 4.15p per kg. for wheat for BPL families.

(e) to (g) Government is issuing foodgrains to States for BPL category at 50% of economic cost and for APL category at 100% of economic cost or open market sale price of FCI whichever is lower. The foodgrains under antyodaya Anna Yojana Meant for the poorest of the poor families in rural and urban areas is being allocated at highly subsidized prices of Rs. 2/- a kg for wheat and Rs. 3/- a kg. for rice.

[Translation]

Losses to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

2038. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has suggested the Government to write off the entire accumulated losses of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any decision in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :
(a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended that the Government should write-off the entire accumulated losses of RINL against its entire "Share Money Pending Allotment" and "Preference Share Capital" and part of equity capital to keep the company from being referred to BIFR and to clean up its balance sheet.

(c) This case involves extensive consultation with the administrative Ministry, and other concerned Departments/Ministries. A final decision for financial restructuring and disinvestment of Government equity in any PSU is taken after examination of all the issues involved.

[English]

Issue Price of Sugar, Wheat and Rice

2039. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER, AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present rates of sugar, wheat and rice being sold through Public Distribution System;

(b) present rates of sugar, wheat and rice for people below poverty line through PDS;

(c) whether there are people below poverty line, who cannot buy PDS items at present rates;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell these PDS items to such people free of cost limiting the quantity per person, month-wise;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Issue Price at which wheat and rice are made available to the State under the Public Distribution System are as follows :—

(Rs. in Quintal)

Commodity	Below Poverty Line (BPL)	Above Poverty Line (APL)
Wheat	415	830
Rice		
(i) Common	565	1087\$
(ii) Grade 'A'	565	1130

\$ — Application to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, North-East States, Sikkim and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh.

In so far as distribution of sugar through PDS is concerned it is supplied at a uniform price of Rs. 13/- per kg. throughout the country.

(c) to (f) The prices at which sugar, wheat and rice made available to the people below poverty line under TPDS are lower than the open market prices of these commodities. There is no proposal to sell the PDS items free of cost to them. Keeping in view that the purchasing power of the poorest of the poor families is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates, the Government has launched the Antyodaya Yojana which contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with foodgrains @25 kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates, Rs. 2/- a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- a kg. for rice.

Export of Rice from Andhra Pradesh

2040. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken decision in December, 1999 to export 20 lakh tons of rice to foreign countries from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total exports made so far;

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

(d) whether there is a possibility to enhance this quantity of food-grains from Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the quantum of additional food-grains which will be exported from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pancheswar Dam

2041. SHRI JAI PRAKESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey work has been effected due to anti-India demonstration in Purnagiri area at international border under Pancheswar Dam;

(b) if so, the present status of the project; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the survey work as scheduled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The survey/investigation work at Purnagiri which is one of the alternative sites for re-regulating dam of Pancheswar Multipurpose Project has not been much affected due to demonstration by certain elements at Purnagiri site. While the work on the Indian territory on Purnagiri site is continuing, it has been temporarily suspended in the Nepalese territory for want of proper security. Matter has been taken up with Indian Embassy at Kathmandu, Nepal to take up with Government of Nepal to provide necessary security to the field staff at the site to resume the work in the Nepalese territory.

*[English]***Flight Service from Nagpur**

2042. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of the regular flight services from Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have approached the private aviation companies for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) At present only Alliance Air is operating following flights to/from Nagpur :—

-Mumbai/Nagpur/Mumbai	Two daily
-Delhi/Raipur/Nagpur/Delhi	Daily
-Hyderabad/Nagpur/Kolkata and return	Three per week

Due to capacity constraints Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air has no plans to increase services to/ from Nagpur.

(d) and (e) Airlines operators are free to connect specific places in their commercial judgement subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operation in specified category of routes.

Public Telephone Booths

2043. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Telephone booths functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether most of these booths remain out of order,

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them functional or to replace these PCOs by latest equipments;

(d) the number of PCO closed during the last three years in Mumbai and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be reopened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Most of the PCOs are functioning properly. As and when complaints are received, these are attended to promptly.

(d) and (e) The details of PCOs closed in Mumbai during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 667, 1503 and 1231 respectively. These PCOs are closed either due to surrender by the concerned franchisees or due to non-payment of dues by them. These PCOs are permanently closed and hence cannot be re-opened as such.

Statement

Number of public telephones working state-wise as on 31.1.2001

Sl.#	Name of State/UT	No. of Public Telephones including VPTs
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	587
2.	Andhra Pradesh	93796
3.	Assam	23301
4.	Bihar including Jharkhand	49239
5.	Gujarat	65752
6.	Haryana	22638
7.	Himachal Pradesh	17861
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	10012
9.	Karnataka	73170
10.	Kerala	36297
11.	Madhya Pradesh including Chhattishgarh	82911
12.	Maharashtra	105220
13.	Goa	3501
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	1617
15.	Meghalaya	2090
16.	Manipur	1673

1	2	3
17. Mizoram		1149
18. Nagaland		1850
19. Tripura		1558
20. Orissa		44064
21. Punjab		47504
22. Rajasthan		55842
23. Tamil Nadu including Chennai		116225
24. Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal		160947
25. West Bengal including Calcutta		64679
26. Sikkim		649
27. Delhi		*45110
28. Mumbai		*86057

*as on 28.2.2001

Mineral Reserves in Karnataka

2044. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas having reserves of iron ore, manganese, bauxite and chromite in the Karnataka State;

(b) the details of the areas where mineral extraction is going on; and

(c) the total quantum of these mineral procured from different mines for export purposes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) Recoverable reserves of Chromite, Bauxite, Manganese, and Iron Ore (Haematite), Iron Ore (Magnetite) found in different districts of Karnataka are as under :

1. Chromite	–	Chikmaglore, Hassan and Mysore
2. Bauxite	–	Belgaum, Chikmaglore, North Kanara and South Kanara.
3. Manganese	–	Belgaum, Bellary, Chikmaglore and Chitradurga.
4. Iron ore (Haematite)	–	Bellary, Bijapur, Chikmaglore, Chitradurga, Dharwar, North Kanara, Shimoga and Tumkur.

5. Iron Ore (Magnetite) – Chikmaglore, Hassan, North Kanara and Shimoga.

(b) Details of the districts-wise production of chromite, Bauxite, Manganese Ore and Iron ore in Karnataka are as under :—

1. Bauxite	–	Belgaum
2. Chromite	–	Hassan
3. Iron Ore	–	Bagalkot, Bellary, Chikmaglore, Chitradurga, Gadag and Tumkur.
4. Manganese Ore	–	Bellary, Chitradurga, Davangere, Shimoga, Tumkur and Uttar Kannada.

(c) The total quantum of these minerals despatched for export as reported by the mine owners under Statutory Returns filled with the Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines for the last three years is as under :—

	Year	Unit - Thousand tonnes	
Mineral	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
Bauxite	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chromite	0.457	Nil	Nil
Iron Ore	13874	11924	12836
Manganese Ore	184.575	74.547	272.026

[Translation]

Hasdeo Bango Project

2045. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total cost of the Hasdeo Bango Project in Bilaspur division in Chhattishgarh and the expected benefits accrued therefrom;

(b) the extent to which the benefits have been accrued; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) The latest estimated cost of the Hasdeo Bango Project is Rs. 1043.54 crores including the completion cost of

Phase I & II (Rs. 23.54 crores). The estimated benefits are 434 th. ha. irrigation and 120 mw hydro power (3x40 mw).

(b) 157.5 th. ha. potential has been created till March, 2000. All the 3 hydro power units have also been commissioned.

(c) Completion of the project is linked to provision of necessary funds by the State Government. The Central Government is assisting the project with assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme and so far; Rs. 30.780 crores has been released under this assistance.

[English]

Industrial Disputes Act

2046. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to give concurrence for amending the Industrial Disputes Act and Trade Unions Act to boost the Exports from the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926 was examined. Since the amendment proposals to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of the Parliament, the proposal of the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh could await till the Bill is passed and enacted by the Parliament.

Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to await enactment of the amendments to this Act by the Parliament.

[Translation]

Threat to Research Works

2047. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Deshbhar main

Research Karya Band Hone Ke Kagar Par" appearing in the 'Hindustan' dated February 9, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have made any review in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir, The article mentions that the provision of the 'Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals' is affecting the scientific research in the country. According to Chapter IV, section 14 of 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960', nothing in the Act shall render unlawful the performance of experiments on animals for the purpose of advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge or of knowledge which will be useful for saving or prolonging life or alleviating suffering or for combating any disease, whether of human beings, animals or plants. The basic mandate of the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals is to ensure that the animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering before, during or after performance of experiments on them. There is nothing in the rules notified on 15.12.1998, which prohibits the research activities provided the concerned institutions comply with the provisions of rule in the letter and spirit.

[English]

Assistance by World Bank

2048. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions have given any financial assistance for development of roads in Maharashtra and Karnataka States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects undertaken by the said assistance, State-wise; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to develop the road infrastructure in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) One project of 4-laning of Bassein Creek-Manor section of National Highway-4 covering a length of 58 km has been undertaken in

Maharashtra out of a World Bank loan of US\$ 306 million. Another project between Manor and Surat having a length of 176 km (length in Maharashtra 57 km) has been taken up out of an ADB loan of US \$180 million. In Karnataka, some State Road projects are being prepared from a World Bank Technical Assistance. There is no commitment so far from the World Bank for funding the projects.

(d) Development of National Highways in the States is undertaken from Plan funds. A length of 733 km of National Highways in the State of Maharashtra and 828 km in Karnataka is forming part of National Highway Development Project also.

Annual Expenditure for Maintenance of National Highways

2049.SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government have ascertained amount meant for annual expenditure for maintenance of National Highways of country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the total amount annually required to be spent for proper maintenance of National Highways; and

(c) the average amount allocated and spent for the maintenance of N. H. during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) It is estimated that an amount of about Rs. 1250 crore is annually required for maintenance of National Highways in the country.

(c) Amount allocated and spent for maintenance of National Highways during the last two years is as under :—

Year	Allocation (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
1998-1999	549.80	530.00
1999-2000	687.58	643.81

Procurement of Equipment

2050.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that C-DoT developed TDMA-PMP equipment is cheaper and ideally

suited for deployment in rural areas and also is in great demand in various African and Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of long term policy to be adopted by the Government for using this technology at large scale to connect all the rural areas of the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal for procurement of this equipment for the next three years;

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

(e) the cost per line for TDMA-PMP equipment vis-a-vis Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) C-DOT developed TDMA-PMP equipment is under field trial in Nepal and Nigeria After initial field trial of the system in India, BSNL has placed purchase order for 167 nos. of this equipment for the current financial year for further performance evaluation to meet scattered demand in rural areas. Large scale usage in the subsequent years will depend upon the suitability of this equipment.

(e) The price per line of C-DOT TDMA/PMP equipment vis-a-vis Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment at present is as under :—

C-DOT TDMA/PMP	Rs. 50,000 per line
WLL equipment	Rs. 35,000 per line

Dereservation of Forest Land

2051.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the modalities and procedure evolved for undertaking dereservation of forest land in each State of the country;

(b) whether proposals for dereserving certain forest areas have been received from some States during the last three years and current year, till-date;

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

(d) the decision taken by the Government on each such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is applicable to whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The modalities and procedure

involved in granting clearances under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is as given below :

- i. Every State Government seeking period approval of the Central Government is required to send a formal proposal in a prescribed format.
- ii. In case of forest area involved is only up to 5 hectares in extent, the proposals are submitted directly to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), who are competent to finally decide all such proposals (except for mining and regularisation of encroachments).
- iii. Proposals involving 5-20 ha. of forest land are also submitted to the concerned Regional office, where these are processed in consultation with State Advisory Group comprising of members from

various Departments of the State (i.e. Forest, Revenue, Finance, concerned user Department). Such proposals after processing are sent to the Ministry for final decision.

- iv. All proposals involving more than 20 ha. of forest land are submitted directly to the Ministry at Delhi. These are processed and placed before advisory Committee for its recommendation. After obtaining the recommendation of Advisory Committee, a final decision is taken on the proposal.

(b) to (d) More than 3000 such proposals have been submitted by various State Governments during 1998 to January, 2001. A detailed list of all projects will be lengthy and cumbersome. A brief abstract of this information indicating their present status State-wise is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of Proposals Received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of information	Returned/withdrwan by States	Under cosideration of Ministry	Wanting details sought from the States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Assam	52	19	24	0	3	6	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	17	0	0	0	1	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	68	38	14	7	1	4	4
4.	A N Island	13	8	0	0	0	0	5
5.	Bihar	77	41	0	23	2	4	7
6.	D N H	70	46	0	0	0	2	22
7.	Gujrat	274	201	5	4	3	3	58
8.	Haryana	159	117	4	9	0	0	29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	198	79	11	21	5	7	75
10.	Manipur	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
11.	Meghalaya	16	14	0	0	2	0	0
12.	Mizoram	8	4	0	0	0	2	2
13.	Chandigarh	10	6	0	0	0	0	4
14.	Delhi	3	1	0	0	1	0	1
15.	Goa	9	5	1	1	0	1	1
16.	Punjab	344	210	9	36	0	19	70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17. Orissa		101	60	3	5	5	14	14
18. Madhya Pradesh		156	83	26	17	5	10	15
19. Maharashtra		310	172	18	19	1	37	63
20. Rajasthan		131	73	13	4	7	16	18
21. Karnataka		93	45	9	14	3	5	17
22. Kerala		29	14	0	5	1	1	8
23. Tamil Nadu		54	44	4	4	0	0	2
24. Tripura		79	71	3	0	3	1	1
25. Sikkim		16	16	0	0	0	0	0
26. West Bengal		11	5	2	0	1	1	2
27. Uttar Pradesh		714	596	27	6	21	2	62
Total		3016	1987	173	175	65	136	480

Threat to Plant and Animals, Species

2052. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of species of plants and animals are facing an uncertain future in Vidarbha and adjoining regions as per latest survey made on bio-diversity of the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings of the surveys undertaken in the State;

(c) the details of action plan formulated to deal with the situation revealed; and

(d) the status of action plan being implemented to protect flora and fauna facing extinction threat in the region and funds provided/ proposed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) According to surveys carried out by the Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India, 251 plant species and some animal species fall under the category of threatened species in Maharashtra. Out of these, very few species are recorded for Vidarbha.

(c) and (d) A protected area network consisting of 5 National Parks and 33 Wildlife sanctuaries has been established in Maharashtra for protecting the wildlife including the threatened species. Financial assistance is provided to State Government for the management of protected areas. During the period 1997-2000, an amount

of Rs. 200 lakhs was provided for the National Parks and Sanctuaries in Maharashtra. A grant of Rs. 20.55 lakhs was also released during 1997-2000 to 5 existing botanic gardens in Maharashtra for ex-situ conservation of rare and endemic plants.

Modern Facilities at Nedumbassery Airport

2053. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the airport at Nedumbassery in Kerala is equipped with all modern facilities available in the country to operate various flights to important destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The airport has a runway of 3400 metres (11,155 feet) suitable for operation of B-747 class of aircraft and is equipped with all required equipment for Air Traffic Management and communication.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Dams/Barrages

2054. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dams/barrages constructed on major rivers in the country;

(b) the details of studies made on the adverse impact on dams in downstream areas resulting in silt of riverbeds causing floods; and

(c) the outcome thereof and the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) As per the National Register of Large Dams published by the Central Water Commission, 3596 dams have been constructed in the country.

(b) and (c) No such studies have been made, as the dams do not cause silting of river beds, causing floods in the downstream areas.

Indian Labour in Foreign Countries

2055. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of reports received through Indian Missions Abroad in regard to harassment such as physical torture, reduction in salary and other incongenial working condition of Indian labour in foreign countries;

(b) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the concerned countries in regard to inhuman behaviour being meted out to Indian labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and response of these countries in this regard;

(d) the names of the countries to whom Indian Government have decided to stop the deployment of labour; and

(e) whether this ban is still going on and if so, the names of those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per the available information there were 6891 complaints of harassment of Indian worker abroad during the year 2000.

(b) and (c) As soon as such complaints are received, the concerned Indian Mission takes up the matter with the foreign employers/sponsors and their Indian agents. Generally, the grievances are redressed with the cooperation of the foreign employers and the concerned foreign Government.

(d) and (e) A ban on deployment of housemaids to Kuwait has been imposed by the Government which is still in force.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities

2056. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural and urban areas of Rajasthan;

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(c) the progress made in regard to laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) in the State;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the areas of the State with OFC;

(e) whether the Government proposed to provide value added services in backward areas of the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether private companies have also been given permission alongwith the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the field of communications in Rajasthan;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether all exchanges of Rajasthan have been connected with new technique; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list in rural and urban areas of Rajasthan, as on 31/1/2001, is as under:-

Urban	=	37,765
Rural	=	92,271
Total	=	1,30,036

This waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2002.

(c) During the year 2000-01, 673.50 KMs OFC has been commissioned in Rajasthan.

(d) It is planned to provide connectivity to majority of stations on OFC and some on Radio. For this, 9,340 KMs of cable has been allotted to Rajasthan during the current year.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Rajasthan circle has already introduced Internet Service in all the exchanges. There is a plan of providing Cellular Mobile Service by December,

2001 to 31 cities of Rajasthan which also covers District Headquarters.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Following private companies are also working in the field of communications in Rajasthan :-

Sl.No.	Name of Private Company	Type of service	Service areas
1	M/s ABC Communication India Ltd.	Radio Paging	Jaipur
2	M/s Modi Korea Telecommunications Ltd.	Radio Paging	Jaipur
3	M/s Punwire Mobile Communications Ltd.	Radio Paging	Rajasthan except Jaipur
4	M/s Hexacom India Ltd.	Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	Rajasthan
5	M/s Air Cell Digilink Ltd.	Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	Rajasthan
6	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Basic Services	Rajasthan

(i) and (j) Yes, Sir. All 2,003 Exchanges working in Rajasthan as on 31/1/2001, are Electronic Exchanges.

Conservation and Protection of Vultures and Siberian Cranes

2057.DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vultures and Siberian Cranes are facing extinction on account of use of pesticides in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken for proper conservation and protection of the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Siberian Cranes are migratory cranes visiting India from Siberia in Russia which is the breeding ground of the species. It comes for wintering in India in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. The main reason for the decline in the number of this species is hunting of the species en-route from Siberia to India and vice-versa, Its decline is no way related to use of pesticides.

There has been a sharp decline in the population of different species of vultures in the country. The exact reason of decline has yet not been identified. Adverse impact of pesticides/insecticides on the population of this species can not be ruled out. Other probable reasons for the decline of population of vultures could be impact of some viral disease and reduction in availability of nesting sites.

(c) As regards Siberian cranes populations, an Indo Russian Protocol has been signed with Russian counterparts emphasizing sustainable wetland management, studies on migratory pattern of these species

and conservation of nesting sites. Steps taken for conservation of vultures involves detailed survey about the current status of the species throughout the country, studies on identification of causal agent of the disease, ecological and environmental studies on vultures and captive breeding.

Export of Telecom Equipment

2058.SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan to promote export of equipments developed by C-DoT as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 3, 2001;

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

(c) the incentives proposed to be provided to the manufactures of C-DoT equipments in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) A standing Focus Action Group is working in DOT on evolving suitable action plan for promotion of export of telecom equipments (including C-DOT developed equipments).

(c) C-DOT designed equipments enjoy the same incentives as provided for the export of other telecom equipments.

[English]

Optical Fibre

2059.SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of optical fibres and other necessary equipment in Bankura District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to supply the required materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is no shortage of optical fibre equipment. Procurement of 6F OF cable is under process by West Bengal Circle. For procurement of 12F and 24F Optical Fibre Cable, a tender was floated but supply could not commence for full quantity due to non-acceptance of tendered prices by vendors. A short notice limited tender has been called for procurement of balanced quantities of OF cable.

Masanjore Dam

2060. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed between West Bengal and Bihar Governments for the release of water for irrigation from Masanjore Dam in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about non-implementation of the agreement by any of the State;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to intervene into matter and resolve the dispute between the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The inter-State agreement signed between West Bengal and Bihar on 19.7.1978. covers inter-alia the operation of Mayurakshi (Masanjore) dam for the benefit of the two States.

(c) to (e) On a query by the Central Government, the Government of West Bengal have informed that the issue of release of irrigation water from the Masanjore dam has been amicably resolved with the Government of Jharkhand after official-level meeting and releases from the dam have been made on 5th February, 2001.

Ongoing Projects from C.R.F.

2061. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ongoing projects being financed from Central Road Fund (C.R.F) in various States; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN., (RETD) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) A Statement giving details of ongoing projects under the Central Road Fund is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Works in progress as per earlier CRF		Works sanctioned under CRF Act, 2000	
		Nos.	Sanctioned Cost	Nos.	Sanctioned Cost
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	43.36	57	238.44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1.18	—	—
3.	Assam	8	2.42	—	—
4.	Bihar	3	9.08	—	—
5.	Chhatisgarh	—	—	16	67.50
6.	Gujarat	13	10.49	71	46.19
7.	Haryana	3	1.75	—	—
8.	Karnataka	8	8.74	5	5.71
9.	Kerala	9	19.99	—	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4	2.88	34	124.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Maharashtra	36	42.09	—	—
12.	Manipur	1	0.46	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	2	2.91	—	—
14.	Mizoram	1	0.28	—	—
15.	Nagaland	3	0.47	—	—
16.	Orissa	5	16.87	—	—
17.	Pondicherry	1	1.05	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	9	7.39	37	53.53
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	4.29	254	149.50
20.	Tripura	1	1.40	—	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	2	11.69
22.	Uttaranchal	—	—	10	9.34
23.	West Bengal	5	20.15	—	—

Expansion of Postal Services

2062. SHRI A VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for the development/expansion of postal services in cities/villages in all the States in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) For development, expansion and modernization of postal services, activities and programmes are formulated under five year plans, which are then implemented under successive annual plans. The Department does not draw up plans State-wise. Details of Annual Plan for the year 2001-2002 are annexed is enclosed as statement.

Statement*Details of Annual Plan 2001-2002*

Sl. No.	Plan Schemes	Financial outlay (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Expansion of Postal Network	15.00
2.	Upgradation of Technology	21.01
3.	Material Management	0.77

1	2	3
4.	Human Resource Development	3.67
5.	Modernisation of Mail Processing	61.00
6.	Business Development and Marketing	4.00
7.	Modernisation and Development of Philately	1.20
8.	Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters	24.00
9.	Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management	4.00
10.	Public Grievances	0.35
Total		135.00

Land Acquired for Shamshabad Airport

2063. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of an international airport at Shamshabad in Andhra Pradesh has been opposed by the residents of the village;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the State Government has not so far provided any alternative accommodation to those villagers whose land has been acquired ;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Details in this regard are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Loss Due to Earthquake in Gujarat

2064. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of loss suffered by State/Union Government due to recent Earthquake in Gujarat ; and

(b) the relief/aid sent for the affected departments of State/Union Government departments as well as for victims of Earthquake?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As per information made available by the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, about 1.59 crore people in 7,633 villages in 21 districts have been affected in the recent earthquake in Gujarat that occurred on January 26, 2001. This has resulted in loss of 19,988 human lives and caused injury to 1.66 lakhs of people in the State. The report also indicates that about 12.33 lakhs houses/huts have been either damaged or destroyed. Immediate assistance of Rs. 500 crores has been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund to the affected State. Other State Governments and Union Territory administrations have provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 51.0 crores. In addition, about 70 countries and international organisations extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 175.0 crores besides relief in the form of rescue teams, medical assistance, etc.

[Translation]

Reconstruction of Bridge on Amritsar-Pathankot-Kullu Highway

2065. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amritsar-Pathankot-Kullu Highways is the only National Highway for carrying supplies for the army in Leh-Ladakh;

(b) if so, whether a bridge constructed enroute on Chakki Khudd is old one and is in a dilapidated condition;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to reconstruct this bridge;

(d) if so, the action plan formulated in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) There are two routes leading to Leh-Ladakh. One route is from Amritsar-Pathankot-Kullu National Highway and another is from Amritsar-Pathankot-Jammu-Srinager National Highway.

(b) The existing bridge on Chakki Khadd is a single lane narrow bridge which needs reconstruction as per National Highways standard. However, the existing bridge is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) and (e) The land for approaches is yet to be acquired by the States of Punjab/Himachal Pradesh for which land acquisition estimate has already been sanctioned. The reconstruction of the bridge will be taken up after the land for approaches is acquired.

[English]

Twins Project in A. P.

2066. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve local units in the implementation of Twins project (Twin cities network services) in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for the participation of the A. P. Telecom Circle in the TWINS PROJECT for collection of telephone bills and for providing information to the subscribers of their accounts. The Govt. of A. P. Had also asked for permission to share the design features of the billing software of BSNL (DOTSOFT) to enable integration with different applications of the other departments and agencies participating in the TWINS project. The present TBL billing system of Hyderabad Telecom System does not support open database connectivity with the TWINS Project. The A. P. Govt. had been requested to consider permitting the terminals of BSNL at the TWINS Centres from the existing Billing System, which they did not accept.

Employees Covered Under ESI Scheme

2067. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of employees covered under ESI Scheme in 1999-2000 as compared to the previous year;
- (b) the reasons for the decline in the number of patients covered under ESI Scheme during 1999-2000;
- (c) the steps taken to reduce this decline; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to increase the area covered under ESI Scheme in the current year?

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) As on 31-3-2000 there were 79.62 lakh employees covered under the ESI scheme as against 80.85 lakh employees covered in the preceding year.

(b) Decline in coverage of ESI Scheme is attributable to closure of industries in certain States, shifting/re-location of industries in non-implemented areas and most importantly due to general increase in wages of employees enabling them to cross the wage limit prescribed for coverage under the ESI Scheme.

(c) and (d) Number of employees covered under the ESI Scheme generally keeps on fluctuating due to the statutory wage ceiling prescribed for coverage. In order to provide ESI benefits to maximum number of workers, the wage ceiling for coverage is reviewed and revised from time to time. Accordingly the wage ceiling for coverage under the ESIS was last revised from Rs.3000/- to Rs.6500/- with effect from 1.1.1997. Meanwhile the State Governments have been requested to extend the ESI Scheme to new areas where sufficient number of industrial workers are available. Intensive survey has also been launched to detect the incidence survey has also been launched to detect the incidence of under reporting by the employer and cover the eligible workers who are presently outside the ESI Scheme.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Aligarh

2068. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of villages under Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh which have been provided telephone facilities during the last three years;
- (b) the number of telephone lying out of order as on date; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 370 villages under Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh have been provided telephone facilities during the last three years;

- (b) 140 telephones are lying out of order as on date.
- (c) The following steps have been taken to made them functional:
 - (i) Annual maintenance Contract has been entered into with the supplier of the equipment;
 - (ii) Flying squad has been constituted for fault repair, and
 - (iii) Monitoring has been stepped up.

STD Booths on Railway Platforms

2069. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to start STD booths on railway platforms in the country particularly in Bhusawal and Jalgaon Railway station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the criteria being fixed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, STD/ISD/PCO booths are allotted to all the eligible applicants liberally at all places including railway stations and platforms subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions. For opening of PCO booths at the railway stations and platforms, necessary permission from the railway authorities has to be obtained by the franchisees. STD PCO booths are already working at Bhusawal and Jalgaon railway stations (near booking counters).

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

2070. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government have formulated any policy for modernization of existing telephone exchanges in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) All the telephone exchanges in Maharashtra are already modernized digital exchanges.

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

[English]

Cine Workers Welfare Fund

2071.SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cine workers benefited so far with the establishment of Cine Workers Welfare Fund during the last three years, region-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to streamline the fund so that more welfare activities for the cine workers are undertaken in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Resource Position in the Cine Workers Welfare Fund is reviewed periodically (including in the Central Advisory Committee meetings) taking into account the ongoing welfare schemes as well as new schemes proposed to be taken up for the welfare of cine workers and their dependants and remedial measures are taken whenever necessary.

Statement

No. of Beneficiaries under Cine Workers Welfare Fund, Region-wise during last three years

Region	Year		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (upto 12/2000)
Bangalore	6703	7271	29694
Bhubaneshwar	147	169	352
Bhilwara	—	—	2467
Calcutta	1622	2799	2789
Hyderabad	20703	22827	19220
Nagpur	7560	13812	22982

Infrastructure Network in Maharashtra

2072.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake certain projects for expansion and strengthening infrastructure network of civil Aviation in Maharashtra during the current and next financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with amount involved in each project year-wise; and

(c) the benefits to be achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of performance and plan allocations of various projects in Maharashtra are:-

- (1) Site survey is being carried out for construction of technical block cum control tower at Nagpur airport with a plan allocation of Rs. 5 lakhs. Work is in progress for extension of apron, strengthening and widening of taxiway at a cost of Rs. 47 lakhs. It will lead to better air traffic management and increase in aircraft parking capacity.
- (2) During 2000-2001, an allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs has been made for expansion of apron in the Civil Enclave at Pune and Indian Air Force have been requested for release of 5 acres of additional land. This will increase the apron parking capacity.
- (3) Work is in progress for face lift of terminal building at Aurangabad airport. The projects in Phase-II i.e. extension of runway, apron, construction of new terminal building and car parking area at a cost of Rs. 67.11 crores will be taken up on receipt of the approval of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan. An allocation of Rs. 1 lakhs has been made during 2000-2001. AB-300 class of aircraft can operate and terminal building will facilitate 500 passengers at a time after this project is completed.
- (4) It has also been decided to restructure the present Mumbai airport through long term lease to improve the standard of services/facilities to world class.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Villages

2073.SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the proposed schemes formulated to provide telephone facility in the rural areas of Rajasthan upto 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : The objective and target is to achieve telecom coverage of all villages

and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002, as stipulated in the New Telecom Policy, 1999.

[English]

**Loss of National Saving Certificates/
Kisan Vikas Patras**

2074.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Saving Certificates (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patras (KVP) of the face value of Rs. 151 crore were lost in Assam and Bihar during 1996-98;

(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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) National Savings Certificates (NSCs) and Kisan Vikas Patras (KVPs) of Rs. 139.64 crores face value have been reported lost from the custody of Railways during 1996-98 during transportation between ISP Nasik and Circle Stamps Depots of Assam and Bihar Circles. Details of certificates lost are :

Type of Certificates	Assam Circle	Bihar Circle
	Face Value (Rs. In crores)	Face Value (Rs. In crore)
CVP	83.30	33.42
NSC	0.25	22.67
Total	83.55	56.09

(c) and (d) The matter stands reported to police and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Departmental inquiries have been made and two postal employees were punished for their lapses. Police apprehended three outsiders involved in the case and 14 Railway Protection Force personnel have been suspended in this case. The Government has also changed the mode of transportation of savings certificates. Department of posts has also circulated details of lost certificates to all the post offices to guard against their fraudulent encashments.

Revision of Pay Scale

2075.SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether pay scales of employees of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited and Kolar Gold Field, Karnataka has since been revised;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was declared a sick unit by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction in 1992. BIFR, in its final order dated 12.6.2000, has concluded that it is just and equitable if the company is wound up under Section 20(1) of SICA, 1985 implying that rehabilitation of BGML is not feasible. As per Government policy in case of sick PSUs referred to BIFR, pay scales are to be revised strictly in accordance with rehabilitation package approved by the BIFR, and after providing for the additional expenditure on account of pay revision in the package. In case of BGML, BIFR did not approve any rehabilitation package. Therefore, question of revision of pay scale does not arise.

National Highway Network

2076.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand National Highway Network in the country particularly in Orissa during Ninth Plan period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Expansion of National Highway network in the country is considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se-priority of proposals and availability of funds. During Ninth Plan period a length of 23439 km including 1652 km in Orissa has been added to NH network in the country. At present there is no plan to further expand the NH network.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Airports in Gujarat**

2077. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of airports in Gujarat where landing facilities are available for big and small aircrafts of the Army;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct new airports in Gujarat between 2001 to 2005;

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

(d) the details of the amount spent on the development of airports in Gujarat from 1998 to till-date and amount proposed to be spent during 2001-2002;

(e) the number of passenger undertook air journey from airports in Gujarat from 1998 to till-date; and

(f) the total revenue earned therefrom during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) There are nine airports in Gujarat available for big and small aircraft of the Army.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Dose not arise.

(d) The amount spent on these airports for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 was Rs. 7.35 crores. The amount proposed to be spent during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is Rs. 28.91 crores.

(e) Total number of passengers who have travelled from the airports in Gujarat from 1998 till date is 16,70,651.

(f) The total revenues earned from these airports during the said period was Rs. 60.20 crores.

*[Translation]***STD/ISD/PCO Booths**

2078. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCO/STD/ISD booths functioning in Dahod district of Gujarat at present;

(d) the number of said booths proposed to be opened in the said district during 2001-2002, location-wise;

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years and till-date and the amount proposed to be allocated during the next two years;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection in the district as on date; and

(e) the time by which waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 219 PCO/STD/ISD booths are functioning in Dahod district of Gujarat at present.

(b) No such target has been fixed for the year 2001-2002.

(c) No separate account is maintained for provision of STD/PCOs.

(d) As on date 4494 persons are in the waiting list for telephone connections in the said district.

(e) The waiting list is to be cleared progressively by March, 2002.

*[English]***Progress on National Reconstruction Project**

2079. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the National Reconstruction Project started last year in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the objective of the said project;

(c) the amount released for implementation of the said project;

(d) whether completion of the said project is behind schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) National Reconstruction Corps Scheme was launched on 30th June, 1999. However, its implementation could not be started so far in any part of the country including Andhra Pradesh due to various administrative reasons.

(b) The primary objective of national Reconstruction Corps Scheme, inter-alia, is to provide an opportunity to youth to participate in the process of nation building to work for and with the community to understand the problems of real life and utilize their skills and knowledge to bring about a socio-economic transformation of our society and nation.

(c) So far Rs. 61.00 lakh have been released to NYKS to meet the expenditure on advertisement, launching ceremony and publication of booklet on NRC. However, no expenditure on actual implementation of the scheme has been incurred so far.

(d) to (f) The implementation of the NRC project got delayed on account of various factors like opening of a budget head, obtaining Parliament's approval to the incurring of expenditure, declaration of elections to the Lok Sabha, and lastly changes in the criteria of selection of Project Officer. Now, after resolving all issues involved, the process of selection of Project Officers through interviews has been completed and it is expected to have the Project Officers in place by 01.04.2001. The process of selection of volunteers under the scheme will be taken up thereafter.

Slaughtering of Wild Tigers

2080. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Environment Investigation Agency (EIA), a London based NGO blamed the Union Government for wholesale slaughter of India's wild tigers as reported in the Hindu, New Delhi dated November 24, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Environment Investigating Agency has been monitoring wildlife conservation efforts in this country on a regular basis. During the course it learnt about the initiative launched by the Ministry to establish a specialised unit for combating wildlife crime and preventing illicit trade in wildlife products. Environment Investigating Agency has criticised India because of the delay in setting up the specialised unit. Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests have authorised C. B. I to investigate and initiate action against wildlife offenders. It has also initiated action to create a cell in the Ministry.

(b) The details of steps taken by the Government of India are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government of India

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue

Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserves Police, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation and Scientific Organisation like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programs and Workshops have been organised to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park Managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valor has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the States Governments for eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.
11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.
12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL :

1. Initiated creation of Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e Global Forum for addressing international issues related of tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation :-
- A protocol has been signed with people's Republic of China.
 - An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in Tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action for conservation of tiger both at national and International level.

Compensation to Victims of Animals Attacks

2081. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- whether any compensation is being paid to the families of victims in case of attacks by animals in parks and forest areas;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Government of India provides funds to the State Governments for ex-gratia payment to the victims of wild animal attack. An amount of Rs. 1 lakh is paid in case of death of permanent incapacitation. The compensation in case of grievous injury is Rs. 33,300/- only.

- Does not arise.

Coastal Pollution

2082. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to start several new projects to keep a watch on the sea water to check coastal pollution;
- if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned for these projects, State-wise; and
- the time by which these projects are likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. However, under a programme of the Department of Ocean Development, coastal water quality is monitored by the State Pollution Control Boards and the National Institute of Oceanography.

- and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Employment To Unemployed Graduates and Post Graduates

2083. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- the total number of unemployed graduate and post graduate youths in the country;
- the number out of these having technical and post graduate degrees;
- whether any action plan is under consideration of the union Government for providing employment to unemployed graduates and post graduates candidates;
- if do, the details thereof; and
- if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, with graduate and post graduate qualifications on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.1998 (latest available) was as indicated below :

Description	No. of Live Register (in lakhs)
Graduate	43.9
Post Graduate	6.0
Graduate including P.G. in Tech. Subject (Science, Engg, Medi, vet and agri)	11.6

(c) to (e) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. This will also benefit unemployed graduates and post graduates.

*[English]***Transport Facilities in Lakshadweep**

2084. SHRI P. C THOMAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that adequate transport facilities are not available in Lakshadweep;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to provide transport facilities in this union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Opening of Telephone Exchange and Post Office**

2085. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to open Head Post Office and Telephone Exchanges at Jamuawan in Azamgarh District of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the step taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) A request was received from Dr. Bali Ram, M.P. regarding upgradation of Jamuawan Extra Departmental Branch Post Office to a Departmental Sub Post Office. The proposal has been examined and found not justified on financial norms.

Gram Sabha Jamuawan falls in the local area of telephone exchange at Thekna. Telephone connections for Gram Sabha Jamuawan are working from this exchange. Departmental building for telephone exchange is ready at Thekna. It is proposed to open 1000 lines CDOT exchange at Thekna. Application for power connection has since been given and as soon as power connection is available, action will be taken to expand the telephone exchange at Thekna.

Loan to Gujarat and Maharashtra

2086. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide a loan of 180 million dollars for partial financing of Surat-Manor Highway on National Highway No.8 in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the time by which this loan is likely to be provided; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Loan agreement was signed on the 5th October 2000 and the loan closing date is 30th September 2004.

(c) The loan has been provided to NHAI on the guarantee of Government of India, Cost of civil works to the extent of 63% and consultancy to the extent of 100% will be eligible for disbursement under the loan.

*[English]***Water Convergence System**

2087. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to provide Water Convergence System in the hilly and high rainfall areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES. (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per the National Water Policy adopted in 1987, the planning of projects, in hilly areas should take into account the need to provide assured drinking water, possibilities of hydro-power development and proper approach to irrigation in such areas, in the context of physical features and constraints such as steep slopes, rapid run off and the incidence of soil erosion. Operationalising the National Water Policy through the development of minor irrigation and watershed schemes is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government is providing central loan assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to the hilly states of the north-east, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh to develop minor irrigation.

Licences of Natural Resources to SC/ST.

2088. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee had recommended for formulation and implementation of these schemes for leasing of natural resources licences to the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of any such scheme adopted/ implemented and results achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) As per information furnished by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the National Committee for Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar centenary celebrations had inter-alia recommended for introduction of a new policy to lease/licence natural resources under the state control to actual workers and their cooperatives/associations and the then Ministry of Welfare had written to State/Union Territory Governments to consider introduction of the policy in their respective State/Union Territory.

(b) to (c) The necessary action on the recommendations of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee rest with the State Government concerned who have already been advised of the same by the then Ministry of Welfare (now Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

[Translation]

National Highway in Gujarat

2089. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the implementation of the National Highway scheme in Gujarat where a devastating earthquake occurred recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Implementation of National Highway Scheme in Gujarat has not been affected considerably due to the earthquake. Some damages to National Highways in different parts had occurred and necessary immediate restoration works were carried out and there is no disruption to traffic.

Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

2090. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh alongwith their capacity, district-wise; and

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the year 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 2656 number of telephone exchanges are functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present. District-wise details along with their capacity are given in the statement-I

(b) 414 number of new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during the year 2000-2001 Location-wise details are given in the statement-II

Statement-I

District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges functioning in U.P. as on 31.1.2001.

S No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	76	120556
2.	Kausaumbhi	13	5160
3.	Gorakhpur	49	71809
4.	Maharajganj	18	12928
5.	Kanpur	59	185750
6.	Kanpur Dehat	34	12834
7.	Lucknow	81	252720
8.	Jhansi	41	50704
9.	Lalitpur	23	9892
10.	Varanasi	44	106061
11.	Bhadohi	22	17944
12.	Chandauli	21	12259
13.	Azamgarh	58	39842
14.	Ghazipur	40	15128
15.	Pratapgarh	56	25368
16.	Hardoi	37	20160
17.	Orai	37	19119
18.	Fatehpur	41	15876
19.	Banda	70	24532

1	2	3	4
20. Chitrakoot	21	6900	
21. Hamirpur	33	16696	
22. Mahaoba	7	7328	
23. Ballia	45	19768	
24. Barabanki	69	30976	
25. Baharaich	51	24308	
26. Shrawasti	13	2856	
27. Basti	28	17796	
28. Siddartha Nagar	25	3764	
29. Sant Kabir Nagar	10	9696	
30. Etawah	20	22300	
31. Auraiya	18	10064	
32. Farrukhabad	22	24854	
33. Kannauj	23	11848	
34. Faizabad	40	34238	
35. Ambedkar Nagar	28	14496	
Gonda	44	25340	
37. Balrampur	10	5536	
38. Lakhimpur	78	37388	
39. Deoria	28	18936	
40. Kushinagar	25	12848	
41. Mau	34	35384	
42. Mainpuri	35	30580	
43. Mirzapur	38	25770	
44. Sonebhadra	28	23280	
45. Raebareli	52	29336	
46. Shāhjahanpur	46	27824	
47. Sitapur	53	23917	
48. Sultanpur	63	37288	
49. Unnao	56	30094	
50. Janpur	52	26996	
51. Agra	66	113712	
52. Firozabad	11	21144	
53. Mathura	51	62780	

1	2	3	4
54. Rampur	27	30432	
55. Moradabad	39	68000	
56. J.P. Nagar	27	22032	
57. Badaun	36	22960	
58. Bareilly	47	63656	
59. Buland Sahar	32	40156	
60. Etah	37	22520	
61. Bijnore	58	60284	
62. Muzaffarnagar	61	82874	
63. Merrut	34	113072	
64. Ghaziabad	49	173416	
65. Baghpat	18	25666	
66. G.B. Nagar	22	107348	
67. Saharanpur	35	59256	
68. Aligarh	35	51792	
69. Hathras	25	16104	
70. PILIBHIT	31	13648	
Total	2656	2837839	

Statement-II

New Telephone Exchanges Proposed to be set up during the year 2000-01 Location-wise

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	1	2
1	2	11. Rewa Road	
1.	Baraon	12. Sarai Inyak	
2.	Barokhar	13. Amuwari	
3.	C.T.O. Allahabad	14. Babura	
4.	Chompaha	15. Bhadewara	
5.	Kalindipuram	16. Chewta	
6.	Kohadr	17. Chhaun	
7.	Kydgan	18. Gopalganj	
8.	Lalpur	19. Lahuwa	
9.	Manda Road	20. Majhari	
10.	Mirzapur Road	21. Mithupur	
		22. Nandwan	

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
23. Rly. Station Azamgarh		57. Tarain		91. Panhar		125. Chandipur	
24. Stadium Azamgarh		58. Tindwari		92. Takha		126. Jaiprabha Gram	
25. Bahraich-II		59. Babaganj		93. Anand Nagar		127. Mankapur	
26. Bhawanipur		60. Bilwal		94. Bhawanipur		128. Saidwapur	
27. Gangawal		61. Chaubisi		95. Bajaria		129. Shahpur	
28. Rampur Dholyia		62. Jatabarauli		96. Bhrkha		130. Basantpur	
29. Urna		63. Mitae		97. Chiyasar		131. Beniganj	
30. Atarsua		64. Sihali		98. Jarari		132. Doharia	
31. Athilapur		65. Talgaon		99. Kusum Bhore		133. Dumari	
32. Baijalpur		66. Baghauli		100. North		134. Ghaghaasra	
33. Chowk		67. Bahadurpur		101. Amao		135. Katehari	
34. Hanumanganj		68. Hanumanganj		102. Arhalya		136. Medical College Gorakhpur	
35. Pradhanpur		69. Kudraha		103. Ashni		137. Munari	
36. Sagar Pali		70. Tinich		104. Badagaon		138. Biharika	
37. Thikhampur		71. Subashnagar		105. Bakewar		139. Dhagwan	
38. Harriya Saighawa		72. Abhiya		106. Chehulaha		140. Mabobkanh	
39. Mahrajanj (TRAI)		73. Babusarai		107. Dadasai		141. Patharandi	
40. Mathura Bazar Balrampur		74. Barki		108. Deomai		142. Rehuta	
41. Banianpurwa		75. Gosai Bazar		109. Deory Bjurg		143. Revai	
42. Baragaon		76. Utraut		110. Jahagirpur		144. Behta Gokul	
43. Bharkhari		77. Jafaarpur		111. Jamrawan		145. Bharawan	
44. Bidhauli		78. Kalchhiha		112. Jigaai		146. Dalele Nagar	
45. Fatehganj		79. Nadi		113. Joniha		147. Lonar	
46. Gadariya		80. Baikunthpur		114. Khakareru		148. Manpur	
47. Gazipur		81. Larroad Deoria		115. Korai		149. Sursa	
48. Karaundi		82. Motichak		116. Bara		150. Todarpur	
49. Korram		83. Pakari Bazar		117. Baresar		151. Babai	
50. Lutara		84. Parsupur		118. Khanpur		152. Cornor	
51. Mahul		85. Sohanpur		119. Ljardeeja		153. Eton	
52. Mahuta		86. Ayana		120. Naikdih		154. Galauli	
53. Nadana		87. Jetpura		121. Rajpur		155. Gopalura	
54. Panhar		88. Kharagpur Saraiya		122. Taranband		156. Hadrukha	
55. Parsauli		89. Nagla Dhana		123. Bankatwa		157. Jugrajpura	
56. Piparahani		90. Niwani Kalan		124. Baragaon		158. Kukurgaon	

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
159. Rendhar		193. Etra		225. RDSO Lucknow		257. Nai Bazar	
160. Arasia		194. Gajner		226. Sahara Complex GMN. Lucknow		258. Babaganj	
161. Chambal Tara		195. Kudani		227. Sarojani Nagar		259. Bihar	
162. Dharmapur		196. Maitha		228. SGPGI Lucknow		260. Chilbilla	
163. Dhema		197. Nadeeha Buzurg		229. Sharda Nagar		261. Darapur	
164. Ratehganj		198. Sargankkhera		230. Talkatora Lucknow		262. Dhingwas	
165. Hariharpur		199. Sekhaniya		231. Thakurganj		263. Jagesarganj	
166. Katchery		200. Abhaiour		232. Triveni Nagar		264. Narangpur	
167. Sari Beeka		201. Behti Afghan		233. Viram Khand GMN		265. Nawaganj	
168. Umarpur		202. Bhanpur		234. Ajner		266. Rajapur	
169. Grass Land		203. Jhandi Rau		235. Ajnerasargarhi		267. Samsherganj	
170. Karguwa		204. Khfri Town		236. Jyoti		268. Behta Kalan	
171. Karguwan Khurd		205. Lagucha		237. Kalyanpur		269. Chhatoh	
172. Katera		206. Madanpur		238. Baragaon		270. ITI Raebareli	
173. Markuwan		207. Majihgawan		239. Civil Lines		271. Karahiya	
174. Nuar		208. Mamri		240. Hathini		272. Kundan Ganj	
175. Viyapura		209. Mela Ground		241. Industrial Area		273. Lodhwa Mau	
176. Sakrawa		210. Sai Imabad		242. Kalyanpur		274. Majorganj	
177. Baghpur		211. Sikanderabad		243. Karisath		275. Maftin Ganj	
178. Bansmandi Kanpur		212. Sisoranasir		244. Maurhoj		276. Rampur Kalan	
179. Civil Lines Kanpur		213. Kalyanpura		245. Mirzihadpur		277. Ratapur	
180. Dleep Nagar		214. Bhallia		246. Old Exchange		278. Shankarganj	
181. Kahilnjari		215. Daliganj		247. Piparsat		279. Suchi	
182. Kanchausi		216. Dubagga		248. Sarsema		280. Hallaur	
183. Koraian		217. Indira Nagar Sec. 17		249. Baihur		281. Hardoi	
184. Maitha Rly. Station		218. Jawahar Bhawan		250. Chetganj		282. Chaurasia	
185. Mandhana		219. Kalipashchim		251. Dubarkala		283. Bara Kalan	
186. Mwar		220. Kapoorthala		252. Jamuai		284. Bareilly More	
187. Prempur (PKY)		221. Nabi Panaha		253. Kalwari		285. Deokali	
188. Shishamau		222. Nehru Enclave GMN. Lucknow		254. Khadia		286. Garia Rangeen	
189. Shyam Nagar		223. Para Lucknow		255. Lahangpur		287. Jagarajpur	
190. Umri		224. Phase-II GMN. Lucknow		256. Magraha		288. Jaitipur	
191. Vijay Nagar						289. Khandhar	
192. Vishwa Bank Colony							

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
290. Khera Bajera		323. Krishna Nagar		355. Mathna Janpath		386. Duirella	
291. Kuria Khurd		324. Mahona		356. Arjun Nagar		387. Daula	
292. Ram Nagar		325. Muriladeeh		357. Rajendra Nagar		388. Suyal Kharak	
293. Rosa		326. Murlinagat		358. Simal Gaon		389. Deegal Chaur	
294. Thingari		327. Pandeybaba		359. Madhu Nagar		390. Chaupatiya	
295. Dhanhata		328. Rahul Nagar		360. Patel Nagar		391. Bilsad	
296. Kathalu		329. Taomuraini		361. Vasundra		392. Arni A	
297. Mahuli		330. Teekarmafi		362. Kanda		393. Unchagaon	
298. Manjhuria		331. Tikari		363. Chaumel		394. Lisad	
299. Akhtiyarpur		332. Akrapur		364. Harnol		395. T.P. Nagar	
300. Anandnagar		333. Bhavaniganj		365. Dhanouliti		396. Firozabad	
301. Bhitaura		334. Bichhiya		366. Bhotohi		397. Muludinpur	
302. Hardoi Crossing		335. Bihar		367. Langasi		398. Farsali	
303. Jharekhapur		336. Dhamikyana		368. Badshahi Bag		399. Khankar	
304. Kasraila		337. Dhani Khera		369. Radha Puram		400. Maldevta	
305. Katesar		338. Mirrikalan		370. Chitsuar		401. Risoli	
306. Kazi Nakalpur		339. Narainpur		371. Gaza		402. Kabeerganj	
307. Kutub Nagar		340. Pasakhera		372. Cantt		403. Gavardhanpuri	
308. Lalpur		341. Raipur Garhi		373. Dhyari		404. Shukratal	
309. Neri		342. Satti Deon Khera		374. Bhagi Chaur		405. Kherekhal	
310. Old Town Sitapur		343. Chandra		375. Balasua Ishapur		406. Rampur (RPP)	
311. Sakran		344. Chowk		376. Dobb Srikot		407. Basote	
312. Babhani		345. Hathi Bazar		377. Agwanipur		408. Rithori	
313. Dubepur		346. Lalpur		378. Chandan Nagar		409. Maldevta	
314. Kota		347. Lohata		379. Pachpeda		410. Bijnore-Chandpur Rd.	
315. Premapur		348. Machhodari		380. EOC-NTPC Sec. 24		411. Najibabad Dasiya Pur	
316. Amahat		349. Mahamanapuri		381. Ahmedgarh		412. Akkapur	
317. Bhadar		350. Sikarganj		382. Parui Khal		413. Harsingpur	
318. Bihauni		351. Bhagoowala		383. Natwar		414. Mandola	
319. Chandauki		352. Dayalbag		384. Mudla		415. Suyal Bari	
320. Chhitipatti		353. Mohan Nagar, Tunda		385. Airforce Gate			
321. Hliapur		354. T.P. Nagar					

[English]

**Clearance to Mumbai Water
Supply Project**

2091. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has requested the Union Government for granting environmental clearance to Mumbai (Middle Vaitarna) Water Supply Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have accorded clearance to the above project;

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

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal was considered by the Expert committee on 8th April 1997 and additional information on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Project Affected persons, catchment area treatment, impact on wildlife due to underground tunneling through Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary was sought. An incomplete reply was received in January, 1998. Further clarification sought on 11th February, 1998 has not been received so far.

(e) A final decision on clearances of project proposals is taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

[Translation]

Rural Telephone Exchanges

2092. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rural telephone exchanges functioning in Lohardaga region of Jharkhand as on date, block-wise;

(b) the number out of them remained out of order for the last one month; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 16 rural telephone exchanges are functioning in Lohardaga region of Jharkhand as on date. Blockwise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No exchange was out of order for the last one month.

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

Statement

*Rural Telephone Exchanges functioning in Lohardaga
region of Jharkhand as on 28.2.2001.*

Sl.No.	Block	Number of exchanges
1.	Ghaghra	1
2.	Bishunpur	1
3.	Gumla	2
4.	Bharno	1
5.	Sisai	1
6.	Itki	2
7.	Chainpur	1
8.	Dumri	1
9.	Lohardaga	2
10.	Bhandra	1
11.	Kuru	1
12.	Kisko	1
13.	Senha	1

[English]

Foreign Investment

2093. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent a delegation to Europe to attract more foreign investment in Telecommunication Sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Telecom companies from France have expressed their interest to invest in Indian Communication Sector especially in the cellular telephone sector recently;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to appoint an expert committee for the speedy implementation of the proposed ventures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by the Minister of Communications and comprising representatives from CII and telecom PSUs visited France, Sweden and Finland during 9-15th November 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. French telecom companies expressed their interest to invest in Indian telecom sector during discussion with the Indian delegation. Their proposals, when received, will be processed in accordance with foreign direct investment policy in telecom sector.

(e) and (f) The Government has already set up Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) for the speedy implementation of the projects. On the directions of FIIA, a Fast Track Committee has also been set up in Department of Telecommunications for looking after the implementation of telecom projects having investment of Rs. 100 crore or above.

Role of Geological Survey of India

2094. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the role of Geological Survey of India in the North-Eastern Region in the event of an earthquake;

(b) whether GSI has any Disaster Management Plan for the said region;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) The role of Geological Survey of India in any part of India is to undertake post earthquake seismic and damage surveys.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India is not directly involved in Disaster Management Plans. However, GSI's findings are published which may be useful in formulating Disaster Management Plans.

[Translation]

Fire Accidents in Forests of Madhya Pradesh

2095. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fire accidents occurred in forests of Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the details of estimated loss suffered during the said period; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these fire accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As intimated by the Madhya Pradesh Government, 1698 cases of fire occurred in the forests of the State during 1998-99 and 199-2000.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that damage due to fire, falls in the following categories :-

- Loss of marketable timber and also loss in its quality
- Loss of ground cover and moisture.
- Death and injury to small fauna.
- Loss of ground productivity due to desiccation.

Out of the 1698 cases, only six cases were of major fire. It has been estimated by the Madhya Pradesh Government that the total losses suffered in the major fires were Rs. 35,730.00. No monetary loss was estimated for the ground fires. However repeated ground fires cause intangible loss in the soil moisture and changes in the vegetation profile.

(c) (i) The Central Government is providing Central assistance to the States for prevention, control and suppression of forest fire under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Forest Fire Control and Management' The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines in June 2000 for prevention and control of forest fire. There is a component in the Scheme for involving the Joint Forest Management Committees in prevention and suppression of forest fire.

(ii) State Government has been advised to initiate public awareness campaigns, timely control burning and quick detection and suppression of forest fires, through modern forest fire control methods and involvement of local people.

*[English]***High Speed Internet Nodes**

2096.SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a high speed internet node at Karur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) An Internet Node of sufficient capacity has recently been made operational at Karur by government (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited). The capacity of the node will be increased as per requirement. Therefore, there is no proposal at present on the part of Government to set up a High speed Internet Node at Karur.

Moran Telephone Exchange

2097.SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of multi-crores scandal of STD and ISD calls in Moran Telephone Exchange under Dibrugarh District in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to punish the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) A case of manipulation/tampering of the original meter reading print outs has come to notice in respect of Moran Telephone Exchange of Dibrugarh SSA in September, 1999, due to which 41 subscribers appear to have been under billed to the tune of around Rs. 8.5 crores for which supplementary bills have been issued.

(c) One official who was handling the Meter Reading Statement of Moran Telephone Exchange and is suspected to be involved in the case has been placed under suspension. Further the case has also been referred to CBI.

*[Translation]***Mines in States**

2098.SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mines at present and the names of the minerals extracted from them, State-wise;

(b) the number of mines identified having rich mineral resources during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(c) the mines where the incidents of caving occurred during the last six months; and

(d) the number of persons Killed and incapacitated in these incidents alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, as on 31st March, 2000 there were a total of 3100 mines of various minerals reporting under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 in the Country. The names of the minerals extracted from these mines State-wise is given in the attached statement Mines having rich mineral resources are not identified as such. However, India is endowed with rich deposits of a large number of mineral resources and they are being exploited.

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) a subordinate office of Ministry of Labour, the phenomenon of caving is normal to mining operation where minerals are extracted from belowground. Such cases are not reported to DGMS. However, there were 43 accidents (10 fatal and 33 serious) due to fall of roof and sides in belowground workings during last six months (September, 2000 to February, 2001) in which 17 persons were killed and 41 persons were seriously injured.

Statement

ANDHRA : Minerals extracted are Coal, Chromite,
PRADESH : Gold, Iron Ore, lead Conc., Manganese Ore, Apatite, Asbestos, Ball Clay, Barytes, Calcite, Clay (Others), Corundum, Felspar, Fireclay, Fuch-Quartzite, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m. Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Lime Kankar, Limeshell, Limestone Mica (crude), Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Shale, Silica Sand, Slate, Steatite, Vermiculite.

ARUNACHAL : Minerals extracted are Limestone.
PRADESH

ASSAM : Minerals extracted are Coal and Limestone.

BIHAR	: Minerals extracted are Coal, Chromite, Copper Ore, Gold (as by-product), Iron Ore Manganese Ore, Asbestos, Barytes, Bauxite, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Limestone, Mica (crude), Ochre, Pyrites, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Steatite.	Phosphorite, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Slate Steatite, Vermiculite.
DELHI	: Minerals extracted are Kaolin.	
GOA	Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Silica Sand.	
GUJARAT	: Minerals extracted are Agate, Lignite, Copper Ore, Calcite, Clay (others), Bauxite, Ball Clay, Felspar, Dolomite, Fireclay, Fluorite (Conc.) Fluorite (Graded), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum, Kaolin, Laterite, Limestone Ochre, Perlite, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite, Chalk and Calcerous Sand.	MAHARASHTRA : Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Chromite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Barytes, Corundum, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Fluorite (graded), Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Limestone Ochre, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Steatite and Shale.
HARYANA	: Minerals extracted are Iron Ore, Dolomite, Felspar, Kaolin, Lime Kankar, Limestone, Quartz, Silica Sand, Slate, Calcite.	MANIPUR Minerals extracted are Chromite.
HIMACHAL PRADESH	: Minerals extracted are Barytes, Gypsum, Limestone, Salt (Rock) and Shale.	MEGHALAYA : Minerals extracted are Coal, Fire Clay, Sillimanite and Limestone.
JAMMU & KASHMIR	: Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Gypsum, Kaolin, Clay (others), Limestone and Magnesite.	ORISSA Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Chromite, Quartz, Iron Ore, Lead Cone, Manganese Ore, Corundum, Dolomite, Fireclay, Graphite r.o.m., Kaolin, Limestone, Mica (crude), Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sillimanite, Steatite.
KARNATAKA	: Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Chromite, Copper Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Asbestos, Clay (Others), Corundum, Dolomite, Dunite, Felspar, Felsite, Fireclay, Fuch-Quartzite, Gold, Kaolin, Kyanite, Limeshell, Limestone, Magnesite, Ochre, Quartz, Shale Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite.	RAJASTHAN Minerals extracted are Copper Ore, Lead Cone., Zinc Conc., Asbestos, Ball Clay, Barytes, Calcite, Chalk Corundum, Dolomite, Emerald, Fireclay, Felspar, Fluorite (graded), Garnet (Gem), Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum Ore, Iron, Jasper, Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Limestone, Magnesite, Mica (crude), Ochre, Phosphorite, Pyrites, pyrophyllite, Quartz, Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Slate Steatite, Tungsten Conc., Vermiculite and Wollastonite.
KERALA	: Minerals extracted are Ball Clay, Bauxite, Fireclay, Kaolin, Graphite r.o.m., Magnesite, Limeshell, Limestone, Mica (crude), Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand and Sillimanite.	SIKKIM Minerals extracted are Copper Ore, Lead Conc. and Zinc Conc.
MADHYA PRADESH	: Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Copper Ore Iron Ore Manganese Ore, Tin (Cone.), Asbestos, Barytes, Calcite, Clay (Others), Corundum, Diamond, Diaspore, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Kaolin, Laterite, Limestone, Ochre,	TAMIL NADU : Minerals extracted are Lignite., Bauxite, Ball Clay, Barytes, Clay (Others), Dunite, Felspar, Fire cloy, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum, Kaolin, Laterite, Lime Kankar, Limeshell, Limestone, Magnesite, Mica (crude), Quartz, Sillimanite, Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite.
		UTTAR PRADESH : Minerals extracted are Coal, Diaspore, Dolomite, Gypsum, Limestone, Magnesite, Ochre, Phosphorite, Pyrophyllite, Steatite and Silica Sand.
		WEST BENGAL : Minerals extracted are Coal, Tungsten Cone., Apatite, Clay (Others), Dolomite, Fireclay, Kaolin, Limestone.

r.o.m. – run of the mine

*[English]***International Airport at Chennai**

2099.SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded the clearance to the New International Airport project at Chennai;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) whether the international passenger traffic at Anna International Airport registered a growth of 14.11 per cent as compared to the all India growth of 6.43 per cent; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for speedy clearance of the above project ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The State Government has been informed that Government has decided to restructure selected airports of Airports Authority of India as World class airports on long term lease basis. At present, airports at four metropolises including Chennai are being taken up for this exercise. The long term leasing of airports including Chennai is in an advanced stage of implementation. The lessees would be required to upgrade the airports to international standards. Any independent major expansion project at this juncture, will create complication and may jeopardise the whole leasing exercise, ultimately affecting the efforts to make the existing airport at Chennai a World class airport.

(c) The present long term traffic growth rate at Chennai is 8.6 percent per annum for international traffic.

(d) Does not arise.

Video Conferencing and Wireless Telephone

2100.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide video conferencing, wireless telephony in the country particularly in Cuttack-Bhubaneswar sector;

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

(c) whether STD circuit is low in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) (i) Telephone Exchanges at both Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are equipped for extending Video conferencing facilities. Persons desirous can avail of the facility.

(ii) It is planned to provide wireless Telephony Services using wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Technology in Bhubaneswar.

(b) (i) Telephone exchanges working at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) facility through which Video Conferencing is possible.

(ii) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Equipment, 3000 lines for Bhubaneswar have been allotted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Expansion of Telephone Exchanges**

2101.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programmes undertaken to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges and to provide modern communication facility in Banaskantha region of Gujarat during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide said facilities in the region during 2001-02;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of officers found involved in corrupt practices in communications and postal services in the region during the last one year and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of the programmes undertaken to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges and to provide modern communication facility in Banaskantha region of Gujarat during the last one year (1999-2000) are as given below :

1. 17574 Lines Equipped Capacity increased.
2. 11787 Direct Exchange Lines provided.
3. 18 Exchanges connected by Optical Fibre Cable.
4. 16 New Exchanges opened.
5. 258 STD/Local Public Call Offices provided.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following expansion programmes have been proposed in Banaskantha region during 2001-2002.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Net capacity addition | = | 24550 lines |
| 2. Direct exchange Lines addition | = | 15000 lines |
| 3. From Cellular Mobile | = | 1900 lines. |

(d) No officer found involved in corrupt practices in communications and postal services in Banaskantha region of Gujarat during the last one year.

Social Security to Workers

2102.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government during the last two years for the social security of the labourers in the industrial establishments ;

(b) whether Government has decided to enhance minimum amount of compensation for death payable under the Workman's Compensation Act, 1923;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other benefits available in case of death during service covered under Employees provident Fund and Miscellaneous provisions Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) During the last two years, Social-Security Benefits of the ESI Scheme were extended to 44 new geographical areas covering about 1,03,480 additional employees. Similarly, EPF benefits were extended to 33.17 lakh additional industrial workers. On completion of second annual valuation of the Employees Pension Fund, an additional increase of five and a half per cent on pension in payment has been sanctioned to the pensioners with effect from 1.4.1998. The ceiling for exemption from payment of employee's share of contribution under the ESI scheme has been enhanced from average daily wage of Rs.25/- to Rs.40/- per day from April, 2000. During the last two years Nine new ESI hospitals were commissioned for the insured workers covered under the ESI Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The minimum amount of compensation for death under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 has been enhanced from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.80,000/- with effect from 8.12.2000.

(d) In the case of death during service, family of the employee covered under the EPF and MP Act, 1952 is entitled to payment of family pension ranging from Rs.450/- per month to Rs. 2,500/- per month. In addition, there is a provision for payment of pension to two children @ 25% of widow pension, subject a minimum of Rs.150/- per month per child. Under the EDLI Scheme, the family is also paid Deposit-Linked Insurance benefit up to Rs.60,000/-.

[English]

Periyar Tiger Project

2103.SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Periyar Tiger Project in Kerala is being affected due to rising of water level in Mullapperiyar Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to save the periyar Tiger Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Child Labour Scheme

2104.SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the union Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the number of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof as on January 31, 2001, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any scheme for their economic development and imparting education to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time-bound action plan formulated and the

steps proposed to be taken by the Government to abolish child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

(c) and (d) Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The Major activity under NCLP is running special schools/centers for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Besides efforts are made for convergence with ongoing education and welfare schemes being implemented at the district level.

(e) Child Labour is a socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time.

Considering the nature and complexity of the problem, a gradual, progressive, and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their rehabilitation.

[English]

Satellite Money Orders Facility

2105.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities/towns in Gujarat having Satellite Money Orders/Speed Post facility;

(d) whether these facilities are proposed to be extended in more cities in Gujarat during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Name of cities/towns in Gujarat having Satellite Money Orders/Speed Post facility is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal, for the present, to extend the facilities to other cities.

Statement

Name of the Cities/Towns in Gujarat where Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs), Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) Systems and Speed Post Facilities are available

VSATs	ESMOs	Speed Post
1	2	3
1. Navrangpura HO Ahmedabad	1. Revdi Bazar HO	1. Ahmedabad
	2. Gandinagar HO	2. Vadodra
	3. Palanpur HO	3. Surat
	4. Mahesana HO	4. Rajkot
	5. Elisbridge SO	5. Anand
	6. Viramgam SO	6. Godhra
	7. Dholka HO	7. Vallabh Vidhyanagar
	8. Modasa HO	8. Vithal Udyognagar
	9. Himatnagar HO	9. Diu
	10. Disa HO	10. Daman
	11. Patan HO	11. Silwasa
	12. Kalol HO	12. Gandhinagar
	13. Vijapur HO	13. Himatnagar
	14. Visnagar HO	14. Palanpur
	15. Ahmedabad GPO	
2. Rajkot HO, Rajkot	1. Bhavnagar HO	15. Disa
	2. Bhuj HO	16. Patan
	3. Jamnagar HO	17. Mahesana

1	2	3
	4. Porbandar HO	18. Kalol
	5. Junagadh Azad Chowk SO	19. Unjha
	6. Gondal HO	20. Vijapur
	7. Surendranagar HO	21. Morbi
	8. Veraval Ho	22. Junegadh
	9. Amreli HO	23. Veraval
	10. K. Mandvi SO	24. Valsad
	11. Botad HO	25. Vapi
	12. Khambhalia HO	26. Navsari
	13. Gandhidam SO	27. Bharuch
3. Fatehganj HO Vadodara	1. Vadodara HO	28. Ankleshwar
	2. Race Course SO	29. Amreli
	3. Anand Ho	30. Bhavnagar
	4. Godhra HO	31. Jamnagar
	5. Nadiad HO	32. Bhuj
	6. ONGC SO	33. Gandhidham
	7. Dahod HO	34. Porbandar
	8. Dakor HO	35. Surendranagar
	9. Halol SO	36. Nandiad
	10. Kheda HO	
	11. Miyagamkarjan SO	
	12. Daboi SO	
	13. MI Estate SO	
	14. (Vadodara)	
	14. Savli SO	
	15. Vaghodia SO	
4. Surat HO, Surat	1. Nanpura HO	
	2. Bharuch HO	
	3. Navsari HO	
	4. Valsad HO	
	5. Udhna SO	
	6. Kim SO	
	7. Navyug college SO	
	8. SVR College SO	
	9. Belimora HO	
	10. Chikhil SO	
	11. Silvassa SO	
	12. Vapi SO	
	13. Vapi IESO	
	14. Bardoli HO	
	15. Sachin SO	

*[Translation]***New Telephone Exchange**

2106. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges set up in rural and backward areas of the country particularly in Kerala during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any target was fixed for setting up new telephone exchanges in the said areas during 2000-2001;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve telephone services/facilities in backward areas of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The State-wise number of new telephone exchanges set up in rural/backward areas of the country, including Kerala, during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) For the year 2000-01, the State-wise targets for setting up new telephone exchanges in rural/backward areas, are given in enclosed statement -II.

(d) New telephone exchanges are planned to reduce the length of Customer Access Network with a view to improve the service. Poleless Customer Access Network is being implemented in the Circle in a phased manner. RLUs/RSUs are being opened in Backward/ Rural areas to improve the efficiency as well as providing additional facilities.

Statement-I

State-wise No. of New Telephone Exchanges set up in the Rural and Backward Areas of the Country during the last three years i.e. 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

S No.	State/Union Territory	No of New Exchanges opened during the last three years
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	289
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	12

1	2	3
3.	Assam	84
4.	Bihar including Jharkhand	75
5.	Gujarat including Union Territory of Dadara and Nagar Haveli, Daman, Diu	519
6.	Haryana	78
7.	Himachal Pradesh	96
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	32
9.	Karnataka	135
10.	Kerala including Union Territory of Lakshadweep	108
11.	Madhya Pradesh including Chattisgarh	82
12.	Maharashtra including Goa	731
13.	North East including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram	80
14.	Orissa	73
15.	Punjab including Union Territory of Chandigarh	238
16.	Rajasthan	423
17.	Tamilnadu including Union Territory of Pondicherry	170
18.	UP East	299
19.	UP West including Uttranchal	247
20.	West Bengal including Sikkim	312
Total		4083

Statement-II

State-wise No. of New Telephone Exchanges Proposed to be set up in the Rural and Backward Areas of the Country during to 2000-2001

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of New Exchanges proposed to be opened during 2000-2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	6

1	2	3
3.	Assam	60
4.	Bihar including Jharkhand	250
5.	Gujarat including Union Territory of Dadara and Nagar Haveli, Daman, Diu	400
6.	Haryana	30
7.	Himachal Pradesh	75
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	30
9.	Karnataka	150
10.	Kerala including Union Territory of Lakshadweep	30
11.	Madhya Pradesh including Chattisgarh	100
12.	Maharashtra including Goa	800
13.	North East including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram	40
14.	Orissa	75
15.	Punjab including Union Territory of Chandigarh	75
16.	Rajasthan	250
17.	Tamilnadu including Union Territory of Pondicherry	50
18.	UP East	350
19.	UP West including Uttranchal	50
20.	West Bengal including Sikkim	210
Total		3331

[English]

C.R.R.I. Recommendation for Road Safety

2107.SHRI A.P JITHENDER REDDY :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Road Research Institute has made several recommendations for the safety on roads, road construction and maintenance;

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

(c) whether the Government have also been actively considering to adopt Japanese technology on road constructions and maintenance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The Central Road Research Institute is carrying out research studies in road safety, road construction and maintenance and making recommendations on various topics from time to time. These are incorporated in various specifications and guidelines as appropriate.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, International expertise including from Japan is being utilised in specialised areas.

[Translation]

Supply of Water to Rajasthan

2108.SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan is receiving only 1% of the total available water resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to supply water from the Ganga/Yamuna river to Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Progress achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per Government of Rajasthan, 47 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of water is available to them including ground water and external resource.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and among the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to inter-alia carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Prospective Plan. The Plan envisages 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular rivers development component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan rivers development component. Under the Himalayan component of National Perspective Plan, transfer of surplus water of

Sarda, a tributary of Ganga, through the links of Sarda-Yamuna and Yamuna-Rajasthan is envisaged. NWDA has completed the pre-feasibility studies of the links. Implementation of water transfer link proposals is inter alia linked to how soon the detailed project reports with estimate of cost are prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds for their implementation.

[English]

Construction of National Highway from Mokama to Farakka

2109. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken to complete construction work of National Highway-80 from Mokama to Farakka;
- (b) the progress made in the construction work during the current financial year;
- (c) whether alignment of this National Highway in West Bengal portion has been finalised; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI.) : (a) and (b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken depending upon the intensity of traffic, inter-se priority on all India basis and availability of funds etc. 15 numbers of works amounting to Rs 1316.41 lakh have been approved and funds are allocated for the purpose. The State Government has been directed to complete these works at the earliest. Two works amounting to Rs. 109.78 lakh have since been completed.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Survey and investigation of the alignment is in progress.

Aircrafts of IA

2110. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some aircrafts of Indian Airlines are grounded for repairs due to Non-availability of spare parts during 2000, till-date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith time by which these are likely to be repaired;
- (c) the reasons for not keeping the stock of spare parts by the Indian Airlines; and

(d) the details of action plan formulated to upgrade and strengthen the workshops at New Delhi and other places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The workshops of Indian Airlines are adequately equipped for the maintenance of its fleet. Upgradation of the workshops is a continuous process and is undertaken on a regular basis.

Overcrowding of Passengers by International Airlines

2111. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the international airlines are overcrowding and huddling the passengers specially in Economy classes leading to deadly diseases for passengers as reported in Times of India dated February 10, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No such complaints have been received by the Government so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation and Protection of Endangered Species

2112. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

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

- (a) whether rate of reduction of some of wild animals and birds species in the country is quite alarming and likely to affect all life in the eco system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a sharp decline;
- (c) whether the Government propose to launch new animal protection and conservation programmes like the project Tiger in the country.
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have any plan to develop the existing zoos/ sanctuaries and start more zoological parks/bird sanctuaries in the country to protect the fast depleting zoological wealth of India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocation of funds for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU) : (a) and (b) With the rising human population and increase in the pace of development, decline in the extent of wild habitat and reduction in wild animal population cannot be ruled out. However, specific instance of sharp decline in the population of wild animal species has not come to the notice.

(c) and (d) The funding pattern of the scheme "Development of National Park and Sanctuaries" has been upgraded to provide special protection to Snow Leopard, Red Panda, Rhino, Sangai Deer, Hangul, Phary's Leaf Monkey, Musk Deer, Black Buck, Chowsingha, Chinkara, Great Indian Bustard and Marine Turtles.

(e) Government of India provides assistance to the States for the development and management of existing zoos and sanctuaries in various States of the country. While Government of India encourages setting up of new National Parks and Sanctuaries, the assistance for the zoos for the time being is limited to existing zoos.

(f) . No State-wise allocation is made in the centrally sponsored scheme under wildlife sector. Funds are allocated on the basis of Annual Plan of Operation, for various National Parks, Sanctuaries and zoos, received from the State Governments. However, due consideration is given to the number and extent of wildlife reserves in the State.

[Translation]

National Policy On Labour

2113.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new national labour policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest position in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the national labour policy is likely to be announced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Review and updating of Labour Policy is a continuous process in order to make it in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. The Labour Policy is, to a large extent, governed by various labour laws. The Government has been amending these laws from time to time to make them more meaningful and effective. A National Commission on Labour has been set up to suggest rationalization of the existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organized sector. A two-year time frame has been given to the National Commission on Labour to submit its recommendations for consideration of the Government.

[English]

Command Area Development Programme

2114.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of the Command Area Development Programme;

(b) the extent to which these objectives have been realised since the inception of the programme;

(c) whether any shortcomings have been noticed in the implementation of the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme was launched in the country with the objective of improving utilization of already created irrigation potential and to optimise the agricultural production from irrigated lands. This was envisaged through development of infrastructure at the micro level and by adopting innovative management techniques. Evaluation studies conducted in the past indicated that there have been improvements in better utilisation of irrigation potential created, increase in agricultural production and productivity, better and equitable distribution of irrigation water among farmers in many projects. However, in the past, a few shortcomings have also been noticed which include unreliability of availability of water at the government outlet, problem of water logging, lack of farmers involvement in irrigation management and inadequate monitoring. To overcome these problems, certain steps have been taken which include addition of a new component "Reclamation of waterlogged areas in

the irrigated commands" under the programme and provision of one time functional grant to registered and functional Water User's Association since 01-04-1996 and intensification of monitoring.

Match Fixing Scandal

2115.SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of persons held responsible during the last match fixing scandals;
- (b) the details of punishment awarded in each individual case; and
- (c) the measures taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents of corruption in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) Central Bureau of Investigations in its report on Match Fixing and related malpractices, has indicated 5 Indian players viz. Azharuddin, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Sharma, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia and Dr. Ali Irani, Physiotherapist. Apart from this some bookies and punters and some foreign players have also been indicated in the report.

(b) BCCI has banned Azharuddin for life and Ajay Jadeja, Ajay Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, and Dr. Ali Irani for 5 years from all cricketing activities. BCCI has exonerated Nayan Mongia.

(c) BCCI has drafted a detailed Code of conduct for all involved in the game of cricket. Government is also considering the formulation of a code of conduct for NSFs, sportspersons and others.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras Scheme

2116.SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in order to improve the postal services in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of PSSKs set up in the country at present, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of said PSSKs proposed to be set up in the country during 2001-02, location-wise ?

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

(b) and (c) The Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) was initially launched in 1995 as a pilot project in five States. In 1996-97, the scheme was extended to five more States. In 1998, the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana (PSSY) scheme was included in the Plan Scheme of "Expansion of Postal Network" of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras sanctioned so far State-wise is given in enclosed statement.

(d) It is proposed to open 2000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) during the Annual Plan 2001-2002. Within their respective targets, the Heads of Circles finalise the locations based on demand as per norm-based justification and co-operation of the Panchayat concerned.

Statement

Sl.No. Circles		No. of PSSKs opened from 1995 to January 2001						Total
		95-96	96-97	97-98*	98-99	99-2000	2000-2001**	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	nil	nil	nil	31	30	32	93
2.	Assam	nil	nil	nil	nil	5	12	17
3.	Bihar	nil	31	nil	17	40	165	253
4.	Delhi					nil		
5.	Gujarat	42	15	nil	20	38	27	142
6.	Haryana	nil	7	nil	nil	10	46	63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7. Himachal Pradesh	108	nil	nil	nil	10	32	150	
8. Jammu and Kashmir					nil			
9. Karnataka	35	nil	nil	10	14	1	60	
10. Kerala					nil			
11. Madhya Pradesh	nil	15	nil	55	80	90	240	
12. Maharashtra	nil	20	nil	10	62	15	107	
13. North East	nil	nil	nil	nil	5		5	
14. Orissa	20	14	1	29	30	5	99	
15. Punjab	nil	nil	nil	5	20	28	53	
16. Rajasthan	nil	15	nil	nil	35	19	69	
17. Tamil Nadu	nil	nil	nil	12	30	31	73	
18. Uttar Pradesh	236	91	nil	30	67	152	576	
19. West Bengal	nil	nil	nil	5	10		15	
Total	441	208	1	224	486	655	2015	

*No targets allotted

**up to January 2001

Development of Air Strip in Newly Created States

2117.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop an air strip in Uttranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh States to ensure operation of normal flights and aircrafts in the capital of these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action to develop air strip is likely to be taken place ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains and operates the airports at Ranchi, Raipur and Dehradun which have been declared as capital cities of the newly formed States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttranchal. Indian Airlines is operating their scheduled services with A-320 class of aircraft through Ranchi and Raipur and Dornier-228 class of aircraft through Dehradun.

National Commission On Labour

2118.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up another National Commission of Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Government has already set up the Second National Commission on Labour on 15.10.1999. The Commission is required to submit its final report by 15.10.2001.

[Translation]

Private Companies in Telephone Industry

2119.SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies are also engaged in the work of telephone service and telephone industry besides the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the names of such companies engaged as on date; and

(c) the extent of increase in the number of said companies after 1995 ?

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

(b) and (c) The details in respects of the private companies engaged in telephone service industry (providing basic and cellular mobile telephone services) in the year 1995 and as on date, are placed in the enclosed statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Private Companies engaged in providing Basic Telephone Service in the year 1995	Name of the Private Companies engaged in providing Basic Telephone Service as on date
1	Nil	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.
2	Nil	M/s Hughes Tele. Com Ltd.
3	Nil	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
4	Nil	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.
5	Nil	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.
6	Nil	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the private companies who had been granted Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service upto the year 1995	Name of the Private Companies engaged in the work of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as upto date
1	2	3
1	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.
2	Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Sterling Cellular Ltd.
3	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd
4	Hutchison Max Telecom	Hutchison Max Telecom
5	Spice Cell Ltd.	Spice Cell Ltd.
6	Usha Martin Telecom. Ltd.	Usha Martin Telecom. Ltd.
7	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.
8	Skycell Communications	Skycell Communications
9	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.
10	Bharti Mobile Limited	Bharti Mobile Limited
11	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
12	Tata Cellular Ltd.	Tata Cellular Ltd.
13	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt.Ltd.
14	BPL Cellular Ltd.	BPL Cellular Ltd.
15	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.
16	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	RPG Cellcom Ltd.
17	Birla AT and T Communications	Birla AT and T Communications

1	2	3
18	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
19		Hexacom India
20		Spice Communications Ltd.
21		Aircel Limited
22		FASCEL Ltd.

*[English]***Switch on Telephone Network**

2120. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce switch on telephone network in Karnataka particularly in Bangalore during the year 2001-02;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, all the exchanges are termed as switches in technical language.

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

National Highways Development Projects

2121. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Development projects are taken up without adequate project preparation leading to delays and cost overruns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fund allocated for these projects are underutilised and due emphasis has not been given on quality; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir. Projects are being prepared by experienced consultants keeping in view the high standards of requirements for National Highway Development Projects (NHDP). The projects are in various

stages of preparation, award and implementation. No delays and cost overruns are expected and targets set for NHDP are expected to be achieved.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Funds allocated are being invested on projects and also being put to long term use, such as leveraging investment, debt servicing, etc. Due emphasis is being given on quality.

(d) Does not arise.

Forest Development Corporations

2122. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

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

(a) the names of States in which Forest Development Corporation are functioning at present; and

(b) the funds spent thereon during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) This information is not collected and collated by the Ministry.

Statement**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS**

Names of the States in which Forest Development Corporations have been set up

No.	Name of States
1	2
1	Andhra Pradesh
2	Arunchal Pradesh

1	2
3	Bihar
4	Jharkhand
5	Gujarat
6	Haryana
7	Himachal Pradesh
8	Jammu and Kashmir
9	Karnataka
10	Kerala
11	Madhya Pradesh
12	Chhatisgarh
13	Maharashtra
14	Meghalaya
15	Orissa
16	Punjab
17	Tamil Nadu
18	Tripura
19	Uttar Pradesh
20	Uttaranchal
21	West Bengal
22	A and N Island

[Translation]

Steps to Promote Sports

2123. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to promote sports;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to make sports a compulsory subject at school level; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) After the Sydney Olympic Games 2000, performance of Indian Sports Persons in Sydney Olympic Games was discussed in many meetings including the Parliamentary Standing Committee and Consultative Committee. Government is taking following initiatives/measures to improve standard of sports in india:

- (i) Broadening the base-especially for competitive sports.
- (ii) Improved infrastructure for the National Teams.
- (iii) Improving the knowledge of our Coaching Community.
- (iv) Improving the practical knowledge of our sports scientists to enable them to contribute along with the coaches to enhance performance of sports persons.
- (v) Improved functioning and professionalisation in management of Sports Federations.
- (vi) Greater involvement of States in the development of Sports Infrastructure and improved training of sport persons.
- (vii) Involving the private sector to adopt and sponsor individual/specific sports disciplines.
- (viii) To create awareness in the general public for greater participation in sports activities.

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

[English]

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

2124. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide any financial assistance to the voluntary Organisations for the projects pertaining to child and female labourers; and

(b) if so, the names of the voluntary organisations to whom financial assistance has been provided together with the extent of amount provided to them during 1999-2000 and from April to October, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government provides financial assistance to Voluntary/Non Governmental Organisations for taking up project work oriented for the benefit of child and female labourers under the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies/Non-Governmental Organisations.

(b) The names of the Voluntary Organisations, to whom financial assistance has been provided along with the extent of amount provided to them during 1999-2000 and from April to October, 2000 are enclosed as per statement I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Total grants released under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to NGOs in respect of Child Labour Cell during the year 1999-2000

	INST.I	INST.II	TOTAL
	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh			
Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubangar			0
Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor		29700	29700
Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubangar			0
Youth Association for Rural Education and Dev., Khammam			0
Sri Triveni Education Academy, Nandigama, Khammam	264075		264075
Zilla Vikalangula Sangam, Vinakonda, Guntur	71250		71250
Sub-Total Andhra Pradesh	335325	29700	365025
Bihaar			
Daroga Pd. Roy Mahilla Mandal, Hakimpur, Vaishali	157050	26862	183912
Manorama Mahila Mandal, Vaishali	106875	11939	118814
Chandrika Sewa Sadan, Vaishali	286500		286500
Mahua Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parisad, Vaishali	125831		125831
Gopal Samaj Kalyan Prathishthan, Nalanda	55097		55097
Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxar		90217	90217
Samta Gram Sewa Sansthan, Patna			0
Vaishali Kunj, Hajipur	280050		280050
Asha Foundation, Patna	203287		203287
Pragati Foundation, Muzaffarpur	159900	39975	199875
Alpshankhyak Mahila Prathishthan Kendra, Patna	172950	43273	216223
Mithila Gram Vikas Parishad	26740		26740
Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Nalanda	48682		48682
Chandrashekhar Yova Kendra, Vaishali	124669		124669
Lord Budha Mission, Vaishali	126450		126450
Jaya Prabha Academy, Patna	126956		126956
Helping India, Saran	280275		280275
Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sansthan, Dharbhanga	110700		110700
Bhartiya Jan Manch, Patna	189085		189085
Vidyashree Niketan, Patna			0
Subidha International, West Champaran	135075		135075
Sub-Total Bihar	2,716,172	212266	2,928,438

	1	2	3
Haryana			
Modern Education Society, Sonapat	187500	46875	234375
Amr Jyoti Shiksha Samiti, Jind	185625	46406	232031
Haryana Lok Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Panipat	79227	45394	124621
Sub-Total Haryana	452352	138675	591027
Jammu and Kashmir			
Social Welfare of India, Rajouri	142425		142425
Sub-Total Jammu and Kashmir	142425	0	142425
Kerala			
Tagore Memorial Charitable Society, Thiruvananthpuram			0
Sub-Total Kerala	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh			
Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Educational Society, Bhopal	156000		156000
Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal	137025	37856	174881
Sub-Total Madhya Pradesh	293025	37856	330881
Manipur			
Social Environment and Rural Technology Council, Pallel		68192	68192
Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Imphal			0
Rural Health Organisation, West Senapati	41589	24249	65838
Manipur Rural Institute, Imphal			0
United Rural Development Service, Thoubal	66,713		66,713
Sub-Total Manipur	108302	92441	200743
New Delhi			
Dr. A.V.Baliga Memorial Trust, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg	336712		336712
PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj			0
Namrata Education Trust, Munirika			0
Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri	117112		117112
Mobile Creches, Gole Market	222581		222581
Sub-Total New Delhi	676405	0	676405
Orissa			
Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal	106598	9,777	116,375

	1	2	3
Project Swarajya, Cuttack.			
NYSADRI, Dhekanal	114346		114,346
Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Angul	191447		191,447
PRRIYA, Balasore		231,469	231,469
Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan, Puri		183,273	183,273
Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Center, Chandrasekharpur			
Institute for Communication and Development Action, Bhadrak		61,354	61,354
Ruchika Social Service Wing, Bhubaneswar	523725		523725
Sub-Total Orissa	936116	485,873	1,421,989
Tamil Nadu			
Village Reconstruction and Development Project, Salem			
TN Village Consumers Protection Council, New		105,130	105,130
TN Village Consumer's Protection Council, Old	63,450		63,450
Prakriti Trust, Chennai	37,500		37,500
Sub-Total Tamil Nadu	100,950	105,130	206,080
Uttar Pradesh			
Ambika Devi High School Kanya Vidyalaya, Mirzapur	313144		313,144
Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria	170,776		170,776
Project Mala, Mirzapur	265,228		265,228
Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria	120,900		120,900
Children Emancipation Society, "Project Mala", Mirzapur	218250		218,250
Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Deoria	170775		170,775
Bijnor Seva Sansthan, Bijnor	140250		140,250
Jan Seva Samithi Allahabad	187336		187,336
Bal Vikas Avam Mahila Parishad, Gonda	170250		170,250
Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti	179220		179,220
Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samithi	170700		170,700
Shikha Mahila Samiti, Basti	37094	21,956	59,050
Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehraiganj		53,017	53,017
Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti		76,572	76,572
All India Women's Conferennce, Kanpur			—
Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirzapur			—
Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Avam Mahila Sewa Sansthan.	160200	40,050	200,250

	1	2	3
Krishak Vikas Samiti, Ghazipur		173,349	173,349
Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj			
Umashankar Tiwari Smarak Shiksha Samiti, Allahabad	143625		143,625
Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria	117562		117,562
Rurai Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), Dehradun	98,775		98,775
Gram Vikas Sewa Samiti, Allahabad	41,457		41,457
Sub-Total Uttar Pradesh	2,705,542	364,944	3,070,486
West Bengal			
Bagmari Youth Progressive Association, Calcutta	130380		130,380
Bhagra Diamond Club, Burdwan	60,250		60,250
Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore	246881		246,881
Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas	129562		129,562
Jan Siksha Prachar Kendra, Calcutta	169895		169,895
SEED, Howrah	177786	46,079	223,865
Center for Social Development, North-24 Parganas	40,085		40,085
Tafe Palli Milani Sangha, South 24 Parganas			
Sub-Total West Bengal	954839	46,079	1,000,918
Maharashtra			
Ahilyadevi Mahila Mandal	195810	106,212	302,022
Sub-Total Maharashtra	195810	106,212	302,022
Total	9,617,263	1,619,176	11,236,439

As on 31.3.2000

Expenditure in Respect of Women Cell during the Financial Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the Organization	Amount released
1	2	3
1.	Centre of Rural Upliftment Service, Manipur	Rs. 18,300/-
2.	Rural Orgn. For Social Education, A.P.	Rs. 20,963/-
3.	Bachward Development Orgn. Thoubal, Manipur	Rs. 18,455/-
4.	Rural Peoples Dev.Orgn., Manipur	Rs. 27,188/-
5.	Society for Women's Eduction Action and Reflection Thoubal, Manipur	Rs. 25,125/-
6.	Instt.For Non-formal Adult and Conti. Education Kerala	Rs. 63,340/-
7.	Gram Vikas Parisad, Nagaon, Assam	Rs. 56,000/-

1	2	3
8.	Social Welfare and Dev. Orgn., Imphal, Manipur	Rs.37,477/-
9.	Solidarity Movement of India, Kerala	Rs.11,241/-
10.	Lalchuni Smarak Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Bihar	Rs.17,625/-
11.	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali, A.P.	Rs.39,769/-
12.	Grama Seva Bhavan, Kerala	Rs.67,500/-
13.	Dakshin Lazmi Narayanpur Yuba Sangha, W.B.	Rs.8,100/-
14.	Lucknow Mahila Seva Trust, Lucknow, U.P.	Rs.81,000/-
15.	Naari Drishti, New Delhi	Rs.81,938/-
16.	Harijan Surakhya Committee, Orissa	Rs.59,000/-
17.	Christian Social Service, Calcutta	Rs.1,05,000/-
18.	Maruti Rural Development Society, A.P.	Rs.18,739/-
19.	Indian Instt. for sustainable Development Trust, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Rs.58,196/-
20.	ASRAYA Rural Human Resource Development Center, Kerala	Rs.76,781/-
21.	Rural Education and Economic Development Society, A.P.	Rs.9,919/-
22.	Self Employed Women's Association, M.P.	Rs.38,813/-
23.	Rural Industries Development Association, Manipur	Rs.1,24,875/-
24.	Women's Income Generation Centre, Manipur	Rs.80,000/-
25.	Youth Development Organisation, Manipur	Rs.93,375/-
26.	Research Institute Rajagiri College of Social Science, Kerala	Rs.1,08,000/-
27.	Self Employed Women's Association, Gujarat	Rs.29,000/-
28.	Ahilyadevi Mahila Mandali, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Rs.36,258/-

Statement-II

*Total Grants released under GIA to NGOs in respect of Child Labour Cell
(For the period from April to October 2000)*

	Budget	INST.I	INST.II	TOTAL
	1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh				
Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubangar	316200	162924		162924
Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor				0
Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubangar				0
Youth Association for Rural Education and Dev., Khammam				0
Sri Triveni Education Academy, Nandigama, Khammam				0
Zilla Vikalangula Sangam, Vinakonda, Guntur	380000			0
Sub-Total Andhra Pradesh	696200	162924	0	162924

	1	2	3	4
Bihar				
Daroga Pd. Roy Mahilla Mandal, Hakimpur, Vaishali				0
Manorama Mahila Mandal, Vaishali				0
Chandrika Sewa Sadan, Vaishali				0
Mahua Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parisad, Vaishali		41944		41944
Gopal Samaj Kalyan Prathishthan, Nalanda				0
Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxar				0
Samta Garm Sewa Sansthan, Patna		186187		186187
Vaishali Kunj, Hajipur				0
Asha Foundation, Patna				0
Pragati Foundation, Muzaffarpur		119925		119925
Alpshankhyak Mahila Prathishthan Kendra, Patna		129677		129677
Mithila Gram Vikas Parishad				0
Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Nalanda				0
Chandrashekhar Yova Kendra, Vaishali				0
Lord Budha Mission, Vaishali		55683		55683
Jaya Prabha Academy, Patna		56425		56425
Helping India, Saran				0
Bharitya Gramin Seva Sansthan, Dharbhanga				0
Bhartiya Jan Manch, Patna	336150	63028		63028
Vidyashree Niketan, Patna				0
Subidha International, West Champaran		98425		98425
Sub-Total Bihar	336150	751294	0	751,294
Haryana				
Modern Education Society, Sonipat		140625		140625
Amr Jyoti Shiksha Samiti, Jind		137924		137924
Haryana Lok Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Panipat		136,172		136,172
Sub-Total Haryana	0	414721	0	414721
Jammu and Kashmir				
Social Welfare of India, Rajouri		47475		47475
Sub-Total Jammu and Kashmir	0	47475	0	47475
Kerala				
Tagore Memorial Charitable Society, Thiruvananthpuram				0
Sub-Total Kerala	0	0	0	0

	1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh				
Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Educational Society, Bhopal		13000		13000
Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal		106941		106941
Sub-Total Madhya Pradesh	0	119941	0	119941
Manipur				
Social Environment and Rural Technology Council, Pallel				0
Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Imphal	65700	11385		11385
Rural Health Organisation, West Senapati	45450	8,518		8,518
Manipur Rural Institute, Imphal	385800	63626		63626
United Rural Development Service, Thoubal				0
Sub-Total Manipur	496950	83529	0	83529
New Delhi				
Dr. A.V.Baliga Memorial Trust, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg.		112238		112238
PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj.				0
Namrata Education Trust, Munirika				0
Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri				0
Mobile Creches, Gole Market.	395700	139013		139013
Sub-Total New Delhi	395700	251251	0	251251
Orissa				
Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal				
Project Swarajya, Cuttack				
NYSADRI, Dhekanal				
Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Angul	191447	63816		63816
PRRIYA, Balasore		138881		138,881
Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan, Puri		44888		44,888
Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre, Chandrasekharpur	167200	125126		125126
Institute for Communication and Development Action, Bhadrak	206800	105900		105,900
Ruchika Social Service Wing, Bhubaneswar				-
Sub-Total Orissa	565447	478611	0	478,611
Tamil Nadu				
Village Reconstruction and Development Project, Salem				
Organisation for Rural Development, Madurai		221175		221,175

	1	2	3	4
TN Village Consumers Protection Council, New	158400	118800		118,800
TN Village Consumers Protection Council, Old	112800	21,150		21,150
Prakriti Trust, Chennai				-
Sub-Total Tamil Nadu	271200	361125	0	361,125
Uttar Pradesh				
Ambika Devi High School Kanya Vidyalaya, Mirzapur		104110		104,110
Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria				-
Project Mala, Mirzapur				-
Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria				-
Children Emancipation Society, "Project Mala", Mirzapur.				-
Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Deoria				-
Bijnor Seva Sansthan, Bijnor	187000	35062		35,062
Jan Seva Samithi Allahabad				-
Bal Vikas Avam Mahila Parishad, Gonda	227000	170711		170,711
Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti				-
Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samithi				-
Shikha Mahila Samiti, Basti	117100	64744		64,744
Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehraiganj	129750	72985		72,985
Vashnavi Shiksha Samiti Allahabad	477200	283425		283,425
Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti		108503		108,503
All India Women's Studies and Dev. Org., Kanpur		106313		106,313
All India Women's Conferennce, Kanpur		133615		133,615
Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirjapur				-
Harijan Nirbal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad		313238		313,238
Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Avam Mahila Sewa Sansthan		118964		118,964
Krishak Vikas Samiti, Ghazipur.				-
Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj.				-
PARAKH, Allahabad	136125	90406		90,406
Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria				-
Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), Dehradun				-
Gram Vikas Sewa Samiti, Allahabad				-
Sub-Total Uttar Pradesh	1274175	1602076	0	1602076

	1	2	3	4
West Bengal				
Bagmari Youth Progressive Association, Calcutta				—
Bhagra Diamond Club, Burdwan				—
Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore				—
Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas				—
Jan Siksha Prachar Kendra, Calcutta				—
Karimpur Social Welfare Society	193550	140652		140,652
SEED, Howrah		134494		134,494
Centre for Social Development, North-24 Parganas				—
Tafa Palli Milani Sangha, South 24 Parganas				—
Indian Rural Medical Association, Calcutta	658000	374812		374,812
Village Welfare Society, Calcutta	658000	374812		374,812
Sub-Total West Bengal	1509550	1024770	0	1,024,770
Maharashtra				
Ahilyadevi Mahila Mandal, Nagpur	239600	46938		46,938
Sub-Total Maharashtra	239600	46938		46,938
Total	5764972	5344655	0	5,344,655

*Expenditure In Respect of Women Cell during the
Financial Year 2000-2001 (Till October, 2000)*

S.No.	Name of the Organization	Amount released
1	2	3
1.	Solidarity Movement of India, Kerala	Rs. 1,02,515/-
2.	Integrated Rural Dev. And Educational Orgn., Thoubal, Manipur	Rs. 66,094/-
3.	Backward Development Orgn. Thoubal, Manipur.	Rs. 1,07,269/-
4.	Aponglar Welfare Society, Nagaland	Rs. 38,813/-
5.	Adarsh Mahila Mandli, A.P.	Rs. 37,688/-
6.	Rural Girijana Welfare Society, A.P.	Rs. 41,288/-

1	2	3
7.	Grama Sewa Bhavan, Kerala	Rs. 11,000/-
8.	Gram Vikas Parasad, Assam	Rs. 18,955/-
9.	Dr. Ambedkar Dalithavarga Abhivruddi Sangam, A.P.	Rs. 56,216/-
		Rs. 4,79,830/-

Smelter Plant of NALCO

2125.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the expansion of the Smelter Plant of NALCO is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the proposal; and

(d) the total amount likely to be invested in the expansion programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (d) Government have already approved the proposal for expansion of the Smelter Plant of NALCO which will raise its capacity from 2,30,000 Tonnes Per Year (TPY) to 3,45,000 TPY at a cost of Rs.1641.98 crores to be completed by May, 2002. This expansion project is under implementation. There is no fresh proposal for expansion of the Smelter Plant under consideration of the Government.

Threat from Chambal Ravines

2126.SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ravines slowly swallow up villages on Chambal basin" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 20, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of villages under threat from Chambal Ravines; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect these villages from environmental tragedy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telecom Facility

2127.SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are on the waiting list for telephone connection in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, State wise;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(d) the number of telephone exchange functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(e) the amount spent on the installation and maintenance of such telephone exchanges during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government propose to provide additional facilities such as Caller-ID and Video conferencing facilities in landline telephone sets; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on 31/01/2001, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, States-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) It has been envisaged to provide telephone connection on demand in the country by 31/03/2002 progressively with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of the service PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) of Ministry of Communications.

(d) The number of telephone exchanges functioning in the country as on 31/01/2001, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(e) The amount spent on the installation and maintenance of telephone exchanges during the last three years is as under :

Year	Amount (Crores)
1997-98	8207.28
1998-99	9067.33
1999-2000	11389.58

(f) and (g) There is no proposal at present to provide Caller-ID/Video conferencing facilities in the telephone sets. However, Integrated Digital Services Network (ISDN) can be used for Video conferencing purpose. Telephone sets with video conferencing facility are available in the market which can be purchased by subscriber with interface approval from Telecom Engineering Centre for usage on the ISDN lines. Similarly the Caller-ID may also be maintained by the subscriber using specific telephone instruments. Such instruments will have to be purchased by the subscribers themselves.

Statement-I

Details of State-Wise Waiting List as on 31/03/2001

S. No.	Name of State	Waiting-List as on 31/1/2001
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar	2115
2	Andhra Pradesh	342053

1	2	3
3	Assam	25680
4	Bihar	132254
5	Gujarat	212473
6	Haryana	107857
7	Himachal Pradesh	44174
8	Jammu and Kashmir	37490
9	Karnataka	291889
10	Kerala	833668
11	Madhya Pradesh	32570
12	Maharashtra	448583
13	North East	26379
14	Orissa	38484
15	Punjab	228146
16	Rajasthan	130036
17	Tamil Nadu	413008
18	Uttar Pradesh	269057
19	West Bengal	212105
20	Delhi	63171
Total		3891192

Note : Gujarat State includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).

Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).

Maharashtra States includes Goa and Mumbai.

North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura State.

Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).

Tamil Nadu State includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).

West Bengal State includes Calcutta and Sikkim State.

Bihar State includes Jharkhand State.

Madhya Pradesh State includes Chattisgarh State.

Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttranchal State.

Statement-II

Details of State-wise Telephone Connections Provided during Last Three Years

S.No.	Name of State	Telephone Connection Provided		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman and Nicobar	2021	7501	8690
2	Andhra Pradesh	216487	404980	655088
3	Assam	36477	50375	61162
4	Bihar	66294	103128	125179
5	Gujarat	213824	255388	374022
6	Haryana	73081	96170	117436
7	Himachal Pradesh	40176	43217	60027
8	Jammu and Kashmir	20819	18501	22158
9	Karnataka	254378	237002	364715
10	Kerala	230010	271065	350055
11	Madhya Pradesh	102692	140352	154816
12	Maharashtra	501441	502129	657868
13	North East	23030	35116	43801
14	Orissa	67178	68175	89036
15	Punjab	165969	193469	208288
16	Rajasthan	147632	171445	182395
17	Tamil Nadu	364546	480238	546170
18	Uttar Pradesh	313918	341602	418217
19	West Bengal	238140	281745	301803
20	Delhi	180941	90392	176733
Total		3259045	3791990	4917659

Note : Gujarat State includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).

Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).

Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai.

North- East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.

Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).

Tamil Nadu State includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).

West Bengal State includes Calcutta and Sikkim State.

Bihar State includes Jharkhand State.

Madhya Pradesh State includes Chattisgarh State.

Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttranchal State.

Statement-III

Details of State-Wise Electronic Telephone Exchanges Functioning as on 31/01/2001

S. No.	Name of State	Electronic Telephone Exchanges as on 31.01.2001
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar	38
2	Andhra Pradesh	2592
3	Assam	459
4	Bihar	1185
5	Gujarat	2469
6	Haryana	889
7	Himachal Pradesh	746
8	Jammu and Kashmir	290
9	Karnataka	2405
10	Kerala	939
11	Madhya Pradesh	2996
12	Maharashtra	4242
13	North East	341
14	Orissa	941
15	Punjab	1228
16	Rajasthan	2003
17	Tamil Nadu	1816
18	Uttar Pradesh	3029
19	West Bengal	1200
20	Delhi	194
Total		30002

Note : Gujarat State includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).

Kerala State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).

Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai.

North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.

Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).

Tamil Nadu State includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).

West Bengal State includes Calcutta and Sikkim State.

Bihar State includes Jharkhand State.

Madhya Pradesh State includes Chattisgarh State.

Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttranchal State.

[Translation]

Afforestation Rate

2128. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an annual rate for afforestation has been fixed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date from which such a rate was fixed;

(c) whether the target regarding the rate of afforestation has been maintained;

(d) if not, the percentage of decline in annual rate of afforestation alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the fixed annual rate of afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Twenty Point Programme (TPP) was announced in 1982. Until, 1990, the targets were fixed for seedling distribution. Thereafter, these targets are fixed in terms of two mutually exclusive items, viz. seedling distribution for planting on private lands (Points No.16 A), and area coverage through afforestation and tree planting on public lands, including forest lands (Points No.16 B). The Ministry of Environment and Forests was assigned the nodal responsibility in the Central Government for fixing of annual targets and monitoring performance under point No.16 from 1985 onwards. Targets fixed from 1985-86 onwards and the corresponding achievements are given in the statement enclosed. The targets fixed over this period have varied from 1.45 million hectares to 2 million hectares annually, as these are set primarily keeping in view the annual plan allocations provided to the Centre and the States in the forestry sector. Increase in annual targets for afforestation/tree planting at a consistent level,

and their achievement, over the years is subject to commensurate allocations being made available annually while taking into account the inflation factor, including the increase in wage rates in various States from time to time.

Statements

Targets and Achievements under Points No.16 of the Twenty Point Programme since 1985-86 for Afforestation and three Planting Activities

Targets/achievements in million hectares

Sl.No.	Year	Target	Achievement
1	1985-86	1.45	1.51
2	1986-87	1.71	1.75
3	1987-88	1.80	1.78
4	1988-89	2.00	2.12
5	1989-90	1.68	1.71
6	1990-91	1.80	1.39
7	1991-92	1.80	1.73
8	1992-93	1.79	1.68
9	1993-94	1.84	1.52
10	1994-95	1.64	1.54
11	1995-96	1.69	1.65
12	1996-97	1.69	1.56
13	1997-98	1.71	1.48
14	1998-99	1.73	1.57
15	1999-2000	1.92	2.01
16	2000-01	1.93	1.03
Total		28.18	26.03

Progress Reports from all States/UTs have not been received for the current financial year.

Note : Seedling distributed for plantations are notionally converted into area coverage @ 2000 seedlings per ha.

[English]

Amendment To Mines and Minerals Act

2129.COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan to further amend Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and to give more powers to State Government under the Act and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Government had recently amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and notified the same vide Gazette Notification (Extraordinary) dated 20.12.1999. Under the amended Act, State Governments have been delegated more power, procedure for grant and renewal of mining lease/prospecting licence has been simplified and State Governments have been empowered to frame Rules for preventing illegal mining etc. Consequential amendments in Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 have been notified in the Gazette of India vide notifications dated 18.1.2000, 25.9.2000 and 22.1.2001. Copies of these notifications have laid on the Table of the House on 3.3.2000, 27.11.2000 and 26.2.2001 respectively.

[Translation]

Aeroplane Manufacturing Technique

2130.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Poland has offered to provide aeroplane manufacturing technique to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) This Ministry has no information regarding offer of aeroplane manufacturing technique from Poland to India so far. However, on enquiry in this regard Embassy of the Republic of Poland, has indicated that M/ S PZL, Mielec, Poland, a leading manufacturer of aircraft have initiated talks with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.. (HAL), Bangalore recently on the possibility of their entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for supply and technical cooperation.

Airport Security

2131.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Palam Hawaii Adde Ke Pukhta Suraksha Prabandh Nahin" appearing in the Hindustan dated January 18, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported there in;

(c) the reasons for not paying attention towards airport security by the Airports Authority of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The news item mentioned various measures taken for the security of Indira Gandhi International Airport including the deployment of central security forces, surprise checks, review meetings etc. , as also some of their concerns. There is a well laid-down system for ensuring security of the airport, with Delhi Police as the primary agency responsible for providing the security as per standards laid down by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. Regular inspections, reviews and surprise checks are conducted to ensure adequacy of the security arrangements.

[English]

Funds Under Command Area Development Programme

2132. Shri R.L.JALAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount released so far during 2000-2001 under Command Area Development Programme to various States; and

(b) The amount proposed to be released to States as on 31st March, 2001, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The total release of funds as central assistance made to the State Governments during 2000-2001 till 28.2.2001 is Rs. 10060.20 lakh, the state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. Any release of central assistance, however, depends on the basis of physical and financial performance and justification given by the State Governments.

Statement

State-wise release of funds made as central assistance during the year 2000-2001 till 28.2.2001

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Releases made (28.2.2001)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	3.75
2	Assam	33.45
3	Gujarat	18.67
4	Haryana	250.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	19.71
6	Jammu-Kashmir	165.19
7	Karnataka	685.01
8	Kerala	538.27
9	Madhya Pradesh	123.41
10	Maharashtra	205.14
11	Manipur	113.09
12	Orissa	329.36
13	Punjab	2133.49
14	Rajasthan	1592.19
15	Tamil Nadu	1677.38
16	Uttar Pradesh	1747.32
17	West Bengal	424.77
Total		10060.20

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Sponsorship from Sports

2133. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the leading cigarette company, ITC has withdrawn all its sponsorship from sports and cultural activities;

(b) if so, the number of sports which ITC used to sponsor and the period of such sponsorship;

(c) the sources from which the losses are proposed to be compensated after the ITC disassociating itself from sports activities in the near future;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban the telecast of the international cigarette brands through satellite channels from abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Synthetic Hockey Fields

2134. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has floated global tenders for relaying of Synthetic Surfaces for Hockey fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of times these tenders were floated;

(c) whether the Government is planning to cancel these tenders, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in finalising the same?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Global tenders for replacement of Synthetic Hockey Surfaces were floated as per details given below :—

(i) First global tender was issued on 31st October, 1998 for replacement of Synthetic Hockey Surfaces at SAI Southern Centre, Bangalore and Eastern Centre, Calcutta. The tenders received were discussed in 34th and 35th meetings of the Finance Committee held on 1.9.1999 and 28.1.2000 respectively. In the 35th meeting it was decided that re-tendering should be done as per standard procedure for replacement/laying of Synthetic Hockey Surfaces so as to include the requirement of two Synthetic Hockey Surfaces at National Stadium, New Delhi.

(ii) Second global tender was issued on 25th June, 2000 for Synthetic Surfaces at Southern Centre,

Bangalore, Eastern Centre, Calcutta and National Stadium, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) The offers received in response to global tenders issued on 25th June, 2000 were discussed by the Finance Committee in its meeting held on 20.12. 2000 and 15.1. 2001.

The Special Meeting of the Finance Committee of SAI, held on 15.1. 2001 deliberated over the issue and decided to send the samples of the Synthetic Hockey Surfaces to the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Kanpur for being laboratory tested and analysed for durability indicators. The samples were sent to DRDO, Kanpur and their report has now been received and is under discussion.

A final decision regarding acceptance/rejection of offers received in response to the global tender is yet to be taken.

Special School for Child Labourers in Belgaum

2135. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal relating to National Child Labour Project aimed at opening of special schools for the child labourers at Belgaum in Karnataka for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government received a proposal for a National Child Labour Project (NCLP) at Belgaum district in Karnataka for rehabilitation of working children. As per the survey conducted by the State Government of Karnataka, only 5 children were found engaged in Hazardous Industries and 151 children were identified as working in Non-hazardous occupations in Belgaum district. Further, district Belgaum has been accorded priority No. 13 by the State Government for NCLP. Considering the small number of working children in the district, the proposal was not found feasible for setting up a National Child Labour Project in Belgaum district as of now.

[Translation]

Speed Post Services

2136. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to introduce Speed Post Services in each big city in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) All the big cities in Chhattisgarh State namely, Baster, Kanker, Dantewada, Bilaspur, Korba, Janjgir, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Raipur, Mahasamund, Dhamtari, Raigarh, Sarguja, Morea, Jaspurmagar have already been provided Speed Post Services.

[English]

Emergence of River in Kutch Area

2137. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :

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

(a) whether a river has emerged in the Kutch area after the recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made on the sources of that river; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and other concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Postal/Telecom Projects

2138. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of postal and telecommunication projects in Orissa particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the targets set up and achievement made during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated action plan to develop and strengthen postal and telecommunication system in the State particularly in tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

POSTAL SECTOR

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has reviewed the progress of postal projects in Orissa. The progress made during the last three years in the State particularly in Tribal areas is as under :

Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00	
	State	Tribal	State	Tribal	State	Tribal
Installation of ESMOs	10	1	—	—	8	3
Modernisation of Post Offices	—	—	7	3	4	1

The various building projects in the tribal areas of the State of Orissa are as below :

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Construction of Post offices.	4	5	4
Construction of Staff quarters.	21	—	26

Most of the projects are on-going.

(c) and (d) For development of postal services, activities and programmes are formulated under Five Year Plans, which are then implemented under successive annual plans. The Department does not draw up plans State-wise. The Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be formulated.

Telecom Sector

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have reviewed the progress of telecommunication projects in Orissa particularly in Tribal areas. The Targets and Achievements of various telecommunication schemes introduced for Tribal areas in Orissa during the last three years are as under :

S.No.	Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement
1.	Telephone Exchanges	10	12	5	13	6	18
2.	Switching Capacity	3750	10088	8100	27326	15520	25692
3.	Direct-Exchange Line	3000	13373	6500	16265	9350	21858
4.	Village Public Tele-phones	1400	770	1500	863	1332	651
5.	Transmission System (RKM's)	250	71	20	32	17	85
6.	Satellite Stations	6	2	NIL	0	NIL	3

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The action plans for development of telecommunication are formulated annually. Therefore, it is not possible to give the details for the next five years at this stage. However, the annual plan for the next financial year 2001-2002 has been submitted to Planning Commission for approval.

Irrigation Benefits To States

2139. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to accelerate Irrigation-Benefits (AIB) in various States in the country particularly drought prone States;

(b) if so, the major and medium irrigation projects identified in the States for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure clearance of the proposal by the Central Water Commission and Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Central Government has in 1996-97 launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance to the States for the major / medium irrigation projects benefiting drought prone areas also with the objective to accelerate the implementation of the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advanced stage of completion.

(b) The names of major and medium projects included under the AIBP programme during 2000-01 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise, as only approved projects are included in this programme.

Statement

*Projects getting CLA under AIBP during 2000-2001 **

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Project	1	2
1	2	BIHAR	
	Major and Medium Projects	1	Western Kosi Canal
		2	Upper Kiul
	ANDHRA PRADESH	3	Orni Reservoir
1	Sriram Sagar (Stage-I)	4	Bilasi Reservoir
2	Cheyzeru (Annamaya)	5	Sone canal modernisation
3	Jurala	CHHATTISGARH	
4	Somasilla	1	Hasdeo Bango
5	Nagarjunsagar	2	Shivnath Diversion
6	Madduvalasa	GOA	
7	Gundalavaju	1	Salauli Phase-1
8	Maddigedda	2	Tukari
9	Kanpur Canal	GUJARAT	
10	Yerrakalva Res.	1	Sardar Sarovar
ASSAM		2	Aji-IV
1	Dhansiri	3	Ozat-II
2	Champamati	4	Mukteswar
3	Bordikarai	5	Brahmini-II
4	Integrated Irr. Scheme in Kollong Basin		

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
HIMACHAL PRADESH		9 Urmil		UTTAR PRADESH		7 Gyanpur Pump Canal	
1 Shahnehar Irrgn. Project		10 Banjar		1 Upper Ganga and Madhya Ganga		8 Eastern Ganga Canal	
2 Sidhata		MAHARASHTRA		2 Sharda Sahayak		WEST BENGAL	
3 Changer Lift		1 Gosikhurd		3 Sarju Nahar		1 Kangsabati	
JAMMU and KASHMIR		2 Surya		4 Kharif Channel in H.K. Doab		2 Tatko	
1 Mod. of Ranbir Canal		3 Waghur		5 Bansagar		3 Patloi	
2 Mod. of Pratap Canal		4 Upper Wardha		6 Tehri		4 Hanumata	
3 Mod. of Kathua Canal		5 Wan					
4 Rajpora Lift		6 Jayakwadi					
5 Tral Lift		7 Vishnupuri					
6 Igo-Phey		8 Bahula					
JHARKHAND		MEGHALAYA					
1 Latratu		1 Rengai Valley					
2 kansjore		ORISSA					
3 Sonua		1 Upper Indravati (RBC)					
4 Surangi		2 Rengali					
5 Batane		3 Upper kolab					
KARNATAKA		4 Titlagarh					
1 UKP Stage-I		5 Lower Indira					
2 Hirehalla		6 Lower Suktel					
3 Ghatprabha		RAJASTHAN					
4 Karanja		1 Jaismand (Modernisation)					
KERALA		2 Chhapi					
Mavattupuzha		3 Panchana					
MADHYA PRADESH		4 IGNP Stage-II					
1 Indira Sagar		5 Gambhiri (Modernisation)					
2 Bansagar		6 Chauli					
3 Upper Weinganga		7 Mahi Bajaj Sagar					
4 Rajghat Dam		TRIPURA					
5 Sindh Phase-II		1 Gumti					
6 Sindh Phase-I		2 Manu					
7 Mahi		3 Khowai					
8 Beniyar							

Damage To Reservoirs

2140. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any contingency plan to meet the situation arising out of 70 major reservoirs in the country going dry due to a waterless, warm and weird winter;

(b) if so, whether the Government have surveyed the adversely affected areas to assess the extent of damage done; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith preventive steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) A Drought Contingency Action Plan has been formulated and circulated among the drought affected States to meet the situation arising due to deficient monsoon/post-monsoon rainfall and insufficient water availability in some of the reservoirs.

(b) and (c) The concerned State Governments conduct surveys of the adversely affected areas. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams are also deputed to visit the affected areas to assess the extent of damage and to review steps already taken and further assistance required by the State Government. Central Teams visited affected areas in Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Gujarat during November-December 2000. A Group of Ministers is regularly reviewing the situation and National Crisis Management Committee is monitoring and co-ordinating drought mitigation efforts. The Central Government has supplemented the efforts of the concerned State Government to tackle the situation, in the following manner :-

- (i) Assistance of Rs. 280 crore released to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhatisgarh and Himachal Pradesh under National Calamity Contingency fund.
- (ii) Central Ground Water Board handed over tube wells to the States for drinking water purposes.
- (iii) Additional allocation of food grains to drought affected States.
- (iv) Ministry of Railways to transport water and fodder free of cost.
- (v) Order issued to ban movement of fodder outside drought affected States, wherever request received from the States.
- (vi) 5.00 lakh Metric Ton of food grains allocated for Food for Work programme, free of cost and 1.70 lakh Metric Ton 'Feed Grade' food grains released to drought affected States for use as cattle feed.

States have also been advised to enhance employment generation under various schemes and expedite utilisation of Central funds already made available.

Government has taken various short and long term measures which, inter-alia, include the following:-

Advice to the State Governments to regulate the releases from the reservoirs keeping in view possible water deficit and also making curtailment, for irrigation in consultation with the State Agriculture Departments

Technical and financial assistance for promotion of Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting.

A model Bill circulated to the States for enacting legislation to ensure regulation of ground water in a scientific manner.

National Perspective Plan formulated for inter-linking various Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins

Water Resources Consolidation Projects taken up with the assistance of World Bank to improve efficiency of irrigation water use

Entry in Corbett National Park

2141. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have barred the tourists' entry into Corbett National Park;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time period for which the ban has been imposed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Elephant poaching cases occurred in Corbett Tiger Reserve in the first week of February 2001 and therefore Bijrani zone which is open to day visitors was closed from 9th February till 18th February for combing operations to nab the poachers.

Decision to close Dhikala also was taken on 11.2.2001 but was withdrawn before it could come into effect.

Let out of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

2142. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is let out for events other than sports;

(b) if so, the revenue earned from leasing the stadium for other events and the details where this earned revenue has been spent;

(c) whether the Government are aware of inconvenience caused and harm done to sporting fraternity; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the cause of sport is not jeopardised by such commercial let out ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is let out for events other than sports with a view to generate revenue. For the year 2000-2001 a target of Rs. 18.90 crores (gross) has been fixed by way of internal receipt of SAI (as against Rs. 15 crores during 1999-2000 so as to partly meet the deficit of Rs.8.36 crores in non-plan allocation). The revenue generated by way of leasing out SAI properties etc. is largely to meet the deficit on non-plan side of SAI.

No inconvenience has been reported and due care is being taken to ensure that sports interest is not jeopardized and only those areas are let out which are vacant and not used for sports purposes.

*[Translation]***Awareness among the Workers**

2143. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether creating awareness among the workers about their rights and obligation is an essential part of the effective participation in the socio-economic development of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken initiative for the education of workers and awareness among them about various labour laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether many labourers in the country are not aware about their rights, obligation and laws for their safety; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government for educating workers about their rights and obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) Government of India have set up the Central Board for Workers Education, an autonomous body for implementing workers' education, scheme and creating awareness amongst workers of various labour laws as also their rights and obligation so as to enable them to effectively participate in the socio-economic development of the country. The Board has a network of 49 regional and 14 sub-regional centres. 92,74,950 workers have participated in various programmes of the Board from inception in 1958 till 31.3.2000.

*[English]***Optical Fibre Cables in Orissa**

2144. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay Optical fibre Cables (OFC) in Orissa; and

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

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

(b) Details of OFC proposed for laying during 2000-2001 and tentative proposal for 2001-02 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue District	OFC Proposal for 2000-01 (in RKm)	Tentative OFC for 2001-02 (in RKm)
1	Angul	125	50
2	Bolangir	140	80
3	Balasore	205	100
4	Bargarh	141	70
5	Bhadrak	205	100
6	Boudh	42	60
7	Cuttack	259	100
8	Deogarh	110	20
9	Dhenkanal	125	80
10	Gajapati	98	80
11	GANJAM	258	100
12	Jagtatsinghpur	60	80
13	Jajpur	91	90
14	Jharsuguda	100	55
15	Kalahandi	89	60
16	Kendrapara	39	90
17	Keonjhar	179	80
18	Khurda	119	70
19	Koraput	137	40
20	Malkangiri	253	120
21	Mayurbhanj	180	120
22	Nowapara	82	60
23	Nowrangpur	29	40
24	Nayagarh	29	20
25	Phulbani	292	60
26	Puri	187	70
27	Rayagada	212	70
28	Sambalpur	117	40
29	Sonepur	195	40
30	Sundergarh	241	80

Illegal Migrants Abroad

2145. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of illegal Indian labourers migrants abroad at present;
- (b) whether there is no law to check this illegal migration;
- (c) if so, the details of the existing laws; and
- (d) the number of persons who have been brought to book under this law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per the latest information available with the Government, there are about 4765 illegal migrants abroad.

(b) to (d) The Emigration Act, 1983, regulates the migration of Indian workers abroad. Section 24 and 25 of the Act provide for imposition of penalties for violation of the provisions of the Act. During the year 2000, the Central Government have issued sanction for prosecution in respect of 10 (ten) persons under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Works at ESI Hospital, Tirupathi

2146. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any requests from Andhra Pradesh Government for completing the pending works at ESI Hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad;
- (b) if so, the status thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay in handing over the buildings to the State Governments; and
- (d) the time by when the above works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work relating to construction of 20 Staff Quarters at Tirupathi ESI Hospital has already started and the same is due for completion by August, 2001. Plans and estimates for construction of 18 Staff Quarters at Nizamabad have also been submitted to the ESIC. The work relating to construction of the ESI hospitals at

Tirupathi and Nizamabad has been completed and buildings handed over to State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh after which the hospital at Tirupathi has been commissioned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh from 8.7.99 and the hospital at Nizamabad from 29.12.2000.

Staff Strength of Indian Airlines and Air India

2147. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of permanent and temporary employees working in Air India and Indian Airlines as on February, 2001, category-wise;
- (b) the aircraft and employees ratio in the Air India vis-a-vis four leading airlines of the world in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken to reduce the staff strength in order to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Details are as under :-

Airline	Employee to Aircraft Ratio
Air India	719
Delta	117
Singapore Airlines	328
Swissair	277
Cathay pacific	254

(c) Air India has taken various steps to reduce the staff strength such as (i) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (ii) Two voluntary schemes have been notified, viz shorter working scheme and leave without pay and allowance scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years. (iii) Redeployment of employees from non-operational to operational areas; (iv) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories and (v) 10% cut in daily outstanding allowance payable at all foreign stations and 25% at Indian Stations.

Indian Airlines has also taken steps such as (i) Ban on direct recruitment on all posts other than those required for operational work, (ii) Non-filling up of vacant posts, and (iii) Roll back of retirement age.

Statement**Category-wise Staff Strength of Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited as on February, 2001****AIR INDIA**

S.No.	Category	Total Strength
-------	----------	----------------

Executive

(i)	Pilots	95
(ii)	Aircraft Engineers	129
(iii)	Flight Engineers	2
(iv)	Cabin Crew	451
(v)	Technical Officers	153
(vi)	General Category Officers	86

Non-Executive

(i)	Line Pilots	308
(ii)	Flight Engineers	43
(iii)	Cabin Crew	1278
(iv)	Aircraft Engineers	504
(v)	Technical Officers	210
(vi)	General Category Officers	2526
(vii)	Technicians	2279
(viii)	Non-Technical Staff	8095
(ix)	Others (Safai/Surakasha Kamgars)	581

Total Permanent Employees	16740
---------------------------	-------

Temporary employees	31
---------------------	----

INDIAN AIRLINES

S.No.	Category	Total Strength
-------	----------	----------------

1	2	3
---	---	---

Executive

(i)	Pilots	73
(ii)	Engineers	200
(iii)	Flight Engineers	00
(iv)	General Category Officer	284

1	2	3
---	---	---

Non-Executive

(i)	Line Pilots	295
(ii)	Flights Engineers	33
(iii)	Ground Instructors	17
(iv)	Cabin Crew	956
(v)	Aircraft Engineers	644
(vi)	General Category officers (10/15)	1250
(vii)	Technicians	2759
(viii)	Non-Technical Staff in Grade in 3 to 9	7755
(ix)	Others (Grade 1/2)	5379

*Total	19645
--------	-------

* This figure does not include SHOD (Short Haul Operations Department) employees.

There is no temporary employee working in Indians Airlines as on date.

[Translation]

Carbon Dioxide in Atmosphere

2148. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the amount of carbon dioxide is increasing in the atmosphere day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

(d) whether the amount of carbon dioxide is likely to increase in the atmosphere due to the use of C.N.G. buses in cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) According to the Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change, a body established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, the rate of concentration change per year of carbon dioxide, as

estimated over 1980s, is 1.5 parts per million by volume per year (0.4% per year).

(c) The existing legal and policy framework in the country, supported by several initiatives to protect and improve the environment, adequately addresses the concerns about carbon dioxide build-up.

(d) and (e) There is no conclusive evidence to indicate that the use of CNG buses is likely to increase atmospheric carbon dioxide.

[English]

Accidents In NALCO

2149.DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of NALCO ash pond at Angul in Orissa has collapsed damaging large agriculture areas and making households unfit for human habitats;

(b) if so, the reasons for the collapse;

(c) the extent of damage caused to the agriculture and environment in the state;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make the cultivable lands fertile that were damaged;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of compensation paid to the affected people in the State; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to plug the loopholes in order to stop any further occurrence of such accident in NALCO plant in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An independent enquiry to inquire into the breach of NALCO's Captive Power Plant Ash Pond has found that the practices adopted for design, construction supervision and quality control for the raising of ash dykes have been methodical and professional. The committee has inferred that the breach in ash pond No.2 is possibly due to a deliberate cut to save the embankment and to prevent catastrophic consequences to the adjoining village.

(c) to (f) Several Committees were constituted by the District Authorities to measure the extent of damage, assess the loss and damage of property, the crop, the soil

condition, and other restoration measures required in the area. The District Collector reviewed the progress of relief and restoration measures undertaken in the ash pond affected villages from time to time and finally on receipt of the reports from the scientists of Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre, Environment and Pollution control Department, District Agriculture office, the Health Department, Experts of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Wing. The Collector after consulting local MPs, MLAs, Zilla Parishad Members, Sarpanch and other public representatives, officials of State Government and NALCO Officials asked NALCO to make immediate payment of 1121.76 lakhs through the District Administration for relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons/area for compensation for crop, damage/loss, water supply, repair and renovation of damaged infrastructure etc. NALCO agreed to pay directly to the district administration the amount so recommended for settlement of claims of the ultimate beneficiaries against individual acknowledgment.

(g) The expert from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have examined both Ash Ponds of NALCO. The required repairs, reconstruction and strengthening works as suggested are being implemented. In view of the above, there is no likely apprehension of similar accident in future.

Ticket Booking Agent in Maharashtra

2150.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for appointment of ticket booking agents of Air India and Indian Airlines in Navi Mumbai and Raigad District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been fixed for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Indian Airlines has five agents for its passenger tickets sales in Navi Mumbai. The next agency review will be taken up in the month of April/may, 2001 and fresh Agents will be appointed in Navi Mumbai and Raigad District on need and merit basis.

As far as Air India is concerned at present, IATA accreditation has been granted to five agents in Navi Mumbai which entitles them to issue tickets on international airlines provided they are officially appointed by the airlines. Air India's policy is to deal with IATA agents and IATA applicants. There are two applications for accreditation as IATA Agents in Navi Mumbai and Raigad.

[Translation]

**Telephone Advisory Committee in
Uttar Pradesh**

2151. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone advisory committee have been constituted in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the time by which these committees are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present, out of 50 (fifty) Telecom/Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) 45 (Forty-five) TACs are functioning in Uttar Pradesh. The remaining TACs i.e. Kanpur, Kanpur (Dehat), Mirzapur, Agra and Mathura expired on 28/2/2001. These TACs can be re-constituted after receiving recommendations from various quarters, which are still awaited. District-wise details of the TACs are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of TAC	Chairman of TAC	Tenure of TAC
1	2	3	4

UTTAR PRADESH (ZONAL TACs)

1.	Varanasi	CGM(E)	31.03.2003
2.	Dehradun	CGM(W)	31.03.2001
3.	Lucknow	CGM(E)	31.03.2001

UTTAR PRADESH (E)

1.	Allahabad	GM	31.03.2003
2.	Gorakhpur	GM	31.03.2003
3.	Jhansi	GM	31.03.2003
4.	Kanpur	GM	-
5.	Lucknow (Central)	PGM	31.03.2001
6.	Mau (Deoria)	TDM	31.03.2001
7.	Varanasi	GM	31.03.2003
8.	Azamgarh	GM	31.07.2002
9.	Barabanki	TDM	30.04.2001
10.	Etawah	TDM	30.04.2001

1	2	3	4
11.	Faizabad	TDM	30.04.2001
12.	Farukhabad	TDM	31.03.2001
13.	Behraich	TDM	31.08.2002
14.	Mirjapur	TDM	*
15.	Raebareilly	TDM	30.06.2001
16.	Unnao	TDM	30.06.2001
17.	Lakhimpur Khiri	TDM	30.06.2001
18.	Basti	TDM	30.06.2001
19.	Sultanpur	TDM	30.06.2001
20.	Gonda	TDM	30.04.2002
21.	Mainpuri	TDM	30.06.2001
22.	Sitapur	TDM	31.01.2002
23.	Shahajahanpur	TDM	30.06.2001
24.	Jaunpur	TDM	31.07.2001
25.	Ballia	TDM	30.11.2002
26.	Lucknow (TG)	PGM	31.03.2001
27.	Kanpur (Dehat)	GM	
28.	Oria	TDM	30.11.2002
29.	Hardoi	TDM	30.11.2002
30.	Hamirpur	TDM	31.12.2002
31.	Pratapgarh	TDM	31.12.2002
32.	Banda	TDM	31.12.2002

Sl. No.	Name of TAC	Chairman of TAC	Tenure of TAC
---------	-------------	-----------------	---------------

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

UTTAR PRADESH (W)

1.	Agra	GM	*
2.	Aligarh	GM	31.03.2001
3.	Bareilly	GM	31.03.2001
4.	Ghaziabad	GM	31.03.2002
5.	Mathura	TDM	*
6.	Meerut	GM	31.03.2003
7.	Moradabad	GM	31.03.2001

1	2	3	4
8.	Muzaffarnagar	Gm	31.01.2003
9.	Saharanpur	Gm	31.03.2003
10.	Rampur	TDM	30.04.2001
11.	Bijnore	TDM	31.07.2002
12.	Noida(Gautam budh Nagar)	GM(GBN)	30.04.2001
13.	Etah	TDM	31.01.2003
14.	Badayun	TDM	31.11.2002
15.	Bulandshahar	TDM	30.11.2002

Note : Telephone Advisory Committees (at "" marked above) are required to be re-constituted.

[English]

Post Offices In Mumbai

2152.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present ratio of post offices in comparison to population in Mumbai;

(b) whether the post offices in Mumbai are not sufficient to meet the growing demand of the people;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to open more post offices in Mumbai during the Ninth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and proposals under consideration in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The ratio of post offices in comparison to population in Mumbai as per 1991 census is 1:46600.

(b) to (d) overall the number of post offices in Mumbai is adequate. The post offices are opened on norm-based justification as per the plan targets subject to availability of resources including accommodation.

New Telephone Connection

2153.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide six lakhs new telephone connections, 420 new OAFC centres and Cyber Dhabas in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection in Karnataka at present, district-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections provided in the State, district-wise and

(e) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is planned to provide 4,25,000 new telephone connections in Karnataka during 2000-2001 and also planned to provide internet dhabad in all Taluk headquarters of Karnataka Telecom Circle.

(c) There are 2,64,260 persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Karnataka as on 28/02/2001. The district-wise details are enclosed as statement-I.

(d) 2,82,385 telephone connections have been provided in the State from 1/4/2000 to 28/2/2001. The district-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) It has been planned to clear the waiting list in Karnataka circle as on 28/2/2001 by March, 2002.

Statement-I

The details of district-wise waiting list as on 28.2.2001 in Karnataka Circle are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the district	Waiting list as on 28.2.2001
1	2	3
1	Bangalore Rural	19759
2.	Bangalore Urban	49569
3.	Belgaum	11971
4.	Bellary	2432
5.	Bidar	5387
6.	Bijapur	7062
7.	Bagalkot	3304
8.	Chickmagalur	7108
9.	Mangalore	25513

1	2	3
10.	Udupi	19913
11.	Davangere	2019
12.	Chitradurga	3720
13.	Gulbarga	10380
14.	Hassan	8012
15.	Dharwad	2561
16.	Haweri	3984
17.	Gadag	2349
18.	Kodagu	9249
19.	Kolar	12045
20.	Mandya	8156
21.	Mysore	7772
22.	Chamarajanagar	3629
23.	Raichur	5568
24.	Koppal	2563
25.	Shimoga	12402
26.	Tumkur	11031
27.	Uttara kannada	6802
Total		264260

Statement-II

The district-wise details of telephone connections provided in the State from 1.4.2000 to 28.2.2001 are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the district	Working Connections upto 28.2.2001
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore Rural	13978
2.	Bangalore Urban	60883
3.	Belgaum	15871
4.	Bellary	6417
5.	Bidar	3796
6.	Bijapur	10151
7.	Bagalkot	6485
8.	Chickmagalur	8877

1	2	3
9.	Mangalore	20659
10.	Udupi	11722
11.	Davangere	5689
12.	Chitradurga	6569
13.	Gulbarga	5914
14.	Hassan	11951
15.	Dharwad	7379
16.	Haweri	4792
17.	Gadag	2482
18.	Kodagu	4707
19.	Kolar	10901
20.	Mandya	6890
21.	Mysore	14794
22.	Chamarajanagar	3447
23.	Raichur	3123
24.	Koppal	2816
25.	Shimoga	14061
26.	Tumkur	8596
27.	Uttara Kannada	9435
Total		282365

[Translation]

Cracks In Reservoirs In Rajasthan

2154.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cracks have developed in several reservoirs in Rajasthan due to earth-quake occurred recently resulting in leakage of considerable amount of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided and the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) No damage in large dams of Rajasthan has been observed by the officials of the Dam Safety Organisation of Rajasthan during their inspection after the earthquake of 26.1.2001.

*[English]***IDFC Funds for Road Sector**

2155. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the IDFC expects increased flow of funds into the road sector;
- (b) if so, whether Rs. 5,000 crore is expected to accrue as fund with 50 per cent going to the States;
- (c) if so, whether expanding the existing road network and better regulation of traffic would be a better option than building new roads; and
- (d) if so, the Government's plans in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is presumed that the Question relates to funds being generated through cess on petrol/diesel. During 2000-2001 there is a provision of Rs. 5800 crore from Central Road Fund. Out of this Rs. 3490 crore have been earmarked for States for development of State and rural roads.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Apart from various improvement works on National Highways, the Government has also taken up National Highways Development Project comprising of Four/Six laning of existing National Highways connecting Delhi-Kolkata-Chennai-Mumbai-Delhi and North-South Corridor (Srinagar-Kanyakumari) with Salem-Cochin as spur and East-West Corridor (Silchar-Portbandar).

E-Commerce Network

2156. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) propose to provide assistance to set up a nation-wise E-commerce network in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has a project for Electronic Commerce for Developing Countries (EC-DC project) for providing technical capability

and assistance for electronic commerce in more than 100 developing and least developed countries including India.

Pending Roads/Bridges Proposal in Kerala

2157. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some proposals of Kerala Government for the construction of roads and bridges are pending with the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (c) Five proposals for road and bridge works amounting to Rs. 15.83 crores included in the Annual Plan 2000-2001 have been received in the Ministry. These proposals are under examination and final decision shall be taken on these proposals during the current financial year.

*[Translation]***Increase in Daily Wages**

2158. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the daily wages of rural labourers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for the difference in the daily wages of urban labourers and the rural labourers;
- (d) the measures taken by the government to ensure equality in wages between the above mentioned categories; and
- (e) the details of the daily wages being paid to urban and rural labourers, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) The Government does not fix/revise wages for rural/urban labourers. However, under the statutory provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and the State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, revise and enforce payment of minimum wages to the workers

engaged in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. Agriculture is a scheduled employment in both Central and State spheres. The Central Government revised the minimum wages of the agricultural labour in the Central sphere vide notification dated 11.11.1999. The revised minimum wages range from Rs. 67/- to Rs. 101/- per day depending on the categories of workers and the area. As regards State sphere, the State Governments have been periodically revising the minimum wages. There is disparity in the minimum wages in the rural and the urban areas because the fixation and the revision of the minimum wages depend on a number of factors like socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, cost of living, paying capacity and the local conditions influencing the wage rate, which vary from State to State and industry to industry. However, the Central

Government have been advising the State Governments to ensure reduction in the disparity in the minimum wages within the region. The Central Government have also floated the concept of national floor level minimum wage in the absence of a uniform minimum wage, based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour and subsequent increase in the price level. In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government have introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) in all the scheduled employments in the Central sphere. As regards States, 22 States/Union Territory Administrations have adopted VDA as a component of minimum wages. The VDA in the Central sphere is revised twice a year effective from April and October. A statement showing the ranges of minimum wages in various States is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Rates of Wages for the Unskilled Workers in Different States/Union Territory Administrations

(As on 30.6.2000)

State/UTs	Rates of Minimum wages (Per day)	Remarks
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 27.00 to* Rs. 63.19	Rates vary from employment to employment ; includes V.D.A.
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 35.60 * to Rs. 37.60	Rates vary from employment to employment ,V.D.A. is Introduce in 1998.
3. Assam	Rs. 32.80 to* Rs. 50.70	Rates vary from employment to employment ;includes V.D.A.
4. Bihar	Rs. 49.19 to* Rs. 61.59	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
5. Goa	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 125.00	Rates vary from employment to employment.
6. Gujarat	Rs. 34.00 to* Rs. 92.40	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
7. Haryana	Rs. 70.30 to* Rs. 74.30	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
8. Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 26.00 to Rs. 51.00	Rates vary from employment to employment.
9. Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 30.00	Single rate for all employments.
10. Karnataka	Rs. 26.00 to* Rs. 74.03	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
11. Kerala	Rs. 30.00 to* Rs.164.77	-do-

1	2	3
12. Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 50.46 to* Rs. 56.46	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
13. Maharashtra	Rs. 42.46 to* Rs. 108.95	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
14. Manipur	Rs. 44.65 to* Rs. 55	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
15. Meghalaya	Rs. 50.00*	Single rate for all employments; includes V.D.A.
16. Mizoram	Rs. 70.00	Single rate for all employments.
17. Nagaland	Rs. 40.00	-do-
18. Orissa	Rs. 42.50*	Single rate for all employments; includes V.D.A.
19. Punjab	Rs. 69.25 to* Rs. 151.32	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
20. Rajasthan	Rs. 47.05 to* Rs. 60.00	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A. only in six employments.
21. Sikkim	Wages not fixed.	
22. Tamil Nadu	Rs. 35.00 to* Rs. 115.80	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
23. Tripura	Rs. 20.63 to* Rs. 45.00	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A. only in two employments.
24. Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 42.02 to* Rs. 70.62	Rates vary from employments to employments; includes V.D.A.
25. West Bengal	Rs. 48.21 to* Rs. 87.28	Rates vary from employment to employment; includes V.D.A.
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 86.76	Rates vary from employment to employment
27. Chandigarh	Rs. 81.65 to*	Single rate for all employments; includes V.D.A.
28. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 71.00	Rates vary from employment to employment.
29. Daman and Diu	Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 60.00	-do-
30. Delhi	Rs. 93.00*	Single rate for all employments includes V.D.A.
31. Pondicherry	Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 65.00	Rates vary from employment to employment.
32. Lakshadweep	Rs. 46.80*	Single rate for all employments; includes V.D.A.
Central Sphere	Rs. 80.74 to* Rs. 90.19	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to areas), includes V.D.A. (As on 1.10.2000)

* States which have adopted V.D.A. as a component of Minimum Wages

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Bihar

2159. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths proposed to be installed in Bihar during 2001-2002, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : A target of 3000 STD/ISD/PCO booths have been fixed for Bihar during the year 2001-02. District-wise targets are given in the attached statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the district	Target
1	2	3
1	Arrah (Bhojpur)	50
2	Buxar	50
3	Bhagalpur	50
4	Banka	50
5	Chhapra(Saran)	100
6	Siwan	100
7	Gopalganj	100
8	Darbhanga	100
9	Samastipur	100
10	Madhubani	100
11	Gaya	100
12	Nawada	40
13	Jahanabad	50
14	Aurangabad	50
15	Vaishali	100
16	Katihar	100
17	Purnia	100
18	Araria	50
19	Kishanganj	50
20	Begusarai	100
21	Khagaria	50
22	East Champaran	100
23	West Champaran	100
24	Munger	100
25	Lakhi Sarai	40
26	Sheikhpura	30
27	Jamui	40
28	Muzaffarpur	100
29	Sitamarhi	100
30	Sheohar	100
31	Patna	200

1	2	3
32	Nalanda	100
33	Saharsa	100
34	Supaul	100
35	Madhepura	100
36	Rohtas	50
37	Kaimar(Bhabhua)	50

*[English]***Optical Fibre Cables In Andhra Pradesh**

2160. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting was held with Andhra Pradesh Government on June 14, 2000 regarding clearance for setting up a high speed optical fibre telecommunication infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to lay Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) for about 2000 kms route (1500 kms of 6F and 500 kms of 12f) in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

(c) It is proposed to lay 3000 Kms of 6F optical fibre cable and 2000 Kms of 12F optical fibre cable during the year 2000-2001.

(d) It is proposed to connect all remaining exchanges and proposed remaining new exchange with reliable media.

(e) Out of 3000 Kms of 6F optical Fibre cable, 2600 Kms has been received and balance supply is expected. For procurement of 12F optical fibre cable, a tender was floated but supply could not commence for full quantity due to non acceptance of tendered prices by vendors. A short

notice limited tender has been called for procurement of balance quantities.

Passenger Service Fee

2161. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to hike the Passenger Service Fee (PSF) in the domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the yield likely to be received by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to increase the Passenger Service Fee (PSF) from Rs.125 to Rs.200 per embarking domestic Passenger with effect from 01-04-2001 to meet the additional expenditure on airport security.

(c) The additional revenue due to the increase in PSF for domestic Passengers is likely to be Rs.185 crores per annum.

Diversion of Forest Land

2162. SHRI RAMANAIDU DUGGUBATI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval of Union Government is necessary for diversion of forest land to nonforest land as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals sent by different States particularly Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and current year, till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals, out of them cleared and pending as on date;

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared alongwith the steps taken for their expeditious clearance; and

(e) the names of the projects for which the Government have permitted diversion of forest land alongwith the details of land diverted for the purpose during the said period, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1998, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary for diversion of any forest land for non-forestry purpose. More than 3000 such proposals have been submitted by various State Government including Andhra Pradesh during 1998 to January, 2001. A detailed list of all projects will be lengthy and cumbersome. A brief abstract of this information indicating their present status, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

About 4.5% proposals are under process with the Ministry for final decision. The Ministry is committed to clear all such proposals, which are complete in all respects, within 90 days. About 16% proposals are incomplete and no decision could be taken on these proposals as wanting details have been sought from the State Governments. As such no time limit can be fixed for clearance of projects.

Statement

S. No.	State	No. of Proposals Received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of information	Returned/withdrawn by States	Under consideration of Ministry	Wanting details sought from the States
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Assam	52	19	24	0	3	6	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	18	17	0	0	0	1	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	68	38	14	7	1	4	4
4	A N Island	13	8	0	0	0	0	5
5	Bihar	77	41	0	23	2	4	7
6	D N H	70	46	0	0	0	2	22
7	Gujarat	274	201	5	4	3	3	58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	Haryana	159	117	4	9	0	0	29
9	Himachal Pradesh	198	79	11	21	5	7	75
10	Manipur	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
11	Meghalya	16	14	0	0	2	0	0
12	Mizoram	8	4	0	0	0	2	2
13	Chandigarh	10	6	0	0	0	0	4
14	Delhi	3	1	0	0	1	0	1
15	Goa	9	5	1	1	0	1	1
16	Punjab	344	210	9	36	0	19	70
17	Orissa	101	60	3	5	5	14	14
18	Madhya Pradesh	156	83	26	17	5	10	15
19	Maharashtra	310	172	18	19	1	37	63
20	Rajasthan	131	73	13	4	7	16	18
21	Karnataka	93	45	9	14	3	5	17
22	Kerala	29	14	0	5	1	1	8
23	Tamil Nadu	54	44	4	4	0	0	2
24	Tripura	79	71	3	0	3	1	1
25	Sikkim	16	16	0	0	0	0	0
26	West Bengal	11	5	2	0	1	1	2
27	Uttar Pradesh	714	596	27	6	21	2	62
Total		3016	1987	173	175	65	136	480

Clearance of Pending Projects

2163.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of districts in each State which have forest cover of 30% more than 30% and less than 30%;

(b) whether the districts having forest cover more than 30% are suffering due to non-clearance of irrigation projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not apply to those districts which are having more than 30% land under forest cover;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to accord priority clearance to the irrigation and other developmental projects for the above said districts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) According to State of Forest Report 1999, there are 333 districts in which forest cover is less than 30% and 120 districts in which forest cover is more than 30% State-wise details of districts with more than and less than 30% forest cover are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. All proposals requiring diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose are considered on merit alone and not on the extent of forest land available in a particular district. Some of the criteria for consideration

of a proposal on merit are the site specificity of the project, benefit to the people and economy, adverse effects on the environment, national parks or Sanctuaries, extent of oustees from the projects area and rehabilitation package thereof, etc. A scrutiny of irrigation projects received for clearance during 1997, 1998 and 1999 reveals that out of total of 228 projects only 23 proposals have been rejected so far including proposals from forest deficit State like Gujarat.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is applicable to all forest land irrespective of the extent of forests in a district. All proposals requiring diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes, prior approval of the central Government is mandatory. Any diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose, whether in forest-rich district or otherwise is bound to have some adverse effect on the environment, unless adequate safeguards are taken some of which are mandated in the Act.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. The development activities have to be allowed in keeping with the needs of environmental security of the country. However, to expedite clearance of proposals for small utility works excluding mining and encroachment cases, which directly benefit the people of the area-in hill districts and in other districts having forest area exceeding 50% of the total geographical area, provided diversion of forest area dose not exceed 20 hectares, compensatory afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted/derserved.

Statement

District wise details of forest cover as per State of Forest Report 1999

Districts with less than 30% forest cover

Sl. No.	State	Name of District	% forest cover
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	0.8
2	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	2.2
3	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	3.0
4	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	4.9
5	Andhra Pradesh	&Ranga R	4.9
6	Andhra Pradesh	Medak	5.7
7	Andhra Pradesh	Sirkakulam	7.1

1	2	3	4
8	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	7.8
9	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	8.1
10	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	9.7
11	Andhra Pradesh	Mehboobnagar	10.6
12	Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	11.4
13	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	12.3
14	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	12.5
15	Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	13.8
16	Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	15.9
17	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasham	17.9
18	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah	21.4
19	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	24.5
20	Assam	Nalbari	1.8
21	Assam	Darrang	4.3
22	Assam	Golaghat	6.7
23	Assam	Lakhimpur	7.2
24	Assam	Barpate	8.2
25	Assam	Sibsagar	8.5
26	Assam	Jorhat	8.7
27	Assam	Dhubri	13
28	Assam	Somitnpur	14.3
29	Assam	Golpara	14.4
30	Assam	Nawgaon	19.2
31	Assam	Dibrugarh	19.4
32	Assam	Cachar	27.9
33	Bihar	Begusarai	0.0
34	Bihar	Bhojpur	0.0
35	Bihar	Champran	0.0
36	Bihar	Darbhanga	0.0
37	Bihar	Gopalganj	0.0
38	Bihar	Katihar	0.0
39	Bihar	Madhubani	0.0
40	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	0.0
41	Bihar	Patna	0.0

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
42	Bihar	Saharsa	0.0	76	Gujrat	Vadodara	6.4
43	Bihar	Samastipur	0.0	77	Gujrat	Sabar Kantha	9.1
44	Bihar	Saran	0.0	78	Gujrat	Panchmahals	11.3
45	Bihar	Siwan	0.0	79	Gujrat	Bharuch	13.2
46	Bihar	Sitamarhi	0.0	80	Gujrat	Junagarh	15.6
47	Bihar	Vaishali	0.0	81	Gujrat	Surat	16.9
48	Bihar	Purnia	0.2	82	Gujrat	Valsad	24.2
49	Bihar	Nalanda	1.2	83	H.P.	Lahaul Spiti	1.1
50	Bihar	Dhanbad	3.4	84	H.P.	Kinnaur	10.1
51	Bihar	Bhagalpur	3.6	85	H.P.	Hamirpur	16.8
52	Bihar	Aurangabad	3.8	86	H.P.	Bilaspur	20.1
53	Bihar	Gaya	9.6	87	H.P.	Solan	25.4
54	Bihar	Santhal Pargana	10.5	88	H.P.	Una	27.1
55	Bihar	Munger	12.3	89	H.P.	Kangra	28.6
56	Bihar	Champaran Paschim	15.4	90	Haryana	Sirsa	0.0
57	Bihar	Nawada	18.8	91	Haryana	Jind	0.2
58	Bihar	Giridih	21	92	Haryana	Karnal	0.2
59	Bihar	Rohtas	21.9	93	Haryana	Hisar	0.2
60	Bihar	Rachi	24.7	94	Haryana	Sonipat	0.3
61	Chandigarh		6.1	95	Haryana	Rohtak	0.5
62	Daman & Diu	Daman	1.4	96	Haryana	Bhiwani	0.6
63	Daman & Diu	Diu	5.0	97	Haryana	Kurukshetra	1.1
64	Delhi		5.9	98	Haryana	Mahendragarh	2.4
65	Gujrat	Mehsana	0.4	99	Haryana	Faridabad	2.6
66	Gujrat	Kheda	0.6	100	Haryana	Gurgaon	8.9
67	Gujrat	Ahmedabad	0.6	101	Haryana	Ambala	12
68	Gujrat	Rajkot	0.8	102	J & K	Ladakh	0.0
69	Gujrat	Surendernagar	0.9	103	J & K	Gilgit	0.5
70	Gujrat	Bhavnagar	1.3	104	J & K	Gilgitwzart	4.2
71	Gujrat	Gandhinagar	2	105	J & K	Chilas	17.4
72	Gujrat	Jamnagar	2.4	106	J & K	Tribal Territory	23.3
73	Gujrat	Amreli	2.8	107	J & K	Jammu	25
74	Gujrat	Kachchh	4.7	108	J & K	Baramula	26.7
75	Gujrat	Banaskantha	5.9	109	Karala	Alleppey	0.4

1	2	3	4
110	Karala	Kotayam	3.4
111	Karala	Ernakulam	11.3
112	Karala	Trivendrum	18
113	Karala	Cannanore	18.2
114	Karala	Kozhikode	18.2
115	Karala	Wynad	18.2
116	Karala	Malapuram	22.5
117	Karala	Trichur	29
118	Karnataka	Raichur	0.0
119	Karnataka	Bijapur	0.2
120	Karnataka	Bidar	0.8
121	Karnataka	Gulbarga	1.6
122	Karnataka	Chitradurga	3.1
123	Karnataka	Tumkur	3.8
124	Karnataka	Kolar	5.0
125	Karnataka	Dharwad	5.3
126	Karnataka	Mandaya	5.3
127	Karnataka	Bellary	7.1
128	Karnataka	Belgaum	8.1
129	Karnataka	Bangalore	8.5
130	Karnataka	Hassan	15.2
131	Karnataka	Mysore	29
132	Lakshdweep		0.0
133	M.P.	Shajapur	0.0
134	M.P.	Ujjain	0.0
135	M.P.	Rajgarh	1.8
136	M.P.	Bhind	1.8
137	M.P.	Ratlam	3.8
138	M.P.	Tikamgarh	4.6
139	M.P.	Datia	6.5
140	M.P.	Dhar	7.8
141	M.P.	Durg	8.5
142	M.P.	Rewa	8.8
143	M.P.	Bhopal	10.3

1	2	3	4
144	M.P.	Vidisha	10.5
145	M.P.	Indore	11.6
146	M.P.	Mandsaur	11.7
147	M.P.	Jhabua	12.5
148	M.P.	Nimar West	14.8
149	M.P.	Chattarpur	18
150	M.P.	Guna	19.1
151	M.P.	Jabalpur	19.5
152	M.P.	Sehore	19.9
153	M.P.	Satna	21.5
154	M.P.	Dewas	23.4
155	M.P.	Shivpuri	23.4
156	M.P.	Gwalior	25
157	M.P.	Narsimhapur	25.9
158	M.P.	Sagar	26
159	M.P.	Raipur	29.3
160	M.P.	Shahdol	29.9
161	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	0.2
162	Maharashtra	Sholapur	0.2
163	Maharashtra	Beed	0.5
164	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	1.0
165	Maharashtra	Parbhani	1.1
166	Maharashtra	Bombay City	1.3
167	Maharashtra	Sangli	1.6
168	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	2.9
169	Maharashtra	Akola	5.7
170	Maharashtra	Buldana	5.8
171	Maharashtra	Nasik	6.4
172	Maharashtra	Satara	7.2
173	Maharashtra	Pune	7.7
174	Maharashtra	Nanded	8.7
175	Maharashtra	Jalgaon	10
176	Maharashtra	Wardha	13.3
177	Maharashtra	Dhule	14

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
178	Maharashtra	Bombay	17.7	213	Punjab	Amritsar	0.3
179	Maharashtra	Yavatmal	20.2	214	Punjab	Kapurthala	0.4
180	Maharashtra	Nagpur	20.2	215	Punjab	Bhatinda	0.4
181	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	21.8	216	Punjab	Ludhiana	0.7
182	Maharashtra	Amravati	25.5	217	Punjab	Patiala	1.4
183	Maharashtra	Thane	26.8	218	Punjab	Gurdaspur	5.0
184	Maharashtra	Kolaba	29.3	219	Punjab	Roopnagar	16.5
185	Manipur	Bishmupur	1.0	220	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	18.9
186	Manipur	Thoubal	2.4	221	Rajasthan	Churu	0.1
187	Manipur	Imphal	23.8	222	Rajasthan	Ganganagar	0.1
188	Orissa	Bhadrak	0.7	223	Rajasthan	Barmer	0.2
189	Orissa	Jagatsinghpur	1.4	224	Rajasthan	Bikaner	0.2
190	Orissa	Puri	4.1	225	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	0.2
191	Orissa	Jajpur	6	226	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	0.3
192	Orissa	Kendarpara	7.8	227	Rajasthan	Nagaur	0.3
193	Orissa	Baleshwar	8.4	228	Rajasthan	Jalore	1.3
194	Orissa	Khurda	11	229	Rajasthan	Sikar	1.3
195	Orissa	Jharsguda	12.8	230	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunun	1.5
196	Orissa	Balangir	13.3	231	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	1.6
197	Orissa	Sonepur	13.7	232	Rajasthan	Tonk	1.6
198	Orissa	Cuttak	14.9	233	Rajasthan	Ajmer	2
199	Orissa	Bargarh	15.8	234	Rajasthan	Jaipur	3.4
200	Orissa	Koraput	17	235	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	4.8
201	Orissa	Kalahandi	22.9	236	Rajasthan	Pali	5.0
202	Orissa	Nawrangpur	23.1	237	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	5.9
203	Orissa	Dhenkanal	23.1	238	Rajasthan	Banswara	6.9
204	Orissa	Ganjam	24.8	239	Rajasthan	Bundi	7.5
205	Paondicherry	Kkaraikal	0.0	240	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	7.7
206	Paondicherry	Mahendragarh	0.02	241	Rajasthan	Sawai Madhopur	12.1
207	Paondicherry	Paondicherry	0.0	242	Rajasthan	Kota	13.4
208	Paondicherry	Yanam	0.0	243	Rajasthan	Alwar	13.4
209	Punjab	Jalandhar	0.1	244	Rajasthan	Chittaurgarh	14.7
210	Punjab	Ferozepur	0.1	245	Rajasthan	Sirohi	15.6
211	Punjab	Faridkot	0.1	246	Rajasthan	Udaipur	18.8
212.	Punjab	Sangrur	0.2				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
247	Sikkim	North District	27.9	281	U.P.	Raibareilly	0.3
248	Tamil Nadu	Madras	2.9	282	U.P.	Sultanpur	0.3
249	Tamil Nadu	Cchengal Pattu	3.7	283	U.P.	Unnao	0.3
250	Tamil Nadu	Trichurapalli	3.9	284	U.P.	Basti	0.3
251	Tamil Nadu	Pudukkottai	3.9	285	U.P.	Moradabad	0.4
252	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	3.9	286	U.P.	Hardoi	0.4
253	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathpuram	4.2	287	U.P.	Mathura	0.4
254	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	8.6	288	U.P.	Ghaziabad	0.4
255	Tamil Nadu	Arcot north	9.2	289	U.P.	Kanpur-Nagar	0.5
256	Tamil Nadu	Salem	15	290	U.P.	Barabanki	0.5
257	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	16.9	291	U.P.	Bulandshahar	0.5
258	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	17.9	292	U.P.	Siddharthnagar	0.7
259	Tamil Nadu	Arcot north	18.4	293	U.P.	Meerut	0.7
260	Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri	23.5	294	U.P.	Allahabad	0.7
261	Tamil Nadu	Periyar	24.6	295	U.P.	Muzaffarnagar	0.8
262	Tamil Nadu	Kanyakumari	26.7	296	U.P.	Lucknow	1.2
263	Tripura	South Tripura	27.9	297	U.P.	Firozabad	1.2
264	U.P.	Ballia	0.0	298	U.P.	Rampur	1.5
265	U.P.	Mainpuri	0.0	299	U.P.	Shahjahanpur	2.2
266	U.P.	Bareilly	0.0	300	U.P.	Hamirpur	2.5
267	U.P.	Ghazipur	0.0	301	U.P.	Jhansi	2.7
268	U.P.	Aligarh	0.0	302	U.P.	Jalaun	2.9
269	U.P.	Pratapgarh	0.1	303	U.P.	Etawah	3.3
270	U.P.	Azamgarh	0.1	304	U.P.	Agra	4.5
271	U.P.	Fatehpur	0.1	305	U.P.	Bijnore	7.4
272	U.P.	Faizabad	0.1	306	U.P.	Gorakhpur	7.5
273	U.P.	Etah	0.1	307	U.P.	Banda	7.9
274	U.P.	Kanpur-Dehat	0.1	308	U.P.	Gonda	8.2
275	U.P.	Deoria	0.1	309	U.P.	Saharanpur	8.8
276	U.P.	Jaunpur	0.1	310	U.P.	Varanasi	10.3
277	U.P.	Farrukhabad	0.2	311	U.P.	Lalitpur	10.7
278	U.P.	Budaun	0.2	312	U.P.	Behraich	11.7
279	U.P.	Mau	0.2	313	U.P.	Mizapur	16.2
280	U.P.	Sitapur	0.3	314	U.P.	Kheri	17.1

1	2	3	4
315	U.P.	Pilibhit	20.2
316	U.P.	Hardwar	24.8
317	West Bengal	Calcutta	0.0
318	West Bengal	Howrah	0.0
319	West Bengal	Hoogli	0.0
320	West Bengal	Murshidabad	0.2
321	West Bengal	Maldah	0.2
322	West Bengal	Nadia	0.3
323	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	0.3
324	West Bengal	Dakshin Dinajpur	0.5
325	West Bengal	24 Parganas North	0.7
326	West Bengal	Coochbehar	0.9
327	West Bengal	Eirbhum	1.3
328	West Bengal	Bardhaman	2.9
329	West Bengal	Purulia	9.7
330	West Bengal	Midinipur	9.9
331	West Bengal	Bankura	12.6
332	West Bengal	24 Paragana South	20.8
333	West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	25.4

Districts with more than 30% forest cover

Sl. No.	State	Name of District	% forest cover
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	30.8
2	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	33.0
3	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	37.1
4	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	44.7
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang	56.9
6	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	70.6
7	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	74.8
8	Arunachal Pradesh	Siang East	82
9	Arunachal Pradesh	Upper Siang	83.2
10	Arunachal Pradesh	Changiong	84.8

1	2	3	4
11	Arunachal Pradesh	Subansiri Upper	85.7
12	Arunachal Pradesh	Kameng West	86.2
13	Arunachal Pradesh	West Siang	87.3
14	Arunachal Pradesh	Tirap	88.3
15	Arunachal Pradesh	Subansiri Lower	90.3
16	Arunachal Pradesh	Kameng East	91.8
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare	93.5
18	Assam	Karimganj	30.2
19	Assam	Kamrup	35.0
20	Assam	Kokrajhar	36.2
21	Assam	North Cachar hills	59.7
22	Assam	Karbi Anglong	87.8
23	Bihar	Singhbhum	33.7
24	Bihar	Palamu	37.6
25	Bihar	Hazaribagh	42.8
26	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		41.1
27	Goa	North Goa and	33.8
28	Goa	South Goa	33.8
29	Gujarat	The Dangs	85.3
30	H.P.	Chamba	35.2
31	H.P.	Kullu	35.9
32	H.P.	Mandi	39
33	H.P.	Sirmaur	39.2
34	H.P.	Shimla	46.6
35	J & K	Anantnag	30.5
36	J & K	Udhampur	32.7
37	J & K	Punch	32.7
38	J & K	Mirpur	35.4
39	J & K	Kathua	40.5
40	J & K	Muzaffarabad	41.9
41	J & K	Riasi	48.3
42	Kerala	Palaghat	31
43	Kerala	Quilon	49

1	2	3	4
44	Karala	Idukki	50.1
45	Karnataka	Kannada Dakshina	43.2
46	Karnataka	Chikmagalur	46.2
47	Karnataka	Shimoga	46.4
48	Karnataka	Kannada	75.8
49	Karnataka	Kodagu	81.4
50	M.P.	Raisen	31.6
51	M.P.	Bilaspur	32.2
52	M.P.	Nimar East	32.3
53	M.P.	Hoshangabad	33.0
54	M.P.	Rajnandgaon	34.7
55	M.P.	Raigarh	35.3
56	M.P.	Betul	35.8
57	M.P.	Seoni	36.0
58	M.P.	Panna	38.1
59	M.P.	Sidhi	38.1
60	M.P.	Morena	39.2
61	M.P.	Chhindwara	39.3
62	M.P.	Damoh	40.2
63	M.P.	Mandla	43.6
64	M.P.	Balaghat	51.1
65	M.P.	Surguja	51.7
66	M.P.	Bastar	59.7
67	Maharashtra	Bhandara	30.9
68	Maharashtra	Ratnagiri	43.5
69	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	53.6
70	Manipur	Senapati	70.1
71	Manipur	Ukhrul	79.7
72	Manipur	Chandel	86.5
73	Manipur	Manipur Chandpur	90.7
74	Manipur	Tamci	99.2
75	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills	52.5
76	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	66.1
77	Meghalaya	West Khasi Hills	71.3

1	2	3	4
78	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	72.3
79	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	93.4
80	Mizoram	Chhimtuipui	79.5
81	Mizoram	Lunglei	87.7
82	Mizoram	Aizwal	89.1
83	Nagaland	Tuensang	79.4
84	Nagaland	Mokokchung	82.8
85	Nagaland	Phek	83.7
86	Nagaland	Mon	84.4
87	Nagaland	Kohima	88.4
88	Nagaland	Zunheboto	88.8
89	Nagaland	Wokha	97
90	Orissa	Nawapara	33.7
91	Orissa	Rayagada	35.6
92	Orissa	Malkangiri	36.9
93	Orissa	Mayurbhanj	37.8
94	Orissa	Boudh	38.1
95	Orissa	Nayagarh	38.7
96	Orissa	Angul	40.3
97	Orissa	Sundergarh	41.3
98	Orissa	Keonjhar	42.7
99	Orissa	Sambalpur	47.4
100	Orissa	Deogarh	49.6
101	Orissa	Gajapati	63.5
102	Orissa	Phulbani	66.9
103	Sakkim	East District	64.6
104	Sakkim	West District	66.3
105	Sakkim	South District	73.3
106	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri	61.6
107	Tripura	North Tripura	67.5
108	Tripura	West Tripura	70.3
109	U.P.	Pithoragarh	34.0
110	U.P.	Chamoli	34.5
111	U.P.	Sonbhadra	36.0
112	U.P.	Uttar Kashi	38.7

1	2	3	4
113	U.P.	Almora	47.1
114	U.P.	Dehradun	50.8
115	U.P.	Nainital	52.5
116	U.P.	Tehri Garhwal	57.9
117	U.P.	Garhwal	58.4
118	West Bengal	Darjeeling	46.2
119	A & N	Nicobars	87
120	A & N	Andamans	93.9

[Translation]

Eco-Development Schemes for Development of Sanctuaries

2164. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to develop Eco-development schemes for development of Papikonda Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to suggest or develop eco-development schemes for such sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Non-Governmental Organisations and other activists are encouraged to suggest ways and means to protect wildlife; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to develop such sanctuaries through Eco-Development Schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) During the year 2000-2001 Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for sanction of Rs.5.50 Lakhs for various activities for eco-development in and around the sanctuary. The proposal included setting up of Bio-gas, inoculation of cattle, construction of community hall, education and awareness programme, printing of brochures, providing drinking water for cattle, training the youth in alternative vocation, etc. The State was asked to reframe the proposal in such a way that the sanction of the project can have perceivable impact in the area. Revised proposal has not been received from the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to the guidelines governing the Eco-development Scheme the Eco-development Committee

should include representatives of Co-Operative Departments, N.G.O. involved and concerned Gram Panchayat leaders. Since Eco-Development scheme is aimed primarily at the welfare of the forest communities it is necessary to involve N.G.Os with proven track record

[English]

Cellular Telephone Companies

2165. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cellular telephone companies are selling equity to each other;

(b) if so, whether such a change in ownership is permitted under the original agreements negotiated by the Government with the private companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some cellular telecom companies are expanding their activities and operations in different parts of the country through equity acquisition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) (1) Sir, as per the original Licence Agreements for Cellular Service granted to the private companies, there was a restriction on transfer of equity for a period of 3 years from the effective date of licence in the case of Telecom circle Licences and the Licensees were required to obtain prior approval of the Licensing authority for any change of equity in the case of metro city Licences. In terms of further Government decision of migration policy, there is a stipulation of lock-in of the share holding for a period of five years counted from the date of Licence agreement i.e. effective date, on the Cellular Licensee Companies migrating to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime. During this period of five years, and transfer of share holding directly or indirectly through subsidiary or holding companies is not permitted. However, Issue of additional equity share capital by the Licensee company/its holding company by way of private placement/public issue is permitted. Further, the lock-in provision is not applicable in case the shares are transferred pursuant to enforcement of pledge by the lending Financial Institutions/Banks due to event of default(s) committed by the borrowers with the condition that such shares should have been pledged for the purposes of investment only in the concerned licensed project. The lock-in period is now over in almost all the cases.

(2) The licensee company is required to obtain prior written approval of the licensor which may be granted subject to following conditions :

- (a) An existing foreign partner can be substituted by another foreign partner of identical or similar standing and experience;
- (b) Any existing Indian Partner can acquire the foreign partner's shareholding;
- (c) Transfer of equity, inter-se, amongst Indian Promoters can be permitted subject to the condition that the majority holding Indian Partner continues to hold the original shareholding for a period of five years from the effective date of licence agreement.
- (d) merger of Indian companies can be permitted as long as competition is not compromised.

In additions to the above, the following shall also be complied with by the Licensees :

- (i) The statutory prescriptions of any nature including but not limited to the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Act.
- (ii) No single company/entity shall have any equity in more than one licensee company in the same service area for same service.
- (iii) There shall be cap of 49% on foreign equity.
- (iv) Management control of licensee company shall remain in Indian Hands.

(3) the Cellular Licensee Companies may, therefore, expand their operations in terms as above as a change in the equity of cellular licensee company is permitted in terms of the above applicable guidelines.

Cable Route in Singapore Under Sea

2166.SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India and Singapore Telecom have signed for a joint venture to build cable route from India to Singapore under sea;
- (b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) As per the proposal given by M/s Bharti Aquanet Ltd. to

Foreign Investment Promotion Board and further information received from M/s Bharti Enterprises, M/s Bharti Aquanet Ltd. and M/s Singtel Ltd, a Singapore Telecom group company, will build and operate under sea fibre optic cable network. M/s Singtel i2i Private Limited will have 49% foreign equity in the company. It will be a self-healing submarine cable network. This cable network will have a total bandwidth of 8.4 Terabits per second and will carry more than 1 billion conversations simultaneously. The cable is expected to start carrying commercial traffic by the end of 2001.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Laying of Optical Fibre Cable

2167.SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any complaint of irregularities committed in laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) or purchase of pipes in the office of General Manager, Kota Telecom district;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No specific complaints regarding laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) were received. However, a complaint regarding purchase of RCC pipe was received from the office Rastriya Mantri, BJP Kisan Morcha, Kota.

(b) The Complainant has pointed out regarding irregularities in purchase of RCC(Hume) pipes along with the certain other points.

(c) The above complaint is under investigation.

[English]

Performance of Air India

2168.SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Air India has shown improvement in its performance since its tie-up with virgin Airlines for combined marketing efforts;
- (b) if so, whether Air India has got success in regaining its lost share on the overseas routes presently operating jointly with Virgin Airlines;
- (c) if so, whether the present arrangements with Virgin are likely to be continued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) It is still early to assess the impact as it requires lead time to establish performance scale on which data can be based.

(b) to (d) The market share in any area is not related solely to an airline's codeshare agreements with another airlines. While Air India's performance and consequent benefits from the Code Share/Bilateral Service agreement with Virgin Atlantic will have a bearing on whether to continue with the same, the agreement with Virgin provides for validity upto five years, with a provision that either airline can terminate the agreement with six months notice, which can be served after eighteen months from the commencement of operations. Virgin Atlantic had commenced its operations effective July 5, 2000.

Irrigation Projects

2169. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the feasibility of implementing irrigation projects with the assistance of private sector;

(b) if so, the response of various States regarding Participation of Private Sector;

(c) whether any project has been identified in the States for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The Government of India had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Water Resources to examine the feasibility and scope of Private Sector Participation in irrigation and multi-purpose projects. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1995, which, inter-alia, recommended promoting private sector participation in Irrigation and multipurpose projects, and also to consider giving incentives such as tourism, tax holidays, floating tax-free revenue bonds/loans at concessional rates including moratorium on repayment, development of pisciculture, limited use of reservoir water for horticulture, right of water sports, navigation in reservoir areas, lands for commercial exploitation on embankments, etc.

A copy of the report was sent to all the State/UTs for necessary follow-up action and feedback on the report. Most of the States have indicated lack of scope of private

sector participation in this sector except Maharashtra, Gujrat, Orissa and U.P.

The planning Commission, Government of India has constituted a Working Group on Private Sector and Beneficiaries Programme for formulation of the tenth Five Year Plan in November, 2000.

Additional Funds to BSNL

2170. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have sought additional funds to cover the entire rural areas with telephone service by 2002;

(b) if so, the details of funds sought and funds made available to the BSNL by the government;

(c) whether the BSNL has been asked to generate funds at their own sources for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the strategy being adopted by the BSNL to generate funds and to cover the entire rural areas with telephone by 2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) BSNL has sought support for meeting its rural telephony targets in 2001-02. The method of funding the same is under examination by the Government.

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

Investment for National Highways Development Project

2171. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved investment of Rs. 30,000 crore for the National Highways Development Project as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time has been fixed for the completion of the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the role of the private sector in the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The Government approved a programme of 40 projects in a length of 4659

km. to be undertaken during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 on National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and some other sections. The programme including the on-going schemes involves an investment of Rs. 30,300 crore which was approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) Golden Quadrilateral component is scheduled to be completed in December, 2003, and the North-South and East-West corridors by December, 2007. The approved projects include projects to be implemented with private sector participation.

Testing of Water Sample

2172. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the findings of Chetna, a Delhi based non-Governmental Organisation, on the water sample picked up from the Sangam of the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna at Allahbad and made tests at the laboratories of Shriram Institute for Industrial Research in Delhi;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on the basis of the tests conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The report of 'Chetna' on the water sample of sangam shows that the physico-chemical and bacterial characteristics are generally within the prescribed standards for bathing quality. However, emergency works costing Rs. 5.38 crores were taken up in Dec. 2000 to divert 90 million liters per day of sewage from Salori Nalla, Ghaghar Nalla and Mori Gate Nalla outfalling in to rivers Yamuna and Ganga at Allahbad. Industries were directed to restrain from discharging untreated effluents directly to indirectly.

[Translation]

Pay Commission for Journalists

2173. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum regarding the pay scales of working journalists/personnel working in the field of journalism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendation of Manisana Pay Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the owners of the newspapers have implemented those recommendations in their respective organisations; and

(f) if not, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The Manisana Wage Board set up to fix and revise the wages of working journalists and non-journalists news paper and news-agency employees submitted its final report recommending new Pay Scales, DA, HRA, CCA and some other allowances. The Government has accepted the recommendations with certain minor modifications with due considerations to representations received in that regard. The decisions of the Government have been notified in the Official Gazettes vide S.O. Nos. 1086(E) and 1125(E) dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000 respectively.

(e) and (f) As per the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, the responsibility of implementing the Wage Board Award lies with the States/UTs. Accordingly, all State/UT Governments have been asked to take appropriate steps for implementing the Award and to furnish status report on quarterly basis.

[English]

Construction of Dams

2174. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the issue of construction of dams with Nepal to regulate the flow of rivers in North Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The first meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) at the level of Secretaries, Ministry of Water Resources of both the countries was held during 1st-3rd October, 2000, when the issue of construction of Dams in Nepal was, inter-alia, discussed. Both the Governments of India and Nepal have decided to take up field surveys and investigations to prepare a joint detailed project report of Sapta Kosi-Sun Kosi Multipurpose Project once the inception report of the Project is agreed upon by both the Governments. Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose projects were also discussed in the JCWR meeting.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Airlines

2175. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the foreign airlines to operate additional flights to clear the heavy rush during the winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the airlines and the routes allowed to operate;

(c) the response of the foreign airlines thereto;

(d) the extent to which it is likely to control the rush during the said period;

(e) whether any agreement with foreign airlines has been signed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) In order to reduce offloading of passengers by foreign airlines during peak season, Government had decided in December, 2000 to permit foreign airlines to operate additional flights or use bigger aircrafts in order to cope with peak season traffic and avoid inconvenience to passengers due to offloading.

(b) to (d) All airlines operating scheduled international services to India were permitted the above facility. Nineteen airlines availed of this facility and negligible offloading was reported during the peak season.

(e) and (f) There was no agreement signed in this behalf as it was only to cater to short term traffic requirements.

Reservation in Jobs

2176. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make reservation in jobs in private sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The private sector in India is free to make its own policies with regard to reservation,

recruitment promotion, etc. There is no Government policy of reservation for the private sector at present.

[Translation]

National Highways Damaged in Gujarat

2177. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :
DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various steps taken to repair the National Highways damaged in various parts of Gujarat after the recent earthquake;

(b) whether some of the areas are still inaccessible from the roads in the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken to repair the roads quickly and to restore traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) immediate steps were taken to repair the damages to National Highways to restore the traffic. This Ministry in addition to funds of Rs. 38.164 crores allocated to the State Government for maintenance and repairs for the current year has earmarked an amount of Rs. 2.64 crores for the repair work of immediate nature.

(b) and (c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of the National Highways. Immediate repairs was carried out and there is no disruption to traffic on National Highways in Gujarat.

[English]

Contract Labour

2178. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a growing tendency in both private and public sectors to engage contract labour, contrary to the conventional system of regular employment on rolls;

(b) whether the rights and privileges of the working class are ignored and short-changed by this process;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines/rules to ensure that workers under the 'Contract' category are extended the full benefits of regular employment with all perks and terminal benefits including social security, pension, PF, Gratuity etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act also apply to workers under 'Contract' category; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to launch an awareness campaign through mass media for the benefit of contract labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware that there has been reported increase in the engagement of contract labour. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted primarily with a view to safeguard the rights and privileges of the contract workers and prevent their exploitation.

(c) and (d) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971 provides under rule 25(2)(v)(a) that the wages and other conditions of service of contract labour shall be the same as that of regular employees if the contract workers perform the same or similar nature of work. In the light of the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Air India Statutory Corporation vs United Labour Union and Others in December, 1996, the establishments engaging contract labour in a process/work/ job are under obligation to absorb contract labour on regular basis wherever the "Appropriate Government" by way of notification made under Section 10 of this Act have prohibited engagement of contract labour in such process/work/job in those establishments.

(e) and (f) The provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act apply to workers appointed on contract basis directly by the Principal Employer whereas the contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 applies to contract workers engaged through a contractor or subcontractor. The Central Government through Regional Welfare Commissioners across the country are creating awareness through campaigns for the benefit of contract labour by bringing out booklets etc.

Financial Assistance to States

2179.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government under each of the Centrally sponsored schemes for irrigation during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plan period, State-wise; and

(b) the financial assistance utilized by each State during each Plan period, Plan-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources have been implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes for irrigation namely; Command Area Development Programme and

Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics. The information about central assistance released and utilized during VII, VIII and IX Plan is given in the Statement-I and II

Statement-I

*State-Wise Funds released as Central Assistance and utilized during VII, VIII And IX Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme**

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	Amount Released and Utilized		
		VII Plan	VIII Plan	IX Plan
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.28	7.28	38.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.10
3.	Assam	7.21	6.10	1.24
4.	Bihar	35.44	25.18	0.00
5.	Chhatisgarh**	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	5.35	2.65	0.20
7.	Gujarat	37.38	19.63	10.71
8.	Haryana	17.13	48.73	32.53
9.	Hiamchal Pradesh	1.32	1.85	1.42
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.55	10.48	6.73
11.	Jharkhand**	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	44.80	30.08	19.91
13.	Kerala	16.02	36.18	17.94
14.	Madhya Pradesh	30.46	9.77	4.19
15.	Maharashtra	85.64	66.38	26.78
16.	Manipur	2.05	4.13	3.47
17.	Meghalaya	0.20	0.36	0.18
18.	Mizoram***	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.10	0.21
20.	Orissa	11.99	17.17	13.71
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	38.52
22.	Rajasthan	69.51	141.55	87.62
23.	Sikkim***	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	18.86	58.95	53.96
25.	Tripura	0.05	0.02	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
26. Uttar Pradesh		88.45	106.99	98.22
27. Uttaranchal**		0.00	0.00	0.00
28. West Bengal		4.82	6.60	6.72
Total		496.51	600.18	462.76

* Funds under this scheme are released on reimbursement basis therefore the figures of amount released and utilization are the same. The State of

Bihar has not furnished utilization certificates for the total amount released till 1995-96, therefore, no funds have been released since 1996-97. The States of Andhra Pradesh and Goa have not furnished utilization certificate for the amount released during 1997-98, as such no central assistance has been released to these States since then.

** Newly created States, no proposal for release of central assistance received so far.

*** Projects included during current financial year. No proposal for release of funds received so far.

Statement-II

State-wise Funds released as Central, Assistance and utilized during VII, VIII and IX Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics Scheme

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.N.	States	VII Plan		VIII Plan		IX Plan	
		Release	Utilization	Release	Utilization	Release	Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24.89	24.23	108.67	100.70	50.29	49.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.36	0.98	4.48	2.24	1.46	2.24
3.	Assam	11.22	10.29	44.61	31.50	26.06	36.88
4.	Bihar	28.03	10.54	52.96	42.24	83.38	6.65
5.	Goa	0.47	0.14	0.68	0.68	3.98	0.02
6.	Gujarat	20.40	19.42	60.99	51.30	57.01	60.56
7.	Haryana	8.47	8.06	24.94	21.73	27.26	32.25
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16.80	17.32	45.75	49.37	31.93	26.33
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.94	2.88	23.63	20.11	33.44	27.09
10.	Karnataka	19.61	5.79	31.00	43.05	18.00	33.17
11.	Kerala	4.77	4.54	26.68	27.39	35.31	31.53
12.	Madhya Pradesh	50.47	48.56	119.26	27.18	44.02	125.96
13.	Maharashtra	24.00	0.00	38.50	11.41	45.49	42.95
14.	Manipur	1.41	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.12	0.00
15.	Maghalya	3.11	2.74	2.59	2.59	4.19	1.29
16.	Mizoram	1.23	0.00	1.15	1.15	0.09	0.00
17.	Nagaland	1.68	0.00	7.53	8.23	11.74	12.36
18.	Orissa	33.26	32.27	95.48	96.20	32.69	30.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19. Punjab		14.57	15.13	43.72	41.17	30.74	22.77
20. Rajasthan		19.69	9.11	60.51	39.56	47.26	57.61
21. Sikkim		0.13	0.23	0.57	0.57	5.72	5.33
22. Tamil Nadu		10.43	0.00	38.00	17.28	3.63	5.73
23. Tripura		0.54	0.00	0.60	0.00	13.63	14.16
24. Uttar Pradesh		64.44	0.00	86.46	0.00	123.55	1.66
25. West Bengal		26.95	1.11	87.13	32.91	45.81	61.83
Total States		397.87	213.54	1006.91	668.54	776.80	750.59
26. A and N Islands		0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.04	0.27
27. Chandigarh		0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.78	0.83	1.95	2.72	3.96	4.01
29. Daman and Diu		0.04	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30. Delhi		0.83	0.60	1.12	0.00	0.34	0.43
31. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Pondicherry		1.07	0.03	0.57	0.23	0.07	0.00
Total UTs		2.75	1.83	4.38	2.95	4.41	4.71
Grand Total		400.62	215.37	1011.29	671.49	781.21	755.30

Note : The reasons for difference in the figures of release and utilization are :

- (i) Funds remaining unutilized in a particular year are revalidated for utilization during subsequent year.
- (ii) Utilization certificate in respect of certain states/UTs have not been received who are being regularly pursued.

[Translation]

WLL Telephone Facility

2180. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology based telephone in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in the said district; and

(c) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. WLL system is planned to be deployed during the next financial year 2001-2002.

[English]

Unemployment Rates

2181: SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the unemployment rates for male and female in both rural and urban areas during last three years;

(b) how this compares with pre-reforms period 1985-91;

(c) whether structural reforms have an adverse impact on employment rate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Estimates of

Employment and Unemployment rates are obtained from the labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the surveys carried out during 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 the unemployment rates were as follows. These figures cover pre-reform and post reform periods.

Unemployment rates (as per usual principal status)

Year	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1999-2000	2.1	1.5	4.8	7.1
1993-1994	2.0	1.3	5.4	8.3
1987-1988	2.8	3.5	6.1	8.5

[Translation]

Recommendations of Manisamma Commission

2182. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recommendations made by 'Mani Samma Commission on Newspaper Industry' about workers:

(b) the number of newspapers which have provided/ not provided benefits to their workers as per the recommendations of the above Commission;

(c) the reasons for not providing these benefits to workers; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Manisana Wage Board set up to fix and revise the wages for working journalists and non-journalist newspaper and news-agency employees submitted its final report on 25.7.2000 recommending new Pay Scales, DA, HRA, CCA and some other allowances. The Government has accepted the recommendation with certain minor modifications. The decisions of the Government have been notified in the official Gazettes vide S.O. Nos. 1086 (E) and 1125 (E) dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000 respectively.

(b) to (d) As per the working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1955, the responsibility of implementing the Wage Board Award lies with the States/ UTs. According by, all State/UT Governments have been asked to take appropriate steps for implementing the Award and to furnish status report on quarterly basis.

PCOs in Mandavi

2183. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of P.C.Os functioning at present in Mandavi region of Gujarat;

(b) the number of application lying pending for installation of P.C.Os in the region;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 576 STD and local PCO are functioning in the Mandavi region of Gujarat.

(b) 38 applications for installation of P.C.Os are pending in the said region.

(c) Applications are pending for installation of PCOs due to area being technically not-feasible.

(d) Pending applications are to be cleared progressively within three months.

[English]

Child Labour Project at Belgaum

2184. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal relating to National Child Labour Project to be set up at Belgaum district in Karnataka for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government received a proposal for a National Child Labour Project (NCLP) at belgaum district in Karnataka for rehabilitation of working children. As per the survey conducted by the State Government of Karnataka, only 5 children were found engaged in Hazardous Industries and 151 children were identified as working in Non-hazardous occupations in Belgaum district. Further, district Belgaum has been accorded priority No. 13 by the State Government for NCLP. Considering the small number of working children in the district, the proposal was not found feasible for setting up a National Child Labour Project in Belgaum district as of now.

Workers Participation in Management

2185. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow workers to participate in Management especially in public enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) A Scheme of Employees' Participation in Management which is currently in existence was prepared and notified in December, 1983. The Scheme is applicable to all Central Public Enterprises except those specifically exempted. To make the Scheme more meaningful, the Participation of Workers in Management Bill has been drawn up and introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 30th May, 1990. This Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for their examination and report.

[Translation]

Swaran Rekha Multipurpose Project

2186. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several villages are submerged owing to Swaran Rekha Multipurpose Project;

(b) if so, the number of villages affected during the last three years, till-date, year-wise; and

(c) the compensation provided by the Government so far to the affected people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) On completion of Chandil dam of Subarnarekha multipurpose project, 38 villages fully and 78 villages partially will be affected.

(b) During 1997, 6 villages fully and 32 villages partially were affected. No new additional village has been affected in the last three years.

(c) As per information collected by the Central Water Commission during the monitoring visit to the project in March 2000, a compensation of Rs. 7290 Lakh has been paid for land acquisition, Rs. 720 Lakh for house building grant and Rs. 26.5 Lakh for agriculture land purchase by the State Govt.

[English]

Commission to PCO /STD/ISD Booth Operators

2187. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase percentage of commission to PCO/STD/ISD booth operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rates of commission have been revised recently. Commission for STD/ISD/PCO franchisees is paid @ 0.20 paise per unit call. At the places where competition exists, Chief General Managers have powers to offer commission up to 0.30 paise per unit call. These rates of commission are considered adequate.

Pending Proposals of Mining

2188. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals relating to mining on lease lying pending with the Government during the last three years for clearance;

(b) the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of mineral concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are made to expedite approved of Central Government in least possible time. In certain cases, the proposals received from the State Government are found incomplete and consequently, in such cases, the State Governments are asked to furnish complete information/additional information for expeditious disposal of such cases. On receipt of

complete information and after proper examination on merits, approval of the Central Government under section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is conveyed to the concerned State Governments.

2. 435 cases of mining leases for minerals listed in parts B and C of the First Schedule to the Act have been disposed off during 1998-2000 and 37 cases related to these three years' periods are still pending with the Central Government. The details of the proposals for grant of mining leases in respect of minerals listed in parts B and C of the First Schedule to the Act pending with Central Government State-wise are given below :-

S.No.	State	No. of pending proposals		
		1998	1999	2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	—	5
2.	Bihar	—	—	8
3.	Gujarat	—	—	1
4.	Karnataka	—	—	5
5.	Kerala	—	—	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	—	1
7.	Maharashtra	—	—	7
8.	Orissa	1	1	5
Total :		3	1	33

Setting up of Domestic Internet Exchanges

2189. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the internet speed and set up Domestic Internet Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the bandwidth required for the purpose;

(c) whether the reliability of Internet is below as compared to International Standard;

(d) if so, the details of the global benchmark for down time and India's down time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) It is planned to increase the bandwidth of National Internet

Backbone upto 155 Mbps by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited). The international band width has been increased from 167Mbps to 301Mbps by VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited). At present setting up of Domestic Internet Exchange in the country is not planned.

(c) and (d) TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is the designated authority for laying down the standard for quality of service in the telecom sector. As intimated by TRAI, the internet service is supposed to be a "best effort" service. There is yet no benchmark for its reliability and quality of service.

(e) The internet service has already been opened up by the Government to the private sector. The quality of service is likely to improve with the competition in this sector.

Adequate Space for National Highways

2190. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways which do not have 300 mtrs space on either side of roads;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reconstruct adequate space on either side of the roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Generally the requirement of land for National Highways as per standards varies from 45 to 60 mts. except in case of very high embankment, widening of road to 6 lanes, constructing lay byes, way-side amenities etc. where more land may be needed. There is however no proposal to acquire 300 mts. width of length on either side of the National Highways.

[Translation]

Residential Colonies for Employees

2191. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of Government quarters for Post and Telegraph employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed and achievements made to construct quarters during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct more quarters for employees in the States during the remaining period of Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

Department of Post

(a) The level of satisfaction of staff quarters in percentage terms as on 31.3.99 is 7.62%

(b) Lack of resources is the main constraint.

(c) Annual targets are fixed for construction of staff quarters in the Department for 22 circles. The overall information on targets fixed and achievement made for the last three years is given below :

Name of Activity	Target fixed for last three years	Achievement made
Construction of Staff Quarters	439	688

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The details of targets fixed for remaining period of Ninth Plan are given below :

Name of Activity	Target fixed for remaining period of Ninth Plan
Construction of Staff Quarters	345

Departments of Telecom

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for shortage of Government quarters are :-

(i) Suitable land is not available

(ii) Construction of Staff Quarters is to be undertaken in a phased manner

(c) It is proposed to achieve an over all target of 18% satisfaction ratio in construction of staff quarters by the end of Ninth Plan. Within this overall satisfaction ratio, there is, however, a target of 30% satisfaction ratio to be achieved in the case of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern circles, and, 100% satisfaction ratio, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The States are required to programme construction of staff quarters accordingly. Number of staff quarters constructed during the last three years, State-wise, is as per Statement-I.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The details are as per statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Staff Quarters constructed during the first three years of Ninth Five-Years Plan

Sl. No.	Name of States	Number of Staff Quarters constructed during		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	20	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	236	446	452
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	16	23
4.	Assam	8	31	20
5.	Bihar	22	65	55
6.	Gujarat	174	238	206
7.	Haryana	91	60	85
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21	30	21
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	30	2	1
10.	Karnataka	145	100	252
11.	Kerala	18	177	211
12.	Madhya Pradesh	259	176	184
13.	Maharashtra	403	533	483
14.	Manipur	8	10	12
15.	Meghalaya	16	28	36
16.	Mizoram	4	5	3
17.	Nagaland	10	12	15
18.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	168
19.	Orissa	234	44	22
20.	Punjab	88	238	65
21.	Rajasthan	240	208	155
22.	Sikkim	0	3	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	321	574	240
24.	Tripura	10	13	20
25.	U.P. (East)	130	221	201
26.	U.P. (West)	125	169	193
27.	West Bengal	91	133	92
Total		4613	5431	3220

Number of Staff Quarters proposed to be constructed during last two years of Ninth Five Year Plan

[English]

Sl.No.	Name of States	Numbers
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1704
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	198
4.	Assam	174
5.	Bihar	292
6.	Gujarat	688
7.	Haryana	361
8.	Himachal Pradesh	118
9.	Jharkhand	188
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	107
11.	Karnataka	950
12.	Kerala	497
13.	Madhya Pradesh i/c Chattisgarh	515
14.	Maharashtra	1560
15.	Manipur	69
16.	Meghalaya	110
17.	Mizoram	40
18.	Nagaland	174
19.	NCT of Delhi	294
20.	Orissa	35
21.	Punjab	195
22.	Rajasthan	584
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	616
25.	UP(East)	304
26.	UP(West)	288
27.	Tripura	49
28.	West Bengal	69
Total		10212

Killing of Turtles

2192.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether a large number of Olive Ridley turtles have been found killed near Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Orissa Coast as reported in 'The Hindu' dated January 27,2001;

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

(c) The action taken for their protection ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government 3202 Olive Ridley turtles have died in Gahirmatha coast till 23rd February, 2001. Most of the deaths have occurred due to entanglement of turtles in gill nets of fishing trawlers.

(c) Steps taken for the protection of Olive Ridley turtles; are :-

(i) Patrolling by the staff along the sea coast has been intensified. 5 trawlers, 27 Gill netters and 2 mechanised boats have been seized.

(ii) High powered committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Orissa to review/monitor the conservation of sea turtle in the State.

(iii) 5 Km. coastal water along the entire Orissa coast has been declared as prohibited area for mechanised fishing activities.

(iv) Protection camps with communication facilities like wireless sets have been set up at strategic points.

(v) Indian Coast Guards also patrol the area in high sea along the above mentioned nesting grounds of sea turtles to prevent illegal fishing and trawling.

[Translation]

National Highways Development Project in Gujarat

2193.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targeted length under various National Highways Development project of Gujarat has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the targets fixed under the said project in Gujarat and the percentage of the work completed as on date; and

(c) the reasons for this poor performance and action proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the National Highways Development project in the country particularly in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C.KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) In Gujarat 498 km of National Highways falls on Golden Quadrilateral and 654 km on East-West corridor of National Highway Development Project (NHDP). Various projects undertaken are at present progressing satisfactorily. They are expected to be completed within the targets set for Golden Quadrilateral, i.e. December 2003 and East-West corridor, i.e. December 2007.

(c) Does not arise.

Firing at Kolkata Airport

2194. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers have been killed in the incident of firing between the security officers and Para Military forces at Kolkata Airport in West Bengal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) On 10th February, 2001 a CRPF constable opened fire inside Kolkata Airport killing two Sub-Inspectors of Police posted at Airport.

(c) to (e) CRPF has ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident. Its report is awaited.

[English]

Mullaperiyar Dam

2195. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Water Commission has made some suggestions to protect Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala due to frequent earthquakes occurred recently; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government for the safety of Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The strengthening measures suggested by Central Water Commission for the safety of Mulla Periyar dam take into account the effect of relevant seismic forces.

Local Call Tariff Scheme

2196. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present criteria for providing local call facility in rural and urban areas;

(b) whether Government have decided to connect local call facility from every village to their respective district Headquarters in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to increase local call distance upto 500 kilometres from existing limit at present;

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

(e) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to extend its recently announced 200 km. Local call tariff scheme all the States;

(f) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the time by which said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the statement.

(b) Local call facility without "o" from village to respective District Headquarter is provided only under the criteria stated at (a) above.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal

(e) to (g) Local call tariff scheme as stated under (a) has been extended in all the States.

Statement

Criteria for provision of local call facility for Urban/Rural Areas

1. Local call facility at 180 sec.pulse rate is presently provided :-

- i) When Two Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) are adjacent
- ii) When the radial distance between the two Short, distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs falling in the same or adjacent Long Distance Charging Areas (LDCAs) is upto 50 Kms.
- iii) When the radial distance between two Long Distance Charging Centres (LDCCs) of two non-adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

2. Local dialing without "o" at concessional tariff in distance slab of >50-200 kms; is also provided for intra circle calls and calls between Delhi and SDCAs located in NCR.

[Translation]

Electronic Telephone Exchange

2197.SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges in the country during 2001-2002 under Communication Services Expansion Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether quota of Madhya Pradesh is being reduced with regard to proposed electronic telephone exchanges; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 82.46 lakhs lines net electronic switching capacity has been planned in the country during 2001-2002.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Construction of Bridge in H.P.

2198.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has submitted proposals worth Rs. 4.86, 7.18 and 2.54 crore to the Union Government for construction of a bridge at Sarsa Khadd on Nalagarh Roper Road and recasting of Jwalamukhi-Dehra-Nehranpukhar-Pragpur-Kotla road and Sanarkali-Kalodhar Kotalu, Behna (Section Kelodhar-Behna) road under the interstate "Road/Bridge project", and

(d) If so, the Progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI. B.C.KHANDURI) : (a) yes, Sir. The proposals were received under the scheme of Inter-State and Economic Importance.

(b) Since revamping of Central Road Fund was under the consideration of the Government, these proposals were shelved. Now that the revamped Central Road Fund is in Place, fresh proposals based on revised guidelines can be considered.

WLL Technology

2199.SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies operating in the rural areas of the country have opposed the use of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) The names of such companies, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Farakka Barrage Project

2200.SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of dilapidated condition of the town ship of Farakka Barrage Project; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken to improve the condition of township ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The township of Farakka Barrage, Project comprising mainly of temporary structures was initially built in early sixties for housing the staff during construction of the Barrage. The maintenance of the staff quarters and other facilities have been carried out from time to time departmentally. Besides, special repair works in the township were carried out in two spells-first during 1982-84 and thereafter during 1996-99.

Development of Additional Expressways in Maharashtra

2201.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to develop an additional expressways connecting Mumbai-Nasik-Dhulia-Jalgaon-Nagpur (N.H. 3 and N.H. 6) via Sambalpur to Kolkata in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed expressway from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra do not cover Mumbai;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have also been requested to increase the scope of National Highways Development Project Programmes;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reason therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed four/six laning of National Highways from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra under National Highway Development Project does not cover Mumbai. However the Golden Quadrilateral under NHDP connects Mumbai.

(d) to (g) National Highway Development Project route was declared by the Government, keeping in view the traffic volume and the need to provide a shorter route. Even though there have been requests for increase in scope of NHDP, no such changes are envisaged.

Legislation on Unorganised Labour

2202.SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any plans to bring out legislation to protect the interest of the unorganised labour;
- (b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced; and
- (c) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of the unorganised labourers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to bring out a legislation to protect the interests of all categories of workers in the unorganised sector as a whole. However, the Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of the interests of labour including unorganised labour. Some of these laws are : The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workman (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine workers and beedi workers are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned Welfare Funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rickshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in the unorganised sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

The government have also constituted the Second National Commission for Labour. The terms of reference of the Commission inter-alia include suggestion for formulation of an umbrella legislation to provide social security to the unorganised workers.

Aviation a Core Transport Sector

2203. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to make aviation a core transport sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other measures taken by the Government to make aviation a thrust area for growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Keeping in view the importance of the aviation sector, the following major initiatives have been taken :-

- (i) Disinvestment of Air India, Indian Airlines and Hotel Corporation of India;
- (ii) Development of existing four major international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta to international standards through Long-term leasing to private investors;
- (iii) Construction of new international airports at Hyderabad, Bangalore and Goa with private sector participation;
- (iv) Declaration of seven more airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Goa, Amritsar, Guwahati and Cochin as International airports;
- (v) Implementation of satellite based CNS-ATM system for safe and regular operation of civilian aircraft; and
- (vi) Development of more air cargo complexes to provide facilities and impetus for development of economy in regional and sub-regional areas.

[Translation]

Grievance Cell

2204. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to commence a new system of rectifying consumer complaints;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether some Grievance Cells have been set up with a view to make the telephone service more efficient;

- (d) if so, whether such cells have already been set up in all the telecom circles;

- (e) if not, the details of telecom circles where these cell have not yet been set up;

- (f) the time by which said cells are likely to be set up in each circle; and

- (g) the details of achievements of the said cells as on date?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) A Joint Secretary level officer has been posted in DOT Headquarter to look into the grievances of public. Similarly, a CGM level officer has been appointed exclusively to handle Public Grievance in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

- (d) Arrangement for handling Public Grievances are already existing in all Telecom Circles (BSNL).

- (e) and (f) Does not arise.

- (g) The Public Grievance Cells are functioning in a more focussed manner under the control of PG Cell of BSNL HQ.

[English]

Pollution in Maharashtra

2205. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Thermal Power Station and Western Coalfields in Chandrapur region of Maharashtra State are the main cause of growing pollution in the State;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof,

- (c) the details of steps taken/proposed to contain growing pollution in the region; and

- (d) the impact of the action already taken for containing pollution during the last three years by the Western Coalfields and Thermal Power Plant/Cement Plant Authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Seven units of Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and 29 coal mines located in Chandrapur region in Maharashtra are the major source of pollution in the area.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to comply with the environmental norms. Accordingly, the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has drawn detailed action plan including augmentation of Electrostatic Precipitators to control pollution from Thermal Power Plants. The pollution control measures taken by the Western Coalfields include the dust collection system, sprinkling of water and tree plantation on the operation sites. All the 3 operating cement plants in the area have installed pollution control devices and are complying with the prescribed standards. The State Government of Maharashtra has also formed a Petition Committee of State Assembly to look into the aspects of environmental pollution.

Pollution in Sabarmati River

2206.SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of works approved for Sabarmati River included under National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement;

(b) the financial assistance provided and utilised during the last three years;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The estimated cost of works approved for Sabarmati River at Ahmedabad included under National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement is Rs. 9383.39 lakhs.

(b) The financial assistance provided and the amount utilised during the last three years and the current financial year is as follows :

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	650.00	316.97
1998-99	220.00	700.86
1999-2000	1650.00	561.77
2000-2001	Nil	307.01

(c) The works amounting to Rs. 2538.85 lakhs have been completed under the Plan so far with a physical progress of about 30%.

(d) The works are targetted for completion by March, 2005.

Provident Fund

2207.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum service required for deduction of Provident Fund from the salary of a Government employee/ Non-Government employee at present;

(b) the percentage or mode of deduction of Provident Fund from the salary of an employee either in Government or in Non-Government sector;

(c) whether Non-Government employees are entitled for pension;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria laid down for the same;

(e) whether some time limit has been fixed for withdrawal of Provident Fund by Non-Government employee from date of request received in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Under the Employees Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, Non-Government employees are required to be enrolled as members of Provident Fund from the date of their joining the establishments coverable under the scheme. Under the GPF Rules, Government employees are compulsorily enrolled as members of GPF on completion of one year's service in Government.

(b) Under the EPF scheme, minimum rate of PF contribution is 10% applicable to five industries namely, jute, beedi brick, coir and gaugum. The maximum rate of EPF is 12% applicable to 172 notified industries/classes of establishments covered under the EPF and MP Act, 1952. Under the EPF Scheme the employer deducts employees's share of contribution from his monthly salary and deposits the same in the Fund alongwith his matching monthly contribution. Under the GPF Rules, Government Servants contribute to PF at the minimum rate of 6% from their monthly salary.

(c) and (d) Non-Government employees covered under the EPF and MP Act, 1952, are entitled to pension in the contingencies of retirement, superannuation, death, disablement etc. as prescribed under the Employees

Pension Scheme, 1995. Minimum 10 years' contributory service is required for entitlement to pension under the Employees Pension Scheme. Pension is payable @50% of the pay on completion of 33 years' contributory service.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The PF claims, complete in all respects are required to be settled within 30 days from the date of their receipt in the concerned EPF Office.

Sports Authority of India Centres

2208. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres functioning in the country are adequate to encourage sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to open new S.A.I. centres in rural areas; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to encourage sports and games in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details of SAI Training Centres as well as other sports promoting schemes and centres of SAI functioning in the country for encouraging sports is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at the present to open any new SAI Centres in rural areas. However, with a view to encouraging games and sports, the Government is also implementing a number of Sports Promoting Schemes such as Rural Sports Programme; Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure; Grant to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground; Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surface; Sports Talent Search Scholarship Scheme and Assistance to National Sports Federation (NSF) etc.

Statement

NSTC adopted Schools and Akharas

SOUTHERN REGION

1. St. Joseph's Indian High School, Bangalore
2. V.P. Sidhartha Public School, Vijaywada
3. Mount Carmel School, Kottayam

EASTERN REGION

1. St. Ignatius High School, Gumla
2. Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan, Calcutta
3. B.S. High School, Sundergarh
4. Umakanta Academy, Agartala
5. Tashi Namgyal Academy, Gangtok
6. Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Ranchi
7. Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Krishna Nagar
8. St. G.H. School, Kurseong
9. Downhill G.H. School, Kurseong

CENTRAL REGION

1. M.K.P. Inter College, Dehradun
2. Govt. Multipurpose Hr. Sec. School, Indore
3. Udaipratap Inter College, Varanasi
4. Colvin Taluqdar, Lucknow
5. Maharani Laxmibai Multipurpose, Jabalpur

AKHARAS

1. Gokul Ustad Talim Kendra, Pune
2. Krida Vikash Vayayamandal, Sangli

NORTHERN REGION

1. DAV Sr. Sec. School, Chandigarh
2. Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School, Jalandhar
3. CRZ Sr. Sec. School, Sonapat

WESTERN REGION

1. Muktangana English School, Pune
2. Parvara Public School, Ahmednagar
3. Bhupal's Nooles Hr. Sec. School, Udaipur
4. Bhonsla Military School, Nasik
5. Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, Panchgani
6. St. Anthony's High School, Goa
7. S. G.N. Sr. Sec. School, Sriganganagar

NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. Dony Polo Vidya Bhavan, Itanagar
2. Don Bosco High School, Guwahati
3. Sainik School, Imphal
4. Anthony's High School, Shillong

Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)

CENTRAL REGION

1. ISTC, Jabalpur (MP)
2. Jat Regimental Centre, Barielly (U.P.)
3. BEG, Roorkee, (U.P.)

EASTERN REGION

1. Bihar Regimental Centre, Danapur (Bihar)

NORTH EAST REGION

1. 58, GTC, Shillong

WESTERN REGION

1. BEG, Kirkee, Pune (Maharashtra)
2. ASC (South), Bangalore (Karnataka)
3. Arty Centre, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)

Special Area Games (SAG)

EASTERN

1. SAG, Ranchi
2. SAG, Jagatpur
3. SAG, Port Blair
4. SAG, Muzzaffarpur
5. SAG, Kishanganj

NORTH EASTERN

1. Imphal
2. Naharlagun
3. Aizwal
4. Utlov
5. Agartala

SOUTHERN

1. Alleppey
2. Tellichery

NORTHERN

1. Anandpursahib

CENTRAL

1. Delhi (Asso. Centre)
2. Allahabad (Asso. Centre)

Centre of Excellence

SOUTHERN REGION

1. CEX, Bangalore
2. CEX, LNCPE, Trivandrum

EASTERN REGION

1. CEX, Calcutta

CENTRAL REGION

1. CEX, Delhi
2. CEX, Lucknow

NORTHERN REGION

CEX, Patiala

WESTERN REGION

CEX, Gandhinagar

NORTH EASTERN REGION

CEX, IMPHAL

Total Centre of Excellence

08

SAI Training Centre

WESTERN REGION

1. STC, Kandivali
2. STC, Gandhinagar
3. STC, Goa
4. STC, Alwar
5. STC, Jodhpur

CENTRAL REGION

1. STC, Dhar
2. STC, Delhi
3. STC, Kashipur
4. STC, Raibarielly
5. STC, Etawah
6. STC, Bhopal
7. STC, Lucknow
8. STC, Allahabad
9. STC, Jabalpur

SOUTHERN REGION

1. STC, Kollam

2. STC, Bangalore
3. STC, Trivandrum
4. STC, Medikeri
5. STC, Pondicherry
6. STC, Chennai
7. STC, Dharwad
8. STC, Trichur
9. STC, Calicut
10. STC, Salem
11. STC, Hyderabad
12. STC, Nizamabad
13. STC, Elluru
14. STC, Medak

NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. STC, Dimapur
2. STC, Imphal
3. STC, Guwahati
4. STC, Golaghat
5. STC, Shillong

EASTERN REGION

1. STC, Calcutta
2. STC, Lebong
3. STC, Dhankenal
4. STC, Burdwan
5. STC, Cuttack
6. STC, Siliguri

NORTHERN REGION

1. STC, Patiala
2. STC, Chandigarh
3. STC, Bhiwani
4. STC, Kurukshetra
5. STC, Bilaspur
6. STC, Dhampshala
7. STC, Sangrur (Maustana Sahib)
8. STC, Badal

Total SAI Training Centres**47***[Translation]***Telephone Connection in Delhi**

2209. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each telephone exchange in Delhi as on date; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to clear waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No. of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) Delhi as on 28.2.2001 is 60,257 (Obs-53643, Commercial Waiting List-6614) Exchange-wise information is enclosed in the attached statement.

(b) Following steps have been initiated by MTNL, Delhi to clear the pending waiting list :

- (i) Deployment of more number of RSUs/RLUs Remote Switching Units/Remote Line Units)
- (ii) Deployment of more Second Line Remote Exchanges.
- (iii) Deployment of more DLCs (Digital Loop Carriers)
- (iv) Laying more underground cables in the localities which are presently TNF (technically Not Feasible).
- (v) Deployment of Wireless in Local Loop(WLL).

Statement*Exchange-wise Pending OBs/Coml. Waiting List*

Area	Exchange	OBs Pending	Commercial Waiting list
1	2	3	4
Central	Total	41	
	Janpath	9	
	Kidwai Bhawan	15	
	Sena Bhawan	3	
	Rajpath	6	
	Jorbagh	3	
	Lodhi Road	5	

1	2	3	4
East	Total	2356	
	Delhi Gate	653	
	Idgah	667	
	Tis Hazari	1036	
Trans	Total	11282	
Yamuna	Laxmi Nagar	4109	
	Karkardooma	38	
	Mayur Vihar	671	
	Shahdara	1735	
	Yamuna Vihar	4729	1997
North-I	Total	4746	
	Shakti Nagar East	3981	
	Shakti Nagar Cenral	370	
	Shakti Nagar West	289	
	Keshav Puram	106	
North-II	Total	5123	
	Rohini-3	1313	
	Saraswati Vihar	96	
	Rohini-6	501	
	Rohini-9	55	
	Pitam Pura	5	
	Badli	1660	
	Alipur	830	
	Narela	636	
	Bawana	27	
South-I	Total	3282	
	Bhikaji Cama Place	265	
	Hauz Khas	2468	
	Chattarpur	549	
South-II	Total	9568	
	Nehru Place	1540	
	Asiad	10	
	Sadiq Nagar	460	
	Tuglakabad	5028	2835

1	2	3	4
	Okhla	1776	
	Tekhanda	95	
	Sarita Vihar	659	
West-I	Total	12889	
	Karol Bagh	3685	
	Janakpuri	193	
	Vikas Puri	132	
	Pankha Road	2077	
	Najafgarh	2680	1782
	Delhi Cantt	335	
	Palam	71	
	NITC	8	
	Smalkha	59	
	Dwarka	3626	
	Shadipur	23	
West-II	Total	4356	
	Rajouri Garden	2047	
	Hari Nagar	31	
	Paschim Vihar	23	
	Nangloi	2051	
	Kanjhawala	204	
Grand Total		53643	6614

[English]

Sardar Sarovar Project

2210.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of families rehabilitated so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining families are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) A total of 3,221 families are likely to be affected at Full Reservoir Level by Sardar

Sarovar Project in Maharashtra. At the Present height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam Elevation level (E.L) 90 m. 1,495 families in Maharashtra are affected out of which 1279 families have already been resettled. Remaining 216 families have also been allotted agricultural land and house plots ex-parte. Further, rehabilitation of Project Affected Families is to be taken up pari passu with the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

[Translation]

Expenditure Reforms Commission

2211. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission set up on the Department of Telecommunications has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The Expenditure Reforms Commission has not submitted any report on the Department of Telecommunications.

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

[English]

Lift Irrigation Schemes in Orissa

2212. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide assistance/loan under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for implementation of lift irrigation schemes in the KBK districts in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for new as well as ongoing major/medium and surface minor irrigation schemes including river lift irrigation schemes in the KBK districts in Orissa. The CLA is released in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre:State).

CBI Investigation on Airbus Deal

2213. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADGE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI investigation on Rs. 4200 crore aircraft deal in 1986 has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the progress made in this regard till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into purchase of Airbus A-320 Aircraft by Indian Airlines is in Progress. CBI has completed investigation in India and is following up the same in respect of concerned foreign countries.

(d) No time frame can at present be indicated in respect of completion of this enquiry being done by CBI. The conclusion of the enquiry would primarily depend upon the co-operation of the foreign agencies/governments where the Letters Rogatory are pending/proposed to be sent.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connection

2214. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections under Non-OYT and other categories in Mumbai (W) and Mumbai (E) and Jalgaon district separately during each of the last three years and as on date; exchange-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone on demand;

(c) the time by which the waiting list of the year 2000-2001 is likely to be cleared in Mumbai and the said district;

(d) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided under each category in the said areas during 2001-2002;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints of non installation of new/shifted telephone connection in Maharashtra;

(f) if so, the number of such complaints received and pending in the State particularly Navi Mumbai areas as on date; and

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

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

[English]

Development of Forests

2215. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

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

(a) whether NABARD has sanctioned funds for the development of forests in different States of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether a plan has been evolved to spend funds on the conservation of forests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and amount utilised so far in each State of the country for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from NABARD and different States of the country. On receipt of the information, it shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Gaya Commissioner of Bihar

2216. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the possibility of finding coal, mica and oil-reserves in Gaya Commissioner of Bihar,

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Gaya Commissioner of Bihar is unlikely to have coal and oil reserves from the geological considerations. Mica is exploited in Gaya and Nawada districts respectively.

[English]

Hirakud Dam

2217. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villagers were displaced few years ago following construction of Hirakud Dam in Orissa;

(b) If so, the details of compensation paid to the affected persons; and

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide compensation and rehabilitation to the oustees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 617.24 lakh was offered as compensation to the displaced families during the year 1956. Out of it, an amount of Rs. 396.69 lakh was paid to the willing displaced families. However, cases in which compensation offered is disputed and cases in which rights of individual parties are in question, are still outstanding for payment. The State Government of Orissa have constituted a high power committee in 1992 for making recommendations regarding compensation to the projects affected persons. On the basis of the recommendations of this committee, the State Government has allotted Rs. 1.00 crore payment of ex-gratia, out of which about Rs.. 47.20 lakh has already been paid.

For rehabilitating oustees, villages have been laid out in reclaimed area and facilities provided for drinking water, schools, hospitals, etc.

Welfare of Women and Child Workers

2218 SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any comprehensive programme for the welfare of the women and children engaged in various unorganised and daily-wage workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the number of women and child labourers indicating the jobs they are engaged in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed as on date for their benefit, State-wise;

(d) the details of the various schemes initiated so far and the amount spent on such schemes to benefit the women and child labourers during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to give additional support to State in such schemes and programmes; and

(f) If so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (f) There is no single comprehensive programme for welfare of women and children engaged in unorganized and daily wage work. However, certain welfare schemes have been under taken for their benefit.

Authentic information on child labour and female workers is generated through decennial census. The State-wise number of working children in the country is in the statement-I attached and that of female workers is in the statements-II attached. The Census does not give industry wise information.

Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPS) for rehabilitation of about 2.00 lakh children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme of Grants-in-aid funds are released to Voluntary organizations for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of child and women labour, to impart education, skill training etc. to the target group on the recommendations of the concerned State Government.

The details of expenditure in respect of child labour during the last three years is as follows :

(in lakh)

Year	Amount
1997-98	Rs. 1317.76
1998-98	Rs. 2731.21
1999-2000	Rs. 3796.78

Details of expenditure in respect of the Grant-in-aid Scheme for women labour scheme during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Amount
1997-98	Rs. 8,58,135/-
1998-99	Rs. 11,47,529/-
1999-2000	Rs. 15,08,164/-

State wise allocation of funds is not made under the Schemes.

Statement-I

State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 1991 Census

State/Union Territories	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers
1	2	3	4
1 Andhra Pradesh	1,537,293	124,647	1,661,940
2 Assam	259,953	67,645	327,598
3 Bihar	795,444	146,801	942,245
4 Gujrat	373,027	150,558	523,585
5 Haryana	89,030	20,661	109,691
6 Himachal Pradesh	30,771	25,667	56,438
7 Jammu & Kashmir
8 Karnataka	818,159	158,088	976,247
9 Kerala	28,590	6,210	34,800
10 Madhya Pradesh	997,940	354,623	1,352,563
11 Maharashtra	805,847	262,571	1,068,418
12 Manipur	13,478	3,015	16,493
13 Meghalaya	30,730	3,903	34,633
14 Nagaland	16,106	370	16,476
15 Orissa	325,250	127,144	452,394
16 Punjab	132,414	10,454	142,868
17 Rajasthan	490,522	283,677	774,199
18 Sikkim	5,254	344	5,598
19 Tamilnadu	523,125	55,764	578,889
20 Tripura	13,506	2,972	16,478
21 Uttar Pradesh	1,145,087	264,999	1,410,086
22 West Bengal	593,387	118,304	711,691
23 Andman & Nikobar Island	758	507	1,265
24 Arunachal Pradesh	11,632	763	12,395
25 Chandigarh	1,839	31	1,870
26 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,677	1,739	4,416

1	2	3	4
27 Delhi	26,670	681	27,351
28 Daman and Diu	741	200	941
29 Goa	3,938	718	4,656
30 Lakshadweep	17	17	34
31 Mizoram	6,391	10,020	16,411
32 Pondicherry	2,565	115	2,680
Total	9,082,141	2,203,208	11,285,349

****Census could not be conducted.**

NB : Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

Statement-II

Statewise Number of Female Workers (1991 Census)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of workers
1	2	3
	INDIA	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,9
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991
18.	Punjab	418,646

1	2	3	4
19.	Rajasthan		5,744,129
20.	Sikkim		57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu		8,236,872
22.	Tripura		184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh		8,019,310
24.	West Bengal		3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar		
26.	Islands		16,584
27.	Chandigarh		29,443
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		32,944
29.	Daman & Diu		11,584
30.	Delhi		314,076
31.	Lakshadweep		1,906
32.	Pondicherry		60,911

Note : Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991

[Translation]

Privatisation of Airports

2219.DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to handover the management of four international airports including the international airport in Delhi, to private companies on lease basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) In order to bring the standard of services at par with international standards; to improve management culture, efficiency and over-all productivity; to unlock the potential for economic benefits arising out of well-managed airports and to attract private investment required for achieving the above objectives, the Government has decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise.

*[English]***Committee on Irrigation Projects**

2220. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any Committee to review the progress of on-going major and medium irrigation projects;

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

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Central Water Commission is, however, monitoring about 200 major and medium ongoing projects in the country and bringing out periodical status reports with a view to identify bottlenecks coming in the way of their completion. The Central Government is also assisting the States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 with the objective of accelerating the implementation of the major and medium projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advanced stage of completion.

*[Translation]***Telephone Connections**

2221. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connections have not been provided even beyond six months after issuance of O.B. by MTNL in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in which O.B. have been issued one year or nine months earlier and telephone connections pending with the Government have not been provided as on date exchange-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in installation of telephone; and

(d) the time by which these connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) In the technically not-feasible (TNF) areas, 29,207 OBs issued prior to 31.3.2000 are pending for execution as on

28.2.2001. Exchange wise detail is enclosed in the attached statement.

(c) The major reason for delay has been non-availability of underground cable pairs in specific areas where such telephones are to be provided.

(d) These pending connections are likely to be provided by 30.6.2001.

Statement*No. of OBs Pending Exchange-wise*

Area	Exchange	No. of OBs pending Prior to 31.3.2000
1	2	3
East	Delhi Gate	398
	Idgah	166
	Tis Hazari	563
Trans Yamuna	Laxmi Nagar	2367
	Mayur Vihar	287
	Shahdara	398
	Yamuna Vihar	2659
North-I	Shakti Nagar East	2990
	Shakti Nagar Central	188
	Shakti Nagar West	148
North-II	Rohini-3	619
	Rohini-6	215
	Badli	617
	Alipur	575
	Narela	284
South-I	Hauz Khas	633
	Chattarpur	237
South-II	Nehru Place	482
	Sadiq Nagar	235
	Tuglakabad	4718
	Okhla	899
	Tekhand	21
	Sarita Vihar	352

1	2	3
West-I	Karol Bagh	1873
	Janakpuri	28
	Pankha Road	1267
	Najafgarh	2663
	Palam	27
	Dwarka	2014
West-II	Rajouri Garden	425
	Nangloi	701
	Kanjhawala	73
Grand Total		29207

[English]

Model Concession Agreement for Road Project

2222.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to control the land and traffic on National Highways;

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

(c) whether the Government have finalised the model concession agreements for major projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A bill has been prepared and is under process in Ministry of Law to provide for control of land within National Highways Right of Way and traffic on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The model concession agreements for BOT projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore and projects costing less than Rs.100 crores have been finalised. under these agreements the concessionaire directly collects the toll and retains it for a fixed period as per agreement. The model concession agreement for another variant of BOT project i.e. Annuity Based BOT projects has also been finalised. As per this agreement the concessionaire is paid a fixed amount annually depending upon the cost of the project.

[Translation]

Tenders for Telephone Lines

2223.SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had floated tenders for telephone lines in the country particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the companies/contractors to whom contracts were awarded;

(d) whether the Government are aware that mass scale corruptions prevailed in Telecom Department regarding awarding of contracts;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Tenders were floated for telephone lines exchange equipment for the country including Karnataka and Maharashtra during 200-2001.

(b) Total 5190000 exchange line equipment tenders were floated for the country during 2000-2001. Out of this the quantity allocated for Maharashtra is 588700 lines and for Karnataka 474240 lines.

(c) The details of the companies to whom tenders were awarded are given in the attached statement.

(d) to (f) Sir, When complaints of corruption regarding awarding of contracts are received from various sources, the same are investigated by the Department's Vigilance Cell and action is taken against the guilty as per rules. Help of police/CBI is also taken wherever necessary.

Statement

Details of the companies to whom contracts are awarded :

1. M/s Keltron
2. M/s Instrumentation Limited

3. M/s Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company Ltd.
4. M/s ITI Ltd.
5. M/s HTL Ltd.
6. M/s United Telecom Ltd.
7. M/s Punjab Communication Ltd.
8. M/s Crompton Greaves Ltd.
9. M/s Bharat Electronic Ltd.
10. M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
11. M/s Instrumentation Ltd. Kota
12. M/s Siemens India Ltd.
13. M/s Lucent Technology Hindustan Ltd.
14. M/s Alcatel India Limited.

[English]

Performance of Projects/Schemes

2224. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
 SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG :
 SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the details of different Centrally sponsored projects/schemes cleared/started by the Government during each of the last three years as well as current year, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the funds allocated/released alongwith their utilization, State-wise and project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these projects/schemes;

(d) if so, the achievements made alongwith the reasons for shortfall, under-utilisation/non-utilisation of funds during the said period, project/scheme-wise

(e) the details of new projects/schemes proposed for the remaining period of Ninth Plan;

(f) the details of proposals/projects received and pending with the Government for clearance alongwith the year since when these are pending, State-wise; and

(g) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared and completed, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Major centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests under which funds are provided to State Governments for development of forests are: (i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, (ii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, (iii) Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme, (iv) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis, (v) Biosphere Reserves, (vi) Modern Forest Fire Control Methods Schemes, and (vii) Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs. Scheme/project-wise locations of projects approved during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, are given in enclosed statement-I along with central assistance sanctioned, released and utilised. Utilisation of funds during each financial year is reported by the States after the closure of the financial year. The performance of the schemes/projects is reviewed periodically. Subsequent release of funds is subject to satisfactory utilisation of the central assistance provided earlier.

(e) Implementation of afforestation projects through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the territorial/wildlife division level has been mooted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on pilot basis during 2000-01 and 2001-02 under the ongoing Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme. Accordingly, several FDAs have been set up in 17 States. Projects sanctioned so far are listed in statement I. Continuation of this approach in the future and in the Next Five Year Plan is dependent on the evaluation of work carried out by FDAs in the remaining period of the Ninth Plan. Implementation of coastal shelterbelt, medicinal and bamboo plantations in the country is also being given special thrust from 2000-01 onwards as part of the ongoing Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.

(f) and (g) Project proposals received from different States under the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, including the projects posed by FDAs of several States, for the Ninth Plan which have not been sanctioned so far are in the attached statement II. Their sanction is subject to technical suitability, regional distribution among various States, and the availability of funds for this scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

Scheme/project-wise locations of projects sanctioned during the last three years and the current year, State-wise.

I. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Watershed	District	1997-2000			2000-01	
				Allocated	Released	Utilised	Allocated	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh		Nizamabad	36.37	23.87	31.68	16.61	28.67
2			Cuddappah	33.60	30.94	28.93	16.77	13.64
3			Anantapur	56.04	51.03	59.89	27.11	32.12
4			Kurnool	36.23	27.80	31.79	16.85	25.28
5			Chittoor	54.49	49.34	40.11	24.83	15.60
6			Khammam	110.18	110.18	110.36	51.46	51.46
7		CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	154.43	79.78
8	Arunachal Pradesh	Pankhao	Lohit	10.07	10.06	10.07	9.68	7.30
9		Tawang	Tawang	6.15	6.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
10		Sange Sella and Twang (Ph-II)	Tawang (M)	68.72	73.87	68.72	36.72	31.57
11		Tapo-Tarak (Ph-II)	Tapo-tarak	25.94	35.59	25.94	23.68	0.47
12		Yanman	Changlang	12.33	12.35	12.33	14.15	7.31
13	Assam	Chongkham	Lohit	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.68	5.34
14		Arang	Cachar	50.19	30.50	24.68	17.91	7.61
15		Darrang	Sonitpur	50.19	30.50	24.96	17.91	7.89
16		Kadam-Jadhal	Lakhimpur	50.19	30.50	30.50	17.91	13.43
17		Kamrup	Kamrup	50.19	30.50	25.00	17.91	7.93
18		Kuruwa and Rowta	Darrange	50.19	30.50	25.04	17.91	7.97
19		Kopilli	Karbi Anglong (M)	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20		4 Watershed	Nagaon	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.28	7.42
21	Bihar	Ajoy	Deoghar	52.70	41.12	41.12	9.54	1.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22		Giridih	Giridih	74.80	51.77	51.77	31.57	16.84
23		Subamrekha	Ranchi	68.43	50.35	39.79	25.58	13.16
24			Dumka	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.50	15.60
25	Gujarat	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	169.56	108.57	85.69	69.50	46.87
26		CSBP		0.010	0.00	0.00	280.35	145.58
27			Surat	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.91	4.00
28			Panchmahal	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.44	25.00
29	Haryana	Ghaggar and Markanda	Panchkula	253.22	253.22	253.22	90.13	77.60
30	Himachal Pradesh	Giri	Sirmour and Solan	72.16	46.26	29.56	45.17	15.89
31		Deharkangu	Mandi	68.83	43.94	55.06	44.02	63.02
32	Jammu & Kashmir	Basanter	Kathua	105.55	108.75	105.55	86.81	49.00
33		Bringi	Anantnag	150.52	116.98	75.49	65.90	0.00
34		Chenani	Udhampur	111.37	111.37	111.37	78.67	78.67
35		Karnah	Kupwara	88.91	88.91	88.91	56.37	55.20
36		Sukhtao	Rajouri	149.58	122.71	165.03	69.56	96.43
37		Trikuta Hills (Ph-II)	Jammu	183.83	199.18	184.48	84.48	47.55
38		Indira Hills	Anantnag (M)	18.20	18.20	18.20	0.00	0.00
39		Sukhtao	Rajouri (M)	9.58	5.95	9.58	0.00	0.00
40		Trikuta Hills (Ph-I)	Jammu (M)	10.71	10.71	10.71	0.00	0.00
41		Basanter	Kathua (M)	25.00	25.00	24.88	22.16	0.00
42		Chenani	Udhampur (M)	5.16	4.32	4.32	0.0	0.00
43		Bringi	Anantnag (M)	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
44		Billani	(M)	5.04	5.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
45	Karnataka		Chitradurga	69.11	47.65	47.65	26.78	26.78
46			Hassan	132.41	84.25	84.21	33.71	33.67
47			Tumkur	91.94	65.17	55.81	38.91	29.55
48			Belgaum	89.07	61.52	61.52	29.11	29.11
49			Bidar	54.37	40.02	36.02	23.14	19.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
50			Kolar	65.24	42.89	42.89	15.32	15.32
51		CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	26.79	13.86
52	Kerala	Chuliar and Agali	Palakkad	76.35	75.61	76.35	125.07	68.43
53		Deviar Project	Idukki	138.80	114.94	102.71	71.94	71.94
54		Edmalayar	Ernakulam	139.87	118.72	109.26	32.59	23.13
55		Illithodu	Ernakulam	90.80	66.03	66.29	34.03	40.52
56		Kakkad	Pathanamthitta	125.31	92.40	91.40	39.88	29.91
57		Pulakodu-Chelakkara	Thrissur	121.10	108.60	102.79	43.76	52.82
58		Sankily	Thiruvananthapuram	117.53	97.62	103.96	56.93	99.83
59		Court Case	Malappuram	0.00	6.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
60		CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	199.02	99.51
61	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind	Bhind	105.80	79.80	71.18	41.00	0.00
62		Bina	Raisen	100.10	49.59	42.32	40.13	40.13
63		Chambal	Mandsaur	86.87	62.63	62.54	36.05	35.95
64		Choral and Kunda	West Nimar	111.10	45.47	34.06	43.33	4.53
65		Dhanesara Nala	Bastar	36.86	27.00	20.40	4.13	0.00
66		Dudhi	Hosangabad	74.22	46.74	46.15	28.16	20.53
67		Ken	Chhatarpur	99.26	86.06	79.73	40.35	23.93
68		Mahi	Dhar	78.36	58.49	77.70	29.90	42.43
69		Parvati and Sind	Guna	119.92	79.05	77.63	45.80	32.93
70		Sendur	Sarguja	111.11	80.91	97.29	43.52	28.12
71		Seonath	Rajnandgaon	94.03	71.24	72.56	35.21	21.86
72		Sind	Datia	108.28	66.31	65.74	45.41	33.49
73		Sitarewa	Chindwara	100.91	93.72	94.85	39.17	17.84
74		Kanha tiger Reserve	Mandla	0.00	16.11	0.00	36.27	0.00
75		Sunar Nadi	Damoh	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.28	25.92
76	Maharashtra		Nasik	72.05	24.00	23.38	16.70	11.91
77			Kolhapour	15.12	4.70	4.69	6.40	6.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
78		BM 117, 118, 121, KR 35	Sangli	56.38	15.70	15.71	25.17	18.88
79		BM 39, BM 55	Pune	71.42	33.74	33.70	12.15	12.11
80		Junner, Shirur	Pune	18.43	10.50	9.77	0.63	0.00
81			Nasik	48.45	27.70	27.10	3.78	22.24
82		Dhule	Dhule	408.17	48.58	48.58	188.44	141.35
83			Sindhudurg	10.55	8.00	7.85	13.95	12.80
84	Manipur	Imphal	Imphal	264.60	242.77	242.49	128.71	122.39
85		Lok Tak Phase (I)	Imphal (M)	23.26	23.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
86		Loh Tak Phase (II)	Imphal	235.11	216.41	186.76	88.43	36.94
87		Maklang	Ukhrul	149.53	138.19	138.19	89.83	88.15
88		Thoubal	Thoubal	249.42	230.12	230.12	153.55	80.63
89	Meghalaya	Chibok		13.61	10.21	10.21	19.60	14.70
90	Mizoram	Karnaphuli	Chhimtuipui	44.30	30.76	30.76	15.44	28.98
91		Tiau	Aizawl East	77.39	77.39	72.16	35.53	35.53
92		Tlawng	Aizawl	156.69	133.96	133.96	69.20	54.91
93		Tuivawl	Aizawl East	78.82	78.82	72.29	34.10	30.00
94	Nagaland	DZU-U	Kohima	24.80	18.60	18.60	40.80	30.60
95		Meguiki	Kohima	34.88	20.00	20.00	57.38	43.04
96	Orissa	Tel	N.K. B. Distt.	309.14	125.00	257.54	204.60	153.45
97		Chilka	K.N.P. Distt	80.80	26.00	59.88	58.35	43.76
98		Salandi	K.M. Distt.	70.62	25.60	58.08	54.26	90.70
99		Similipal Tiger Reserve	Mayurbhanj Distt.	23.59	18.50	0.00	27.17	0.00
100		Hadua Chatara	Cuttack	46.93	37.54	0.00	82.03	0.00
101		Kelua Bada Genguti	Jaipur	27.40	21.92	0.00	50.75	0.00
102		Baripada F. Div.	Mbhj, Blsr and Bh drk.	28.68	22.94	0.00	37.65	0.00
103		Karanjia F. Div.	Mayurbhanj	28.67	22.93	0.00	37.66	0.00
104		Mahanadi and Brahmani	Cuttack and Jaipur	56.94	37.54	0.00	87.03	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
105			Keonjhar	40.14	32.12	0.00	52.72	0.00
106		Barhanadi Loharkhandi	Ganjam	51.46	41.17	0.00	89.48	0.00
107		Kuakhai Bada Gangua	Khurda	45.20	5.00	0.00	80.50	0.00
108		CSBP	Puri	0.00	0.00	0.00	278.68	159.59
109		CSBP	Ganjam	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.30	26.07
110		CSBP	Balasore	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.44	20.86
111		CSBP	Kendrapara	0.00	0.00	0.00	277.21	100.00
112		CSBP	Jagatsinghpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	226.21	129.35
113		CSBP	Bhadrak	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.86	5.22
114	Pondicherry	CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	41.62	20.12
115	Punjab	Sutlej	Rupnagar	279.20	123.99	67.74	113.02	0.00
116	Rajasthan		Banswara	193.78	189.20	193.78	152.07	147.81
117			Jhalawar	136.47	153.88	136.47	119.16	66.17
118		Ladpura and Mandana	Kota	167.64	189.19	167.64	158.12	71.70
119			Tonk	61.55	81.50	61.55	72.18	29.97
120			Udaipur	203.17	223.66	203.17	173.54	117.02
121		Sariska Tiger Reserve	Alwar	43.47	34.78	0.00	56.67	0.00
122	Sikkim	Dzongu	North Sikkim	132.35	117.62	117.08	44.45	0.00
123		Rangpochu	East Sikkim	360.72	297.89	309.89	133.57	183.01
124	Tamil Nadu		Madurai	57.66	18.02	5.68	38.73	0.00
125		CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	156.81	84.55
126	Tripura		Agartala	244.13	161.34	158.88	97.46	91.51
127	Uttar Pradesh	Amtiargad	Dehradun	197.35	191.60	176.60	81.72	66.29
128		Jaikurgad	Uttar Kashi and Tehri	183.98	143.47	143.47	89.73	79.66
129		Khoh-Sukhro	Pauri	162.62	156.42	151.20	75.54	51.44
130		Koshi Ramgad	Nainital	401.45	352.95	380.57	191.31	107.35
131		Corbett National Park	Ramnagar Nainital	45.80	2.68	0.00	60.60	30.80
132			Pauri (M)	16.93	13.40	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
133			Nainital (M)	15.25	15.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
134			Dehradun (M)	13.68	13.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
135		Horticulture	Taj Afforestation	6.57	11.10	12.16	0.00	0.00
136		Forest Deptt	Taj Afforestation	79.68	82.11	79.68	5.77	3.34
137			Hardoi	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.14	3.00
138			Agra	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.02	53.02
139			Bijnor	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.51	1.50
140	West Bengal		3 districts in North Bengal	187.42	136.50	137.26	98.38	48.22
141		Sundarban Bio Reserve	24 Parganas South	188.82	175.38	159.49	98.36	48.78
142		CSBP		0.00	0.00	0.00	13.80	7.60
143			Darjeeling	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	17.00
144	Swarnajayanti Kunj		Kurseong	587.23	587.23	87.28	0.00	0.00
Total				11717.41	9188.80	8179.15	7938.12	4934.75

CBSP : Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation Projects

(M) : Denotes funds provided for maintenance of 8th plan plantations

IA. Projects sanctioned so far to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) during 2000-01 under IAEP Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Location of FDA	Total Area to be covered (in ha.)	Total Project Cost sanctioned for the 9th Five Year Plan
1	Punjab	Muktsar	335	70.68
2	Jammu nad Kashmir	Doda	1720	111.67
3	Jammu and Kashmir	Kathua	580	37.84
4	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	1140	75.28
5	Jammu and Kashmir	Budgam	1140	75.28
6	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	6500	743.97
7	Madhya Pradesh	Hoshangabad	2000	330.05
8	Himachal Pradesh	Suket	1950	200.47
9	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	2000	359.75
10	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	1279	199.80
11	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut	1070	124.07
Total			19734	2328.86

II. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1997-2000			2000-01	
		Allocated	Released	Utilised	Allocated	Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	305.26	304.59	290.76	220.69	146.38
2	Arunachal Pradesh	17.94	13	11.31	12.78	9.28
3	Assam	492.65	243.64	173.38	204.87	42.83
4	Bihar	375.43	245.52	277.99	210.18	30.00
5	Goa	20.50	13.69	10.74	8.62	2.89
6	Gujarat	551.89	505.53	461.33	278.58	206.27
7	Haryana	776.62	721.07	776.62	323.50	323.20
8	Himachal	459.43	382.06	363.02	323.50	132.96
9	Jammu and Kashmir	446.10	162.64	145.89	174.25	0.00
10	Karnataka	424.13	423.46	384.87	282.95	70.00
11	Kerala	348.86	269.74	190.27	103.70	65.03
12	Madhya Pradesh	1723.10	1098.81	1056.29	636.50	300.00
13	Maharashtra	230.84	223.82	172.62	153.51	18.53
20	Rajasthan	327.10	305.22	271.80	228.15	125.40
21	Sikkim	213.91	195.81	159.81	187.14	198.44
22	Tamil Nadu	65.69	33.00	41.42	51.99	47.38
23	Tripura	46.16	33.75	27.21	41.6	17.15
24	Uttar Pradesh	212.20	58.00	62.00	100.28	78.00
25	West Bengal	152.91	152.91	147.40	122.95	79.00
Total		3804.32	2949.96	2865.90	3645.14	2198.41

IV. Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1997-2000			2000-01	
		Allocated	Released	Utilised	Allocated	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	26.21	26.21	26.20	21.76	15.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.18	8.18	0.00	45.63	0.00
3	Bihar	101.83	66.95	34.09	54.52	0.00
4	Gujarat	43.29	29.04	28.04	33.93	14.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Jammu and Kashmir	40.25	28.17	28.17	34.28	32.80
6	Karnataka	63.14	63.14	34.42	44.93	25.00
7	Madhya Pradesh	163.43	145.41	124.46	75.58	70.00
8	Maharashtra	64.45	42.94	21.54	51.06	0.00
9	Manipur	35.69	35.69	9.36	30.40	25.00
10	Mizoram	24.57	24.57	21.74	19.89	19.89
11	Nagaland	23.80	6.00	3.86	19.89	0.00
12	Orissa	0.0	0.00	31.15	41.65	0.00
13	Rajasthan	47.97	47.97	47.51	36.27	25.00
14	Tripura	18.71	12.55	5.48	16.61	9.25
15	West Bengal	21.06	7.06	0.00	7.61	7.61
Total		682.57	543.87	416.02	534.02	243.80

V. Biosphere Reserves

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Biosphere Reserve (BR)/ State(s) Covered	1997-2000			2000-01	
		Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Utilised	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Nilgiri BR located in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka	187.78	187.78	187.78	107.35	92.85
2.	Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu)	42.75	42.75	42.75	12.00	3.55
3.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	87.00	87.00	87.00	26.00	3.30
4.	Nokrek (Meghalaya)	19.15	19.15	19.15	18.50	10.90
5.	Great Nicobar (A and N Islands)	44.90	44.90	44.90	14.88	4.88
6.	Nanda Devi (Uttar Pradesh)	94.55	94.55	94.55	40.00	12.00
7.	Manas (Assam)	70.00	70.00	70.00	21.50	12.30
8.	Similipal (Orissa)	70.50	70.50	70.50	35.00	20.45
9.	Dibru Saikhowa (Assam)	28.50	28.50	28.50	35.00	20.65
10.	Dehang-Debang (Arunachal Pradesh)	6.000	6.00	6.00	35.00	7.60
11.	Pachmarhi (Madhya Pradesh)	32.00	32.00	32.00	35.40	13.70
12.	Kanchanjunga (Sikkim)	0.00	0.0	0.0	24.50	24.50
Total		683.13	683.13	683.13	405.13	226.68
Research, etc.		69.84	85.52	89.42	89.44	89.44

VI. Modern Forest Fire Control Methods Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1997-2000			2000-01	
		Allocated	Released	Utilised	Allocated	Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	50.16	50.16	7.43	40.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	22.35
3	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.75	15.50
4	Bihar	38.76	38.76	0.00	90.26	42.15
5	Goa	0.00	0.0	0.00	15.00	15.00
6	Gujarat	80.79	80.79	0.00	41.00	26.28
7	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.30	11.67
8	Himachal Pradesh	68.50	68.50	35.07	76.00	31.98
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	32.70
10	Karnataka	96.46	96.46	0.0	48.32	33.55
11	Kerala	69.23	69.23	0.00	25.00	15.30
12	Madhya Pradesh	55.36	55.36	62.08	194.00	85.75
13	Maharashtra	18.79	18.79	0.00	228.00	191.29
14	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.67	34.00
15	Meghalaya	0.00	0.0	0.00	23.69	23.69
16	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.00	24.60
17	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Orissa	43.82	43.82	0.00	54.62	9.10
19	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
20	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.30	22.68
21	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.00	25.00
22	Tamil Nadu	41.40	41.40	12.35	55.00	8.85
23	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.60	32.40
24	Uttar Pradesh	93.93	93.93	0.00	127.60	62.80
25	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.30	34.85
Total		657.19	657.19	116.93	1364.41	801.48

VII. Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Mangrove Area	1997-2000			2000-01	
			Sanctioned	Released	Utilised	Sanctioned	Released
1	West Bengal	Sunderbans	175.37	175.37	175.37	0.00	0.00
2	Orissa	Bhitarkanika	17.56	17.56	17.56	0.00	0.00
		Mahanadi	26.50	26.50	26.50	0.00	0.00
		Subernrekha	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.50	23.50
		Devi	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.25	17.25
		Dhamra	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	15.00
3	Andhra Pradesh	Coringa	10.65	10.65	10.65	31.20	31.20
		Krishna	8.87	8.87	8.87	14.39	14.39
		East-Godavari	8.50	8.50	8.50	14.28	14.28
4	Tamil Nadu	Pichavaram	25.96	25.96	25.96	16.00	16.00
		Muthupet	19.86	19.86	19.86	64.00	64.00
		Ramnad	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.70	4.70
5	Maharashtra	Achra-Ratnagiri	9.88	9.88	9.88	0.00	0.00
		Devghat- Vijaydurga	0.00	0.00	0.0	9.74	9.74
		Mumbra-Diva	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.41	26.41
		Vaitarna	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.05	14.05
		Kundalika-Revdanda	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.52	13.52
		Vasai-Manori	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.79	11.79
		Shreevardhan-Varal-	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.49	13.49
		Kalsuri					
6	Goa	Goa	26.10	26.10	26.10	12.45	12.45
7	A & N Islands	North-Andamans	16.88	16.88	16.88	7.64	7.64
		Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
8	Gujarat	Gulf of Khambhat	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.64	21.64
		Gulf of Kutchh	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.47	66.47
Total			346.13	346.13	346.13	401.52	401.52

Statement-II*I. List of Projects received but not sanctioned so far under IAEP Scheme*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Project Location/Year of receipt	Outay Proposed by States
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Puttaparthi (1998-99)	393.41
	Nizamabad (1999-2000)	178.60
	Adilabad (1999-2000)	178.60
	East Godavari (1999-2000)	178.60
	Krishna (1999-2000)	122.35
	Nellore (1999-2000)	118.30
	Srikakulam (1999-2000)	247.40
	Visakhapatnam (1999-2000)	243.30
	West Godavari (1999-2000)	122.35
Bihar	Jamui Distt 8 watersheds (1997-98)	294.16
	Gumla distrifct (1997-98)	111.70
	Giridih District (1999-2000)	169.79
Jharkhand	Entire State (2000-01)	114677.00
Gujarat	7 Watersheds (Total4 projects) (1999-2000)	659.00
Haryana	Aravalli Region (2000-01)	1490.00
	Mahendragarh and Gurgaon Distts. (2000-01)	683.10
	Shivalik Hills (2000-01)	826.22
Himachal Pradesh	Deothi, Shimla (1998-99)	267.97
	Kunah, Hamirpur (1998-99)	195.52
	Bhattiyat, Chamba (1998-99)	180.92
	Rewalsar, Mandi (1998-99)	263.31
Jammu and Kashmir	Baramula (1997-98)	201.68
	Billani (1997-98)	200.59
	Indira Hills II (1997-98)	1196.19
	Baramula (1997-98)	27.05
	Rajvar (1997-98)	568.00
	Sahure Du-Din (1997-98)	80.00
	Mound (1997-98)	21.00
	Langate (1997-98)	345.91

1	2	3
	Kalaruchi Kupwara (1999-00)	211.50
	Hyhama-Tikker, Kupwara (1999-2000)	385.00
	Baramula (1999-2000)	205.20
	Zawoor-Lan belt (2000-01)	230.04
Karnataka	Chikmaglur (1999-2000)	81.37
	Shimoga (1999-2000)	77.81
	Shimoga(1999-2000)	136.72
	Mandya(1999-2000)	93.13
	Bellari(1999-2000)	75.70
	Bangalore (1999-2000)	132.28
	Udupi (1999-2000)	90.61
	Gadag (1999-2000)	820.13
Kerala	Kannur Distt (1998-99)	202.79
	Wayanad Distt (1998-99)	103.00
	Kollam Dist.(1998-99)	15.45
	KFDC (1999-2000)	213.00
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat Distt. (1998-99)	210.00
	Chindwara (1997-98)	195.94
	Rajgad (1998-99)	58.72
Manipur	Irang Watershed (1998-99)	795.60
Meghalaya	Myntdu Watershed, Jaintiya (1998-99)	106.55
	Umiew Watershed, East Khasi (1998-99)	106.55
	Umiam Watershed. Ri-Bhoi (1998-99)	106.55
Mizoram	Lai Auto(1998-99)	73.16
	Assam Border catchment (1998-99)	128.33
	Indo Mynmar Border Catchment (1998-99)	74.92
	Tuipui catchment (1998-99)	47.19
	Tuichangcatchment (1998-99)	40.71
	Khawnglung, Lengteng, Murlen (1998-99)	87.31
	Mara Auto Council (1998-99)	71.38
	Chakma Auto Council Distt (2000-01)	161.28
Nagaland	Tesenki-Barak (2000-01)	1122.70
	Dikhu-Milak (2000-01)	855.00

1	2	3
Orissa	Ghumsur, Bhanjnagar (1999-2000)	180.00
	Brahmani, Dhenkanal (1999-2000)	1140.85
Rajasthan	Jaipur Distt (1999-2000)	308.66
	Mount Abu Distt (1999-2000)	104.47
	Tiger Project, Ranthambhore (1999-2000)	104.47
Sikkim	Rothok chu watershed (1997-98)	322.61
	Rongyong chu watershed (1997-98)	453.82
	Namputtam-Sangklang (N) (1998-99)	148.34
	Teesta Rangeet Valley (S) (1998-99)	240.18
	Kalez-Rangang-Rangeet (1997-98)	125.00
	Sokpey-watershed (S) (1998-99)	208.10
	Ranikhola watershed (1999-2000)	172.50
Uttar Pradesh	Ramganga Soil Con. Div (1997-98)	1126.71
	Gorakhpur Forest Division (1997-98)	324.20
	Sohagibarwa Wildlife Division (1997-98)	349.56
	Haridwar Forest Division (1997-98)	219.35
	Shivalik Forest Division (1997-98)	174.74
	Jhansi Distt (1997-98)	742.26
	Rajaji National Park (99-00)	94.36
	Mirzapur and Sonbhadra (1999-2000)	34.73
	Jyotiba Phule Nagar (2000-01)	684.72
West Bengal	North Circle (Jalpaiguri) (1998-99)	306.64

II. Projects posed by FDAs during 2000-01 but not sanctioned so far.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Location of FDA	Total Area to be covered (in ha.)	Total Proposed Project Cost
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Paloncha	3550	434.34
2.	Assam	Kaziranga	200	134.40
3.	Goa	Goa South	180	49.95
		North Goa	275	49.90
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	1675	68.31
5.	Maharashtra	Dahanu	6040	617.70

1	2	3	4	5
		Thane	5000	608.89
		Pune	1000	162.17
		Jalgaon	800	128.96
		Kolhapur	1358	187.72
		East Nasik	5100	1394.69
		West Nasik	2850	755.50
		South Chandrapur (Central Chandrapur)	825	460.05
		South Chandrapur (Bharagad, Sironcha)	1125	182.54
		Allapalli	50	259.70
		Mewasi	640	109.41
		Dhule West	1045	257.67
		Dhule North	1045	117.23
6.	Madhya Pradesh	West Chhindwara	7625	919.50
		South Chhindwara	6850	831.38
		East Sidhi	640	128.00
		West Sidhi	640	128.00
		South Seoni	1050	157.50
		North Seoni	3000	375.00
		Sehore	1000	185.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Hardoi	1700	753.70
		Faizabad	1495	241.60
		Renukoot	800	158.40
8.	Haryana	Gurgaon	3000	800.73
		Sirsa	1200	307.26
9.	Nagaland	Tuensang	1260	125.39
		Mon	980	99.71
		Kohima	1200	149.99
10.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	750	256.00
		East Surguja	750	188.42
		Bastar	750	230.08
11.	Gujarat	Panchmahals	2650	629.95
		Valsad	1840	318.64
		Vadodara	1600	408.00
		Narmada	1000	203.25

1	2	3	4	5
12. Karnataka	Kolar	1045	210.20	
	Bellary	650	107.35	
	Tumkur	1350	231.98	
13. Rajasthan	Dungarpur	2000	418.23	
	Pratapgarh	2000	420.95	
	Udaipur Central	1750	367.17	
14. Sikkim	East District	3800	421.01	
15. Tripura	Udaipur	2935	200.48	
	Sadar	3000	400.00	

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

2225.SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa;

(b) the estimated cost thereof, project-wise;

(c) the irrigation potential of such projects;

(d) the funds sanctioned by the Government to these projects so far; and

(e) the steps taken to complete each project, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (d) The financial and physical details of major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The completion of any project depends on various factors such as, its size, availability of land, geological conditions and the funds allotted by the State Government to individual project as per the State's priority.

Statement

Rs. in crore/Potential in Th. Ha.

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (Latest)	Cum. Exp. Incurred upto the end of 3/2000	Outlay Proposed for AP 2000-01	Ultimate Potential
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. MAJOR PROJECTS					
1.	Potteru	148.07	137.03	—	109.88
2.	(a) Rengali Dam	40.77	41.51	—	—
	(b) Rengali Irrigation	2316.77	596.74	226.50	423.60
3.	(a) Upper Kolab Dam	48.81	53.71	—	—
	(b) Upper Kolab Irrigation	304.00	254.60	18.00	88.70
4.	(a) Upper Indravati Dam	176.16	126.94	0.10	—
	(b) Upper Indravati Irritation	718.70	411.25	20.00	218.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Subemarekha	1270.50	464.05	20.40	190.36
6.	Kanupur	330.89	19.85	0.95	41.40
7.	Mahanadi Chitortpala	150.00	138.95	16.40	34.88
B. MEDIUM PROJECTS					
1.	Hariharjore	90.46	81.25	6.50	13.70
2.	Harabhangi	156.56	117.09	7.00	15.97
3.	Upper Jonk	141.22	95.44	5.60	16.40
4.	Baghua St. II	79.20	54.91	6.30	3.39
5.	Badanala	144.88	104.22	6.40	13.74
6.	Deo	123.55	35.59	3.80	15.64
7.	Baghalati	82.05	35.54	5.41	6.05
8.	Sapuabadajore	88.48	36.97	3.60	3.75
9.	Birupa Genguti Island Irrigation	16.44	14.15	0.20	6.03
10.	Darjang St. II	7.20	2.67	—	2.48
11.	Titagarh	54.37	10.17	6.00	2.95
12.	Morjori	81.22	30.38	11.80	10.42
NEW PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN IX PLAN					
A. MAJOR PROJECTS					
1.	Lower Suktel	217.13	5.36	6.00	34.05
2.	Naraj Barrage	196.51	119.07	48.00	
3.	Lower Indra	211.70	8.45	12.50	32.89
B. MEDIUM PROJECTS					
1.	Bagh Barrage	44.72	21.69	5.00	12.42
2.	Telengiri	88.61	5.38	1.00	13.74
3.	Rakura	83.10	0.63	—	7.64

Welfare of Beedi Workers

2226. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to cover the welfare of TODDT tapers beedi workers and several other such vocational occupations covering housing, communications, power, insurance, old age pensions, economic packages etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Central Government have introduced various welfare measures for beedi workers through the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976. These include financial assistance for their housing, health care, educational needs for children and recreational needs. In Andhra Pradesh, the 'Andhra Pradesh Geeta Parishramika Sahakara Arthika Sankshema Samshta' extends insurance coverage as well as financial assistance to the toddy tappers for self-employment. The Government of Kerala has constituted the 'Kerala Toddy Workers' Welfare Fund Board' for the welfare of toddy tappers.

Smuggling of Herbs

2227. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

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

(a) whether some specific herbs used in curing cancer and Asthma, found in Khasi Hills of Meghalaya are being smuggled out in large scale in league with foreign elements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to protect the valuable medicated plants;

(d) the details of medicated plants/shrubs available in the country, location-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to introduce a Bill to protect such valuable plants in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Specific information regarding cancer and asthma curing plants from Khasi hills of Meghalaya being smuggled out is not available in the Ministry. However, in view of the porous border around Meghalaya such smuggling cannot be ruled out.

(c) The steps taken to prevent smuggling of medicinal plants include :

- (i) Collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule VI of the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified area has been banned by law.
- (ii) Export of 29 species of plant or plant portion and their derivatives obtained from the wild have been prohibited.
- (iii) Export of critically endangered and vulnerable plant species as listed by the Ministry is allowed subject to a legal procurement certificate from the concerned DFO's.
- (iv) The cultivated variety of plant/plant portions of the 29 banned species can be allowed for export subject to production of certificate of cultivation and a CITES permit, wherever applicable.

(v) International trade in India with respect to species covered under Appendix I of CITES is prohibited and for 17 species, covered under Appendix II of CITES, is regulated under the provisions of the CITES.

(vi) Frequent checks are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever in formation of illegal trading in wild plants reaches them.

(d) Detailed list of medicinal plants location-wise is not maintained by the Ministry.

(e) and (f) A provision already exists under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for conservation and protection of endangered plants. According to Chapter III-A of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, no person can –

willfully pick, uproot, damage destroy, acquire or collect any specified plant from any forest land and area specified by the Central Government,

possess, sell, offer for sale, or transfer by way of gift or otherwise, or transport any specified plant, whether alive or dead, or part or derivative thereof;

However, this prohibition shall not prevent a member of a scheduled tribe, from picking, collecting or possessing in the district he resides any specified plant or part or derivative thereof for his bonafide personal use.

**Performance of Air India and
Indian Airlines**

2228. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the profit earned by Air India and Indian Airlines during each of the last three years;

(b) the losses sustained by Indian Airlines and Air India during the year 2000-2001 as compared to the previous three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses incurred by Air India and Indian Airlines and to improve the performance and quality of service to the passenger ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Details are as under :—

Year	(Rs. in crores)	
	Profit/(Loss)	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
1997-98	(181.01)	47.27
1998-99	(174.48)	14.17
1999-00	(37.63)	51.42
2000-01 (April-Dec.)	(30.67)	(145.50) (April-Jan.)

(c) Air India has taken various steps to overcome the huge loss such as (i) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished ; (ii) Two voluntary schemes have been notified, viz shorter working scheme and leave without pay and allowance scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years. (iii) Redeployment of employees from non-operational to operational areas ; (iv) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories ; (v) 10% cut in daily outstanding allowance payable at all foreign stations and 25% at Indian Stations; and (vi) introduction of route rationalisation programme to optimise revenue involving curtailment of flights on marginal and loss making routes and the redeployment of this capacity to profit making routes.

Indian Airlines has also taken steps such as (i) Ban on direct recruitment on all posts other than those required for operational work. (ii) Non-filling up of vacant posts. (iii) Roll back of retirement age.

Labour Strikes in Orissa

2229.SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mandays lost in various labour strikes taken place in different Central Government Undertakings in Orissa during the year 2000-01 and the loss caused thereby to such industries;

(b) whether there is any proposal of sharing the management of any of these Central Government Undertakings by labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Labour Bureau, Shimla has informed that no strikes were reported in the Central sphere during the year 2000-01 (for the months January to September, 2000) in Orissa State.

(b) and (c) There is already a scheme of Employees Participation in Management which is applicable in the

Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL).

Voice Mail Service

2230.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has failed to recover licence fees from the licensees of Voice Mail Services;

(b) if so, the amount of licence fee due against each of them at present;

(c) the amount of liquidated damages demanded by the DoT from the operators of said services; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the fees and liquidated damages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKKAR) : (a) to (c) The Licence Fee and Liquidated Damage charges outstanding against the Voice-Mail service operators are given below :

Name of the Operator	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Licence Fee	Liquidated Damage charges
M/s Microwave Communication	36.39	1.00
M/s Indchem Pvt. Ltd.	9.00	Nil
M/s Modi Korea Telecom	Nil	7.00

Interest is chargeable, in addition, up to the date of actual payment.

A sum of Rs. 16.00 lacs towards Liquidated Damages was demanded by the DoT from the operators of Voice Mail Service, out of which only Rs. 8.00 lacs remains unpaid.

(d) The above mentioned Licence Fee dues and Rs. 1.00 lakh towards Liquidated Damage charges are pending before the courts. In regard to the Liquidated Damage charges of Rs. 7.00 lakhs, the Arbitrator's award has been received in favour of DOT and the matter is being pursued with the Licensee.

[Translation]

New Telecom District in Maharashtra

2231. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telecom districts functioning in Maharashtra at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new telecom districts in the State during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present, 30 Telecom Districts are functioning in Maharashtra State.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Time Deposit Account in Post Offices

2232. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any 'time deposit account' has been opened in post offices in Delhi to favour an institution in contravention of the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated and action been taken against the officials involved; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to recover the interest amount paid to the institution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No Time Deposit Account has been opened in Post offices in Delhi to favour an institution in contravention of the rules. However, at the time of opening of 13 Time Deposit accounts during the period August 1996 to January 1998, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), had omitted indicating that these accounts were being opened as 'Provident Fund' accounts. The resultant omission was pointed out by the P&T audit in 1997-1998.

(c) The matter has since been investigated. Opening of Time Deposit accounts by institutions under the category of Group Accounts for investing provident fund collections is permissible under the Post Office Time Deposit Rules, 1981. The necessary corrections have accordingly been made in the relevant records. Action

against the officials responsible for the omission has also been taken.

(d) As the interest of 'Provident Fund Accounts' is admissible under the rules, the question of recovering interest amount paid to the institution does not arise.

Flood Management Programme

2233. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scientific flood management programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved so far in controlling the floods;

(c) whether any request for having a foolproof flood management programme for those districts of West Bengal has been received which are affected due to occasional floods from various rivers; and

(d) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government for a comprehensive master plan for the purpose including the above said affected zone of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Planning, investigation and execution of flood management works are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. Government of India renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The flood management programme envisaged in the country is based on the recommendations of various Expert Committees and Organisations such as the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980), Ganga Flood Control Commission (1972), Brahmaputra Board (1981), High Level Committees (1987) as constituted by the Government of India. These Committees of Experts have examined the flood problems in the country and suggested various measures for management of situation. Providing absolute protection to all flood prone areas against floods is neither practically possible nor economically viable. Hence the practical approach of providing a reasonable degree of protection against flood damage at economic costs through a judicious combination of structural and non structural measures is being followed.

The structural measures employed are construction of embankments, reservoirs, drainage channels, detention basin etc. and non-structural measures are flood plain zoning, flood forecasting and warning, flood proofing, flood fighting, flood disaster relief, flood insurance etc.

The achievements made so far on flood management works are as under :

Embankments	16,200 km.
Drainage channel	32,003 km.
Town protection works	906 nos.
Village raised	4,721 nos.
Area benefited	14,374 million hectare.

Central Water Commission under this Ministry is maintaining 157 flood forecasting stations on 62 major rivers comprising of 8 river basins spread over 13 States. During the year 2000, as many as 6,510 nos. of forecasts were issued to the concerned State Government/ Organisations with an accuracy of 97% to mitigate the flood damage and save life and property.

Under a pilot scheme started in 1978 by the Ministry of Water Resources, a total area of 55,000 Sq. Km. have been surveyed for enactment of flood plain zoning legislation by the flood affected States. Flood Plain Zoning maps have been sent to all the concerned States to enact flood plain zoning legislation. Only the States Rajasthan and Manipur have enacted this legislation.

(c) and (d) Central Government has not received any such proposal from the State Government of West Bengal. However, Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive plan for flood control for the following river basins of West Bengal for evolving a long term strategy to solve the flood problem in the State.

1. Main Ganga
2. Damodar
3. Ajoy
4. Rupnarayan
5. Mahananda
6. Mayurakshi

The comprehensive plans have been sent to the State Government of West Bengal for implementation.

Setting up of Water Testing Laboratories

2234. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the water testing laboratories set up so far in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up water testing laboratories in each district of the country particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up more water testing laboratories ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Out of a total of 564 water quality testing laboratories sanctioned so far, 258 have already been established under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to set-up water testing laboratories in each district of the country including the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The State-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Details of Water Quality Testing Laboratories

Sl. No.	State	No. of Districts	Total Sanctioned	Established so far
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	22	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	14	01
3.	Assam	23	23	04
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	54	54	05
5.	Goa	02	02	01
6.	Gujarat	22	18	14
7.	Haryana	19	19	04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14	11	02
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	13	02
10.	Karnataka	27	26	10
11.	Kerala	14	14	03
12.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhatisgarh)	61	61	34
13.	Maharashtra	29	29	29
14.	Manipur	09	08	01
15.	Meghalaya	07	07	01
16.	Mizoram	08	05	01
17.	Nagaland	07	07	01
18.	Orissa	30	30	12
19.	Punjab	17	13	04
20.	Rajasthan	32	32	32

1	2	3	4	5
21. Sikkim		04	04	01
22. Tamil Nadu		29	29	29
23. Tripura		04	04	01
24. Uttar Pradesh (including Uttranchal)		83	83	26
25. West Bengal		17	17	06
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		02	01	01
27. Daman and Diu		02	02	02
28. Lakshadweep (Islands)		01	08	02
29. Pondicherry		03	02	02
30. Delhi		05	05	05
31. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		01	01	01
Total		576	564	258

Telephone Lok Adalat

2235.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone Lok Adalats constituted in Maharashtra circle particularly in Mumbai during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases settled therein during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to Constitute some more such Adalats in Mumbai to settle pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The number of Telephone Adalats held in Maharashtra Telecom Circle and Mumbai during last three years is given below :

Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Upto Jan. 2001)
No. of Telephone Adalats held	39	48	70	68
No. of cases settled	732	923	1617	2540

Mumbai

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (Upto Dec. 2000)
No. of Telephone Adalats held	40	40	40	30
No. of cases settled	1358	1284	875	773

(c) and (d) Telephone adalats are held quarely in each area GM office in MTNL Mumbai and one at CGM level. At present there is no proposal to increase the frequency of Telephone Adalats.

Bangalore Airport

2236.SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government, have launched the work at Bangalore airport project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the forest and private land acquired for the purpose;

(d) the total cost estimated for the said project;

(e) the share of Infrastructure Development Corporation of Kamataka and State Government in the said project; and

(f) the time by which the above project is proposed to be completed and commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has

been signed between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation (KSIIDC) for construction of a new airport at Bangalore. The project is to be implemented by a joint Venture Company (JVC) consisting of the KSIIDC, AAI and a Joint Venture Partner (JVP).

(c) State Government has notified 4276 acres of land for acquisition out of which 1395 acres of land is forest land and 2473 acres is private land. The State Government has mobilised a loan of Rs. 150 crores for payment of compensation and afforestation charges.

(d) The preliminary estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1000 crores.

(e) As per the Memorandum of Understanding between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Karnataka State Investment and Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC), both intend to have together not less than 26% equity holding in the proposed Joint Venture Company (JVC).

(f) The project being at a preliminary stage, no specific time-frame can be given, at this stage, regarding completion and commissioning of the project.

Telephones Facility in Villages

2237. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend private sector participation under Revenue Sharing basis in some other States in order to connect all the rural areas by telephone in the country by 2002, and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Basic Telephone service Licensees can appoint franchisees for provision of last mile linkages including suitable rural exchanges to provide service.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections to Post Offices in Bihar

2238. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephones connections have been provided in all the post offices in Bihar;

(b) if not, the number of post offices yet to be provided with this facility; and

(c) the time by which the same facility is likely to be provided ?

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

(b) 6356 post offices in Bihar do not have telephone facility.

(c) Telephone connections to the Post Offices not having the same are provided by Telephone authorities subject to the availability of resources.

[English]

Closure of Mines

2239. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines closed down in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof, mine-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive these mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to provide alternative employment to these workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Industrial undertakings including mines are closed under Section 25-O of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 which is administered by the Ministry of Labour. As per information available with Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, the number of mines closed down during the last three years and the number of workers affected are as follows :

Year	Number of Mines Closed	Number of Workers Affected
1998	1	9
1999 (p)	1	21
2000 (p)	3	340

(P) - Provisional

(c) to (e) Mining is a depleting industry and mines need to be closed when extraction of minerals become unviable. However, where closure is due to lack of demand it is felt that steps taken to liberalise the economy and increase in industrial production would result in increased demand for minerals and make the mines viable.

Model ESI Hospitals

2240. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether ESIC has decided to set up 12 model hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the total investment involved in setting up such model Hospitals;

(c) whether the location of such hospitals has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the criteria adopted for selection of the sites for these hospitals; and

(f) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The ESI Corporation has decided in principle to upgrade 12 existing ESI Hospitals into Model Hospitals.

(b) Rs. 50-00 Crore (approximately).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

**World Bank Aid for Coastal
Developmental Projects**

2241. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of the Integrated Coastal Development Programme;

(b) whether the World Bank has agreed to fund the Integrated Coastal Development Programme in India;

(c) if so, the quantum of financial assistance received from the World Bank;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration to take up such programme in some selected areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Central Government has initiated a programme namely Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM). The various components under this programme are; (i) application of

Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing for management of critical habitats like Gulf of Kachchh, Gulf of Khambhat, Malvan, Kadamat, Karwar Islands, Cochin Islands, Gulf of Mannar, Pichavaram, Coringa, Gahirmatha and Sunderbans, (ii) determination of Waste Assimilation Capacity for control of pollution in estuaries and coastal waters like Tapi estuary and Ennore coast, (iii) development of guidelines to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment for coastal activities like ports and harbours, marine transportation, waste disposal and tourism, (iv) development of Model ICMAM. Plan for Chennai, Goa and Gulf of Kachchh. Apart from the above programme, the Central Government has plans to take up (i) defining of coastal cells and their ecological vulnerability, and (ii) preparing shore line management plans for four coastal cells.

(b) and (c) For the above components, the World Bank has earmarked an assistance of about Rupees 32.5 million.

(d) and (e) Under the above mentioned programme, application of GIS for management of the Coringa mangroves in Kakinada district has been taken up, while the component on identification of coastal cells is planned to be taken up for the entire coast of the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

Privatisation of Postal Services

2242. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a panel to look into privatisation of postal services throughout the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the said panel is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(c) the details of impact of the privatisation on the postal services ?

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

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

Special Incentives for Private Sector

2243. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced special incentives for private sector desiring to invest in National Highways Network;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any of the private company has shown interest for investments in National Highways; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To encourage private sector participation in the road sector, Government has extended various incentives in the form of tax concessions, duty free import of specified equipments, capital grant, permitting Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 20 road projects under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme involving an investment of about Rs. 1020 crore are in various stages of implementation.

Facilities to Old Persons

2244. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide more facilities to recipients of old age pension in the Indian Airlines and Air India flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines gives 50% discount on fare to those citizens who have completed 65 years of age (in case of women above 63 years of age) on the date of commencement of journey. As regards, Air India, They do not offer discount to senior citizens. However, Air India has competitive market fares for international and domestic travel which are also applicable to the senior citizens.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in M.T.N.L.

2245. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for its employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) So far MTNL has not formulated any proposal for the VRS scheme.

(b) Not applicable in view of the reply at (a) above:

Commemorative Postal Stamp

2246. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to release Commemorative Postal Stamp in the honour of late Satish Samanta, an eminent freedom fighter; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be released ?

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

(b) The proposal for release of a commemorative postage stamp on late Satish Samanta has been approved for issue in the year 2001. The Department is taking necessary follow up action in the matter.

Telephone Services

2247. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone lines in Sahebganj, Parro, Saraiya and Deoria under Muzaffarpur district of Bihar are working in order;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these lines are likely to be made in the working order ?

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

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

[Translation]

Nationalisation of Water Resources

2248. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to nationalise water resources especially the inter-state rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated for the permanent solution to the river disputes and optimum utilization of water resources during 2001-2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) River water disputes are resolved through discussions and inter-State agreements failing which it is referred to a Tribunal constituted under Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956. So far, the Krishna, Godavari and Narmada water disputes have been resolved through Tribunals while disputes on sharing of Ravi-Beas waters and Cauvery stand referred to Tribunals. For optimum utilization of water resources, a National Water Policy has been adopted in 1987 covering all the aspects of water resources development in the country. The State Governments are guided by the National Policy in the planning and implementation of water resources development projects.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of Private Cellular Telephone Operators

2249.SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the private cellular telephone operators and the amount due against each of them at present;

(b) the period for which the dues have been outstanding against them, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same;

(d) whether dues against any such operators have been waived; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Details of dues from the three cellular operators are as follows :

	Service Area	Amt. Due (Excluding Interest) (Rs. in Crores)	Date from which due
	1	2	3
M/s Koshika	Orissa	50.15	12.12.1997
-Do-	U. P. (W)	41.85	12.03.1998
-Do-	U.P. (E)	168.01	12.12.1997
-Do-	Bihar	34.77	23.08.1998

	1	2	3
M/s Bharti Mobile	Punjab	259.60	12.03.1997
M/s Aircel Digilink*	U.P. (E)	Revenue Share under the migration package	01.02.2000

(c) Except for UP (E) Service Area, all other licences stand terminated. The Licensees in all cases have been addressed to clear the dues.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) Above.

*Penalties towards delayed compliance of milestones under migration package for the UP (E), Rajasthan and Haryana licensees are also due.

[Translation]

Financial Position of Hindustan Copper Limited

2250.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details in regard to financial position of the Hindustan Copper Limited (H.C.L.) during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of production position of the metal concentrate (MIC) of the H.C.L. as compared to the target set during the said period; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to increase the production of copper and to improve the financial position of the H.C.L. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAY SINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) The financial performance of the Hindustan Copper Limited during the last three years is as under :

Year	Profit (+)/Loss (-) (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	(-) 169.72
1998-99	(-) 051.20*
1999-2000	(-) 147.46

* After including effect of interest waiver amounting to Rs. 155.76 crores arising out of the Capital Restructuring of HCL.

(b) The production of the Metal in Concentrate (MIC) in the mineral ore by HCL during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production of Metal in Concentrate (MIC) (in Tonnes)	
	Target	Actual
1997-98	41000	41440
1998-99	37080	38553
1999-2000	34200	33462

(c) The following are some of the important steps being taken to increase the production of copper and improve the financial position of HCL :

- (i) Financial Restructuring by Conversion of Outstanding loan of Rs. 180.73 crores as on 31.3.1998 into Equity and Waiver of Outstanding interest of Rs. 167.43 crores, by Govt. of India.
- (ii) Implementation of Phase I of disinvestment of HCL whereby it is expected that the Strategic Partner will make substantial investment for expansion of mines in Khetri belt, Smelter/Refinery at Khetri and Talaja unit of HCL so as to make these units viable and profitable.
- (iii) Gradual closure of uneconomic mines and unviable operations with consequentially separation of employees under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- (iv) In principle approval for grant of non-plan loan of Rs. 414 crores to HCL during 1998-99 to 2001-2002, to reduce surplus workforce through Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Out of which Rs. 60 crores has been released during 1998-99, Rs. 100 crores during 1999-2000 and Rs. 80 crores up to 8th March 2001 during the current financial year.
- (v) Government guarantee was provided to HCL to raise a working capital term loan of Rs. 150 crores from IDBI and Rs. 100 crores from ICICI, so as to be able to bring operations closer to viable level.
- (vi) Putting more emphasis on high productivity mines and to augment indigenous production of Metal in Concentrate.
- (vii) The Company has also initiated a number of measures to effect cost reduction in the existing

expenditure on its operations and also in personnel related areas.

[English]

Clearance to Ichampalli Dam Project

2251.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ichampalli Dam Project of Andhra Pradesh is adjoining Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the areas of forest land required for this project, State-wise;

(c) the total forest area of Maharashtra likely to be submerged in this Dam project;

(d) whether the Government have given its clearance to this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Central Water Commission, Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a High level committee to resolve the interstate issues involved in planning of Ichampalli project. The Committee has to submit its report latest by 30th April, 2001. The requirement of forest land for the project would be known only when the committee finalises its report. No Forest/Environmental clearance has been given to the project.

37th Session of Standing Labour Committee

2252.SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 37th session of the Standing Labour Committee was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the participants who attended the session;

(c) the details of discussion held and suggestions made in the meeting in regard to impact of globalisation on manufacturing and labour sector;

(d) whether globalisation has led to restructuring the shrinkage of employment opportunities in some sectors

and created many new employment opportunities in some sectors; and

(e) if so, the details of sectors where the employment opportunities have shrinkaged and where the new employment opportunities created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 37th Session of the Standing Labour Committee was held on 14th February, 2001.

(b) The Session was attended by representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, Employer's Organisations, State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments.

(c) A Statement is attached.

(d) and (e) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained from the comprehensive surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). From the last two comprehensive surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by NSSO during 1987-88 and 1993-94 a positive annual growth rate of employment has been observed in all the sectors of the economy. However, the annual growth rate of employment was significant (more than 3.5 per cent p.a.) in respect of electricity, gas and water supply ; trade, hotel and restaurants ; transport, storage and communication financing, insurance, real estate and business services ; and community, social and personal services.

As per current trends, employment opportunities particularly in manufacturing sector may not grow significantly but at the same time new opportunities are being created in the services sectors such as hotel and restaurants, tourism and information technology.

Statement

Globalisation : Its Impact on Indian Industry, Labour and Economy

Conclusions

1. Although concern was expressed that globalisation will have a negative impact on employment, and that it will not improve the condition of the poor, by and large the consensus was that we cannot escape competition as an economic process. We can only think of following the right policies to tackle the forces of globalisation, and reap its positive benefits on growth and employment. We should also try to mitigate the negative impacts.
2. There is a need to focus on skill-upgradation, and human resource development. Suitable mechanism

should be developed for human resource development and skill-upgradation on a sustainable basis.

3. There is need for improving the work culture of all stake holders which will be conducive for quality and productivity. In the face of international competition, the culture of productivity is of utmost importance.
4. Employment generation with adequate social protection is a priority area while addressing issues of globalisation.
5. Labour cannot be treated as a commodity. The human aspects of globalisation are of highest concern, and quality of life of workers must receive adequate attention from all social partners.
6. While gearing itself for global competition, the need to maintain social cohesion should not be lost sight of by industry.
7. There is a need for review of labour laws in order to adequately address the challenges confronting both industry and labour.
8. It was agreed that an updated note on impact of globalisation on employment will be brought up for discussion in the next meeting of the ILC.

[Translation]

Pay Phone PCOs to Unemployed Youth

2253. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide pay phone PCOs to the employed youth on the priority basis in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding violation of the instructions issued in this regard; and

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

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

Postal Services in Rajasthan

2254. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government to make postal services effective in Rajasthan and to update them as per present requirement;

(b) whether Rajasthan is the most backward State in postal services in comparison to other developing State in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve postal services in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Department has initiated the programme of modernisation and computerisation of postal services to make it more efficient and effective in all the States including Rajasthan. The following are the steps taken by the Government to modernise the postal services in Rajasthan upto 31.3.2000 :

- (i) 101 Multi-Purpose Counter Machines have been installed.
- (ii) Savings Bank LANS have been installed at 14 Post Offices.
- (iii) 4 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) and 30 Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) stations have been provided for transmission of money orders specially in rural areas.
- (iv) 55 Post Offices have been modernised to improve their ergonomics.
- (v) Registration sorting work at Jaipur RMS has been computerised.
- (vi) 5 Mail Offices have been modernised by providing them with better operational equipments and furniture.
- (vii) 3 Computerised Customer Care Centres have been set up at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Ajmer.
- (viii) There are 4 National Speed Post Centres and 11 State Speed Post Centres.

(b) No, Sir. The Postal Services in Rajasthan compare favourably with the rest of the country.

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

(d) During the remaining part of the 9th Five Year Plan, the following activities are proposed to be undertaken in Rajasthan Circle :-

- (i) Installation of 77 Multi-Purpose Counter Machines (including SB LANS).

(ii) Setting up of 2 high-speed Very Small Aperture Terminals and 23 Extended Satellite Money Order stations.

(iii) Modernisation of 15 Post Offices.

(iv) Computerisation of Jaipur RMS Transit Mail Office.

(v) Computerisation of Head Record Office at Ajmer

(vi) Setting up of Computerised Customer Care Centres at Alwar, Kota and Pali.

[English]

Pending Road Projects in A.P.

2255. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the road projects of Andhra Pradesh lying pending with Government for clearance; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for clearance of the said projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) 18 nos. road projects costing Rs. 9.09 crores under Annual Plan 2000.01 are under examination. A decision on these projects will be taken by the end of current financial year.

Industrial Workers Under E.S.I. in Madhya Pradesh

2256. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under the Employees State Insurance Scheme (E.S.I.) in each State and the percentage of workers covered under the said scheme during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries run under ESI in each State as on date and the number of hospitals and dispensaries to be opened in States during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether some State Governments have asked to upgrade ESI hospitals in their States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) A Statement showing number of industrial workers covered under the ESI Scheme during the last two years is in the attached Statement-I There has been a marginal decline of 2.75% in coverage of the ESIS during the last two years mainly due to general increase in wages enabling the employees to cross the wage limit prescribed for coverage under the ESI Scheme.

(b) A Statement showing the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries, State-wise is in the attached Statement-II. New ESI hospitals and dispensaries are set up on need-basis keeping in view the norms/guidelines prescribed in this regard from time to time. During 2000-2001 the ESIC has sanctioned establishment of 19 dispensaries.

(c) to (e) The ESI Corporation has formulated an Action Plan to upgrade/modernise existing ESI hospitals and dispensaries in consultation with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. In pursuance of the Action Plan and based on the proposals received from various State Governments/Union Territories the ESI Corporation has sanctioned medical equipments worth Rs. 42.00 Crore approximately so as to modernize/upgrade medical facilities in various ESI hospitals.

Statement-I

Workers Covered Under ESI Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UTs	As on 31.3.99	As on 31.3.2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,74,100	5,12,350
2.	Assam	38,000	41,600
3.	Bihar	1,70,850	1,43,700
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	28,350	34,200
5.	Delhi	5,43,250	5,32,950
6.	Goa	70,800	65,000
7.	Gujarat	5,48,100	5,05,600
8.	Haryana	3,56,300	3,70,850
9.	H. Pradesh	48,600	47,200
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17,450	13,450
11.	Karnataka	6,27,400	6,44,050
12.	Kerala	3,78,950	3,66,500

1	2	3	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2,36,000	2,29,700
14.	Maharashtra	13,81,200	12,90,000
15.	Orissa	1,29,050	1,13,050
16.	Pondicherry	39,750	37,150
17.	Punjab	4,00,200	3,74,100
18.	Rajasthan	2,92,250	2,90,300
19.	Tamil Nadu	10,52,850	11,04,400
20.	Uttar Pradesh	5,14,750	5,10,250
21.	West Bengal	7,37,000	6,35,650
Total		80,85,200	78,62,050

Statement-II

No. of E.S.I. Dispensaries/Hospitals in the Country

Sl. No.	State	No. of ESI Dispensaries	No. of ESI Hospitals
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	139	11
2.	Assam	26	1
3.	Bihar	51	6
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	2	Nil
5.	Delhi	46	4
6.	Goa	7	1
7.	Gujarat	124	11
8.	Haryana	69	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1
10.	Karnataka	151	10
11.	Kerala	136	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	64	7
13.	(a) Mumbai	20	
	(b) Nagpur	22	13
	(c) Pune	34	
14.	Meghalaya	1	Nil
15.	Orissa	52	5

1	2	3	4
16.	Pondicherry	13	1
17.	Punjab	70	7
18.	Rajasthan	66	5
19.	Tamil Nadu	165	7
20.	Uttar Pradesh	132	16
21.	West Bengal	38	14
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	Nil
Total		1443	138

Workers Covered Under P.F.

2257. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 1.5 lacks workers have been covered under Provident Fund at Jangipur Sub. Division of Munshidubud District;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to set up a office of P.F. at Jangipur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) New Employees Provident Fund Offices are opened keeping in view the workload and recommendations made by the Regional Employees Provident Fund Committees. So far the Regional EPF Committee, West Bengal, has not made necessary Recommendation for opening of a Sub-Regional Office (SRO) at Jangipur.

[Translation]

Avenues of Employment for SC/ST

2258. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether new avenues of employment have been generated as a result of the new economic reforms;

(b) if so, the number of avenues generated for the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories;

(c) the targeted avenues of employment to be generated during the forthcoming financial year; and

(d) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Government to increase the avenues of employment for

the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained from the Labour Force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The result of the surveys indicate that the total employment which was of the order of 332 million in 1993-94 has gone up to around 370 million in 1999-2000. Significant levels of new employment avenues have been created in the services sector.

(b) Category wise break up of employment generation is not maintained.

(c) and (d) The planning for employment generation is a part of the five year Plans. The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. The programmes of Ninth Plan will benefit the candidates belonging to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe categories also.

[English]

Sports Promotion Scheme for Rural Women Players

2259. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to launch a sports promotion scheme for rural women players in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special features of the scheme;

(c) whether some criteria to involve States and Territories in the scheme has been evolved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented effectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to launch any new sports promotion scheme for rural women players. However, Government is already implementing a scheme

named as 'Sports Festival for Women' under which Block, District, State and National level sports competitions are organised involving women players. For organization of Block, District and State level sports competitions in the disciplines of Athletics, Basketball, Badminton, Gymnastics, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Swimming and Tennis, grants are released to Sports Authority of India (SAI), which, in turn, releases to the State/UT governments on receipt of Utilization Certificates of previous years grant. National level sports competitions are also organised by the Sports Authority of India involving women sports players from all over the country.

Mullaperiyar Dam

2260. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala is affected due to earthquakes occurred recently;

(b) if so the action taken by the Government to protect the dam and life of people living around the dam; and

(c) the response of Karala and Tamilnadu Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir. The epicenter of the recent earthquakes in Kerala are about 50 kms from Mulla Periyar dam. As per the inspection of the dam conducted by the project authorities following the international guidelines, no damage has been reported due to recent earthquakes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contract Labour Act

2261. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are facing problems in enforcing contract labour Act and propose to make amendment in the Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the views of Trade Unions on proposed amendment of the Act;

(d) if so, the views of the Trade Unions in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) In the wake of

economic liberalisation as well as judgements of various Courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalised.

Slow Down in Manufacturing Sector

2262. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a slow down in manufacturing sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) After attaining a peak growth of 14.1% in 1995-96, manufacturing sector has shown a declining trend with the exception of 1999-2000 when a better growth rate of 7.1% was registered. Slackening of demand, competition from competing imports, infrastructure bottlenecks, poor technology, high interest rate and inherent adjustment lags in industrial restructuring are the main reasons behind this slowdown.

(c) The Government has taken steps for providing greater freedom in investment decisions keeping in view the objectives of efficiency and competitiveness, technological upgradation, maximization of capacity utilization and increased exports. Measures such as tax holidays for infrastructure sector, 100% FDI through automatic route, rationalization of excise and custom duties have also been announced in the Union Budget for 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Strikes and Lockouts

2263. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts taken place in both public and private sector units located in Jamnagar and Dahod districts;

(b) the loss suffered by the Government industries and the workers separately as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for such strikes and lockouts;

(d) the demands put forth by the workers and the steps taken by the Government to meet their demands;

(e) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure cordial relations among workers, owners and the Government;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any plan so that there is no strikes, lockouts and production of the country increases; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) It has been informed by the Labour Bureau, Shimla that no strike and Lockouts has occurred in Dahod district. Further, it has been also informed that no Lockout was reported in respect of Jamnagar district. However, the details of strikes in Jamnagar District is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to the Labour Bureau, disputes relating to wage, Allowances, personnel matters and indiscipline were the main causes of Strikes and Lockouts in the country.

(d) The information is not readily available.

(e) The Labour Machinery of the appropriate Government intervenes during strikes and lockouts and ensure that the issue is resolved satisfactorily with minimum loss of production, Mondays and wages. If necessary, meeting of all social partners are convened to resolve the matter.

(f) and (g) The Government has been conducting conciliation proceedings to avert strikes, lockouts and labour disputes to establish better industrial relations in the Central sphere. A tripartite mechanism has been established for encouraging social dialogue. The Government of India has also been emphasizing the important role of workers' participation in management so as to bring about more harmonious industrial relations. These steps are expected to foster better industrial relations and result in minimizing the labour disputes.

Statement

The number of strikes, workers involved, mandays lost wages lost and production loss in respect of Jamnagar District of Gujarat State for the period Jan. to Dec., 2000 (Provisional)

Public				
No. of strikes	Workers involved	Mandays lost	Wages lost (Rs.)	Production loss (Rs.)
1	72	144	NA	NA

Private				
No. of strikes	Workers involved	Mandays lost	Wages lost (Rs.)	Production loss (Rs.)
1	991	2973	618000	6000000

NA : Not Available

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

[English]

Assistance to Karnataka for Borewells

2264. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Karnataka Government for the construction of rain harvesting structures to improve water availability in borewells;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the assistance sought for has been sanctioned; and

(d) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board has received a proposal from the University of Bangalore, Karnataka for carrying out rain water harvesting and recharging works in the University campus to improve the water availability in the area.

(c) The proposal of the Bangalore University has been approved by the Central Ground Water board for. a. cost. of. Rs. 13.75 lakhs for undertaking various recharge works.

(d) Does not arise.

Unorganised Workers and Contract Labourers

2265. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proportion/percentage of organised labour is continuously declining while unorganised workers and contract labourers have increased significantly over the past decade;

(b) if of the details of the emerging trends in the pattern of labour assessed recently;

(c) the details of fresh labour policy initiated recently to safeguard and promote the interest of labour class in general and contractual and unorganised labourers in particular in the context of globalisation, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the special initiatives taken/ proposed for vocational education and upgradation of skill of working force to enhance their productivity and participation in production process, in general and Maharashtra in particular, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation in the Year 1993-94, total employment in both organised and unorganised sector in the country was of the order of 335 million. Out of this, around 27 million were in the organised sector and the balance 308 million in the unorganised sector. In the recent NSSO survey carried out in the year 1999-2000, the total employment in both organised and unorganised sector in the country as per the usual principal status has been reported to be of the order of 370 million. Out of this, around 28 million were in the organised sector and the balance 342 million in the unorganised sector. This includes contract workers.

The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for the protection of workers' basic privileges and rights in both organised and unorganised sectors. As part of the fresh policy initiative the Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996. For upgradation of skills of serving industrial workers in different States including Maharashtra, the Government is operating schemes like Advanced Vocational Training Scheme and Hi-Tech. Training Scheme in the specialized institutes under Ministry of Labour and in some selected ITIs administered by the respective State Governments. These schemes offer training programmes in selected skill areas for upgrading the knowledge and skills of industrial workers.

Women Workers in Night Shifts

2266. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether women's are not allowed to work in night shifts in certain industries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/efforts made to remove discrimination against women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) As per provisions of Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 women are not

required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6 A.M. and 7 P.M. However, there are provisions for relaxation by the State Government which are as under :-

- (i) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, in respect of any factory of group or class or description of factories, vary the limits laid down in clause (b), but so that no such variation shall authorize the employment of any women between the hours of 10 P. M. and 5 A.M.
- (ii) The State Government may make rules providing for the exemption from the restrictions set out in sub-section (1) to such extent and subject to such conditions as it may prescribe, of women working in fish-curing or fish-canning factories, where the employment beyond the hours specified in the said restrictions is necessary to prevent damage to, or deterioration in, any raw material.

A proposal to ratify ILO Protocol, 1990 to the night work (women) convention No. 89 (Revised), 1948 is with the Ministry of Labour. This ILO Protocol 1990 provides flexibility in the duration of the time limit to the night shifts.

Insured Persons Under E.S.I. Cover

2267. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of insured persons under ESI cover at present in the country;

(b) the break-up of such figure, State-wise;

(c) the ratio of hospitals for the insured persons in Bihar;

(d) whether the hospitals are less in number than the requirement in the State;

(e) if so, whether any review is likely to be done to assess the need for providing more medical facilities in the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA.) : (a) 86,01,100 (as on 31-3-2000).

(b) The requisite information is enclosed as a statement.

(c) and (d) There are three ESI hospitals with 152 beds in Bihar meant for providing medical care and treatment to 76,930 Insured persons. The bed occupancy of ESI hospitals in Bihar is very low and as such there is no shortage of hospital beds for insured persons in Bihar.

(e) and (f) The requirement of new ESI Hospitals at a particular place is assessed by the State Government and the same is sanctioned on need basis by the ESIC keeping in view the norms/guidelines evolved in this regard from time to time.

Statement

Insured Persons Under E.S.I. Cover

State/Area	No. of Insured Person
A.P. and Yanam	5,62,050
Assam and Meghalaya	45,500
Bihar	1,63,650
Chandigarh	35,350
Delhi	5,68,050
Goa	71,250
Gujarat	5,72,600
Haryana	4,12,000
Himachal Pradesh	50,200
Jammu and Kashmir	16,150
Karnataka	6,28,500
Hubli Area	91,700
Kerala and Mahe	4,14,850
Madhya Pradesh	2,54,500
Mumbai Area	9,36,600
Nagpur Area	1,11,650
Pune Area	3,65,000
Orissa	1,28,350
Pondicherry	38,650
Punjab	3,89,000
Rajasthan	3,04,300
Chennai Area	2,44,150
Coimbatore Area	2,67,700
Madurai Area	2,44,150
Uttar Pradesh	5,40,000
West Bengal	7,18,300
All India	86,01,100

[Translation]

Review of Dams

2268.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Dam Council in its report has stated that big dams pose a danger to environment and are disastrous from social points of view;

(b) if so, whether any suggestions have been made by the council in this regard;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith preventive steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to review the big dams to be constructed in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The World Commission on Dams (WCD) in its report has, inter-alia, stated that the impact due to large dams are more negative than positive and have led to the impoverishment and suffering of millions of people. Government have examined the report and are of the opinion that the report is not based on adequate data and is biased against dams and ignores many of the accepted positive socio-economic changes brought about by dams. The National Water Policy adopted in 1987 and guidelines on various facets of water resources development already take into account a number of safeguards suggested in the report.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to review the big dams to be constructed in the country as result of the WCD report.

[English]

Welfare of Workers

2269.SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation for welfare of textile and handloom workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to bring a specific legislation for the welfare of textile and handloom workers. The Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of these

workers. Some of the schemes are : the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsaan Yojana, Workshed-cum-housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers, Powerloom Workers Insurance Scheme, etc.

Industrial Tripartite Committees

2270. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revived/reconstituted 7 Industrial tripartite committees to look into the specific problems emanating from the economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Sub Committee constituted to formulate guidelines for wage revision for workers on sugar industry has made recommendations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Government has reconstituted seven Industrial Tripartite Committees and one Special Tripartite Committee to look into the specific problems of industries emanating from economic reforms. The details of these Industrial Tripartite Committee are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) The final meeting of the Sub-Committee on formulation of guidelines for wage revision in Sugar Industry was held on 31.01.2001. No consensus could be arrived at regarding application of uniform guidelines for wage revision in all states.

Statement

1. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles Industry
2. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Chemical Industry
3. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Engineering Industry
4. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Road Transport Industry
5. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Electricity Generation and Distribution Industry
6. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Jute Industry
7. Tripartite Industrial Committee on Sugar Industry

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 72 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2001, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3357/2001]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (1) A copy of the aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 262 in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2000, under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3358/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3359/2001]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See no. LT-3360/2001]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board for the year 1999-2000, under section 21 of the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, for the year 1999-2000.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3361/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-

- (i) S.O. 41 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1999 authorising the Special Deputy Collector (Public Grievances Redressal Cell), Karur, Tamil Nadu for acquisition of land in Tamil Nadu, under section 3 of the National Highways Act, 1956 for construction of Karur bypass National Highway No. 7.
- (ii) S.O. 1285 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1999 regarding acquisition of land for National Highway No. 7 of Karur bypass in Tamil Nadu, under sub-section (1) of section 3 A of the National Highways Act, 1956.
- (iii) S.O. 792 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 41 (E) dated the 28th January, 1999 regarding land acquisition for Karur bypass National Highway No. 7.
- (iv) S.O. 539 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1999 authorising District Revenue Officer, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu as competent Authority to acquire land for National Highway No. 7.
- (v) S.O. 748 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1285 (E) dated the 23rd December, 1999.
- (vi) S.O. 769 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 2000 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Karur bypass on National Highway No. 7 in Tamil Nadu.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3362/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 73 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2001 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3363/2001]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Tapan Sikdar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Radio, Television and Video Cassette Recorder Sets (Exemption from Licensing Requirements) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 18 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 under sub-section (5) of Section 67 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3364/2001]

12.02 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 4th March, 2001 from Shri Babu Lal Marandi, an elected Member from Dumka (S.T.) Parliamentary constituency of Bihar, now in Jharkhand resigning from membership of Lok Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 8th March, 2001.

12.03 hrs.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up Item number 8. Shri Yashwant Sinha to move for leave to introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II Section-2 dated 12.5.2001

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I have given a notice. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, as per the rules, your notice is time-barred.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal as per Rule 72(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the notice that you have given is time-barred.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, it is your prerogative to allow it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it is your prerogative.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, I have given a notice at 9 0' clock today. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have received only one notice and that is from Shri Rupchand Pal. That is also a time-barred notice.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it is your prerogative to allow.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, we are still on laying of Papers.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This is another issue.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddy has given a notice for 'Zero hour'. It is a very important matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are still in laying of Papers. 'Zero hour' has not started.

Hon. Minister to move for leave to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, with your kind permission and with the very kind permission of Shri Rupchand Pal I am moving.

I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972".

Shri Rupchand Pal, what is your objection ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I raised this issue earlier also. When the hon. Minister of State for Finance was here,

he said that he would look into it. My plea was that although the gazette notification in this regard had been issued on 3rd November, 2000 and everything was taking place over telephone, oral direction and D. O. letters, the de-linking had been taking place in the face of a strong objection from not only the political parties but also from employees and from large sections of the people who object to such de-linking. This de-linking was taking place only to serve the interests of the private operators who are coming to weaken the general insurance industry in the country.

On 7th November, 2000 a D. O. letter was issued. . . .(Interruptions) My objection is that after November there had been a full Session of this Parliament. Nothing came and after a long time, when everything has been implemented and the subsidiaries have been de-linked from G.I.C. as a holding company, they have been weakened so that they cannot face the competition from the mega insurance companies coming from abroad and joining as collaborators with Indian companies. This is a very serious matter that such important things are not being brought to the notice of this House although there had been a full Session. There lies my objection.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I am unable to agree at all with the hon. Member with regard to the submissions that he has made. I strongly contest the thesis that we are bypassing Parliament; we are doing anything which is derogatory to this august House or to Parliament generally.

Sir, the situation is very clear. When this House and the Parliament of India passed the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority Bill, what we have clearly accepted in that was that there will be three kinds of insurance companies in this country—one which will deal with life insurance, the other which will deal with general insurance and the third which will be dealing with re-insurance. I remember that one of the issues or one of the points which I had made during the debate on that Bill in this House was that re-insurance is a business which is very important. This country lets go off millions of dollars worth of business because we have not developed re-insurance capacity in this country. One of the major objectives of that I.R.D.A. Bill was to develop that re-insurance capacity in this country.

Now once that Bill became an Act and became a law of the land, then the Government, without losing time, had to declare one company which could do this re-insurance business. The G. I. C. had the experience and expertise to do the re-insurance business. So, on the 3rd of November, 2000, under the powers which are vested in the Government, we declared that G. I. C. would be for the re-insurance business.

What is the purpose of the present Bill? The purpose of the present Bill is to amend the Nationalisation Act and to make the four companies, which are subsidiaries of G.I.C. today, as independent companies. Their share shall be held by the Government instead of the G.I.C. and these companies will be doing business as separate entities, as full public sector entities, under the 100 per cent control of Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What is the role of the G.I.C.? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am coming to that. Please give me just a moment.

Sir, the G.I.C. will be the re-insurance company of this country and as the re-insurer G.I.C. will have a major role to play. What does G.I.C. do even at present? G.I.C. was only doing two things—it was doing crop insurance and it was doing civil aviation insurance. We have decided that civil aviation insurance will be transferred to New India Assurance which is the largest of the four subsidiaries and for crop insurance there is a proposal which we are discussing and which is under consideration of the Government to have a separate insurance company for crop insurance. Once we have taken a view with regard to that, we will be coming before this House with the idea or with the proposal of setting up a new insurance company. In the meanwhile G.I.C. is carrying on with crop insurance. It is not that that has been given up.

Therefore, I see no reason, absolutely no basis for this objection. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There was a full Session of Parliament. Why did you not bring it then? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I must, with all the emphasis at my command, repudiate this thesis which is repeatedly being brought before this House that we are doing anything to help any other private insurance companies. We have made in this House our commitment to the public insurers. We are abiding by that commitment. Let me assure this House that despite the fact that new insurance companies have come into this country and they have started their business, the public sector companies have the strength, the expertise and the experience not only to meet that challenge successfully but also they have expanded their business. So, let us not raise this bogie repeatedly about the weakness of the public insurance companies. This is the reason.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : By de-linking you have weakened them. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce* the Bill*.

12.11 hrs.

(English)

HYDERABAD EXPORT DUTIES (VALIDATION) REPEAL BILL**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCIAL (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg* to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce the Bill.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have decided in the Business Advisory Committee that today immediately after the papers are laid, the Leader of Opposition will speak and then, the hon. Prime Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, I want to raise this issue now so that our Finance Minister gets the opportunity to respond. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please raise it tomorrow and not today.

(Interruptions)

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 12.3.2001

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the election is ahead and the CPI (M) is. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, we seek protection. . . .(Interruptions) Two murders have been committed brutally. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, we have been overtaken by events. The Government should make a statement(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have decided in the meeting that today immediately after the papers are laid, the Leader of Opposition will speak and then, the Prime Minister will reply.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, a major event has taken place and therefore, you should allow Shri S. Jaipal Reddy. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has been decided by you only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, you must allow Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the House cannot be a mute spectator to what is going on in the market. The country has witnessed another black Friday. My intention is to seek Finance Minister's response. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. Tomorrow, we can have 'Zero Hour'. We have already decided not to have it today.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We cannot wait till tomorrow. Please give him a minute to make his statement. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am not asking for a discussion; I am merely raising the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No.

12.12 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO THE INDIAN SPORTSMEN

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House is feeling proud on the achievements of two of our sports persons. Shri Gopi Chand has won All England Bandminton Championship after 20 years. He is working as Deputy Manager in Indian Oil Company. I have been told that now he will get the opportunity to work as Manager.

So far as cricket is concerned, entire country was anxious to hear a good news from our cricket team. A good news of scoring hat-trick by Harbhajan Singh in test cricket has been received. We congratulate him. I felicitate him on behalf of the entire House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar) : What is being done by the Government for Harbhajan Singh?(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, are you speaking on the same issue.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No, Sir. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, we agree with the Prime Minister. We congratulate him on having congratulated our players.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : I wish to draw the attention of the House to the second black Friday.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, give me just two minutes. The Minister is prepared to answer.

MR. SPEAKER : If I allow you, I have to allow 20 other Members also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already raised it in the House twice. The Government also has replied. We have decided in the Business Advisory Committee that today the Leader of Opposition has to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Finance Minister, I am sure, is as anxious to clarify as I am to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, please raise it tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Please remember that the black Friday has taken place in Kolkata. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. Shri Reddy, please do not raise it today.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, please allow him to speak for two minutes. A certain major event has taken place, and we cannot be mute spectators to this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has already raised this issue twice in the House, and the Minister has replied to him.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, please allow him to speak for two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, I have to allow many other Members because they have given notices. How can we not allow them to speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, I am appealing to you to please cooperate with the Chair today.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all that tape should be presented in the House, then there should be discussion on it. . . .*(Interruptions)* We should come to know about the contents that tape. . . .*(Interruptions)* What is this? It is not like the scam that took place in 1992. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is wrong. First of all tape should be presented in the house. . . .*(Interruptions)* Who have been held responsible in that tape. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I agree with Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please allow him to speak for a minute and then the Finance Minister can respond to him. They are playing with the investors' money. Under the appropriate rule, Sir, we want a discussion on this, and then let the Finance Minister respond to that*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, this issue had been raised the other day in the House, and I had placed my views before the House. The issue has been raised again. I would like to say on behalf of the Government that we will have absolutely no objection to a structured discussion on this issue in this House. It is up to you entirely to decide in what manner you would like to have that discussion. From the Government side, we will be ready to participate in that discussion. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have the time now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruption :)**

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : The Minister has agreed for a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has agreed for a discussion. We will decide the timing and other things in the BAC.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has agreed to discuss the subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record please.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

12.19 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – *Contd.*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I start, I would like to fully endorse what the Prime Minister has said about our two sportsmen, Shri Gopichand and Shri Harbhajan Singh, who have brought laurels to our country.

On behalf of the Congress Party too, I convey our congratulations to both of them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while joining previous speakers in thanking the hon. President for his gracious Address to the Joint Sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, I regret one cannot but contrast the deep insight and inspiring vision of the President's own Address on the eve of the Republic Day, his Address to the Nation, and to the shallow and unimaginative content of the Address to Parliament drafted, as is the convention by the Government of the day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the economy is in deep crisis. Instead of recognising and addressing the problems of our *kisans*, our *khet mazdoors*, our organised and unorganised working class and of families below the poverty line, all we find in the President's Address are empty claims and vain glorious boasts.

I would like to remind the House that the economy had attained three successive years of seven to eight per cent growth from 1994 to 1997. The last three years have seen a decline of that percentage by a full one point. Instead of acknowledging this as the preliminary step to rectifying this problem, the President's Address makes wild promises of nine per cent growth in the next Plan to double our income and halve our poverty. The Government, Sir, I believe, could have done much better to first put us back on the 1994-97 high growth path before taking a flight into such fantasies. Indeed, in most areas of concern to our poor, growth rates even in the 80s were higher than they have been under these three past years of the NDA Government. This is tragically true of wheat and rice, of coconut and sugarcane, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, *khadi* and village industries, food processing and small scale industries; and even where the growth rates have held, like for example, in jute and tea and coconut, adversities of varying kinds have overtaken the farmers and farm labourers. Now, with costs rising and prices not keeping pace, the *kisan's burden* is increasing by the day. As for the *khet mazdoors*, employment in agriculture rates have fallen so sharply that we are now where we were over a decade ago. Looming over the *kisans* is the imminent threat of unchecked imports of heavily subsidised agricultural products from the developed countries.

We negotiated the umbrella agreement of the WTO with in-built safeguards. But we are extremely apprehensive because of our experience in the recent past when the tardy manner in which the NDA Government raised tariffs to meet the flood of imports of sugar, wheat, edible oils and others, cause untold miseries to the farmers throughout the country. Therefore, with output, employment and investment in agriculture and rural development being so below par, we in the Opposition, Sir, find it extremely difficult to share in the false euphoria which the President's Address has sought to foster.

Sir, the passing reference in the President's Address to labour reforms has been expanded in the Budget by the Minister to signal the undermining of key safeguards for organised and unorganised labour. Now, we feel that both these sections are being targeted.

As for employment in general, we are equally dismayed that the President's Address does not make any mention of any job creating policies or programmes.

I am not threatening, but I would like the Prime Minister to note that the Congress and other opposition colleagues are not going to sit still as Government unravels the job security net. The working classes and the rural workers in urban areas also are absolutely assured of our solidarity.

The President's Address pats the Government on the back for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The scheme, of course, was announced in February last year and, as many other colleagues and Members of other parties have said, it has taken the Government ten long months to announce the guidelines and make the allocation which means that the approvals are running much below the amount allocated, reducing the actual expenditure to a tiny fraction of what Parliament expected of Government when it approved the Budget. Moreover, the Panchayati Raj institutions, unlike what is stated by the President in his Address, have been given only a very marginal role in the Gram Sadak Yojana. So, we fail to understand why the Government is so proud of this particular Yojana. In every sector of rural development we see the same liehargy, the same huge gap between promise and performance.

Now I would like to come to the Government's callousness in dealing with the rights of the tribals. The point at issue goes much beyond BALCO, important as BALCO is. The rights guaranteed to the tribal people in our Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court are now clearly under threat. Not only that, but certain policies followed in the name of economic reforms, such as privatisation without reservation for both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and retraction of legislative provision meant to protect them from atrocities, are undermining not

only their rights but also their dignity. I am afraid we in the Congress see in all this, a clear pattern for dismantling the special protection extended by our founding fathers and enlightened Governments to the weakest sections of the society. We will remain vigilant and we will certainly not stand by and idly watch the demolition of the edifice of affirmative action.

The President's Address says it is unfortunate that the Constitution Amendment Bill to reserve seats for women has not yet been enacted. But, why is the Government not pressing matters to a vote? The required two-thirds majority is readily available.

In regard to Jammu and Kashmir, the nation's patience is wearing thin. I heard with disquiet the self-satisfied tone in which the President's Address spoke of progress towards peace. In the larger national interest, the Congress has lent and will continue to lend support to peace initiatives even though the Government is rather reluctant to take us into confidence.

But Sir, when civilian killings and attacks on our security forces increase, when there is no meaningful dialogue with any of the parties concerned, when the political will of the Government appears paralyzed by disputes within itself, how can we possibly remain silent spectators?

With due respect, Sir, it is not blind faith but reasoned support which the Government needs in pursuing national goals in the troubled State.

Sir, as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, we are extremely concerned because we fear that the Government does not have a clear and well-focussed policy on Jammu and Kashmir. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please. What is this running commentary?

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Sir, secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood and Ayodhya is its litmus test. What is the Government's stand on the extreme position being taken by many of its most ardent supporters who are scoffing at the law and threatening to take things in their own hands as they did in 1992? We would also like to know the steps that the Government proposes to take to rectify the technicalities that are holding up the trial of three of its Ministers in a court of law.

The President's Address tells us that national security is the highest priority of the Government, and so it should be. Sir, the 17 Points of negligence and worse in the Subrahmanyam Committee Report on Kargil hardly support this claim. Even on the nuclear doctrine is there any clarity of vision? Last year, in the debate on the

President's Address, the hon. Prime Minister raised a laugh by challenging me to tell him what the Congress party's policy was on the nuclear deterrent. I do not begrudge the Prime Minister that laugh, for he is, after all, one of the wittiest parliamentarians for the last 50 years! But, Sir, we regard the national security as far too important to be settled by banter on the floor of the House. So, let me throw the question back, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir to the Prime Minister. What is the NDA Government's nuclear doctrine? For 18 months, the recommendations of the National Security Advisory Board have been gathering dust. The little three words "minimum credible deterrent" do not amount to a policy. They have to be fleshed out; they have to be spelt out as a policy. When that is done, as a responsible party in the Opposition, we shall react to it, and if possible, certainly we shall lend the Government our support. But how can we, Sir, lend our support now? How can we endorse this policy which, as far as we know, does not exist.

In foreign Policy, our inspiration has always been and is Jawaharlal Nehru. From him, we have learnt that Foreign Policy is the external expression of our sovereignty. The fierce independence he taught us raised India to influence in world affairs, quite out of proportion to our military might and our economic strength. Not less than two-thirds of the international community and almost all countries which came to freedom in the second half of the twentieth century followed India's lead into non-alignment.

Now, Sir, today, we are into securing certificates from others. We are a nuclear power. All right. But we have lost our moral lead.

Many of our peers in the Non-Aligned Movement are drifting from us in the region. We are pursuing neither peace nor progress. I call this regression. It is therefore with a heavy heart that when we look back at this past one year we look at it as a lost year, a wasted year, a despair of good governance of the NDA coalition.

The NDA Government more often than not likes to claim that it is only following the Congress' policies. We certainly do not see it that way; what we see is a parody of our policies that is undoing much of what the nation has earlier achieved. We will oppose it as it is our democratic right and our duty to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on President's Address is going to be concluded now. I thank all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion. Unfortunately, I could not attend the House at many times when hon. Members were

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

speaking. Sometime it becomes necessary to attend the Rajya Sabha session also. I am really very sorry about it and would like that it may not follow in future. Therefore, the business of the House should be arranged in such a manner that the discussion on the Presidential Address may be held in a continued manner. It creates difficulties for all, when the discussion is held in piecemeal and I think that under your leadership all the political parties will together formulate a programme to hold the discussion in a continued manner so that no member face any difficulty to attend it.

The Government of National Democratic Alliance is going to complete its three years. Our Government have disappointed those who were in the favour of the fall of this Government. Our's is a strong Government and political stability has been maintained in the country. We are progressing very fast on the path of development. The entire world has seen our achievements. We are among the 10 countries who are progressing very fast on the economic front. Our country has ample stock of foodgrains and has become self-sufficient in this regard. The credit goes to the farmers. However, I would like to mention one thing. Emphasis has been given to food production but required attention has not been paid to store the increased production of foodgrain. Perhaps we have been thinking over scarcity economy till now but now the time has come to think about the plenty economy. Some problems are being faced in some cases especially in foodgrains. However, efforts are being made to remove such shortcomings. Concrete steps have been taken in the current budget in this regard. The Government want that farmer should switch over to crops other than wheat and rice. For this purpose farmers should be assured of remunerative prices. The problem is that we never pre-plan farming. However, now efforts are being made in this regard. During my speeches in Punjab, I stressed upon to grow vegetable and fruit crop alongwith rice and wheat. Production of oilseeds and pulses are also required, but farmer takes time to change the prevailing system of crop which creates problems. Prices of cash crops have also reduced. Government want to procure these crops and make such arrangements so that farmers may not suffer losses. But there is a limit for the Government intervention. Efforts are being made to export the surplus foodgrains. In this regard some relaxations are being given. For example the quantum of wheat and rice production in our country is more than sufficient. That's why it is being exported. Rice and wheat crop has a good market in foreign countries. We are hopeful to get good prices of them. Efforts are also being made to reduce the cost of agriculture production. A policy is required to be

formulated in this regard with the consensus of all the parties.

It is inappropriate to state that President's Address does not mention about employment. It is also a misconception that economic liberalisation will lead to increase in unemployment. Some people will certainly be affected but that can not be escaped. However, more number of employment opportunities will be made available. I would like to quote President's Address in this regard :

[English]

"For example, India can command a significant competitive advantage in the international market in labour-intensive industries like garments, light engineering, toys, handicrafts, leather, and in IT-enabled services. The Government will encourage large-scale investment in such industries and create necessary infrastructure for their rapid growth."

[Translation]

I am aware of the problems arising due to our participation in WTO but these problems can not be solved by back track. Challenges should be faced. There is a need to see that we should not remain backward in this regard. The old process of farming should be replaced with the new one. It is necessary that we should stay in international market. For this purpose, quality of the crops should be emphasised. If we can improve the quality, since we are connected with W. T. O.' we can face their challenges especially in respect of small scale industries and agriculture. I was in Bangalore yesterday. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has suggested me to call a conference of Chief Ministers of States to consider upon the problems arising in agriculture due to W.T.O norms and take any decision in this regard. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh repeated the something on telephone today in the morning. I agree with their suggestions and with regard to the agriculture related problemes arising out of our WTO agreement, we will convene a conference of Chief Ministers, wherein we will try to evolve a consensus and find a way out. By increasing Excise duty, we want to protect our Industries and agriculture. But we have increased it to a certain limit, we have increased the excise duty whenever there is a need and if necessary it can further be increased. . . .(Interruptions)

We have to make an effort to find permanent solution to it. Therefore, I feel that it is necessary to evolve consensus over this but there are many hindrances in this. Some of our colleagues have decided to formulate such policies in the economic field which are old and have no use but they continue to see things on the same ground or criterion. . . .(Interruptions) Success cannot be achieved

from that. We have been opposing the "quota permit raj" from the very beginning. The system of licensing breeds corruption and our past experience in this field has been bitter. But inspite of our best efforts the 'quota permit raj' is not coming to an end as it should have been because there are lot of difficulties when the question of its implementation arises. This will be possible once a broad consensus is arrived at on the question of economic reforms. I am not saying that there will not be any difference of opinion but we should try to remove those differences. We can also launch movement over our differences of opinion and go to people because finally they have to decide. But it is necessary to evolve consensus over some questions and among that one question is this also and I hope that the Congress party will not take any such step which may lead the Congress being accused of doing volte-face. "badle-badle mere sarkar nazar aate hein" . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : It appear as if the country is likley get ruined. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, I have left this for you. . . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very essential that we should move with self-confidence. Among us some play the role of 'shalya' who are in 'pandava' side but talk in such a manner so as to create despondency and disappointment. This policy is not good. . . . (Interruptions) We are not averse to criticism and are ready to learn from criticism. . . . (Interruptions) We have not run the administration earlier but are trying to understand it, but our intention should not be doubted. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : First you please tell as to who is shalya and pandava. . . . (Interruptions) It should be clear to the House. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the NDA Government has been instrumental in promoting decentralisation and devaluation of powers to the State Government in the country. The Centre-State relations are very good today. Today, we have a coalition Government at the Centre and the government of different parties in different States. We have never resorted to discrimination and if at all anything happens then we will try to solve that immediately. My friend from West Bengal must be agreeing with me. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You have resorted to discrimination. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just having a look at some figures. The Public Undertakings

which have been closed down in West Bengal or is in the verge of closure, their number is not less. The problems. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have closed down those Undertakings. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : We are setting up new undertakings. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are doing good. We want you to achieve success because your success has become doubtful. . . . (Interruptions)

Today, we have a coalition Government at the Centre and the Governments of different parties in States. This is the time when we should work unitedly and endeavour to strengthen our democratic institutions. You can implement either multi-party democracy or any other structure, whichever you like, in your State.

Now, my next question relates to electricity. The power sector is undergoing a state of crises. A conference of Chief Ministers was held recently. In that they formed an opinion. Chief Ministers of all parties were involved in forming that opinion. All have decided that there should be improvement in power sector and power generation should be increased but the pilferage of power reported to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This pilferage is more in Delhi.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The power generation units are running in losses in every State. We are producing electricity but we lack in its distribution management. Now this is not a question of any single party, Centre or States. We have to find a way out unitedly. The future is full of challenges. I would like to quote what Hon. President has exactly said. He gave the reference of Dr. Ambedkar and presented his quotation. I would like to quote his wordings.

[English]

"The cautionary words of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should guide us in our March forward. While presenting the draft of the Constitution, he had said with great fervency, I quote.

"On January 26, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics, we will have equality; and in social and economic life, we will have inequality. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest."

[Translations]

Baba Saheb Ambedkar sounded warning at that time. Even today the India is in a paradoxical situation - one in which India is progressing facing challenges and its production is increasing. There is stability in technology and in other fields. We have also achieved progress in the field of communications. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There everything is in a mess. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, we do not have to wait for telephone connection. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now there is no need to take the help of any M. P. for cooking gas. People are getting gas connection easily. We should accept the progress made in the field of communication. The rate of telephone calls have been drastically slashed. The whole world recognises our strides in the development of information technology. We do not need certificate from anyone. Our work is being appreciated by the people. The prestige of India in the world has increased due to the fact that she has always pursued universal values which are fundamental of our foreign policy. But there are shortcomings also. We are very lowly placed in human development index. But whether we should see only one aspect? We should see the condition of India as a whole, we should see both aspects together. There are shortcomings but we will try to remove those shortcomings. For this resolution is essential and in some cases this resolution is necessary in all parties. Today, we are in power, tomorrow some other party will be in power. We were also in opposition but used to oppose upto certain extent. We were surprised that day when Shri Somnathji had said that this Government is neither national nor democratic and nor an alliance. He has finished everything by saying this. We are neither national nor alliance but he is international.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This Government is for allies. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But nobody recognises him in world. He is unable to understand as to with whom he should associate himself. He gave a judgement that we are neither national nor democratic. We have been elected in a democratic manner. We have come here with people's support.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, you do not worry. Communists are always international.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have alliance with different parties.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Our's is a left alliance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have not united for power. Prior to election, we had alliance. We fought election on the basis of common agenda and were successful in achieving more seats. Even today, we have opportunity.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You look into the other aspect also. Advaniji had said.

[English]

There is no question of ideology and there is no question of policy. It is a question of remaining in power. He has said that more than once. Then, what is the ideology of NDA? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is correct. There can be only one ideology as to how to protect the sovereignty of our country and how to work for the welfare of the people. Any type of "ism" will not do. Now it has become outdated. The only ideology should be to see that our behaviour is in order and it should be oriented towards fighting corruption and to provide good governance to the people and not to fight over the non-issues. This will not do. Different parties are in power in States but they are running the administration on the basis of decentralisation. There are complaints and these are addressed only if one speaks loudly but no attention is paid towards the cooperation. You also have to move ahead in this direction. "No annayayay panth vidyate" there is no other way out. The Congress party had decided that they will not have alliance with anyone.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are surviving by pampering them. We all know that. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Congress had decided not to align with any party. Later on the decision

was reversed and they entered into electoral alignment in Bihar. What principles were involved there? We have united for the unity of the country, stability and good governance. Our conduct is transparent and that is why there is no alternative to us.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are giving certificate to yourself. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is usual in democracy. Now democracy cannot work without some amount of self-publicity. If you are not ready to mention good when you see it at least we would call it so even if it relates to ourselves. But the real standard is the merit and conduct.

13.00 hrs.

We have attempted to promote peace process in Jammu-Kashmir. The issue of Jammu-Kashmir is an old one and it is delicate too, since terrorism is involved there. Our neighbouring country is helping to increase the terrorist activities there. But when Ramadan cease-fire was announced, it was welcomed in the country, abroad and also in Jammu-Kashmir. India desires peace, world recognised it. International opinion about Kashmir is changing now. The statement of Kofi Annan is a pointer in this regard.

People who mocked at the Lahore visit, should look within themselves. Diplomacy is necessary but along with it we should also take our own people in confidence. Definitely there has been some delay in the start of negotiations in Jammu-Kashmir. I do not want to go in the reasons for that, but Government is not responsible. There are some other reasons which would be disclosed later. But we are going to start negotiations soon, we will talk with all parties and would try to find out a solution of Kashmir problem. There is no dispute about that and the complaint that we do not take others in confidence is baseless. I do not know how much more can we take others in confidence? Meetings are held and no important step or decisive step are taken without having consultations. . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U. P.) : In Rajya Sabha, you are able to arrive at an understanding with Congress.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But it is the responsibility of all and we need to shoulder it together. The negotiations will start and we will try to find out a way. Pakistan should change its ways. Pakistan should try to change its perpetual unfriendliness towards India. This is our hope. We thanked them for helping in the Guajrat

tragedy. We also would not hesitate to extend a helping hand if, unfortunately, they also have to face some trouble. This is a question of humanity. Mulayam Singhji got sentimental about it yesterday and said resources permitting, we would extend not 6 times but 8 times help to them. He agrees to what I say and I agree to what he says. We should try to come together on the issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon. Prime Minister, please accept our four demands—one, end the dispute relating to temple construction in Ayodhya ; two, end your talks about repealing Article 370 ; three, change your opinion about minorities, especially Muslims; and four, break your relations with RSS. We would automatically come together. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about India and Pakistan. We cannot have trucks with Shri Mulayam Singhji. I do not know what will happen to the person who befriends Mulayam Singhji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are compelled to do that. It is for the sake of country. Otherwise the country will be sold off. Nobody is buying the loss making enterprises and in the national interest we are opposing the sale of profit making enterprises.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No one in the world has the guts to buy this country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : But there are people who are ready to sell it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If it is so, people would throw them out. We have the example. . . .*(Interruptions)*. We should not talk of selling and buying. At least patriotism should be above suspicion. We have not done that, and we won't allow anybody to do that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am not saying that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then what are you talking about? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The capital of the country is being sold. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The problem is that we cannot agree with everything Mulayam Singhji says. He has said that had India been powerful, we could have prevented the destruction of Buddha statues in Afghanistan.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This is true. It is true that no country in the neighbourhood of America can take liberty. If our country was powerful, Afghanistan would not have dared. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mulayam Singhji has been a former Defence Minister. Do not speak in a way undignified for a Defence Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Invasion is not required. It is the prestige of the country that matters. Today our prestige is low among our neighbouring countries. Our policy is not to invade but our prestige should be such as to create fear among others.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go in that dispute. The whole world has condemned what happened in Afghanistan. It was an act of barbarity, but there is a limit. There is no reason to suppose that if we had power we could have stopped the destruction. It was impossible. But we should ensure that such elements are not encouraged, promoted and allowed to overwhelm the world and towards that end we are trying to create a world opinion about fundamentalism. We want an international agreement on terrorism and that is possible only if the problems are discussed in depth. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why Babri Masjid was destroyed. You should condemn it. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is this going on? Please take your seat. Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you are not interested in the reply, Please go out. What is this?

[Translation]

Shri Athawale Ji, you are obstructing the proceedings by raising time and again, what is this? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that he is the leader of the House also. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that before raising a matter in the House, if that matter is based on magazine or newspaper articles, they should be examined with regard to the fact content in that. After all Members of the Parliament are responsible persons. Newspaper have their own politics. They have their own games, sometime we fall victim to it and sometimes you do. But hurling baseless allegations are meaningless. PMO is in controversy. Did I create it? I have not. It is working since the time of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Group of Ministers is an issue. The cooperative environment and the free atmosphere in which the present cabinet is working is probably without precedent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion takes place on all the matters. Decision is not announced before the discussion and if the House fails to agree on a subject, it is referred to a few Ministers for consideration. That is how, 'Group of Ministers' is formed. Thereafter the report of 'Group of Ministers' is submitted to the Cabinet. There is no question of bye-passing the Cabinet. Representatives of different political parties. Consider and decide on the matter. There is no restriction on debate but the final decision is taken by the Cabinet. Cabinet takes the final decision. These type of allegations do not add to the prestige of the country, but adds to disappointment in my heart. But I believe that before levelling allegations, some sort of investigation is necessary. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Let JPC investigate it. Let it investigate our allegations. (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very serious issue and creating pandemonium in the House will not serve any purpose. Please consider the issue with a cool mind. Having debate on the issue will achieve nothing. A weekly magazine was quoted in a large measure. I also want to quote the same magazine. The last part of the editorial says-

[English]

"The tragedy of Indian democracy is not our present rulers (is there much to choose between the PMO we have now and the one we had under Rajiv?), the greater, much greater, tragedy is that we possess an Opposition led by Sonia Gandhi, Somnath Chatterjee and Mulayam Singh Yadav. I wonder what sins the people of this country have committed to deserve them."

[Translation]

Now if you get misled by the article and raise the matter in House, and expect that. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, if the hon. Prime Minister were to yield, I would make it clear. I raised it. I made it very clear. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he is not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has obviously referred to my speech. Kindly give me half a minute. I made it very clear. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, he is not yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please allow me. I made it very clear. Mr. Prime Minister, you were not here then. . . .(Interruption) Unfortunately, you were not here. I accept your statement that you were busy elsewhere with Parliamentary duty. I said that I was bringing this before this House because I wanted an explanation from the hon. Prime Minister. A senior bureaucrat has made these charges which remain unrefuted. There were serious allegations made. There is no response from the Government. Therefore, after considerable deliberation, I have brought it before the House. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister of India what is the true state of affairs. Mr. Prime Minister, what do you say with regard to a Secretary who says :

"Because I objected to certain decisions against a business house. I was transferred the next day."

So, please say whatever you wish to say. That is not my statement. . . .(Interruption) He now says that he is quoting the editorial because I raised it then. It is most unfair. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, he made that allegation on that day. That is what he said. . . .(Interruption) Without any doubt, I would say that he made that allegation. He read it from the magazine. That is the allegation he made. . . .(Interruption) I objected to it. Sir, you were also present on that day. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is too much. You are disturbing the entire House. When the hon. Prime Minister is giving the reply, you are making these kinds of remarks.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the proper way.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is written in India Today magazine-farmer dies in your regime. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This debate has consumed nearly 12 hours and 27 minutes of the House. Thirty-four speakers have participated in the debate. Still, you are confronting the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is creating a new precedent in the House. I have been observing the hon. Member from the beginning. What is this type of confrontation when the Leader of the House is replying?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is lunch time now. Everybody is hungry.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am not hungry but angry. Mr. Speaker, Sir, report which has been published does not have name of any secretary. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Name is there, you can read the report. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper, please take your seats. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not only this time, every time, you are doing like this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition speak you must have some patience. What is this?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : General allegations have been levelled and such allegations can not be taken seriously. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : But he is not yielding, Shri Jaipal Reddy. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, you please sit down Shri Jaipal Reddyji you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are all senior Members of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only said that it is expected from Members of Parliament that they should try to find out variety of issue published in Media . . . (Interruption) before raising them in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the Leader of the House is replying, is this the way to behave in the House? You are creating a new precedent in the House. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : If you try to prevent the leader of the House from speaking in this way then would you think your leader will be permitted to speak ? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue relating to Ayodhya was mentioned by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and she asked what the Government is doing. Let me clarify the view point of the Government on this issue.

[English]

Ever since our Government assumed office, it has remained fully committed to the due process of law. Neither it has ever interfered in the legal process in any matter nor will it ever do so.

Unlike in the past, our Government has never withdrawn any criminal case against any individual or individuals associated with the Government. Even the prosecution lawyers arguing for the CBI in the Ayodhya case are those appointed prior to my Government assuming office three years ago. The CBI is an independent investigating agency. The Government does not issue any direction to the CBI nor can it in law issue any such direction. The CBI's position before the Special Judge in Lucknow is that its chargesheet against various individuals in the Ayodhya case is maintainable notwithstanding the judgement of the Allahabad High Court. The matter is *sub judice* before a Special Judge. Therefore, I wish to make no further comment on it.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Law will take its own course and there should be no doubt about it to anyone.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to conclude my speech. President's Address dwells at the Problems and condition prevailing in the country. Therefore, President's Address can act like reference book. The position of President is different in our country. There is difference between what President speaks on various occasions and what he speaks while addressing the Parliament. Therefore, sometimes we feel that Address is boring and quite long. If everything is to be included in it then we can not avoid these things. We are grateful to the President and thank him.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi raised the issue of Nuclear policy. We want to have discussion on matter of Nuclear policy. We should sit together and discuss it. Nuclear policy would not be the policy of one party rather it would be the policy of whole country. This policy will be binding on the future Government also. There should be no difference of opinion and ill-will among us about it. I am grateful to all the Members who . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, today you are Harbhajan Singh in Indian Parliament. They are bowled.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you. Namaskar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by hon. Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately ?

I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the main motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

“That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :—

“That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for

the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 19, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

13.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Thirty-Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

- (i) **Need to look into the complaints of adulteration in petroleum products in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Jharkhand and Bihar State, complaints lodged against adulteration and wrong measurement of petrol, diesel and LPG are increasing. But officials of oil companies do not conduct proper investigation on these complaints. Even though contact number of officials to whom complaints are to be sent is mentioned on every filling stations. But no action is taken on the complaints of customers. Retailers of petrol, diesel and LPG are generally so influential that they do not allow the consumers to register their complaints in the complaint book.

Therefore, I request the Government to instruct officials of various oil companies to take appropriate action on the complaints lodged by consumers and Government should also fix responsibility on the officials of oil companies in this regard.

- (ii) **Need to bring sale of opium particularly in Rajasthan, within the ambit of Central Excise Act**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 authorises States to give contract

of opium poppy. Consumption of opium poppy is injurious to human life. If opium poppy is seized from a person then that person can be sentenced ten years imprisonment and penalty of Rs. One lakh can also be imposed on him under NDPS Act. Most of the people consuming opium poppy are illiterate. Therefore, either opium poppy should be brought under Excise Act or the Union Government should direct the States that opium poppy should not be given under contract to save human lives.

- (iii) **Need to take necessary steps to check recurring floods in Bihar**

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusari) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar is country's most flood affected State. About 68 lakh hectares of Bihar's total area of 91 lakh hectares is affected by floods every year. The main cause of floods is rivers originating from Nepal side in the Himalayas. Unless dams are constructed on these rivers in Nepal with the effective interference of Union Government this problem cannot be solved. It is also necessary to make sufficient temporary housing arrangements for flood affected people besides controlling floods. Under floods proofing programme central assistance has been given only once till date. Under comprehensive flood proofing programme besides constructing shelters at higher places drinking water and sanitation facilities should also be provided.

Therefore, through House want to draw attention of the Government towards this problem.

[English]

- (iv) **Need for early commissioning of software technology park at Manipal in Karnataka**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : The Information Technology sector has already evinced interest to develop Udupi as a favoured destination. Software Technology Park of India has already set up an earth station at Manipal, the third in the State after Bangalore and Mysore. This will enable round-the-clock high speed satellite data communication. The facility of STPI at Manipal has still to be developed into a full-fledged IT Park. The land has already been acquired from DOIT and KEONICS and purchase orders have been placed by STPL.

Going by expert analyst projections for software exports, the same has been targeted at Rs. 325 crore (in 2001-02) and Rs. 750 crore (in 2002-03). Internet subscribers from the present 7,000 (2001-02) will grow up to 10,000 (2001-02) and 20,000 (2002-03). The Fibre Optic link already laid down by Konkan Railway Corporation for its needs will come handy for the STPI requirements.

[[Shri Vijay Kumar Sorake]

Dakshin Kannada Telecom Distt. is recognised as the best in Karnataka Circle with 2,06,000 installed phones (one to eight persons) 213 exchanges covering 638 villages including 180 exchanges with OFC/Microwave/PCM. As a catalyst for further development, STPI Manipal should be commissioned on schedule.

(v) Need to continue giving rebate on coir products particularly in Kerala

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Madam Chairperson, the coir industry in which about five lakh people, mostly women are employed in Kerala, faces a crisis because of the discontinuance of rebate scheme by the Central Government. The 20 per cent rebate scheme on sale of coir yarn and coir products was introduced by the Central Government in 1987. It was continues till date. The discontinuance is not justified. Urgent steps may be taken in this matter to continue the rebate system which was in existence to save the industry from ruin.

(vi) Need to establish a cotton market at Jadcherla of Mahaboobnagar

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Madam Chairperson, the cotton Corporation of India proposed to establish a cotton market at Jadcherla of Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. Jadcherla is a very big market yard and cotton is grown in surrounding Assembly segments-Shadnagar, Kalwakurthy, Nagar Kurnool in large scale. As there is no cotton market at Jadcherla which is a convenient place for the farmers to go and sell, they are forced to take their produce either to the Raichur or Kurnool market yards which are very far away places. Therefore, the farmers have a number of problems like their stay, storage of their consignment till it is sold out and so the farmers are not getting the remunerative price for their produce. Hence, I request through you, madam, that the Cotton Corporation of India should expedite the matter and establish the cotton market at Jadcherla immediately to relieve the farmers from untold miseries and give them remunerative price.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. for construction of a bridge on Saryu river at Bidhar Ghat in Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Khalilabad Dhanghata road passes through the district

headquarters Sant Kabir Nagar under my Parliamentary Constituency of Khalilabad and it is the only main road of Sant Kabir Nagar district and people of the whole district use this road. Thousands of people come to Khalilabad daily by crossing Saryu river by boat. People from other district of the State also visit Khalilabad for sale and purchase of handicraft items. They have to come via Ayodhya or Dohri Ghat due to which they have to cover additional distance of 200 kms. People of my district have to cover additional distance of 200 kms. for going to Allahabad, Varanasi and Azamgarh. If a bridge is constructed on Saryu river at Bidhar on Khalilabad Dhanghata road and Dhanghata Bidhar road, then lakhs of people would be able to save their money as well as time while travelling to Banaras, Allahabad and other parts of the country. It would be very convenient Nepal can be directly linked to several parts of the country via Khalilabad and Mehdawaliwasi. Therefore, I want that a bridge should be constructed on Saryu river at Bidhar Ghat. Union Government should provide adequate funds to the State Government for this purpose.

[English]

(viii) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 65 in Tamil Nadu

SHRI. M. CHINNASAMY (Karur) : Nagapattinam, Gudalur Mysore road covers eight districts in Tamil Nadu, namely, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjaur, Trichirappalli, Karur, Periyar Erode, Coimbatore and Nilgiris Hill station with 400 kilometres of distance, beyond that it goes to Mysore. These districts have great economic potential due to the rich agricultural production, sugar belt, industry and tourism.

The road was declared as National Highway No. 65 four years ago. The condition of the road is very poor. There are indiscriminate encroachments alongside the road. There are many curves and narrow bridges on both the sides, particularly, in Thanjaur, Trichy and Karur areas.

According to the authorities concerned, adequate funds are not available for the development of road and removal of encroachments.

I urge upon the Government to remove the encroachments and take necessary steps to widen it as per norms of National Highway and release funds for proper maintenance. Similarly, a parallel road between Namakkal and Trichirappalli via Musiri Thottiyam is still

under the State Highways. It is most urgent that this road may be declared as National Highway.

- (ix) **Need to remove regional imbalances by paying special attention on cluster of backward zones of the country**

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : I would like to express my concern to the Ministry of Planning through you that the concept of BIMARU States (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) is obsolete now because almost all the States of this group except Bihar are prospering and going ahead, rather these States are also playing an important role not only nationally but also globally. Now, another cluster of some zones of country is languishing and getting more and more pauper. So, these zones of our great country need special attention of the Central Government, the Ministry of Planning and the Planning Commission. These zones are Bihar, North Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. These three zones of India have social, demographical, geographical and cultural similarities. Therefore, I name them as BIHANEU zone which needs special planning to make themselves self-reliant and a liability free zones. Therefore, I urgently demand that to mitigate the regional imbalances, such cluster of backward zones of the country should be identified and be given a special attention.

- (x) **Need to check pollution caused by a paper mill at Choudwar in Cuttack district of Orissa**

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : I draw the attention of the Government towards the hazardous pollution that is being done by one paper mill situated at Choudwar in the district of Cuttack of Orissa.

This paper mill emanates huge quantity of foul air, day in and day out, which makes life miserable to live around in an area of 5-10 kilometres on the vicinity of the mill. Effluent of the mill also sips into a large area and the toxic contents inundate about an area of 100 acres of agricultural land which was providing job and succour to the inhabitants of Chittreswar village. The effluent of the mill also pollutes the river Mahandi.

I, therefore, draw your attention towards this hazard and request the Government to take necessary and appropriate steps to provide justice to the locals of Chittreswar and Choudwar who are suffering due to industrial pollution.

[English]

14.48 hrs.

PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS' BILL*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up the legislative business-protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to move** :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

Sir, the Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, to encourage the development of new varieties of plants as reported by the Joint Committee be taken into consideration.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Madam, what about the amendments to the Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The amendments have to be moved after the Minister's speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Protection of plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 14th December, 1999 and was referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee for their consideration and submission of its report. The Joint Parliamentary Committee placed their report in the House on 25th August, 2000. This Committee visited 15 States. Discussions were held with all people who were stake holder in it. They talked to farmers, organisations, experts and States. They also received 132 memoranda. After discussing these memoranda, joint Parliamentary Committee submitted their report. In comparison to earlier Bill, the New Bill contains many amendments and there are some special features

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 12.3.2001.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

in this Bill with regard to earlier one. Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report has given more importance to farmers rights. For this, there is separate chapter in the Bill. Those things were incorporated in the earlier Bill also. But a separate chapter has been provided in the new Bill to give more stress on the rights of farmers.

Earlier, there was a misconception that this Bill deprive the farmers of their right. Infact, this is not so. There is a separate chapter dealing with farmers rights in this Bill. All the rights the farmers now enjoy, would continue after the passing of this Bill. There will be no amendment of any kind on this issue. Farmers are permitted to sow new varieties of seeds and after production retain it for further sowing. They will be able to exchange with other farmers as is being done today. They will be able to sell these seeds to other farmers. They will not be permitted to sell it on the name of particular brand but generally as it happens in rural regions, they can sell these seeds to farmers. Our farmers are engaged in the work of preservation of genetic resources. This Bill recognises them. There is also a provision to give awards to such farmers. Further if farmers commit any mistake unknowingly, then they will not be liable for any punishment. Hence, there is no threat to the interests of farmers.

On the other hand, this Bill is also essential because new varieties should be developed in our country. A lot of research work has taken place through our National Agricultural Research System, ICAR and other universities. Around 2600 new varieties have been developed. Through ICAR a new thing is developed, new varieties of seeds are developed and released for use. They can be used by anybody even other countries can use them and put them under their protection but there is no protection to such research work in our country. This bill provides for protection of our research system. Besides this, capital investment should be made by private sector, public sector, in the field of production of seeds, development of new varieties of seeds and research work. New varieties of seeds should be developed because this will benefit the farmers. From that point of view, protection of rights of breeders is also essential. Therefore, arrangement has been made to protect their rights also. In this way, this Bill is very essential for the development of Agriculture and amendments have been incorporated in this Bill on the basis of the recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee. Then this Bill was circulated to various Departments and Ministries. Some suggestions have been received from ICAR. While considering those suggestions, besides the suggestions of Joint Committee, two other

amendments have also been made in the Bill. There is a provision in the Bill that if anyone develops a seed or any variety, he will have to disclose the source of original seed on which he carried research and will have to give the benefit to the original owner. The concept of benefit sharing should be implemented for the citizens of this country or the people engaged in farming. One amendment incorporates this provision. Secondly, through this Bill, plant varieties protection and farmers rights authority will be constituted which will have the right to give directives of any kind to the Government from time to time in public interest. Besides the recommendation of Joint Parliamentary Committee, two other amendments are proposed in this Bill. With these words, I request that this should be considered.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system for protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders, to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Madam, may I have your permission to read out my speech rather than speaking so that I can save time?

Some months back the Parliament passed the information Technology Bill, 1999. The Government has introduced the Biological Diversity Bill, 2000, which would be taken up for consideration and passing within a few months by parliament. Today, we are discussing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2000.

All these Bills have international connotations. They are being moved and passed to meet the international obligations under WTO and other agreements. That does not mean that they are not going to help the people who live in other countries and not going to help us who live in India. In fact, they should primarily help us in the country and also the process which is started world over to encourage and give help to the producers, to consumers and the traders also. Therefore, we cannot object to the Bill blindly or accept it also without trying to understand, if it is going to help or create difficulties for us. The Bill should, therefore, be examined very carefully. Unfortunately, for Bills of this nature, time available for discussions is less than what is made available for the unlisted business in which there is no structured agenda, no considered report given by the Parliamentary Committee is available to help us to debate and deliberate meaningfully . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shivraj V. Patil, four hours have been allotted for this Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : In other countries, there are no restrictions put on the discussion on the Bill whereas we are fixing four hours' for this Bill and Bill of this nature. In our country, we do put such restrictions on the ground that enough time is not available. We should make enough time available for debates on Bills of this nature. If necessary, the number of days for which Parliament works should be increased. Otherwise, full justice would not be done. In Bills of this nature, which is relevant to the country and our transaction with other countries, there are provisions, which have very serious implications, which should be clearly understood before we say 'Yes' or 'No' to them. I hope this matter may be discussed by the leaders of the political parties in Parliament and in the interest and efficiency of democracy and parliamentary system, appropriate discussions should be allowed.

Fortunately, all the Bills that are introduced in Parliament are referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committees, and are considered in detail by the Members of the Committees, and Reports on their views and suggestions are submitted to the Executive and the Legislature for proper actions. It is quite heartening to note that the suggestions given by the Committees are not brushed aside or lightly taken, but they are considered seriously, which has happened in this case also. This is more so with respect to the Bills, which have national and international relevance, and are of new types.

The protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill was also referred to the Standing Committee and was carefully examined by it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Many of its recommendations are incorporated in the Bill. Some of the recommendations can easily be accepted but about others, the Members may have different views. The views of the Members can be scrutinised carefully. I would come to the provisions of the Bill and the amendments that are introduced by the Executive as per the recommendations of the Committee one by one, I would request the Minister to keep his mind open and consider the views expressed by the Members, and make them part of the law, if he thinks that the views of the Members are valid and do not stand on any formality and make his sticking to the official version a prestige issue.

This is a Bill which deals with new issues. The experience available with us about the issues is limited. Hence, all that we are doing now may or may not be sufficient and fully correct. The experience of other countries and the ground rules given by the WTO may or may not be helpful. So mentally we should be ready to experiment with it and as time passes, modify the provisions to suit the real requirements and the situations prevailing in India and the world. It would be very difficult to be very strict and dogmatic about it. All the same, efforts and attempts should be made to make it as perfect as is possible in the present circumstances.

My first submission relates to the Title of the Bill. While speaking about the Title of the I.T. Bill, I had made my submission on this point. The Information Technology Act, 1999 does not fully convey what it contains. We have the Prevention of Untouchability Act and we have the Prevention of Corruption Act. The titles of these laws convey what their contents are. But the I.T. Act does not convey that kind of meaning; the I.T. Act is meant to facilitate the transactions through electronic instruments. One could have called it 'Facilitation of Trade and Transaction and Governance through Information Technology Act, 1999' or some other Title could have been selected. But that was not done. It was not done because I think, no mind was applied to this aspect. The Biological Diversity Bill, 2000 is pending in the Parliament. The Title of this Bill also does not convey the full meaning of the law intended to be framed. It could be 'The Biological Diversity Protection and Utilisation Bill, 2000'. It can convey a better meaning of the contents of the Bill. In respect to this Bill also, the Title was framed and used without proper application of mind by those who have drafted it. The Minister and the Government should have detected the defect and should have rectified the mistake. But it seems that they have also not paid attention to this aspect. These laws are going to be used in India and abroad. If these defects are detected by the users in the country and the world, it would not add prestige to the drafting agencies, the Government and the Parliament also. The Title of the bill, we are considering at present, is not as defective as the Titles of other Bills were. But it is not without any defect also. It gives a wrong impression that the Bill is meant to protect the rights of the farmers and the plant varieties and not the plant breeders. Here is the catch. In fact, the Title would have been more appropriate if it had been like this. 'The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers and the Plant and Seed Breeders Rights Bill, 2000'. This Kind of a Title would have been more authentic and honest. In India, there are a few farmers who are in the business of breeding plants and producing seeds. In fact, this is being done by those who are not farmers by profession.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

There are either traders or industrialists and they are Indians and foreigners also and no doubt, their right should be protected and preserved. The agricultural universities are also responsible for producing different varieties of seeds and plants. Their number is quite handsome. What they do is valuable. Their rights should also be protected. There are other institutions and national laboratories which are helpful in producing new qualities and varieties of seeds and plants. Their rights also should be protected. Therefore, it would be proper to add the words "breeders of plants and producers of seeds" in the title.

The Government would expose to the charge that it wants to get this Bill passed in the name of farmers, but mainly for the breeders which would not be very just. Why is the Government not paying attention to these details? Do they think that the Bill or Act by any name would do the same as the rose may smell, by any name, the same?

I sincerely feel that they should be more careful about these matters also to presents the best laws to the country and the world. I am not sure if I have made my point quite forcefully to see that it registers with the concerned authority. Let me hope that it has been received rightly by the hon. Minister, the Ministry, the drifting agencies and the Government.

Why are we dropping these two words? Why is the word 'breeder' being dropped? Are we afraid that this would be misunderstood by others and it is not necessary that it should be understood by others? The word 'breeder' is to be included in the title because it is not only the traders and the industrialists who are breeders, but the universities and the national laboratories are also the breeders.

That is why, I think, it would be right and just and correct to have a correct kind of title for this Bill. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to accept this suggestion at this point of time. But I am making it not simply because I should criticise sitting on the opposition Benches but I do feel that a title which gives a wrong connotation, a wrong meaning to the law should not be adopted. We should not be appearing to be deceiving the people. That is my intention.

The authority consists of officers of the Departments and institutions which have something or the other to do with the plants and farmers and breeders. However, in my opinion, representatives of two more organisations and some experts from outside the Government working in the concerned fields should be included. We have created the Protection of Plant Varieties in the Farmers' Rights Authority. I am talking about that.

The CSIR laboratories are carrying on research in plant breeding and producing new varieties of seeds. The national laboratory at Jorhat in Assam is in the process of separating genes from the plants in deserts, in oceans and in Himalayas and introducing them in seeds used to grow fruit plants and food grains. The genes, which are separated from the desert plants, would help the fruit trees and the food crops having them to grow, even in drought conditions. The genes from the ocean plants would help the fruits and the food crops to grow when there are excess of rains and in marshy areas. There are plants in Himalayas, in Eastern and Western Ghats, in Andaman and Nicobar which have pest-resistant qualities. The genes, which make them pest-resistant, are separated from them and are introduced in fruit-bearing trees, seeds and food crops. They are trying to do genetic engineering to make the food grains and the fruits to have more retentive capabilities and better nutritive value.

The National Chemical Laboratory, Pune is in the process of producing new varieties of plants through tissue culture. The National Molecular biology Laboratory at Hyderabad is also doing some research in these areas. All these laboratories belong to CSIR.

15.10 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is in the process of doing genetic engineering through radiation to produce new varieties, better varieties of seeds. These organisations and national laboratories can contribute a great deal to help to produce better varieties of seeds and plants. It would be, therefore, very useful to have the representatives of CSIR and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in the Authority. It should not be difficult for us to have a few more members who can really contribute towards better enforcement of the law and better development in this area. I hope, the Government would heed to this suggestion and add some more members to the authority.

If we look to the composition of the authority, we get an impression that all of them are government servants. There are private persons who are experts in the field and who are dedicated to the cause. Why should they not be made the members of the Authority? If good private persons outside the Government who represent the progressive, educated, research-minded farmers, traders or industrialists in the area are included in the framework of the authority, the prestige and status of it would go up.

In India, mainly the agricultural research and development, education and extension and development of practices of cultivation and new varieties of seeds and

plants are done by agricultural universities, colleges and institutions. It would be a right thing to have one or more members. I think, this has already been done. The representatives of agricultural universities are included in the Authority. Thus, the number of members of the Authority can be increased to make it representative and fully equipped and to make use of the facilities available in the country.

The Authority is not only an instrument for regulating the activities; it has to function as promotive agency also. Hence, the new composition suggestion would be beneficial. The task of this Authority is to have the register to regulate the activities, and at the same time, to promote and inspire the people to breed new plants, to produce new seeds, and if only the Government officials are sitting in the Authority, they would be very good at controlling the things, but they may not be good at promoting and inspiring the people.

Now, if the intention is to see that this Authority not only controls but also promotes and inspires also, it would be right to have some people who can really contribute in this respect. I am making this submission with a view to see that this Authority really transacts the business which is given to it.

. Clause 7 of the Bill reads :

"The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive of the Authority and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed."

The Chairperson, the Chief Executive is very pivotal person in the Authority for implementation and enforcement of this law. Clause 7 says that what he should do would be decided by the rules of the Executive. Why should it be done by the Executives? Why should it not be done by Parliament? Is not the Executive clear at this stage as to what would be his rights and duties? Has it not considered this aspect? Should it not come before Parliament with its suggestions? Law making by the Executive is not envisaged by the Constitution of India. The law should not be made by the Executive. In all the new laws, this is being done. It is not correct. It should not be done. The law may leave a great scope for enlarging or restricting the discretionary powers, and rights and duties of the key persons in the Authority. It should not be difficult to do it. My view is that the Government should not usurp this right. It should not trespass in the area of legislation, in the field of law making. This is going to create very bad precedents.

The executive should not make laws, they can initiate law-making; they should not leave to the judiciary to pass executive orders by not itself doing its duty. The Legislature

should not pass executive orders and judgements. The executives should not pass the laws and the budget, and no scope should be left to the judiciary by the inactive and timid attitude of the executive to pass the administrative and executive orders. This exactly appears to be happening which is against the words and the spirit of the Indian Constitution and should be avoided by all concerned very scrupulously.

Why should we give authority to the Chief Executive through rules? Rule making power is certainly available to the executive, but the law making power is not available to the executive. Law making power lies within the jurisdiction of the Legislature. And here, we are making this kind of comprehensive law and yet we are not defining what are going to be the rights and duties of the Chief Executive Officer. Now, this is not a correct thing to do. I think, we should have paid more attention to this aspect. You could have decided what kind of rights and duties he will be having and you could have also decided that in certain circumstances he would have wider discretion so that he is not bound down by the provisions of the laws. That would have been proper, but this has not been done. I think, this is a flaw, which is a lacuna in the law we are going to make.

The Bill intends to protect the rights of the farmers. The original Bill has some provisions which could achieve this objective to some extent, but what is provided in the original Bill fell short of providing full protection to the farmers. The Committee has made some suggestions which can protect the rights of the farmers in a better fashion. The suggestion made by the Committee in this respect have been incorporated in the Bill. It would be necessary to experiment with these provisions and see if they create problems for the farmers. If that becomes obvious, it should not be difficult to change the relevant provisions to free the farmer from difficulties. They should be able to produce the seeds and plants they need for using them in their fields, and with others in their neighbouring fields. They may be allowed to produce the seeds and the plants to sell in the market as per the law and the rules, which should not be very restrictive and obstructive. The law should not protect only breeders and traders; it should protect the farmers and the users of the seeds and the plants in productive activities. This is a grey area. It creates doubts and apprehensions in the minds of farmers. Those genuine doubts and apprehensions should be removed. The farmers should be assured that they would not suffer. This has mainly to be done because the farmers are not the persons who would control seed and plant production in India. They would help in the process, but they would not be the main players. The law appears to protect the main players more than the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

supporting actors, in India, supporters are numerous and the main players are only a few. The law should not do justice to a few at the cost of justice to the overwhelming majority. The Bill does give an impression that it helps the main players. The Committee Report has reduced this aspect to a great extent, yet, the clouds of doubts are not fully cleared, which must be done. If it is not done, the market may flourish but the farmers may suffer and the consumers would also suffer. The Government and the law should protect the interests of the producers, consumers and users of foodgrains, new varieties of seeds and plants.

If it fails to do that, then it would fail in achieving its objective. The law should not be made only to meet the requirement of the agreements made by the WTO. It should be made to do justice, to protect the interests of the farmers, the consumers the breeders and the traders also. I am not fully dissatisfied with what has been suggested by the Committee and what has been incorporated in the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have incorporated the suggestions which the Committee has given in its report.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : That is right, but I have doubts in my mind. Whatever has been suggested by the Committee on this point, you have incorporated and, yet, I have the doubts.

Yet, I feel that what has been done may create problems. I am not in a position to explain here in which of the areas it could create problems, but if there is an opportunity, then we can sit together and discuss it later on. I am expressing my doubts here. I am saying that let us have the provisions, as has been suggested by the Committee, incorporated in the Act. Let us experiment with them. Yet, I have a doubt in my mind that the interest of the farmers would not be fully protected by this. I have a feeling that this law appears to be more for protecting those who are not farmers, but who are the traders. Plant breeders are not really the farmers. At least in India, they cannot be classified as farmers. A farmer who has 50 acres of land at his disposal is not in a position to produce seeds or breed plants and market them. That is the difficulty of our farmers who are small and who do not have the financial capacity to fund breeding of plants and create new varieties. That is going to create problems.

Sir, I am one with the hon. Minister when he says that new varieties of plants are required and new varieties of seeds are required. If a farmer can produce them, then we would welcome them. If a farmer cannot produce them, then let anybody produce the new varieties of seeds and make it available to the farmers so that they could produce more from the land. That is the correct approach. I cannot find any fault with this kind of an approach. Yet, I am saying that if there is somebody who is trying to take advantage of it, then he can take advantage of it. The Government is proposing to protect them under this law. If a breeder breeds a plant and prices go up and then he wants to see that the prices again go up and does not breed plants any more, then it would create a scarcity. If a seed producer produces seeds and gives it to the farmers and captures the market and then reduces the production of seeds, then the farmers would suffer. The Government has rightly provided for in this Bill that if a breeder of plants or seeds does not produce the required number of plants or the amount of seeds, then the Government would give directions or would take corrective steps. The Government has rightly put this clause in the Bill. But still I have doubts and we can discuss it later on. It is not possible here in this kind of a Bill-within four hours time, while making one speech and particularly when you are sitting in the Treasury Benches and I am sitting here in the Opposition Benches, We shall have to cooperate and co-ordinate in our thinking and then only it would be possible. I have my doubts and I have expressed them here. The Government has verified it and has tried to see that the interests of the farmers are protected. The Committee also has done well and the Government also has done well. There are some good provisions in the Bill. Let those provisions be there in the Bill. But this is the area that has to be carefully examined later on.

Sir, next I come to the appeals. Against the orders of the Authority, it has been provided in the Bill that an appeals would lie to the High Court. It is also provided that a single judge of the High Court may hear an appeal and that against that order of the single judge, another appeal could be made to a Bench of the High Court. These provisions of the Bill are not very happily worded. It would have been better if the mention of the second appeal to a Bench of the High Court would have been avoided. It is good that there are provisions for appealing against the orders of the Authority. But providing for too many appeals is not good. Now, against the orders given by the Bench of the High Court, some interested persons may appeal to the Supreme Court on a legal point. Thus, there would be available for interested persons the right to appeal three times. That would consume time and delay justice. Nothing in excess of what is required is good and should be

avoided. The Standing Committee has recommended that there should be a Tribunal against the order of the Authority. The appeal should be made to the Tribunal. The Committee has also mentioned that a Member of the Tribunal should have enough judicial experience.

It is also provided that one of the members can be a member of the administrative machinery. It means, the judicial member need not be a person who has the qualification to be the judge of the High Court. He could be a district judge or a civil judge. This kind of dilution of the qualification of the member of the appellate authority is not useful to protect the interests of the farmers and others. This, in my opinion should not be done. If good seeds are not provided to the farmers, many farmers would suffer. Hence, the legal provisions should not be thus diluted. The tribunal should not be amenable to the suggestions of the executive authority. The principle of separation between the judicial authority and the executive authority should not be given a go by. Therefore, with all respect, I would like to submit that the recommendations of the Standing Committee do not appear to be very sound and justified and need not be adopted and incorporated in the Bill.

Here, I am speaking against the recommendations of the Committee. If the authority says, 'let it go to the High Court, and against the decision given by the High Court let there be an appeal to the Supreme Court', what is going to happen?

The authority decides first, the matter goes to a single-judge-bench of the High Court, after that it goes to a bench, the decision of the bench then goes to the Supreme Court. By this what are we doing? We are creating a procedure which will delay the decisions and delaying the decisions will not be good. The Committee had made a suggestion very rightly. In my opinion the original Bill has suggested that the person sitting in the tribunal should be a person who could have been appointed as a High Court judge. But here we are diluting that provision. The wording of the Act now is such that you can appoint even a district judge or even any lawyer who is not a district judge and the things would become very difficult. Why should we dilute this provision? Why is it necessary to do it? Is it to see that he becomes amenable to the suggestions of somebody? In my opinion, this should not be done because the interest of thousands of millions of farmers is involved. That is why this authority should be given independent authority, should be manned by people who are not easily amenable, by the people who have clear understanding not only of the provisions of law but also of the knowledge of agricultural science. That would help. But here, I may be allowed to say that I differ a little with the suggestion made by the Standing Committee.

On offences and penalties also, there is a suggestion by the Committee. I find it difficult to agree with the suggestions of the Committee on this point also. Others are very good. I agree with protecting the farmers' interest and adding a new chapter and all those provisions. But I disagree with these details.

The Bill provides that for offences committed by the interested persons, penalties of imprisonment and fine can be imposed. The penalty of imprisonment is provided to see that the plant varieties are protected, the farmers are protected, the breeders are protected, and nobody should play false with others. These provisions should be passed, as they are provided. The Standing Committee has suggested that either the imprisonment, or the fine should be awarded.

Why should we do that? If there is a clause in the law which says, 'either imprisonment or the fine' some of us who have practised in the courts know the tendency is to carry on with it. Why should we delay the punishment which can be awarded to the person who has committed a mistake? If we say, 'imprisonment and fine', that clause itself becomes very effective and people will think twice before committing an offence. They are not afraid of paying fine but they are afraid of going to the jail. By making it 'imprisonment or fine', we are diluting this penal provision. In my opinion, it is not in the interest of the farmers.

The Bill appears to protect the breeders more than the farmers. In fact in India, farmers are not breeders. The task of planning, breeding and marketing the plant varieties and seeds is done by non farmers. It is done by the companies formed for the purpose. They should be allowed to do that, and encouraged to produce good varieties of plants and seeds.

But I think, that the farmers also should be helped. They should be helped to have the cooperative societies. Separately, They cannot do it. In this respect, universities should also be increased and if it is possible, the Government should not shy away from this kind of activity because depending on the persons who are not amenable to the directions of the Government, it is creating problems for the farmers.

The agricultural universities, colleges and other institutions are also doing it. They have lands and expertise, and vision.

The agricultural universities are the best institutions in the country for producing plant varieties. They have thousands of acres with them and fortunately for us, we have a large number of agricultural universities in our

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

country. In some States, there are four or five or even more agricultural universities, and there would be more agricultural colleges also under these universities. And, the land available would be there to have new varieties of plants and the special seeds produced. That is why, I think, they should be helped.

The farmers are, in fact, the persons who work in the field and produce the new varieties of plants and seeds. But they lack funds, knowledge and sometimes vision. For providing new varieties of seeds, they should be helped and encouraged to do better than what they are doing now. At times, they do not need vast tracks of land. They need guidance and funds, and marketing facilities. That should be made available to them through cooperatives or Governmental agencies. It appears that this aspect is not highlighted. It finds a place in the Bill. But it is in neglected cores, corners, it is not good. Law is being made to help the farmers. It helps the trader and the breeder. This tilt should be corrected. Otherwise, the charge that it is being done to help the non farmer rather than the farmer, under some internal and external pressure would stick.

The Bill suggests that the National Gene Fund would be created. The idea is laudable. It should be supported and strengthened. It is mentioned in Chapter XII of the Bill. But the Committee appears to have diluted it. One does not know why it was done and suggested. Here also, I am not agreeing with the Committee.

There was a separate Chapter in the original Bill. It could have been or it could not have been made part of the Bill itself. The Genetic Engineering is going to be the most important thing for helping the farmers and agriculture in our country. Fortunately for us, India is very rich genetically. Take for example, the foothills of Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats and Lakshadweep. We have a lot of genetic wealth. Fortunately, the climatic conditions in India are such that everything multiplies, the plants multiply, the animal multiply and human beings also multiply, and that is why the problem of population in our country is there. A large varieties of lands are there; a large varieties of animal species are there and a number of human beings is increasing by leaps and bounds in our country.

Now, some of these things are creating problems but some of these things are going to help us really. If he wants to see that agriculture in India flourishes, there is nothing more important than using the genetic wealth, which is available with us. Unfortunately, for the world where there is genetic wealth, there is no genetic technology and where there is genetic technology, there is no genetic wealth. In the countries of Northern Hemisphere which are

covered under the snow, there is no genetic wealth. The variety of plant is limited. The genetic wealth is not there but, genetic technology is there. But fortunately for the countries which are in tropical areas of the globe, the genetic variety is there. We shall have to use it. I think that they have done very well in providing for creating a Fund for developing the genetics in India. It would have been better if it would have been left in a separate Chapter. Something could have been done.

Well, I think, this Bill is good as far as helping those who want to breed the plants and produce the seeds in larger numbers and larger quantities.

But the ultimate aim should be that of using knowledge as the common heritage of mankind. If you do not allow people to use knowledge that is available with the plant breeders and if you do not freely encourage him to use that knowledge, ultimately all of us are going to suffer. Putting restrictions on knowledge is not good.

This law is being passed because we want to protect the plant breeders. We are saying that we are trying to protect the plant varieties by protecting the plant breeders and by restricting the knowledge available with some people who can breed the plants. We are not protecting the plants; we are protecting the plant breeders. You cannot help it; we cannot help it; India alone cannot help it. The situation is such in the world that knowledge is not treated as a common heritage of mankind. Knowledge is patented and sold. By selling knowledge, some people might get money but ultimately the entire humanity is going to suffer. If knowledge becomes a commodity to be sold and purchased, all of us are going to suffer. I do not know when this kind of an understanding would develop in the world, when knowledge would freely flow from one country to another.

We are asked to allow the commodities, the goods and services to flow from one country to another freely but we are not given the freedom to take technology from countries where it is available. We are not allowing knowledge to flow freely from one country to another. What is obstructing this is the profit motive. If people want money or profit, they would not allow knowledge and technology to flow because the costliest things in the world today are technology and knowledge. Nothing is as costly as knowledge and technology. By creating laws, we are putting restrictions on the explosion of knowledge. This, ultimately, will not be good, but we, as countries at the receiving end, cannot do much in this respect. We have to keep on saying that we could co-operate with them to a certain extent but let us have the vision of the future, a distant future and let us free knowledge from the bonds of profit.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, I congratulate hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Government of India for bringing this Bill. I have also seen the protection of plant varieties and farmers rights bill, 1999, which was original form of this Bill. I have seen the suggestions given in the report of Parliamentary Committee and now I am seeing the protection of plant varieties and farmers rights Bill, 2000 which is presented in the House for consideration. The member who has spoken just now, is an experienced and senior member. He was expressing his view. I am not refuting what he has said but I find one thing objectionable that the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee was given a viewpoint formed by its members. If there are some shortcomings in the recommendations, I feel, those shortcomings should be brought here point-wise. I feel that the Government has taken this step and needed it 20 years ago. We are so late to bring it that it is difficult to estimate the loss may have caused. If we consider this Bill from the point of view of the farmers, who are the assets of our country and with their help we can ensure safety and development of the country and improve economic condition of the country as a whole, this Bill should have been brought here two decades ago but at that time we did not think about this. When we talk about plant varieties then our view-point is restricted to only Agricultural production or seeds. The member, who spoke before me, has also used the word bio-technology in his speech. It is a different thing that bio-diversity Bill is presently being discussed. When we talk about plant varieties then we should see it in broad perspective. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards two-three points. Authority is being constituted. The NABARD Bill which is related to farmers had been brought during last session. That Bill was related to the rights of farmers. It is true that capital has been increased in that but I do not agree with the constitution of that Board. Participation of farmers in it is less as compared to officers. More or less the same mistake has been repeated in this Bill also. I would like to say something about the Authority, it is not that experts are only available in the Government Organisations. There are many persons although they are not agricultural experts yet they possesses vast knowledge in this field. I would only like to say that I have been to various agricultural universities. There are agricultural universities in Jabalpur and Delhi.

Figures of three places are available with me, where varieties of crops are old, and there are new varieties produced by them also, which are fully protected. There are agriculture science centres, reserch centres run by Government's and some of these centres are being run by private institutions also and some capable farmers are also setting up agriculture science centres. They want to

work in this field afresh. I would like to talk about three institutes. I am taking about improved varieties. In Krishi Vigyan Kendres the efforts are being made to improve existing varieties or to develop of new varieties of crops. I would also like to make a mention of those agriculture science centres and agriculture research centres which are having all varieties of crops, where they are protected and efforts are being made to develop new varieties. I would also like to talk about those who are independently working as agriculture scientist. Apart from this I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards other issues also. If you go towards tribal areas, you will find that village people know much about the crop varieties which are having a scientific name and different medicinal name. For instance I can say, when bio-diversity Bill was being discusssed, then also I emphasised that you people are here to enact the legislations, but you should keep in view the capital available to us, and steps should be taken keeping in view the availability of intellectual property. There are no scriptures of crops, but there are such scriptures, which inform about all varieties of leaves flowers and stem. They guide us about the places where seeds of certain crops are found in abundance.

I would like to request the Government that there is a chapter on registration in the Bill. In this regard, I agree with the views expressed by Shri Patil ji. We want to protect the farmers. There is no guarantee, that people who produce the seeds are farmers. Agriculture is a vast field where seeds are preserved production of seeds is increased and we want to protect its from the global competition. We talk about giving protection to the farmers then I would like to say that there should be a provision for registration and the system of group registration should by fully protected. Our present Agriculture Research Institutes, whether they are Government or private which are working in the field of Agriculture, can protect our intellectual property. I would also like to request that the Government should make arrangement for collective Registration. I would also like to emphasise that we should consider 'Charak Sanhita', Ayurveda, having pictures of flowers leaves etc. which are found within the boundaries of India. We should identify them. According to my information, ancient scriptures are having mention of different varieties of flowers, leaves and crops. We should have to identify samples of them. If we are able to identify and register them, we would be able to protect the large property of the nation. We thank you for bringing this legislation.

Sir, I have studied old bill also and have observed that the Government definitely amended the old bill for which I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government . I have also read the old chapter and existing new chapter.

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

It is written over there that if a new item is developed till it is registered, you can not grow or expand it. Here you have made a different chapter for them and have brought it in the interest of the farmers. I commend it. Despite all this, if any farmer or producer of any variety goes to international court the Government would enact regulation to help him. I feel that we would enact regulation when we face a dispute. So I say that before such situation arises we should enact these regulation. I know you that hon. Minister is very conscious particularly about certain varieties of plants. After this you are going to introduce bio-diversity bill. This matter does not fall into the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture, but Ministry of Environment and Forest is also involved in it, and cooperation of other Ministries is also needed. I would like to request you that as its focal point would be under Agriculture Ministry, therefore you should keep in view these points and ensure sections of legislation which would protect us in International Court. When this issue is raised being a farmer, I have a small point. Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister that the Government should make arrangement for identification and registration of crop varieties available with us. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill has been brought before the House with certain amendments, after it had been examined in different places, after it had been discussed with different people, and after it had been examined by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Though it had been discussed widely, yet it has to be clarified from many angles and corners.

In our country, an overwhelming majority of farmers are small and marginal. They are not only the cultivators, but they also keep the seeds for the next season. This is the practice and that accounts for 70 to 80 per cent of the seed supply in our country.

The World Bank which had financed the growth of the public sector for supply of seed in India in sixties and seventies, now demands its dismantling and recommends shifting to the private sector and entry of MNCs in the seeds sector of this large rural based country. The impact of the new policies of the so-called liberalisation adopted by the Government is felt even in the seeds sector. There is a change towards privatisation, concentration of the seed industry and displacement of farmer varieties. The policy of giving seed companies a free hand through privatisation and de-regulation resulted in increased costs of seeds and agri-chemicals, increased farm debts and increased crop failure.

Globalisation is leading to the emergence of a new kind of monopolised corporate exploitation, convergence of global market forces with forms of feudal control over the peasantry masses. Farmers' suicides are the extreme results of these policies of market freedom. Instead of changing these wrong policies, the Government directly extends its supportive measures to the global corporate forces against the peasantry of India. Having ratified the agreement of trade-related aspects on Intellectual Property Rights, the Government tried to start reform by bringing legislation for giving effect to the provisions of the agreement. Uniformity and stability criteria for registration will lead displacement in supply of farmers, seed and the monopoly of the traders will be strengthened. All over India, the kisans want to know why the Government does not resist the attacks against the peasantry. Why has agriculture been included in the WTO agenda?

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill has been examined by the Select Committee and many amendments have also been made. But the Government is friendly with the Marrakech Agreement and is following the dictates of the World Bank, IMF and WTO. What can we expect from them? The Select Committee as also the Joint Parliamentary Committee could not come to a consensus. There are dissent notes on the recommendations. In the original draft of the Bill, the farmers were recognised as only the cultivators and not the breeders. We know that in most of the industrialised countries most farmers depend on the seed industry. Monopolists are ruling the market in those countries. They are involved with merchandise farming and with advanced technology with capitalist mode of production. In our country, landlordism still exists and the peasantry who are tilling the land are generally marginal and small farmers and sharecroppers. I would like to quote some of the points from the dissent notes. It says:

"... Seventy per cent of the seeds supply is still farmers' seed supply in our country."

"... The impact of the new seed laws to be amended in the context of monopolies already there in places in industrialised countries."

"... The PVP Bill would prove to be an effective tool through which the consolidation of Seed companies over Indian agriculture would be accomplished. 'Monosanto', multinational seed company official Robert Farely has stated, "What you are seeing is consolidation of entire food chain."

"... The TRIPS Agreement of the WTO is the global instrument that the Biotech industry has used for monopoly control over seed supply."

Some specific measures have been provided for protection of the Indian farmers in the Bill. But I could not find them on the points raised in the Joint Parliamentary Committee. We have to be aware of the dangers of food security of our country. Seed is the first link in the food chain. Though the Plant Bill has come to us with some modifications, yet it suffers with basic weakness of friendship with international monopoly, and the corporate bodies. Therefore, I maintain my reservation to give support to this Bill.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. This is one Bill which has been brought about by the hon. Minister at the right time, though this was long over due. After its initial introduction, it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. This Committee, which was headed by Shri Sahib Singh, has done a really good job. It has gone through this entire Bill letter-by-letter, word-for-word, provision-by-provision, and chapter-by-chapter. It had very lengthy discussions which were spread over a few month. It visited a number of institutions in the entire country, taken suggestions from various experts in the field, and had very good interaction with the officers of the Government. After all this hard work, a very good piece of legislation has been brought out. I should congratulate both the hon. Minister, for having brought the Bill, as also Shri Sahib Singh for having headed this Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the whole Bill.

Sir, I myself being the Member of this Committee, had the opportunity of going . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr Chairman Sir, the people who have been the Member of this Committee, should not speak over here.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, I was just mentioning that I had the benefit of seeing several things and the outcome of those discussions as I was also one of the Members of this Committee. Sir, a new chapter, namely, The Farmers' Rights and Protection has been added to the original Bill. In the earlier Bill, this particular chapter was not there.

16.00 hrs.

When we were discussing about the Protection of Plant Varieties and the Farmers' Rights Bill, the second part of the Bill pertaining to farmers' rights was not finding a place in the caption separately.

MR. CHARIMAN : The hon. Member may continue his speech on the next occasion.

16.01 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-
 - (i) Notification No 28/2001-Cus., published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydrosulphite, originating in or exported from people's Republic of China
 - (ii) Notification No 29/2001-Cus., published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Potassium Permanganate, originating in or exported from people's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

[Place in Library, See No LT 3365/2001]

16.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems being faced by Farmers

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Discussion under Rule 193 regarding problems being faced by farmers. Shri Ramjilal Suman to initiate the discussion. The time allotted for this discussion is six hours.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that I have got the opportunity to invite the Discussion in the House under Rule 193 regarding problems being faced by the farmers . . . (Interruption)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as I know you may look into it, it was decided in Business Advisory Committee that this matter will be discussed for two days, as it is related to farmers. There are many problems being faced by the farmers in different part of the country. Therefore to discuss these problems in detail in the House, even if we have to remain here till late in the night hours, we should be ready for it. Therefore, I request that this matter should be discussed in detail in the House.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am also a Member of BAC when this matter was discussed in its meeting, the conclusion drawn was that this matter would be discussed for two days. Today, 70 crore farmers of the country are in distress. They are having severe crisis. Therefore, I request that time-limit should not be fixed for discussion on this point, this should be discussed in detail. Even if we have to sit up to late hours, for this, we are ready for it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that Discussion Under Rule 193 regarding problems being faced by farmers is being initiated by me. No session of this House has passed without having discussion on problems being faced by the farmers but helplessness and problems of farmers have been discussed many times in this august House. Lok Sabha is the highest forum for raising the issue pertaining to the poor, common man and farmers, but Government do not take adequate constructive measures as expected from it for resolving the problems of the farmers after such discussions. If I do say that Parliament is loosing its credibility upto some extent, in this matter, it will not be an exaggeration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers are facing problems in entire India. There is hue and cry everywhere. Often, we find news relating to farmers committing suicide. Today we cannot find a farmer irrespective of item he produces, who can be said to be prosperous. During 1950, agriculture contributed to 55 per cent of our gross domestic product which has reduced to just 30 per cent in 1990 and now it is only 24 per cent. It means desired attention has not been paid towards agriculture. We have not made concerted efforts what we should have done to improve the condition of 65-70 per cent people engaged in agriculture in our country. During 1995-96 value of agro-products in our country was lesser than that prevailing in international market, whereas today it is more. That is why our products are not sold in international market.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Budget for the year 2001-2002 a provision of Rs. 3,380 crore has been made for agriculture sector whereas entire outlay stands at Rs.3,75,223 crore and 65-70 per cent population is

associated with agriculture. I can definitely say that these people have been neglected. From 1971 till today, support price of wheat has increased by eight times where as production cost has increased by 15 times. There is no proper corelation of production cost and support price in our country. Today, the cost of material required for cultivation has increased drastically.

Recently, hon. Prime Minister had called a conference of Chief Ministers. The Prime Minister himself during the conference had suggested to increase electricity charges meant for agriculture. There is no taker of our agro-products in international market. You have increased the prices of diesel and fertilizers, now at this stage, you are talking of increasing electricity charges. Is it not a calculated effort to destroy the farmers? In fact, it is nothing less than over coming loss of State Electricity Boards. State Electricity Boards are running in loss mainly because of corruption, mismanagement, inefficiency, lack of modern technology. It causes loss of 50 per cent power in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this loss has increased over last 4-5 years. During last 4-5 years in Orissa it increased from 23 per cent to 51 per cent in Andhra Pradesh from 25 per cent to 43 per cent in Haryana from 32 per cent to 47 per cent and in Rajasthan it has increased from 26 per cent to 43 per cent. Shri Sahib Singhji, who had been Chief Minister of Delhi, where such loss is 50 per cent, is sitting here. Thus the total loss of State Electricity Boards ranges between Rs. 24,000 crore to 30,000 crore. I think there can be nothing more shameful than putting more burden on farmers, by increasing electricity charges, when the farmers are already so much troubled and they are even forced to commit suicide. Domestic prices of chemical fertilizers have increased, whereas these have come down in international market. As per our convenience we even twist the definition of international market. When we increased the price of diesel and petrol we took the plea that crude prices in international market have increased. When the prices of fertilizers in international market have come down, I find no justification in increasing these prices in our country. The price of Urea in our country during 1997-98 was Rs. 3,660 per tonne and now it has increased to Rs. 4,600. The price of DAP during 1997-98 was Rs. 8,300 per tonne which has now increased to Rs. 8900 per tonne. MOPs price, which was Rs. 3,700 per tonne in 1997-98 has increased to Rs. 4255 at present. Urea price in international market have come down to \$140 per tonne in January, 2001 which was \$181 per tonne during 1997. The price of DAP in 1997 was \$240 per tonne, which has reduced to \$193 per tonne at present. The price of fertilizers have declined in international market where as in our country the prices have increased.

Sir, through you, I would like to raise a point regarding subsidy. The Government of India herself appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alakh to look into this matter. The Committee has submitted its report. The Committee investigated records of 27 units and observed that almost all private sector units have reported more production than actual one and claimed subsidy on the basis of forged records. Capacity of Indo-Gulf Fertilizers, Jagadishpur, Tata Chem. Babrala was 135 tonne whereas they have reported as 1745 and 1778 per tonne respectively. I would like to urge upon hon. Agriculture Minister to take action against companies which have reported false figures and claimed subsidy, which has been investigated by the Committee. As per conditions of World Trade Organisation, we daily say that the subsidy be reduced. But countries like America, which is staunch supporter of liberalisation and universalisation, give crore of rupees as subsidy to farmers. During 1998, America gave a subsidy of Rs. 4,18,400 crore to farmers. We in India, often talk of reducing subsidy. I would like to tell you that last time when the Government increased prices of diesel and petrol, she took the plea that since crude oil prices in international market have gone up so we are forced to hike the price. That time the price of crude oil had touched \$ 137 per barrel. As per my knowledge, now the price of crude oil is around \$21-22 per barrel.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Now it \$27 per barrel.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : There is a lot of difference between \$ 37 and \$ 26, it has come down by \$ 10-11 per barrel thereby reducing our oil pool deficit also. When oil pool deficit has come down, the price of crude oil in international market has come down then why do not you reduce the price of diesel. We fear, again a price hike. You had said that since crude oil price shot up in international market, we were compelled to increase the price. Now, since the prices in international market have come down, I feel the Government should bring the prices down. But, in this matter, there is no coordination between Shri Yaswant Sinha and Shri Ram Naik, since their statement appearing in newspapers is contradictory to each other.

Reserve Bank of India had issued a circular dated 27 July, 2000, which provides that any person who had taken a loan of an amount up to Rs. 5 crores, be it industrial or agricultural loan, before 31 March, 1997, can get rid off by paying only the principle amount and he does not need to pay interest thereon. The clever, educated people understand this sort of issues easily since these are published in leading newspapers in English available in Delhi and other big cities. And farmers have no concern

with these papers. None of the rural or regional banks displayed such information for the benefit of farmers neither it was published in any regional newspaper in their local language. There was no general information from any bank, tehsildar or district collector. In absence of any proper information to this effect, farmers are being locked up in Tehsil jails and their houses are daily raided and the benefit of RBI's circular is not available to the farmers. Its last date is 31 March. So as to ensure availing of its benefit by the farmers I urge upon the Government to extend the last date at least by six months. The farmers in our country are in bad shape and they are not getting desired protection and support from the Government. Potato growers are dismayed. Last year, the Government fixed Rs. 510 as support price for paddy but in absence of procurement by the Government the farmers were forced to sell it at Rs. 250, 300, 275 a quintal. The production cost of agro-products has sky-rocketed and the farmers are unable to sell their products. Billions of rupees of sugarcane growers are outstanding against the Government. Despite repeated discussion over this issue in this House, the Government is not providing required relief to 70-75 per cent population of our country. Unless adequate funds are provided in the budget for agriculture, this country cannot prosper at all. The farmers are in crisis, he is not able to sell his product. Prices of input such as power, fertilizers are increasing rapidly, hence, it is nothing short of destroying the farmers. I would like to strongly urge upon the Government that if economy of this country is to be put on right track, there is no alternative but to improve the conditions of farmers. After this meaningful debate, I hope the Government especially the Minister of agriculture, would try to improve condition of farmers. I conclude with these words.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that the farmer is in trouble. Ours is a country of villages and of farmers. Recently, our hon. Prime Minister and the Government as well and also hon. Members of this House expressed concern over plight of farmers production cost of agro-production is increasing regularly. Today, even the Prime Minister has said that the production cost should be brought down. Even today there is no proper arrangement of power supply to farmers. He needs power to irrigate his land. In several States power supply hardly available for 2-3 hours.

16.23 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

No doubt the price of diesel also increased. When the Government led by our Congress friends signed an agreement with WTO the condition of farmers has worsen

[Shri Sahib Singh]

since then. The farmer is so deep in trouble that he is not getting even production cost. I know one of my friends, who had sown potato when it was Rs. 110 per quintal. Since it was cheaper, so he thought of putting it in cold storage and selling it later on when the prices would go up. For one year, the rent of storage itself came around Rs. 80 and the price was not even Rs. 80 per quintal at that time, so he did not dare going to cold storage for lifting his potatoes since he had no money to pay the rent, whereas he had kept in cold storage with a hope of getting more money but he lost even what he was getting earlier.

The farmers in this country is in deep trouble. All of you know, how the price of mustard declined. Wheat of farmers is lying in godowns. There is no scarcity of water in our country. I accompanied hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha during his visit to his constituency. Mahanadi flow through that area. He said that even fields just near to this river are not able to be irrigated and 80 per cent water of this river flows into the sea. Had we made proper and efficient water management during last 50 years, we would have faced the problem of flood in one State and drought elsewhere. Was it not possible even in 50 years? In fact, no serious efforts have been made to tackle the problem of farmers. Even today, 80 per cent farmers do not get water to irrigate their land. I had been to a village in Madhya Pradesh, which is now in Chhattisgarh. I saw the river flowing full, but when I enquired farmers whether they can get water from that river for irrigation, they replied in negative. They said that they have no money to purchase a pump or bore a tubewell. The farmers have been facing such sort of problem for the last 50 years and these problems have ruined them. Many parties lured voters by giving attractive slogans pretending as well-wishers of farmers and formed Government. In recent past, when I raised issues relating to farmers, leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Opposition were present in the House, there was so much hue and cry though it was alright. Now they admit that they are well-wishers of farmers and they never honestly paid attention towards the interests of farmers. Further, they admit that they never made an arrangement for power and water. A farmer was never educated as to what should be sown at what time? Whether latest development in technology were made accessible to farmers? I know a farmer who used to cultivate sugarcane or Jawar and Bajra in any particular field, still cultivates same in the same field. Today, we have to import essential items. . . .(Interruption). I am happy that after assuming the office the Government formulated agriculture policy and declared it, which could not be formulated during last 50 years. Though there have been talks of credit cards over last 50 years, but this Government issued credit cards to

the farmers. Credit cards have been issued to over one crore farmers and within next three years, all eligible farmers would be given credit cards. We have made further provision of insurance for the card holder with effect from this budget. Now onwards, unfortunately, if a card holder is handicapped he would get Rs. 25,000 and in case of death the amount receivable will be 50,000. No premium is required to be paid for this purpose. So, if anything unusual happen to the card holder and the card holder had taken some loan, the next of kin will not just have to repay the loan, he would get something as a claim. . . .(Interruption)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : What will happen after privatisation of banks and what a farmer would get by it? . . .(Interruption)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : I was telling that it is only now that the plight of farmers are being taken care of for the first time by this Government. People from all the political parties are sitting here, some amongst them are leader of the farmers, some are sympathisers of farmers, some are in fact so, whereas some pretend to be so. I would like to ask everyone of you whether anyone of you have passed a resolution regarding issue of credit cards for farmers and crop insurance scheme or anyone of you have taken any action in the interest of farmers and declared agriculture policy. Tell if you have done anything in the interest of farmers. Today, we have introduced insurance scheme for the poor, agricultural labour. For agriculture labourers, we have made a special provision, if children of an agriculture labour do not go to school, he would be provided Rs., 100 per month, for upto three children, so that he can send his children to school. No doubt our literacy is low and main cause behind low literacy is poverty. People are poor in the country. If a poor farmer is able to educate his children then they would have better agricultural know-how. I would like to congratulate this Government since they have done a lot for the poor. It is true that poverty, inequality and unemployment has increased during last 50 years. But why it has increased? It is because of corrupt politicians, dishonest officers and anti-social businessmen. This trio has resulted an increase in these all. If corrupt politicians, dishonest officers, and anti social businessmen had not been there, all these problems would not have came up. The poor is getting poorer and the rich is getting richer. . . .(Interruption) If you have not done anything wrong then why are you objecting? Please keep quiet . . . (Interruption) Some days ago, you were telling that import of several products has been permitted which has caused hardship to farmers. You may have seen in the budget that duty on tea, coffee, coconut, soyabeen, sunflower oil, etc. has been hiked so much that none would dare import it. It would ensure

remunerative price for agro products. No doubt, there is a need to update minimum support price since farmers are not getting fair deal. Governments of various political parties, such as Congress CPI, CPM coalition Government, are ruling in different States and they have been permitted to procure foodgrains, store them and to carry out distribution task themselves. No doubt, during last 50 years, during the regime of previous Governments PDS was made a mess and corruption was very much prevalent there. In fact, the poor farmers, who are entitled for ration don't get it. Only 25 percent kerosene oil reaches the poor people and 75 goes elsewhere and that too gets adulterated. A lot of bungling takes place which needs to be done away with.

Sir, I would like to tell one more thing that the farmer had been in trouble since long. Divisive tactics of politicians is mainly responsible for it and none of the leader have ever tried to unite the farmers whereas they have been divided on political considerations. Had the farmer stood united, as has been the case in some of the States, he would have got every benefit. And those who are unorganised, get no benefit. I would like to quote one couplet, 'Shikva-Saiyad ka e bulbul nosad na kar, tu girافتar hue hai apne sada ke baes'. The farmer continue to suffer because of his innocence, honesty. We, all the M.Ps should unite the farmers. We should apprise them of their rights. Through the particular Bill, which was being discussed in the House, for the first time, the farmers have been given rights which cannot be taken away by anyone. Under the Trip Agreement, if we enact appropriate laws, none would be able to harm the farmers. The Prime Minister has rightly said that we would not run away but we would face the challenge. We had entered into an agreement with WTO known as Trip Agreement. We will have to monitor the laws being enacted to face the challenge. The Government have increased custom duty to restrict import but we will have to monitor the situation regularly. Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured that we would monitor at regularly and we would evolve some mechanism. Wherever the interests of farmers have been harmed we would straight away increase the duty. To educate the farmers as to what should be sown and what should not be, I think, there is a need to introduce a 'Kisan Channel' on TV. The farmer needs to be educated about the diseases the crops are affected by and the remedy thereof.

Sir, we have mentioned Crop Insurance Scheme. Livestock is an important to the farmer as the crops are and some of them develop dairy farm and also utilise animals for ploughing fields. Hence, livestock are equally important to farmers therefore, alongwith crop insurance, there is a need to introduce animal insurance scheme also. There is a need to replace Land Acquisition Act, 1894,

framed by the Britishers 50-55 years before independence. You would be surprised to know that DDA has earned thousand of crores of rupees by acquiring farmer's land at just Rs. 1-2 per Sq. meter and it is selling it at the rate of Rs. thousand-lakhs per sq. meter. The farmer has no right on that land but if DDA acquires a plot from farmer and sells its to a third party, DDA claims 50 percent of the profit earned thereby. Though originally the land belonged to the farmer, yet he did not get a single pie even. The farmer is compensated only once, that too after making lot of efforts. Therefore, this law needs to be amended.

Sir, the Members of a party, whose representatives have formed Government in NCT Delhi, are sitting in front of us in opposition. You would be surprised to learn that the people who are anti-farmer or organised a rally, which was named as 'Kisan Sammelan' and made a declaration during that Sammelan that a farmer whose land has been acquired would be paid Rs. 23 lakhs as compensation per acre. But the proposal has not even been put on file so far. The Chief Minister has no power to increase compensation amount to be paid to the farmers. It is to be put up by Lt. Governor. I challenge that, right from the day, this declaration was made, no such proposal has been put up. And during my Chief Ministership, I made a provision for Rs. 23 lakh and ensured that the farmers will not have to run from pillar to post for getting compensation. We provided that, every year from 1st April, the compensation amount would increase by 12 percent automatically. Till I was Chief Minister, this provision prevailed and not thereafter. It has been declared that in the year 2001, it would be increased to Rs. 23 lakhs where as by 12% hike it works out to Rs. 24 lakhs. They say that they increased compensation amount to Rs. 23 lakhs. Either they have no information or they do not know calculations. Such sort of injustice is being done to the farmers.

Sir, since land holding of farmers is shrinking and the population is increasing resulting a farmer, who depends upon agriculture, to face hunger. Half of the farmers get work whereas half of them are rendered jobless. Therefore, in Delhi, we decided to mark an industrial plot of 300 sq. meter to a farmer whose land is acquired, so that the children of farmers can start some small scale business, such as cottage industry. The present Government have withdrawn the provision for a plot of 300 sq. Yards, still they say we are well wisher of farmers. Our Government used to allot them a plot of 2200 sq. Yards for their housing and for cattles etc. The present Government have reduced it too one thousand sq. yards. Not a single policy of the Government of Delhi is right. If you go through the policies of Delhi Government, you would realise what the Government desires and what it does. The Congress talks something and acts differently. They organise Kisan

[Shri Sahib Singh]

Sammelan but formulate all anti-farmer policies. Therefore, I challenge the parties who have been ruling in different States on the pretext of being sympathisers of farmers and labourers to come forward and tell which state has developed or progressed by virtue of their miracle. The path of development of cities of this country passes through the village therefore, there is a need to develop the village. . . .(Interruption) If you develop small scale industries in village then there would not be exodus from villages. Therefore, if you want to tackle the problem of congestion in cities, you have to ensure development of villages, farmers, and labourers as well. There is a great demand of cottage industries, house-hold products the world over.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today it is the need of the hour and the Government would have to take steps in this direction, since it relates to agriculture and rural development. The Union Government have made a provision of adequate funds for this purpose and all the States are being provided with funds. There is a need for respective Governments in the States to take measures for development of villages under them. If efforts are made in this direction, the problems of farmers will be resolved. We should cut across party lines and should consider it seriously. As far as the matter relating to development of farmer is concerned, we all should take serious steps in this direction. We should seriously ponder over as to why the farmer has been suffering a lot till today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Iqbal had once recited a couplet-

"Jis khet Mein Dehekaan To Mayassar Na Ho Roti,

UsKhet ke Har Gosha-i-Gandum ko jala do"

He recited these words because the condition of farmers at that time was very pitiable and even today it is extremely worse. Although, much improvement has been made and also measures have been taken to improve their condition. This Government is doing a lot of work for the farmers. Recently hon. Prime Minister has also accepted that a lot of efforts are still to be made for the advancement and development of farmers. The country can prosper only when the condition of farmers is improved. A prosperous farmer would make a prosperous and strong country. As such we all should ponder over this issue and work towards it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, We are here today to discuss the problems of farmers of our country. I am recalling that this is the same country which was referred to as 'soni ki chidiya' (a prosperous country) in the ancient period during the reign of Chandra

Gupta Maurya and afterwards, as recorded in the annals and this country did not need any Ambani or Tata or Birla or any other industrialist for its growth at that time. And the only one credited for the country to lead to the path of development at that time was farmer. He had led the country to the path of Progress with his hard work and labour, day in and day out. He was the backbone of the country. . . .(Interruption)

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Congress party has ruined all that . . .(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb, do not make a running commentary while sitting.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : You people are virtually selling the country out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb, let him speak. It is not proper to make a running commentary. It is not good to speak like this.

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Wrong policies of the Congress party have led to such a condition of the farmers . . .(Interruption)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country achieved independence in 1947. I was expecting that at the time when Vermaji delivered his speech, we all listened to him carefully but when we are speaking, he is not there, infact he should have also been present here for listening to us, but perhaps he might be having some compulsions, that is why he has gone. I have a great feeling of reverence for Vermaji, not because he has been Chief Minister, but because of the fact that he belongs to a farmer's family and is a son of a farmer. Its altogether a different matter that under some compulsion he left and we all understand his position. He is feeling this pain from the core of his heart. Despite concealing his feeling, it was very much revealed from his language that he feels that the farmers of this country are very much in bad condition, and are in pain and agony.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the population of this country was 36 crores at the time of independence in 1947. The pitiable condition in which the British had left us wherein there was the major question of providing food to 36 crore people and as a result of such a condition of farmers, fields as well as land reforms, we had to import foodgrain for our people from other countries. Vermaji has said the things in such a manner as if the Congress only has ruined the farmers. . . .(Interruption)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : If you see the development of Bundelkhand after independence, then I feel that Vermaji has not said anything wrong.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You may please sit down. Please put all your points when you are given an opportunity to speak. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not like to interfere in the speeches of other persons. Please let me speak a little.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this country consists of a population of hundred crore people and even with such a huge population in this country . . . (Interruption)

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the decade of 1970, it had been planned to bring in 'Green Revolution' in this country. New reforms were introduced in a planned manner and impetus was given to experimentation. New techniques and also new seeds were introduced, irrigation facilities were provided for the farmers, electricity was provided to villages on an extensive scale and a complete system was developed to provide all these facilities for agricultural development for villages. And this did not happen over night or in one day, or in one or two years, but it took years to complete and it is the same country which begged for P.L. 480 from other countries. Despite a huge population of 100 crore people in this country, the godowns of FCI have so much foodgrain that we do not have even space to store the crop of the new year. . . (Interruption). Lakhs of tons of foodgrain is perishing in our godowns. Today itself, hon. Prime Minister was saying and in fact he had rightly said that today the crisis is not of scarcity of foodgrains but it is as to how to deal with the surplus of foodgrains. And do you think that all this happened in just two years i.e. during the tenure of Bharatiya Janta Party? If you want to make such a claim and want to remain under such a mis-conception then you may do so, but the whole country as well as the entire world knows that all this did not happen in just two years. You mean to say that what so ever development that took place in the last fifty years, whether it is in agricultural field, or in the field of science, or development, or education- all this happened in the last two years and whatever development that could not take place was due to the Congress Party, so the blame is on the Congress -if some people think this way, then perhaps I would not be able to remove such a mis-conception of people since people knowing nothing can be told about something but those who know everything, but pretend to be unknown, cannot be taught anything. I am telling this in connection with the current situation

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the members of the opposition, if I say something, then apprehensions can be made that I am saying all this due to political reasons. But the media of this country which views and investigates all events impartially, says something else about the condition of farmers, I would cite an example to this effect. I would quote some lines from a national magazine.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Please start from the comments written on the front page.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The headlines on its front page are 'Kheti kare so mare'. . . (Interruption)

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I quote :

"Independent India in the last few months had to face the biggest ever and mysterious agricultural crisis. It is called the biggest crisis because it has not only entrapped the entire country from Punjab to Kerala and from Gujarat to Assam, foodgrain, oilseeds and even the fruit cultivation as well have also been hit by it. It is mysterious, since after 12 unexpected normal monsoons this situation has arisen and we are faced with such an awkward situation, wherein there is decline in production as well as in prices."

This is what the Media of this country says.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a newspaper - 'Rashtriya Sahara'. I wish to quote some of the extract from it. This news paper has published a report. The newspaper writes - 'this Budget is of the industrialists, by the industrialists and for the industrialists and that is why no attention has been paid towards agriculture'. I would quote some more extracts and present before you, the condition in different parts of the country - one person Vallabhaneni Venkateshwar Rao of village Jammal Mudugu sold his seven acres of land at a time to repay his loan. Even then 40,000 rupees of electricity bill was still outstanding against him. 50 Years old Shri Rao, out of frustration, committed suicide by hanging himself. Shri Jwala Singh of Ludhiana district of Punjab, very clearly said that he takes loan with the cultivation of every crop. Shri S.S. Jawahar, an agricultural scientists has said that crisis of foodgrain is merely a warning for a big tragedy in future.

Shri Jogindra Singh, Professor in Agriculture University, Ludhiana, is of the view that the farmers are being deprived of their profits of the crop due to the increase in cost and stagnation in productivity.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the condition of Gama Bhai Curzon Bhai of Gujarat is such that they are doing cultivation on their seven acres of farm land for the last 10 years. The cost of cultivation has increased four fold in the last three years, but their profits have increased only two fold. The difference in cost and profit earning is the basic reason behind their ruination. Now, I will tell you about the condition of Southern India. 73 years old Jacob of Cheruvarkonnam area of Kerala, says that he gets 5 to 10 rupees for each coconut, but now he is getting only two and a half rupees for each coconut. See, this is the

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

condition today. The price of Green tea leaves was Rs. 18 per kg in 1998, and today it has fallen down to rs. 5 per kg. . . (Interruption)

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have mentioned these points because farmers all over the country, be it Assam, or South India or North India, are facing the same situation. They are suffering on two accounts. They are being sandwiched in between. On the one hand, they are facing the curse of climate. Their crop worth crores of rupees is being damaged in Bengal, Bihar and Assam on account of floods and on the other hand famine is continuing in the States of Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand for the last three years. Some areas of Andhra Pradesh are also affected by famine, for the last two-three years. And the crops of farmers are getting damaged due to this. So, on the one hand the farmer is facing the problems pertaining to climate, natural calamities, scanty rainfall, drought . . . (Interruption)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh fired shots at the farmers. It would be good if the hon. Member mentions this incident here and holds a discussion on it. . . . (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ramanandji, please sit down.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is important to make a mention of the Madhya Pradesh Government . . . (Interruption)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : If the things had been in bad shape in Madhya Pradesh the Congress Government would not have come to power again. . . . (Interruption)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel it my duty to mention the condition of farmers of the entire country in this House. The damage caused by floods in Himachal Pradesh last year was so much so that no cultivation of paddy and world famous apples, especially in Kalpa valley, Sangla valley and Kinnaur area could take place 10 to 12 lakh cartons of apple used to be supplied from there every year, but this time it could not be supplied and as a result the entire crop got rotten over there. The attention of the Government was repeatedly drawn in this regard, but this Government could not find any way out. A few days back myself and many hon. Members had held discussions with regard to the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa etc. that FCI is not buying their crop and has not opened any centre over there. As a result of the non-procurement of foodgrains the farmers were compelled under circumstances to sell their

produce at lower rates to big traders. They could not even obtain the cost of cultivation of their paddy and other crops. And as a result, the farmers were totally ruined. As you were asking about Madhya Pradesh, so let me tell you that soyabean is grown in large scale in Madhya Pradesh especially and also in Rajasthan. It is also grown in some parts of Maharashtra. The import duty on edible oils was 60 to 63 per cent. But today with the coming of this Government into power it has come down to 10 percent. As a result of this the cheap oil from Malayasia, Indonesia, Brazil and other countries where farmers get 200 per cent subsidy, started dumping their edible oil in our country and this has ruined our farmers who produce oilseeds. The farmers of all oilseed plants like Soyabean, Mustard, Sesamum and castor are totally ruined. So this is the condition there. In the last 13 years, it is Soyabean, which is being sold at the lowest price. This is the condition of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are considered to be the regions of wheat cultivation. The cost of wheat production has highly increased in Haryana. Alongwith this, the Government have increased the price of electricity, diesel, and now the price of chemical fertiliser has also been increased. Now the result of withdrawing subsidy on all these things is that the cost of production of the farmer is increasing and the price of his yield in the market as compared to the cost of production is not profitable at all. And that is why the farmers have been compelled to commit suicide now a days. Coconut, Coffee, rubber, betelnut and tea are grown in high quantity in South Indian States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu etc. Due to massive fall in import duty, food grains from other countries are being imported to India at cheaper rates. As a result, the price of every item from coconut to tea has fallen down. Even the farmers of South India are totally ruined.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, sugarcane farmers are facing the same situation. I would like to mention about everything. Sugarcane is cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. It is also grown in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Sugar mills purchased the sugarcane of the farmers at a very lower rates, which could not even meet their cost of production. Your goodself and many hon. members very well known that the farmers burnt their standing crop because they were unable to harvest their crop due to all this. Sugar mill owners gave them slips after buying sugarcane from them. But despite these slips with the farmers, their payment is not being made for the last six months or one year. These slips of the farmers were not encashed and no payment was made to them. The sugar mills owe crores of rupees to the farmers, but they are not returning this amount to them. The farmers sold

their sugarcane at cheaper rates, and now even this amount is not being given back to them. Discussion on this issue was also held here in the House. This question was raised a lot many of times here, but nothing has been done till date.

17.00 hrs.

The farmers are still roaming with payment slips in their hands . . . (*Interruption*) I am initiating this matter on behalf of my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many hon. Members from your party are to participate in this discussion. I do not have any objection even if you take the whole time of your party. You have already spoken for twenty minutes.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, only ten minutes have passed.

MR CHAIRMAN : I have noted the time.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Ten minutes have passed amidst noise . . . (*Interruption*)

What is the reason. Why has this decline occurred? No one wants to make political discussion. Please think cool mindedly. Actually the union Government decided to increase the price of grain, which was given to farmers, lower class people and labourers in the villages through the Public Distribution system. The price of that grain was then fixed at Rs. 9 per kg. . . . (*Interruption*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This foodgrain has become costly and it is more cheap.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The grain given through PDS has become costly, and the foodgrain sold in the open market, has become cheaper. So, when it is cheaper in the market, why people will buy it from PDS shops. As a result of this, the stores of FCI godowns remained full with the foodgrain procured in the previous year. Otherwise, this foodgrain used to be sold through the PDS. And when the stores remained full of foodgrains, the FCI did not procure foodgrains because its godowns were full to its capacity this year. This is a vicious circle and permeating discrepancy. When the FCI did not purchase the foodgrains, it again became cheaper. Now you will continue to have increased rates in the PDS. If prices in the market would be less, then it is very natural that the FCI would never be able to procure the foodgrains. I have come to know that the Government is going to completely stop the procurement of foodgrain by the FCI. This is straightaway a policy of sabotaging the future of farmers.

Import duty was decreased, Quantitative restrictions were removed. This situation occurred last year only because of this policy. The support price of wheat has increased eight times from 1971 to 2000. But the cost price of wheat has increased fifteen times. If this difference between the support price and cost price is not reduced and if ensured profits are not fixed, then this difference is going to prove fatal for the farmers of this country.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI. P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

I would like to cite some examples. The entire position would become clear and facts would be revealed. These are the statistics that I have received. In 1998, the price of rice was Rs. 968 per quintal, in October 1999, it went down to Rs. 862 per quintal and in October 2000, it went down to Rs. 800 from Rs. 862 per quintal. Now this is the price of the farmer's crop. Presently wheat was Rs. 759 per quintal in October 1998, October 1999, it went down to Rs. 740 per quintal and September 2000, it slashed down to rupees 605 per quintal. This is the position of wheat. The price of Arhar was Rs. 2380 per quintal in October, 1998, it fell down to Rs. 1925 per quintal in October 1999, in September, 2000 the prices thereof came down to Rs. 1400 per quintal and in January 2001, they came down to Rs. 1330 per quintal. So, the rates made a heavy fall from Rs. 2380 to Rs. 1330. Coconut was Rs. 510 per hundred coconuts in 1997, Rs. 417 per hundred coconuts in 1998, Rs. 555 in 1999 and Rs. 250 per hundred coconuts in the year 2000. The rates of coconut fell down from Rs. 555 to Rs. 250 due to compulsion. This is the condition of coconut. The average price of tea in 1999 was Rs. 61.6 per kg., in 1998 it increased to Rs. 73.4 per kg., in 1999 it slashed down to Rs. 62 per kg. And in January 2000, it came down to Rs. 51.5 per kg. So it has again reduced. Rubber was Rs. 49 per kg. In 1997, in 1998, it was Rs. 38.06 per kg. In 1999 it was Rs. 29.02 per kg and in the year 2000 it came down to Rs. 28.00 per kg. So from Rs. 49 it came down to Rs. 29. The price has fallen down sharply. In respect of coffee the situation remains the same. The market price of betelnut was from Rs. 15 thousand to Rs. 18 thousand per quintal in 1997 and now it has come down to Rs. 4500-5500/- per quintal in the present times. Potato was between Rs. 180 to Rs. 200 per quintal then its prices fell down to Rs. 93 per quintal and now it has come down to Rs. 80 per quintal. The result is that potato is lying wasted on roads. Animals are eating potato because farmers are not in a position to carry these potatoes to the Mandis. The per hectare profit of mustard was one and a half lakh rupees in 1990 and today this profit has fallen down to rupees

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

twenty five thousand per hectare and that too when there are normal monsoons and cultivation is well enough. Infact all items of cultivation of the farmer, be it tomato, or fruits, or vegetable stand on the same position. I am drawing the attention towards the declining economic graph and the reasons behind such a conditions. All this happened due to the policies of the Government being implemented on the farmers. I am not making any baseless allegation, I am saying all this on the basis of facts and with full challenge. You may please refute all this, if it is found incorrect. The result of policies evolved due to the pressure of World Trade Organisation, or World Bank, or Monetary Fund or local big traders is that the sources raised in the field or agriculture in the budget of the present year are increased from Rs. 28.76 crore to Rs. 29 crore, basically it has been done to make it a round figure and nothing else and this is stagnation in the agricultural sector. Actually, if we take into account the devaluation of money, it is a negative growth not a positive one. My second point is regarding the cooperative sector. You are very well aware that cooperative is a big infrastructure, which helps in the completion of various works pertaining to agriculture. In the field of cooperatives. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir it is very important point. Last year the amount was raised to Rs. 132.75 crore from Rs. 128.35 crore Only four crore rupees have been increased, and if we add the value of devaluation of money in it, then it accounts for a negative growth, not a positive one.

Now you see further, the 'Kapoor Committee' was constituted in order to have agricultural capacity through cooperative sources. Deputy Governor, RBI had made recommendations for its implementation. Many a time, the people belonging to the cooperative sector went to the finance Minister, discussion was held in this regard, hon. Yerranaidu ji is not present here, a meeting of the entire cooperative sector was held with him. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 13 more Members from your side, and one hour time has been allotted for your party.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : There are two full days for discussion. I will try to complete my speech in a few minutes.

[Translation]

The Government should implement those recommendations. Right now Verma ji was talking about the Crop Insurance Fund, now he is not present here. Instead

of increasing the amount, it has been decreased to Rs. 261 crore from Rs. 279 crore in the budget of this year. Rs. 28 crore have been deducted. As compared to the previous year, there has been a cut of Rs. 100 crore in the agriculture development programmes. You may go through your budget, if you find this fact untrue, then please let me know, I challenge that I am right.

The amount in soil and water conservation, which is an important component, was reduced to Rs. 11 crore from Rs. 32 crore. The amount was already less, now it has been lessened more. Rs. 21 crore, i.e. two third amount has been deducted in it this year. The Ministry of Agriculture had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Joshi. Sharad Joshi ji suggested that the control over transportation of agricultural products between various States should be completely removed. Entire country is one, if one State has had an excessive production, then the farmer of that State may sell his produce in another State so as to earn profits. He had talked of making a uniform policy, but the Government paid no heed towards this. There is a plan to remove the cooperative sector also. Sahib Singhji was talking about the credit card. There are ten crore families of the farmers, your Government have issued credit cards to only 1.10 crore families, i.e. only 1/10th of the farmers and despite such a low number you were boasting this in high sounds.

At the end, I would finish my statement with two or three suggestions. One thing that I want to say is that your process of declaring the support price is erroneous. The way oil pool has been linked to international Prices in order to do away with oil pool losses on the basis of the same principle, cost prices should also be linked with support price.

It should be ensured there in that farmers do get at least 20 per cent profit on their produce. It is most essential. As long as it is not implemented, its cost will continue to rise. The cost of electricity, irrigation, labour, pump has increased by 15 times. The cost of production has increased by four to five times. As a result farmers are continuously becoming economically weak.

The Government should stop making industrialist-friendly budget. The farmers of this country are also human being, therefore, the budget should be in his interest also. If this is not done the farmers and village will become weak. If farmer and village become weak, the country can not become strong in any circumstances. Therefore, it is essential that Government should change its priorities, and should honestly try to make efforts for welfare of farmers.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity

to take part in this discussion. This is not an ordinary discussion. Here, we are discussing the grief of the farmers of the entire India. We are not mere talking but are narrating the real condition of the farmers. Farmers constitute 75 per cent population of the country. Our life and country's future is linked with farmers. It is 54 years since we got independence. It is first time that 162 farmers of this country have committed suicide. We have got 65 per cent work force, which works. Their condition is very bad. The Prime Minister has also said about it. If we want to feed a square meal to 100 crore people, we need 30 crore tonnes of food grain. The figure which shows that we have become self-reliant is not mine but that of the Government. They say, it has become 19 to 21 crores. There is no difference between the rate of market and fair price shop and approximately 30 to 35, 35 to 36 per cent farmers and villages below poverty line. Four crore tonnes of food grains or wheat is rotting in godowns. The effort was once made to sell it on cheaper rates in abroad but this effort become futile, then another effort was made to sell it in domestic market, but this effort also could not succeed, then orders were issued to throw it in sea to make godowns vacant, so that arrangement could be made to store foodgrains coming to the market. Now, hon. Prime Minister has said that food grains would be made available at the rate of Rs. 2-3 per kg, and has given the name of 'Antoydya Anna' to this scheme. On one side, the food is not available to 35-36 per cent people living below the poverty line, and on the other side 4 crore tonnes of food is available and is rotting. Why such a situation has come? What are the prices and where is the place to sell and store it? Vermaji was speaking just now and now he has left, otherwise, I would have asked where is that place? The price of rice is Rs. 650/- per quintal and outside it is selling at the rate of Rs. 450 per quintal. The price of groundnut is Rs. 1500, and now it is selling at the rate of Rs. 460. The rate of dry chilly has come down from Rs. 6000 to 2000. The price of coffee, which is produced in Kerala and other places has come down from Rs. 58 to Rs. 30. The rate of coconut has come down from Rs. 10 to Rs. 2 and rate of rubber has fallen from Rs. 60 per kg to Rs. 22 kg and price of raw leaf tea has come down from Rs.10 to Rs. 5. The other items are jute, potato, tomato, soyabean, cashew and black pepper. When Shri Mulayam Singhji had asked as to what will happen to his potato, the Finance Minister in lighter vein has said that he will make 'chokha' of potato. No, no, hon. Finance Minister, your budget will not make 'chokha' of potato instead it will make 'chokha' of potato growers. How you will tackle the situation in future? See the national policy. Though quantity wise production is increasing, but average wise there has been a decline. If it doubles, the production

will become double. I want to present some figures before you. In 1990, the loss was 0.7 per cent, whereas in the year 2000-01 the loss is 3.6 per cent. Agriculture also include, fishery and forests. The production was 3.9 per cent in 1991-92, which has come down to 3.7 per cent in the year 2000-2001. The production of Kharif was 3.4 per cent in 1991-92 and at present it is 2.2 per cent. The hon. Minister has said that they will make it 4.5 per cent. I would like to ask, how he will do it. The situation of food grains is also same. It was 199.4 metric tonnes in 1996-97 and now it has come down to 199 metric tonnes. It has also come down. Earlier, the Kharif production was 103.9 metric tonnes, which has now come down to 102.0 metric tonnes. The production of sugarcane has increased. If you see in totality, there has been an average decline which has increased from 2.35 to 3.72 per cent. WTO has said you should not produce food grains such as wheat and paddy instead flowers should be grown. You should grow such items which could earn some money. The condition of food grains crop shifting is such that in 1950-51 the production was in 97.3 million hectare law and it has now risen to 123.1 hectare. You should grow such thing, which could be exported and earn more profit. In 1996-97, production of commercial crop was 24.4, now at present it is 18.6 metric tonne. Only sugarcane production has increased from 277.6 to 300.6. I would like to say that you have said about capitalisation and should do it more. What is its position? In 1993-94, 13,523 crore were invested, one-third of which was public-investment, it was not private investment.

One-third of Rs. 13,553 crore was public investment. Now what is the situation. In 1999-2000, Rs. 18697 crore were in vested and public investment has been reduced by 25 per cent. . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, he has said that large scale farming will be done and no land reform will take place. We will not be able to give a small piece of land to the poor. You have said that we are the largest producer of milk but now it is being imported. Earlier milk production was 98 thousand metric tonnes, but what is its condition now. Today, 40 thousand tonnes of milk is being imported. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a request to make. I am not participating in every discussion. I have been participating very rarely in discussions in Parliament. So, please give me the chance to make my points.

This is the cry of the peasantry.

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

[Translation]

I want to tell you that 40 thousand metric tonnes of milk is being imported. Butter milk and many other things are being imported. The hon. Minister has said in his speech that he is increasing the duty very little which is 80 on rice, 50 on wheat, 65 on soyabean, 45 on palm oil, 60 on sugar, 80 on dry coconut. How much subsidy is being given on it. The subsidy on fertiliser is being reduced and rate of electricity is being doubled. The hon. Prime Minister has said that rate of electricity would be doubled and on the other the same thing is happening in case of fertilizers. What is the position of other items for which we have opened doors for WTO. European Union and America are giving subsidy of 760 dollars per tonne, 706 dollars per tonnes and they are exporting their food grain at lower prices to our country, whether we or our farmer will exist in such situation. The farmer will die, will be ruined? Therefore, I said attention should be paid in this direction. Some colleagues of mine are sitting on that side.

[English]

All of you are representing the peasantry.

[Translation]

You are a farmer, a son of soil. You should understand that we have reached to very dangerous situation. This is his policy. I would like to quote a few lines by Ravindra Nath Tagore in Bengali

"Hethay Jitha Kanda,
Deva Late Batha, Kandan
Pher Aase Aaban Dhare"

It means that my plight may not move their hearts.

Here I am speaking about the farmer. You shall save the farmer, otherwise, the House will also not exist and these people will also not survive.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we discuss the problems of the farmers once in every session of the House. Every year the farmers fall victim to one or the other natural calamity. Sometimes crops are destroyed due to excessive rainfall and sometimes due to less rainfall. Today the farmers of our country have to depend on the natural phenomena.

While replying to the motions of thanks on President's Address in the morning today the hon. Prime Minister mentioned that there was abundance of foodgrains in the country. There is no shortage of wheat and rice in the

country, so the farmers should grow vegetables, fruits, pulses and oil seeds instead of cultivating foodgrains. Whether the farmers cultivate fruits foodgrains pulses or oilseeds, their first and foremost demand is regarding the fixation of support price of their produces. Unless the support price of the agricultural produce is fixed declared and offered to the farmers every year they will perennially incur losses and will face all the hardships.

Different types of crops are cultivated in different States. In Western Maharashtra, sugarcane is cultivated on a large scale. The cotton is also cultivated in Maharashtra on a large scale. The constituency from where I am elected is a coastal area. Mostly rice is cultivated there. In my area, Konkan the farmers are getting inclined towards horticulture. Mangoes and cashew are predominantly grown in my area. We often read in newspapers that the sugarcane cultivators have burnt their sugarcane crops. The sugarcane is cultivated in Maharashtra in huge quantity and it will be highly appreciable if the farmers are offered a handsome support price for their produce. It is due to the excessive cultivation of sugarcane in Maharashtra that there is high production of sugar. For the last several years, there has been a long standing demand in Maharashtra that the right to export sugar should be given to the State. If such right is granted to the State then the farmers cultivating sugarcane may get remunerative prices of their produce. Similarly cotton is grown in abundance in the State so a demand of its export is raised. To some extent the right to export these items is being given to the State but presently the cotton and sugar are laying stored in the godowns in abundance. It will be very much beneficial for the farmers if the right to export these items is given to the States. The Central government should seriously think over it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we talk about horticulture we talk about fruits and vegetables. We do not have cold storage facility where fruits and vegetables can be preserved for months together. Besides this, we do not have sufficient marketing facilities for vegetables and fruits. In my area Konkan, Alfonso, mango is produced on a large scale that is exported to several countries of the world. Though it is a costly variety of mango, yet the farmers face many hardships. If there is untimely rainfall, the entire mango crop is destroyed. When there is excessive production of the mango, its price goes down. The brokers also exploit the farmers. The farmers suffer losses in both the cases whether it is over production of the mango or its underproduction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Central government that it should motivate the farmers to opt for horticulture more than the cultivation of foodgrains. We

should take up this responsibility as we are going to send a message to the farmers of the country through this House. We should find out new ways for that. I do not mean to say that more subsidy should be given to the farmers for this. I also would not like to say that the entire produce of the farmers should be purchased by the Government. However, the Government should explore the marketing facilities for the agricultural produce of the farmers. The Government should also provide assistance for the construction of godowns and cold storages for the storage of agricultural produces. The middlemen exploit the farmers. They may be removed. We can give some relief to the farmers if we remove those middlemen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we may promote cooperatives. If we promote the cooperatives then it may also benefit the farmers. Through this House, if we are addressing the farmers, then certainly we will have to accept some responsibilities in this regard. We will have to find ways and means as to how can we provide relief to the farmers. Whether it is through the cooperatives or through the Government assistance, how can we provide support price to the farmers for their produce. If we make such efforts and try to provide more and more such facilities to the farmers of our country then they will be thankful to the Government. If the farmers of the country are prosperous, then the country will also be prosperous. I would not like to deliver a lengthy speech but I would like to say that keeping in view my suggestions the Government should try to provide some relief to the farmers as soon as possible. Thus, I conclude.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon'ble Members have expressed their views prior to me and earlier also for last three years discussions are being held in every budget session on the issue of the condition of farmers and on agriculture. Presently, too, we are discussing the same issue. I was listening to all the hon'ble Members. However, I could not understand as to why the same issue is being discussed in every session by the hon'ble Members whether it be the previous session or the present session and I feel that in future also the same issue of agriculture will be discussed. The same story of plight of the farmers is being repeated in every session and the same concern is being expressed by all the hon'ble Members about the poor condition of the farmers. No one knows whether they have real concern for the farmers or they are politicising the issue. All the hon'ble Members are sometimes launching movements inside and outside the House for the cause of the farmers. Sometimes they are talking to the media and sometimes the same story is being repeated here in this House. I am finding it difficult to understand as to why no assurance has been

given by the government or any policy for improving the condition of the farmers has been formulated in this regard in spite of repeated discussion on this issue in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has recently said in the House and have also said on the television and in the farmers rallies convened in Punjab and U'aryana that the farmers should reduce the cultivation of rice and wheat. I respect the hon. Prime Minister very much and I had great expectations from him when he occupied this office. But I was sorry to hear that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made such statement as the Prime Minister. During the last session when he called himself 'Atal' it was remarked from that side that I am also a Bihari but I am sorry to say that the condition of the farmers in Bihar is very bad today paradoxically, he exhorts the farmers to stop the cultivation of wheat and rice. If the farmers stop the cultivation of wheat and rice then how will they earn their livelihood? Do the Government have any idea about it? The farmers are no businessman that they may earn their bread and butter by way of purchasing foodgrains from wholesalers and selling it in the market at retail price . . . (Interruptions). The Businessmen establish their business in a month or two but the farmers can not do that in the case of agriculture. I am not aware of any special kind of seed that might have been developed by the Minister of Agriculture or the Government that may cause immediate crop production. Presently, we are using seeds which are being imported from foreign countries and production of which can be enhanced by physical methods. Probably the Government is aware of any such research of growing seeds overnight that is why the hon. Prime Minister has advised the farmers not to cultivate wheat and rice and grown vegetables and fruits instead. However I do not think that vegetables or fruits can be grown in one day or in ten days. First the field will have to be prepared that takes months. Then the physical labour will be required. Fertiliser and water for irrigation is also required. Water canals used for irrigation purposes have disappeared and then the position of electricity in the country is also not good. The hon. Prime Minister has himself expressed his concern regarding this. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture has got any such magical seed then he should also tell me about this as I am also a farmer and am tilling to stop the cultivation of wheat and rice and start using that magical seeds. The Minister should tell us it in the House about the seed that will grow as soon as it is sown in the field so that we may educate our fellow farmers about this seed. But the government will have to make arrangements for the state thereof. You will have to provide purchasing centres to the farmers where the farmers may sell their produce. Otherwise the farmers will have to wait at such centres for selling their produce

[Shrimati Rama Pilot]

and the farmers will have to suffer a lot. I myself have stored the potatoes in the godowns but I am not able to pay the rent of the godown out of the price that I am getting from selling the potatoes. Now there are two options, either use the potatoes for self consumption or sell it in the market at cheaper price. So the Government should set up such purchasing centres where the farmers may sell their produce. This is the responsibility of the government to purchase the produce of the farmers at the support price. The Government should also assure the farmers that it will give certain percentage of compensation to the farmers in the event of damage of their crops in the event of natural calamities or locust pest attack.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though there are insurance schemes, loan schemes and several other good schemes for the farmers but unfortunately these schemes are not going implemented. If you personally look into the matter then you will find that the farmers are the worst sufferers on all accounts whether it is cultivation or fertilize or irrigation. Apart from that if the government want to take up any developmental project in the national interest then it is the farmers whose lands will be acquired and in this case too the farmers are ultimate sufferers. If any power plant is set up, any bridge is constructed or any road is built then the lands of poor farmers are acquired by the Government. NTPC has acquired the lands of the farmers in NOIDA and meagre amounts have been paid to the farmers as compensation. The farmers are complaining. Earlier too they cried. The people are visiting me even today for the enhancement of compensation amount. Pilot Saheb had also made efforts towards increasing the compensation and it was due to his effort that the compensation was increased by a very little percentage. Their lands were acquired at the rate of Rs. 50 and Rs. 43 per yard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Sahib Singh Vermaji was speaking very emphatically. I was listening to his speech with rapt attention. My submission is that when the land of the poor farmers is acquired they are paid compensation at the rate of Rs. 50 per sq. yard but when it comes to the industrialists crores of rupees are paid to them. Thus the government accords dual treatment. The government discriminates against the farmers. The government have one policy for the farmers and other for the capitalists. The hon. Prime Minister said that the government treats all equally but I feel that it is not true. From the treatment of the government towards the farmers it seems to me that the Government have discriminatory attitude towards the farmers and gives high priority to the business and industry and low priority to the agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that unless equal treatment is given to the farmers as well as businessmen, the country cannot progress. The farmers and businessmen are the two wheels of the same cart and the government should treat them like this and should give them equal treatment. If the government gives high priority to the businessmen and low priority to the agriculture then the country will not progress. Ours is an agrarian country. If any one thinks about the progress of the country without giving importance to the farmers then I feel that it is quite foolish. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the magic 'Mantra' that can make possible the progress of the country without the progress of the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers are suffering on all accounts today. The rainy season in our country has become almost ineffective. The reason being that the trees are not being planted, power theft, deforestation and water theft is being resorted to. The water of a canal is obstructed and diverted in the middle and the farmers on the tail end of the canal is bereaved of irrigation facility. The strong and influential farmers get water and water for irrigation is not available to the poor farmers. The situation is very much like this where big fish swallows small fish. Similarly big farmers are pushing small farmers out of the profession. The small farmers are suffering from all sides.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. I know that he must be feeling quite uncomfortable on account of my speech but I would like him to refer to the points that I have raised in course of his reply. I will be obliged to him if he does so. I would also like to also like to ask him the extent of benefit being provided to the farmers through the medical insurance. My submission is that the farmers are not benefited by the policies that have been formulated to provide them facilities. Out of Re. 1 allocated by the government for the farmers, only 1 paise is actually reaching to them and even for that middlemen are always there. They grab it too and the farmers do not get any thing out of it as they are illiterates. First of all the Government should launch literacy campaign for the farmers. The country cannot progress unless the farmers are made literate. My submission is that the country can not progress unless the farmers are made literate so the government should take special measures to educate the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many big research institutes working in the field of agricultural research but has any Director of a research institute tried to know whether the research scientists employed in the Agricultural Research institutes are really undertaking research or are wasting the resources of the country and exploiting the farmers. I admit that the Government have no control over

the drought. I also understand that the Government is not responsible for the drought. But it is certainly the responsibility of the Government to provide irrigation water, electricity, seeds, fertilizer and several other facilities to the farmers. My submission is that as we have relations with foreign countries the Government should also invite foreign scientists, experts or technicians to explore the possibility or proper and cost effective utilisation of underground water so that water may be made available to the people. Even after so many years, no such arrangements have been made and the condition of Rajasthan is such that every year there is famine in the State.

Famine strikes every year due to that and uncountable number of persons and cattle die during famine. The census work is going on this year. I will not be surprised if the census shows the actual number less as compared to previous year.

Alongwith it I would also like to bring to your notice the restriction you have imposed regarding the killing and poaching of wild animal in order to maintain the balance of the ecosystem. I agree that the conservation of environment is necessary but we should also not neglect this fact that the overpopulation of some species of animals pose a danger for the crop of the farmers and are proving to be a threat to the agriculture. The population of Neelgais has been continuously increasing and within a short span of time their number grow tenfold. These Neelgais are a threat to every kind of crop but the farmers can not take any action to prevent the destruction of its crop due to the directive of the Government forbidding their killing under any circumstances. A farmer can not resort to killing these animals despite being aware of the destruction of their crop. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi Ji is not sitting here. I would like her to pay a little attention towards this issue also. I appreciate her for her efforts to protect the animals but I hope that she will certainly keep in mind that the life of a human is even more important than that of an animal and it will be better if she keeps in mind the suffering being faced by the farmers. If the Government relaxes to certain extent, the law which prohibits the killing of animals in case of these Neelgais which are also known as 'Rojadis' then it will give a lot of relief to the farmers. The Government of Maharashtra has taken the initiative in this direction. I would like to see this law is implemented in all other States of the country also.

Alongwith it, I would also like to say that due to the use of imported hybrid seeds the production has increased from five mounds per bigha to 10 to 15 mounds per bigha. The farmers have started to adopt these seeds and the Government have also started to provide them these hybrid seeds. I would like to make this clear before the hon.

Minister that this thing i.e. growing tendency to use hybrid seeds tantamounts to becoming addicts just like we have been made addict of tea by Britishers who had been providing it free and now we can not do without tea. The tea has replaced the milk as a drink to entertain the guests. Similarly, the farmers are being provided the hybrid seeds which increase the production of their crop manifold. . . . (Interruptions) Hence we should be aware that tomorrow the same advantage may turn against us. It is a very serious matter. We will become dependent on the foreign countries for the same seeds when we will fail to get them in our own country. We should develop such a system that we should be able to use the seeds from our previous crop.

Right now, the hon. Prime Minister has said about the need to develop self-confidence. I agree with him but the farmer can develop this attitude only when he gets enough to feed himself and his family. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is going to be six o'clock. . . . (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : You, please extend the time of the House by two hours.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Business Advisory Committee has decided to have the discussion till 9 p.m. If there is any revised programme, let it be informed. As it stands, the discussion will go upto 9 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA. (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are allowing to hold discussion on such an important issue in the night. This is neither concern in the news not by any other programme and the people do not get to know about it. Hence you must allow a debate on it, not today but tomorrow. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You stop today's debate here itself and resume it tomorrow and may continue it for the next three days. . . . (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Many members are going to speak on this subject, hence you extend the time of the House by two hours. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You resume the debate on it from 12 o'clock tomorrow. It will not be of any use to allow the House to run by now or ten o'clock in the night. It is useless to debate over such an important subject in the night. Hence you stop the debate right here and resume it from 12 o'clock tomorrow. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has gone to meet the hon. Speaker. He will come and intimate the House on this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is any fresh intimation, I will inform the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that there is a decorum of this House. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture to maintain the decorum of the House if he behaves properly and behaves like a Minister then the new Members may learn something from him. There is a lot of disorder in this House. Through you I would like to appeal to think over this issue.

18.00 hrs.

The decorum of the House should be maintained. The verbal duels among the hon. Members and the hon. Ministers creates a bad impression in the minds of new Members and on foreign countries. As the hon. Prime Minister was referring that day about the unparliamentary language used by the Members. He said that all that which was spoken by Members was picked up by the foreign media and it was printed headlines in their media. Similarly, I would ask you whether our behaviour in the House is not reported in the media? I am very sorry to say that I do not like coming to the House when I remember the behaviour to which our hon. Members in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Being a new extent to the House, She is talking like this, with the passage of some time everything will be known to him. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT : I would like to conclude because perhaps no hon. Member is interested in listening what I says. I challenge in the House that if such discussion is held in the House. . . . Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : You are not getting the point. The Chair is saying that the House should run till 9 o'clock in the evening while some hon. Members are in favour of its adjournment as it is 6 o'clock. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT : This thing should first be placed before BAC. . . . (Interruptions) The issue should be put before the Chair only after deciding about it. It is not proper to interrupt time and again. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am listening you. . . . (Interruptions) Shrimati Rama Pilot why are you accusing me? . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point is that the Business Advisory Committee has already decided to have it till Nine of the Clock. If there is any revision of programme, I will inform you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : I am speaking about the House. . . . (Interruptions) My request to you is that when the discussion over such a serious subject of the problem of the farmers is going on, if the House does not take it seriously. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Leaders of the Parties have discussed it in the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am a Member of the BAC. This subject should be discussed seriously if all the Members agree to it. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : They discussed it with the hon. Speaker. The hon. Speaker has taken a decision to have it till Nine of the Clock.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The wishes of the House is supreme. . . . (Interruption) We all are ready if your party is ready. We are the Members of BAC.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Yadav, the Business Advisory Committee cannot meet in the House. It meets inside the Chamber of the hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I want this discussion to be taken seriously. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Speaker will come and he will inform you about this.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : We do not have any objection if the discussion is allowed to take place for three days on this subject, else the House should run till its scheduled time. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You must give ruling in this regard keeping in mind the sentiments of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Committee agrees, we will have it for three days. It all depends on the decision of the Committee.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should present his views before the House. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : He should state the stand of the Government in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have taken a decision in the BAC. If it has to be revised, the BAC has to meet again. We cannot take a decision.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I am on a point of order. Members have stated that a major part of country's population comprises of farmers. Discussion is being held in the House on the issue of farmers.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House is agreeable to any further change in the programme, we will take it up. We will change it.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : We want that it should be confirmed from the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs whether he is ready to hold the discussion on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody is interested in the farmers' issue. All Parties are interested in the farmers' issue.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Sir, this is a national issue. So, you can take a decision. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know about it. The farmers' issue is a national issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should come out with a statement in this regard.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Till the decision is announced, till such time, we will go on with our business. Let the business continue. Shrimati Rama Pilot, will you conclude?

(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I would request you to look at the sentiment, the spirit and the mood of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know of it.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Even if a decision has been taken by the BAC, looking at the mood of the House, you can decide about it(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House is going to conduct the business till Nine of the Clock. Why are you in a hurry?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Sir, I do not understand the sense of what is being discussed in the House. . . .(Interruptions) It is not enough that we reduce it to a black and white decision of the BAC.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party's representative is also there.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : That is all right. But I am expressing my opinion on the floor of this House I wish to draw your attention to this issue. This is a crisis of a phenomenal magnitude. We do not want to discuss it because it has to be discussed. . . .(Interruptions) I would like to express my opinion also. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let it not be made an issue. If the House is agreeable, we will take it up further. Now, the business is going to be conducted till Nine of the Clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you troubling ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The business of the House would be conducted till 9 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : If the House conducts the business till 9 o'clock because it must be conducted till 9 o'clock then it defeats the purpose for which we want to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We would see the mood of the House at 9 o'clock to proceed further. But do you want to see the mood of the house at 6 o'clock?

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble member has raised a very serious issue. Till now, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was present in the House. However just now he has left the House. The will of the House is that the discussion on this serious issue should be continued for three days. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You allow the business to go on till 9 o'clock. We will decide at 9 o'clock. You allow them to take the agenda.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister today informed the House that a conference of Chief Ministers of States is going to be organised. I hope a solution will be evolved which would provide some relief to the farmers. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You be here till 9 o'clock. You can participate in the proceedings. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister would come. All the Members are interested in the welfare of the farmers, not this party or that party. All the parties are being represented in the farming community. Nobody can take an individual credit.

SHRI A. K. S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to put forth the achievements of the

Central Government for the past one and a half years and the achievements of the Tamil Nadu Government for the past five years in the field of agriculture.

Farmers are the backbone of our country. Keeping this in mind, the Central Government under our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has already announced the first ever National Policy in Agriculture. It has also decided to reduce the interest rate charged by NABARD from 11.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent. It has also introduced the Kisan Credit Cards. The Central Government has provided a subsidy of Rs. 78 crore for setting up cold storages during 2000-2001. These would, no doubt, help farmers to step up the production and would give much needed relief to produce more.

Tamil Nadu Government under the eminent leader of Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has introduced a lot of programmes and schemes for the upliftment of agricultural farmers. It has set up 'Vegetable Marketing Centres' (*Uzhavar Sandhai*) in all major Municipalities and Town Panchayats of the State to help farmers to sell their produce at a particular place and at a particular price without the intervention of intermediaries. This is definitely an innovative step taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu keeping in view the problems and difficulties faced by the farmers of the State. This has certainly made a breakthrough in the field of marketing of vegetables in the State. This has helped the farmers to reduce the time, right from the initial stage to the marketing stage. Instead of going from pillar to post and for being at the mercy of the intermediaries, the Government of Tamil Nadu has helped them to sell at a particular place and without any intermediaries. Other State Governments and the Central Government should emulate the innovative efforts taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in regard to setting up of 'Vegetable Marketing Centres'.

After the Chola Dynasty, only the present Tamil Nadu DMK Government has desilted rivers and canals. This is a Herculean task and the Government of Tamil Nadu has done it commendably. It has helped to conserve water and the farmers have benefited with this act of the Government by getting water for cultivation and irrigation all through the year. This too can be taken up in other States.

Recently, the NDA Government has instructed the State Governments to stop supplying free electricity. But the Tamil Nadu Government has expressed strong reservations against this instruction and urged the Central Government to reconsider this announcement.

Tamil Nadu Government has waived the dues of the farmers and this has helped the farmers of Tamil Nadu to a great extent. Unlike in other parts of the country, Tamil

Nadu farmers are better placed, Tamil Nadu Government has done a lot of work for easing the tension by extending reliefs at appropriate times.

Tamil Nadu Government under Dr. M. Karunanidhi, with the intervention of the Central Government, found a lasting solution to the Cauvery water dispute that has been there for a long time. Dr. Karunanidhi and Shri Vajpayee have settled this vexed problem with persistent and frequent talks with the respective States, and with the result Tamil Nadu has been getting Cauvery water for a couple of years.

The Government of the day has announced, in 1989-90, a waiver of Rs. 10,000 to the farmers. This year, I would plead with the Central Government to enhance this amount to at least Rs. 20,000 for the benefit of the farmers of the country in this hour of grief. Under the present circumstances, the farmers will get the much-needed relief by this kind gesture of the Government of India.

The Tamil Nadu Government has released Rs. 13 crore for waiving the penal interest. It also gave incentives to the tune of Rs. 20 crore to the farmers to safeguard the interests of the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

With this high note and expectation from the Central Government, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing a very serious issue regarding agriculture and farmers. Earlier also this issue had been discussed in the House. The Government had given appropriate reply in this regard. When the discussion on such an important issue is going on, the attendance of the Members belonging to ruling party or opposition throws light on their concern for the farmers. Not only the Members but also the related Ministries namely Irrigation, Power, Food and others are not represented adequately in the House. It is correct that cabinet has joint responsibility. The hon. Agriculture Minister is capable and will reply in this regard. However, required attention is not being paid by the Government. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that for the first time after 50 years of independence, agriculture policy has been announced by the Government.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : If you permit me I will take only one minute. I also congratulate the hon'ble Agriculture Minister for announcing the agriculture policy, but it is not the first time that a policy had been announced. Shri Jakhra had also announced agriculture policy in this very House. My party's Government had also announced

to provide loans to the farmers through banks and to abolish the zamindari system and to formulate an irrigation policy.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The Agriculture Minister of this Government has taken the initiative to announce an integrated comprehensive agriculture policy. Earlier Governments ruined the agriculture sector during the past 50 years.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am telling the exact date of announcement of agriculture policy. Shri Rajiv Gandhi announced the agriculture policy on 12th October, 1989 from that side.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : At that time he was in Congress party. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The present Government and Agriculture Minister have announced an integrated comprehensive agriculture policy for the first time. Agriculture policy in the past was formulated as per their own convenience. All the past governments except theirs, caused untold harm to agriculture and farmers. It is right that problems of all the farmers are not being solved at present also. Several aspects are there for which the hon'ble Agriculture Minister and Central Government are required to work hard. Farmers are to be provided with more facilities but the WTO agreement signed by their Government ignored the interests of the farmers of the country. . . (Interruptions) The Government have ignored the interest of the farmers. That's why the hon'ble Agriculture Minister and the Central Government had to work hard to protect the interests of the farmers. I would like to request the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to take into confidence the Members of all the political parties and to see how the farmers can be compensated for the losses because of the WTO agreement. Please take the initiative and the entire House will extend support.

I hail from Bihar and I am proud that the hon'ble Agriculture Minister also hails from Bihar. A couplet in Bhojpuri has become popular in Bihar after the formation of Jharkhand as a separate State—"Batgil, Jharkhand aur ab khaye Shakarkand". At present the farmers of Bihar are suffering and the hon'ble Agriculture Minister is well aware of the destruction caused by the rivers originating in Nepal. Every year havoc is caused by these rivers in eastern Uttar Pradesh and in Bihar affecting a large land scape, roads, infrastructure, and crops. The loss has not been compensated till now. Constructive talk could not be held with the Nepalese Government to stop all this destruction and to improve the plight of the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Therefore, I would like the Government

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

to make good the losses caused to them or the Nepalese Government should be persuaded to take adequate steps in this regard. The hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed concern over the power situation and had admitted that power arrangements are inadequate and Bihar is facing power shortage. Shri Raghuvansh Babu coined the slogan " Save Bihar, save country" in a rally held in Patna. The rally was super flop. The price difference of sugarcane between eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has remained at Rs. One for the past 50 years. Sugarcane growers of Bihar had always been paid Rs. 1 more than the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. But the Government of Bihar failed to fix and implement the sugarcane price. I hail from Gopalganj district. Sugarcane produced there is sold to the sugar factories of Uttar Pradesh. Sugarcane growers of Bihar are being paid 5 Rs. less than what is paid to the growers of U.P. by these factory owners. In this manner sugarcane growers of Bihar are exploited. Potato crop is being produced on a large scale in Bihar. I am happy that the hon'ble Finance Minister announced in the Budget that arrangements will be made for its storage and to construct cold storages for this. I would like to congratulate the Government for making arrangements to provide credit cards to 1 crore farmers this year and to provide credit cards to 3 crore farmers in the next three years. Various fruits like leichi, Banana and Mango etc. are grown on a large area. However, adequate arrangements have not been made for the maintenance of orchards, storage, distribution, marketing and transportation of these fruits. We gave a memorandum to the hon'ble Prime Minister under the leadership of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, demanding cargo facility from Bihar for the transportation of agriculture produce. However, concrete steps have not been taken by the Government in this regard till now. I would like the Government to make efforts in this regard time and again. The issue of procurement of paddy has been discussed in this House. The hon'ble Food Minister is not present in the House. Last year 123 lakh Mt. of paddy was produced in Bihar but FCI had procured only 5 thousand mt. Discrimination has been done to Bihar in the matters of procurement. It was stated that procurement has already been made from Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. I have no complaints in this regard. Farmers should be paid remunerative prices for their produce but FCI officials in Bihar are not ready to accept the demands of farmers. It was stated that 40 centres had been opened there. It was discussed in the House repeatedly that the economic situation of Bihar is very serious, it does not have resources to take steps in this regard. I requested the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in this regard. He took the

interest in the matter of procurement of paddy from Bihar but that could not materialise. The hon'ble Minister went to Patna to hold talks in this regard. We are also the hon. Members of this house. He did not meet even the members of allied parties leave aside the opposition parties of his area. He involved himself in the party works there but did not feel to talk to us. Therefore, it is requested to pay attention towards all this. Our leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia used to say that adequate arrangements should be made for the foodgrains and factory made products. Today the prices of foodgrains are increasing at a very slow pace though the prices of factory made goods are increasing steadily. Farmers have to buy manufactured items like power tiller, tractor, spade etc. which are very expensive. Arrangements should be made in this regard also. Prices of seeds, pesticides which are essential items for farmers are increasing day by day. Subsidy has been withdrawn from foodgrains production. Price of diesel has been hiked.

So far as BPL is concerned, 8 thousand crore rupee were spent under it last year and this year, Government is going to spend 12 thousand crore rupee. I would like to know whether the foodgrains meant for BPL beneficiaries actually reach the beneficiaries. In reality those foodgrains are diverted to black market. Farmers are indulging in distress sale. Attention is required in this regard and it should be examined.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for making announcements regarding storage. Storage is required on a large scale. The maximum limit of small holding in Bihar is unprofitable and does not benefit the farmers. Farmers could not take up farming properly. I suggest that Government should provide facilities like pumpset etc. to the farmers so that 4-5 farmers having 5-10-15 acres of land could do farming with the mutual agreement and make use of new techniques of farming. The hon'ble Prime Minister had stated in the past and reiterated today also to change the techniques of farming. I agree with Shrimati Rama Pilot that instead of paddy and wheat, farmers should grow other crops. A survey in this regard should be undertaken regarding which crops can be grown in which area. A bulletin with all such information be issued by the department of Agriculture. The department officials should go to the fields to train the farmers in this regard and to develop their farming skills. Alternative arrangements were not made and the farmers were left to fend for themselves. When there is bumper crop of sugarcane, sugar factory owners reduce the price. The following year when the farmers switch over to other crops. They raised the price of sugarcane. Therefore, farming is required to be undertaken from the totalitarian point of view. The

Central Government have taken concrete steps. For the first time, farmers have been given due recognition and consideration in the Budget which should be continued in future also because 80% of our population comprises farmers and labourers. However, the voice for their welfare is not raised in the House, legislative Assemblies and at other platforms in a manner as it should be because we are not united. Even vote is given in the name of party and caste. We can help the farmers by understanding their problems and raising them properly.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Member, Shrimati Renuka Chaudhury.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, just now Shri Raghunath Jha was stating that the issue of farmers is not raised properly in the House due to the lack of concern of the hon. Members. Therefore, I suggest that the House may be adjourned today and the issue be taken up tomorrow when all the hon. Members will be present in the House. . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the sense of the House to continue this discussion tomorrow ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will become the first speaker tomorrow. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the sense of the House is to continue this discussion tomorrow, then we can take it up tomorrow. If the House agrees, then we can continue it tomorrow. Is it the sense of the House to continue this discussion tomorrow ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR CHAIRMAN Okay. We will continue this discussion tomorrow.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, 13th March 2001 at 11 a.m.

18.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 13, 2001/
Phalguna 22, 1922 (Saka).*

© 2001 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033.
