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Monday, December 18, 2000
Agrahayana 27, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XIII, Fifth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 21, Monday, December 18, 2000/Agrahayana 27, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM UGANDA	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 401 ...	4-16
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 402 to 420	16-55
Unstarred Question Nos. 4324-4553	55-281
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	281-295
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
Fourteenth Reports	295
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
Study Tour Report	295
COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	
First and Second Reports	295
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE	
Seventh to Ninth Report ...	296
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	
Tenth Report	296
RE: PROCUREMENT OF PADDY BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA IN ANDHRA PRADESH	296-327
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Insurgency and Violence in North Eastern States	
Shri G.M. Banatwalla ...	327
Shri L.K. Advani ...	327
Shri Rajkumar Wangcha	332
Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar	335
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	338
Shri Bijoy Handique	340

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

SUBJECT COLUMNS

MOTION RE: SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 350

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to take steps to make Chambal River pollution free at Kota and Keshavrai Patan, Rajasthan

Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal ... 351

(ii) Need to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya ... 351

(iii) Need for early completion of Rajghat Project with a view to solve acute drinking water problem in Sagar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh

Shri Virendra Kumar 352

(iv) Need to set up a Software Technological Part at Chandigarh

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal 352

(v) Need to provide additional financial assistance to Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by drought in Banswara Parliamentary Constituency

Shri Tarachand Bhagora ... 352

(vi) Need to declare Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce in Kerala

Shri T. Govindan 353

(vii) Need to set up a Chilly Board

Shri Y.V. Rao ... 353

(viii) Need to declare Allahabad University in Uttar Pradesh as a Central University

Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel 354

(ix) Need to open more petrol/diesel and LPG outlets in each Block Headquarters of Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa

Shri Prabhat Samantray ... 354

(x) Need to develop Vaishali in Bihar as a Tourist Resort of international status

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh 355

(xi) Need for creation of separate States such as Bodoland, Telengana, etc.

Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary ... 355

(xii) Need to take suitable steps to check severe erosion caused by rivers in Bihar

Dr. Sanjay Paswan ... 355

SUBJECT COLUMNS

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL

Motion to Consider

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal 356

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava 359

Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan ... 361

Shri Adhi Sankar ... 363

Shrimati Sandhya Bauri ... 364

Shri Prabhunath Singh 366

Dr. V. Saroja 368

Shri Trilochan Kanungo ... 370

Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh ... 372

Shri Kharabela Swain 374

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ... 376

Shri Adhir Chowdhary 379

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi 381

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi ... 382

Clauses 2 to 70 and 1 ... 386

Motion to Pass 400

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Rural Electrification during Ninth Plan

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi 401

Shri Basu Deb Acharia 404

Shri Kharabela Swain ... 405

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh 408

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh 409

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy 409

Shri Suresh Prabhu ... 411

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION TO AMEND SECOND SCHEDULE TO CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT

Shri Yashwant Sinha 415

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ... 416

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan 418

SUBJECT COLUMNS

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Motion to Consider

Shri Basu Deb Acharia ... 421

Shri Yashwant Sinha 423

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi 425

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan 429

Shri Moinul Hassan 430

Clauses 2 to 31 and 1 436

Motion to Pass ... 436

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS ORDINANCE

AND

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS BILL

Motion to Consider

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan 437

Shri Ajit Kumar Panja 440

Shri R.L. Bhatia ... 440

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi 443

Shri Kharabela Swain 446

Clauses 2 to 30 and 1 ... 446

Motion to Pass 456

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 18, 2000/Agrahayana 27, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

[English]

Welcome to Parliamentary Delegation from Uganda

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Francis J. Ayume, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and other Members of the Ugandan Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The Delegation arrived in New Delhi this morning. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Uganda.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 401. Shri T.M. Selvaganapathy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. We want the House to discuss the problems faced by the farmers. So, the Question Hour should be suspended. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerannaidu, you have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour and take up Adjournment Motion. I have disallowed your notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, you have also given a notice. But you can raise the matter in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can also raise it in the Zero Hour, not now. Please take your seat.

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, if you want to raise anything, you can do so in the Zero Hour, not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 401. Shri T.M. Selvaganapathy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI (Salem) : Q. 401. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed farmers' problems already in this Session, not once, but twice or thrice. You have given a notice again today. I have disallowed your notice. If you want to raise anything, you can raise it in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. I will allow you to raise it in the Zero Hour, not now. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR.. SPEAKER : Please stop telecast.

(Interruptions)

[English]

11.04 hours

At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

11.04½ hours

At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman went back to his seat.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, please hear me first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you are not hearing what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me first. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please hear me first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want any information, you can do so during the 'Zero Hour', but not now. Please understand that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please tell me if you do not want 'Question Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want Question Hour in this House? What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure. There is time when you can raise a matter but not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, I can ask the Minister to give a reply later, not now.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow the Minister to give a reply during the Question Hour? There is a procedure for that.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : If you want any information, you can ask during the Zero Hour.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) No proper procurement is being done. The farmers are suffering and the Minister is sitting silently. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I can ask the Minister to reply if it is Zero Hour. How can I ask the Minister to reply during Question Hour ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. If you want a reply from the Minister, you can raise it during the Zero Hour Then, I can ask him to give a reply. Now, it is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the procedure because Question Hour is also important.

(Interruptions)

MR.. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, I have raised my Q No. 401. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, Please ask your Members to take the seats. You can raise it during the Zero Hour, not now. There is a procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am apealing to you once again to please go to your seats. I would give a chance to you also to raise it during the Zero Hour, but not now. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are well aware of the procedure. How can you raise the matters during the Question Hour? Please tell me about that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the procedure to raise such matters during the Question Hour? There is no such procedure.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : There is some problem or the other whenever I raise a question. I have raised a very important question. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : On behalf of you, I am asking the Minister to give a reply during the Zero Hour, but not now. How can the Minister reply during Question Hour?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not want the Question Hour and you do not want the House to run. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House should run according to the procedure only and not according to your wish and willingness.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sukendra Reddy, nobody should raise slogans like this in the House. That is the procedure.

(Interruptions)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, the Government has given a number of assurances, but these have not been fulfilled. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, I am once again appealing to you. Please ask your Members to take their seats. If you want to raise it, you can raise it in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is a very important issue and a very serious situation. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, let the hon. Minister assure us that he would respond. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Scindia, I am asking the hon. Minister also to give a reply in the Zero Hour, but not in the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to you, please go to your seats. If you want to raise this subject, you can raise it in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU Sir, the farmer is the backbone of this country. . *(Interruptions)* The farmer is crying despite the hon. Minister's instructions *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, once again, I am appealing you that you can raise this matter in the Zero Hour and not in the Question Hour. What is this? How can you stall the proceedings of the House? Tell me please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you are forgetting that Question Hour is also important. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, this is more important. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, we should be allowed to speak on this subject .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When you are not listening to the Chair, how can the Chair allow you to speak?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

11.12hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Clearance of Power Projects

*401. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the conversion rates of the approved power generating projects to ensure that these projects can achieve financial closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

*Not recorded

(c) the action taken by the Government to bail out these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Since announcement of the policy for encouraging private participation in the power sector in 1991, 57 private power projects in all, having a total capacity of around 29,375 MW, have so far been accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Out of these, 16 projects have achieved financial closure. The details of the private sector power projects accorded TEC by CEA, those which have been completed and the ongoing (under construction) project are given in Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively. The Government with a view to expedite financial closures of these projects, has been taking steps, wherever necessary, to resolve pending issues. The foremost reasons for failure to tie-up finances are the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEB), low confidence of lenders in SEBs in their ability to pay and lack of adequate escrow, arrangements with SEBs for purchase of power.

(c) The policy announced in 1991 has been reviewed/modified from time to time, with a view to give a push to power sector reforms and streamlining the procedures for speedy development of the power projects. The projects above, which have received techno-economic clearance of CEA, are being helped to achieve financial closure through a number of measures. Some of the steps taken by the Government for simplifying and decentralizing the procedure for clearance of private power projects, are :

- minimizing the numbers of clearance required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- minimizing the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution have been permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route without any limit.
- delegating more powers to State Governments for environmental clearance.
- raising the capital cost limits up to which the techno -economic clearance (TEC) of CEA is not required.
- close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearance, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.
- the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 has been enacted which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
- The Electricity Laws Amendment Act, 1998 was enacted to make transmission as a distinct activity for incuraging greater participation in the investment in the private sector.
- A policy on Hydro Power Development was initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at a faster pace, increase private investment and promote small and mini hydel projects.
- The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads, coastal locations and in regions with hydro potential both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions is being encouraged.

Annexure-I

Private Power Projects which have been accorded Techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority

S.No.	Name of the Projects	CAP(MW)	Cost (Rs in Crores)
1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
1	Baspa Stage II HEP (M/s. JPIL)	300	949.23

1	2	3	4
2	Malana HEP (M/s. Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.)	86	341.911
Uttar Pradesh			
3	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. JPIL)	400	1614.6
4	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo Gulf Fertilizers)	567	2432.10
5	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	1699.12
Rajasthan			
6	Dholpur CCGT (M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.)	702.7	2294.078
7	Barsingsar TPP (M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Co. Ltd.)	500	2106.635
Madhya Pradesh			
8	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	1500
9	Korba (East) TPP (M/s. Daewoo Power)	1070	4690.00
10	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	2443
11	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s. GBL Power)	166	531.24
12	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. ITPL)	420	1766.78
13	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	1079.39
14	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	2183.50
15	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	2489.71
16	Raigarh TPP (M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	2411.80
17	Bhandar CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd.)	342	1048.072
18	Pithampur DGPP (M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	442.096
19	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam)Ltd.)	118.63	451.294
20	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	550.667
Gujarat			
21	Paguthan CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Torrent)	654.7	2298.14
22	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0	1666.56
23	Baroda CCGT (M/s. GIPCL)	167.0	368.22
24	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. GIPCL)	250.0	1167.189
25	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.0	2550.741
Maharashtra			
26	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	2015	9051.27
27	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power)	1072	4630.90
28	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1	1379.181
Andhra pradesh			
29	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries)	216	816

1	2	3	4
30	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Specturam Tech.)	208	748.43
31	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	4628.11
32	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group)	520	2384.57
33	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Industries Ltd.)	350	1035.471
34	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	2221.329
35	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited) on ICB route	492	1679.907
Karnataka			
36	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel)	260	1093.86
37	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentrix)	1013.2	4253.399
38	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd)	1015	5495.99
39	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6	390.593
Tamil Nadu			
40	Neyveli TPS Zero Unit (M/s. ST CMS)	250	1200
41	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5	1121.70
42	North Madras TPS II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050	4423.80
43	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi)	200	756.77
44	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525	2324.10
45	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd)	106	384.221
46	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.)	106	391.863
47	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	2246.77
48	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company)	1320	6379.157
49	Vembar CCGT (M/s. Indian Power Projects Limited)	1873	5060.165
Kerala			
50	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	1964.3
51	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	1470
Orissa			
52	IB Valley TPS (Units 5 and 6) (AES IB Valley Cor.)	500	2369.48
53	Duburi TPP Units 1 and 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	2191.534
West Bengal			
54	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500	2234.69
55	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420	1621.588
56	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company)	150	659.442
Bihar			
57	Jojobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	1025.19

Annexure II

Private Power Projects accorded Techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have been fully commissioned

S.No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)
1	2	3
Gujarat		
1	Paguthan CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Power Gen Energy Corporation Limited)	654.7
2	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0
3	Baroda CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	167.0
4	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	250.0
Maharashtra		
5	Dabhol CCGT Phase I (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	740
Andhra Pradesh		
6	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/r. GVK Industries Limited)	216
7	Kondapalli CCGT of M/s. Lanco Kondapalli Power Corporation	350
8	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited)	208
Karnataka		
9	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Limited)	260
Tamil Nadu		
10	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Limited)	200
	Total	3560.7

Annexure III

Private Power Projects accorded Techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which are under Construction

S.N	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	State	Promoter
1	2	3	4	5
Private Power Projects				
1.	Dabhol CCGT-Phase II	1440	Maharashtra	M/s Dabhol Power Company
2.	Jojobera TPP	240	Bihar	M/s Jamshedpur Power Company
3.	Maheshwar HEP	400	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Shri Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited
4.	Baspa-II HEP	300	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Jaiprakash Hydro Power Limited
5.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT	330.5	Tamil Nadu	M/s PPN Power Generating Company
6.	Vemagiri (Naphtha) CCGT	492	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Ispat Power limited
7.	Neyveli TPP	250	Tamil Nadu	M/s ST-CMS Electric Company

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Malana HEP	86	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited
9.	Samayanallur DGPP	106	Tamil Nadu	M/s Balaji Power Corporation Private Limited
10.	Samalpatti DGPP	106	Timil Nadu	M/s Samalpatti Power Company Private Limited
11.	Ratlam DGPP	118.63	Madhya Pradesh	GVK Power (Ratlam) Limited
12.	Ramagundam TPP	520	Andhra Pradesh	BPL Power Projects
	Total	4389		

Jojobera, 120 MW is partially commissioned.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to you to please go to your seats. There is a time to raise such kind of matters please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand this is not to be raised in the Question Hour. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, the statement is evasive and not pertaining to the main Question. . . *(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister has appealed to the Members on Thursday that they should not stall the proceedings during the Question Hour. Sir, this is an important question. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please allow the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, there is a specific time. They can raise it during 'Zero Hour'. They, being part of NDA, are not obeying their own leader's directive. . . *(Interruptions)* It is the problem between Andhra Pradesh and the NDA Government. Let them pull out of the NDA Government. . . .*(Interruptions)* Please come to my rescue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER No, this is not proper. Shri Yerrannaidu, this is not proper. Please take your seat. You should not stall the Question Hour. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 noon.

11.17 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rural Electrification by Private Sector

402. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution made by the private sector in the field of electrification of villages in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the private distribution companies are extremely reluctant to continue with the power supply to rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) The responsibility for electrification of villages lies with the concerned State Governments/ State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities. Recently, privatisation of electricity supply to the rural areas has been undertaken

in Orissa. In the State of Orissa where distribution companies have been privatised, the maintenance of rural electrification network is now under the responsibility of these private sector distribution companies.

None of the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities have brought to the notice of the Ministry of Power, any instance of reluctance shown by the private distribution companies to continue with the power supply to the rural areas.

Pollution in Ganga River

*403. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of pollution in the Ganga river at Hardwar, Allahabad, Patna and Calcutta at the time of lunching of Ganga Action Plan and at present; and

(b) the time by which the Ganga river is likely to be pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The extent of pollution in river Ganga at Hardwar, Allahabad, Patna and Calcutta with respect to pollution indicators namely, Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the years 1986 Just after the start of Ganga Action Plan and 1999 during critical periods of summer, was measured as follows :-

S. No.	Location	DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)	DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)
		1986		1999	
1.	Hardwar	8.1	1.8	8.6	1.2
2.	Allahabad	6.6	15.5	7.9	3.2
3.	Patna	8.1	2.2	7.8	2.4
4.	Calcutta at Uluberia	6.9	2.1	6.6	2.2

The desired standards fixed by the Central Pollution Control Board for Ganga for these two parameters are BOD as 3 mg/1(miximum) and DO as 5 mg/1(minimum).

(b) The Ganga Action Plan has been taken up in two phases. Under the Phase-I started in 1985, a total 835 million litres per day of sewage has been tackled. Under Ganga Action Plan phase-II, which is already under implementation 1861 million litres per day of sewage is to be tackled. The Ganga river can be expected to be pollution free only after the Ganga Action Plan phase-II is completed in 2005 and a minimum flow in the river is maintained to allow the necessary dilution of treated waste water discharged into the river.

[Translation]

Ban on Indian Cricket Team for Touring Pakistan

*404. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have banned the Indian Cricket Team from touring Pakistan in January, 2001;

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

(c) its likely effect on the relations between both the countries in the field of sports; and

(d) the time up to which this decision is likely to remain in force?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) While Government has always placed strong emphasis on developing relations in the field of Culture, sports and people to people contact, the present environment was considered inappropriate for the Indian cricket team to undertake regular tour of Pakistan at this stage. A more conducive environment would be necessary for such a tour to take place.

[English]

Gap between Prices of Industrial and Agricultural Products

*405. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of farmers in the country has become worse due to wide gap between the prices of industrial and agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check price rise in agricultural implements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the condition of farmers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government is compiling an Index of Terms of Trade between Agricultural and Non-agricultural Sectors based on the methodology recommended by the Task Force on Terms of Trade. This Index measures the relative change in the prices received by the farmers for the produce sold by them in relation to the change in prices paid by them for the commodities purchased for final consumption, intermediate consumption and capital formation. The terms of trade have been favourable to Agriculture as indicated by the index of terms of trade since 1990-91 in the table below :

(Base : Triennium Ending 1990-91 = 100)

Year	Index
1990-91	101.9
1991-92	105.6
1992-93	103.9
1993-94	103.6
1994-95	106.6
1995-96	105.3
1996-97	103.6
1997-98 (Latest Available)	105.5

(c) and (d) There is no administrative price control on the sale of agricultural implements in the country. The small scale units engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements enjoy the exemption of complete excise duty upto a value of Rs. 100 lakhs. The Government is also providing subsidies on plant protection equipment, power driven implements, sprinkler sets, drip irrigation system, diesel pump sets etc. under various crop production programmes. These measures are expected to lower the prices of agricultural implements purchased by the farmers. But since there is no price control on the raw material specially steel, which are used in the manufacture of agricultural implements, the price of agricultural implements may fluctuate depending on the revision in prices of the raw materials by the primary producers from time to time.

(e) To improve the condition of farmers, the Government is implementing various crop production programmes and ensuring remunerative prices for their produce by actively pursuing the agricultural price policy under which minimum support prices of 24 crops are announced. Besides, the Government is also implementing market intervention scheme for some crops as and when such exigency arises. Further, the Government makes use of various instruments of trade to protect the interest of farmers.

To have a comprehensive review of the condition of farmers, the Government is embarking on a major study on the subject. The terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors is a major thrust area to be covered in this study. The results of this study will help the Government in bringing about refinement/ improvement in the policies pursued for the benefit of farmers in the long run.

[Translation]

Conversion of Land Into Forest Land

*406. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to convert one third land area of the country into forest area with a view to maintaining ecological balance;

(b) if so, the areas identified in each State particularly in Maharashtra for the purpose and the acres of land available for afforestation, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to invite Voluntary and Non Governmental Organisations in afforestation programmes in the States;

(d) if so, the detail thereof;

(e) the States in which forest area has reduced during the last three years; and

(f) the amount of help provided to such States during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to bring one third of the area of the country under forest/tree cover to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests and to maintain ecological balance.

(b) The Programme aims at sustainable development of 76.5 million hectares of forests covering 16 major forest types extending over 26 States and Union Territories. The area to be regenerated/planted is 48.23 million hectares. In Maharashtra 3.36 million hectares have been identified for regeneration/afforestation.

The areas identified in each State for afforestation/regeneration, State-wise :

State/UT	Area to be regenerated (in million ha.)	Area to be afforested (in million ha.)	Total area be regenerated/ afforested (in million ha.)	Total area be regenerated/ afforested (in million Acres)
Andhra Pradesh	2.65	2.28	4.93	12.20
Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.05	0.15	0.37
Assam	0.92	0.18	1.10	2.72
Bihar	1.50	2.71	4.21	10.42
Goa	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.07
Gujarat	0.74	1.88	2.62	6.48
Haryana	0.17	0.70	0.87	2.16
Himachal Pradesh	0.49	0.41	0.90	2.23
Jammu and Kashmir	2.05	4.22	6.27	15.52
Karnataka	3.09	0.12	3.21	7.95
Kerala	0.14	0.12	0.26	0.64
Madhya Pradesh	6.01	1.38	7.39	18.29
Maharashtra	2.68	0.68	3.36	8.32
Manipur	0.77	0.31	1.08	2.67
Meghalaya	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Mizoram	0.60	0.02	0.62	1.53
Nagaland	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Orissa	0.16	0.28	0.44	1.09
Punjab	0.31	0.35	0.66	1.63
Rajasthan	0.80	4.34	5.14	12.72
Sikkim	0.20	0.08	0.28	0.69
Tamilnadu	0.33	0.38	0.71	1.76
Tripura	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.20
Uttar Pradesh	2.28	0.96	3.24	8 02
West Bengal	0.30	0.31	0.61	1.51
A&N Islands	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.17
Total	26.43	21.80	48.23	119.36

(c) and (d) The Government encourages the participation of Voluntary and Non-Governmental organisations in afforestation programmes in the States. The Ministry of Environment and Forests operates a Grants-in-Aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for development of wastelands adjoining forest areas through afforestation and soil moisture conservation measures.

(e) As per the State of Forest Report-1999, nine States i.e. Assam, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and two Union Territories i.e. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have shown loss in forest cover.

(f) The amount of central assistance provided by the Ministry to those 11 States/UTs for afforestation during the last three years is as below :

State/UT	Central assistance provided during last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) (Rs. in lakhs)
Assam	493.33
Bihar	597.44
Goa	71.57
Karala	979.21
Manipur	1364.09
Meghalaya	27.69
Mizoram	1071.80
Nagaland	83.72
Sikkim	818.46
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17.35
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.07
Total	5524.73

[English]

Assessment of Renewable Energy

*407. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether there is immense renewable energy resource potential in the country particularly in Assam and other North-Eastern States to meet the requirements of unelectrified remote and unconnected villages in the region;

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

(c) whether the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has assessed the potential of renewable energy in each State;

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

(e) the details of the project, if any, drawn out for the purpose, State-wise; and

(f) the further steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India has a vast potential of renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, small hydro power, biomass, urban and industrial wastes, biogas etc, which can be utilised to meet the energy requirements for cooking, heating, lighting and electricity etc. of unelectrified remote and unconnected villages of the country including Assam and other North Eastern States in a decentralized manner. The broad estimated potential of major renewable energy resources in the country is given in the enclosed Statement I Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has separately not assessed the State-wise potential of renewable energy resources. The assessment of potential (including the States of Assam and the North-East) State-wise, has been made by the Ministry for biogas, improved chulhas, bagasse based cogeneration, wind power and small hydro power for which details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) The Ministry is implementing a wide range of schemes/programmes to harness these renewable energy resources by providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives i.e. central subsidy,100% accelerated depreciation, concessional custom duty, excise duty/sales tax exemption, soft term loans, conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale of renewable energy power etc. In addition, higher subsidies/incentives are provided under major programmes in areas such as the North-East States including Sikkim, Hill areas, Islands, etc. The details of State-wise projects systems installed under various renewable energy programmes/schemes are given in the enclosed Statement III.

Statement-I

Details of estimated potential of major Renewable Energy Resources in the country.

	Resources/Systems	Estimated Potential
1.	Biogas plants (No.)	120 lakh
2.	Improved Chulha (No.)	12 crores
3.	Biomass	
	a. Biomass Power	16,000 MW
	b. Bagasse based Cogeneration	3,500 MW
4.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	20 MW/sq. km.
5.	Solar Thermal Power	35 MW/sq.km.
	Solar Water Heating Systems	30 million square meter collector area
6.	Wind Power	45,000 MW
7.	Small Hydro Power	15,000MW
8.	Energy Recover from wastes	1700 MW

MW = Mega-watt Sq. km. = Square Kilometer

Statement-II

State-wise Potential Estimates for Major Renewable Energy Resources

State	Family Type Biogas Plants (Nos. in lakh)	Improved Chulhas (Nos. in lakh)	Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW) (MW)	Bagasse Based Cogeneration* (MW)	Wind Power (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	10.66	97.08	211	200	8275
Arunachal Pradesh	0.08	1.5	843		
Assam	3.08	36	118		
Bihar	9.40	123.83	253	200	
Goa	0.08	1.17	3		
Gujarat	5.54	50.72	157	200	9675
Haryana	3.00	20.61	30		
Himachal Pradesh	1.26	8.53	1476		
Jammu & Kashmir	1.29	11.75	874		
Karnataka	6.80	60.75	551	300	6620
Kerala	1.51	40.73	403		875
Madhya Pradesh	14.91	101.58	263		5500
Maharashtra	8.97	96.5	431	1000	3650
Manipur	0.39	2.64	90		
Meghalaya	0.24	2.54	139		
Mizoram	0.02	0.73	143		
Nagaland	0.07	2.01	144		
Orissa	6.06	54.55	157		1700
Punjab	4.12	25.38	65	150	
Rajasthan	9.15	55.54	27		5400
Sikkim	0.07	0.73	203		
Tamil Nadu	6.16	80.16	232	350	3050
Tripura	0.29	4.65	10		
Uttar Pradesh	20.21	187.45	1366	1000	
West Bengal	6.95	98.72	183		450
Andaman & Nicobar	0.02	0.4	1		
Chandigarh	0.14	0.66			
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.02	0.25			
Daman & Diu	–	0.1			
Delhi	0.13	9.06			
Lakshwadeep	–	0.1			
Pondicherry	0.04	0.59			

MW = Mega Watt.

Statement-III

State-wise details of the installations made under Major Non-Conventional Energy Programmes as on 31.3.2000

States/UT	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	Improved Chulha (Nos. in Lakh)	Shp (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)	SLS (Nos.)	Solar Photovol Taic			Solar Cooker (Nos.)	Biomass Gasifiers (KW)	U&I (MW)
							HLS (Nos.)	SL (Nos.)	PP (kWp)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	273019	34.67	34	88	12	3217	1150	14401	20.6	11778	13634	7.7
Arunachal Pradesh	631	0.33	21	0	0	738	650	4437	7.9	530	180	0
Assam	35816	5.31	2	0	0	98	1666	475	3	80	23	0
Bihar	111422	11.42	0	0	0	673	456	41949	0	730	20	0
Goa	3145	1.17	0	0	0	31	31	51	1.72	1417	22	0
Gujarat	331642	13.29	2	167	0.5	1584	840	14808	14	47908	3921	2
Haryana	39373	9.87	0	0	4	1030	2939	20922	24.2	17752	964	0
Himachal pradesh	42119	6.6	12	0	0	844	6843	17248	0	25616	7	0
Jammu & Kahmir	1759	4.14	8	0	0	389	10169	5225	0	345	120	0
Karnataka	263621	14.56	25	34	37	516	28	898	3	250	3699	1
Kerala	57231	8.67	6	2	0	675	2498	31386	4.7	194	615	0
Madhya Pradesh	169780	29.01	6	23	5	5554	149	7601	22.6	181000	4429	2.7
Maharashtra	641143	22.92	7	79	9	3045	226	5268	5.6	52017	3323	0
Manipur	1756	0.65	4	0	0	370	50	3400	11	365	0	0
Meghalaya	989	0.18	2	0	0	593	320	3200	31.5	1164	0	0
Mizoram	2066	0.47	12	0	0	315	1645	3539	0	118	0	0
Nagaland	1032	0.26	4	0	0	271	8	0	6	0	0	0
Orissa	156738	17.63	1	1	0	5482	1064	5105	33.5	2981	72	0
Punjab	55683	11.07	10	0	10	955	2200	10265	41	17219	660	0.75
Rajasthan	65457	25.45	5	2	0	6685	15647	4624	0	36016	218	0
Sikkim	2445	0.68	9	0	0	127	160	320	0	20	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Tamil Nadu	196413	26.11	7	771	94	2071	21	5203	25	1355	853	0.06
Tripura	1015	0.53	1	0	0	340	1478	6895	24.6	68	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	331339	37.04	31	0	50.5	708	57105	56288	178.9	39873	511	1
West Bengal	160726	29.6	8	0	0	1264	8942	3271	190.9	5575	530	0
Andaman & Nicobar	137	0.31	0	0	0	334	390	434	149.1	59	167	0
Chandigarh	97	0.19	0	0	0	0	100	775	0	1523	0	0
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	168	0.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Delhi	671	2.66	0	0	0	301	0	4753	5	27990	74	0
Lakshwadeep	0	0.05	0	0	0	704	0	5060	85	0	0	0
Pondicherry	539	0.36	0	0	0	2	0	531	0	88	0	0
Others	0	4.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7000	318	0
Total	2947972	319.71	217	1167	222	38916	116775	278332	888.82	481112	34360	15.21

HLS = Home Lighting System. SL = Solar Lanterns MW = Mega Watt. kW = Kilo Watt.
PP = Power Plants kWp = Kilowatt peak

Irregularities in ICAR

*408. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Internal Audit of the ICAR for 1996-97 has alleged irregularities in its functioning, undue favour to suppliers amendment of techincal service rules, purchase of computers and constructions of residential quarters of senior officer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have appointed any inquiry committee to look into the irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the further action taken or being taken by Government to stop recurrence of such irregularities in the Council?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Based on a complaint dated 22.7.1999 received in the Finance Ministry, the office of the Controller General of Accounts, which is under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, wrote to the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of agriculture on 25.10.1999 requesting him to get special audit of ICAR conducted with specific reference to the points raised in the compliant. An internal audit team from the office of Chief Controller of Accounts conducted internal audit of ICAR from 27.12.99 to 14.1.2000. Their audit report was received in ICAR on 7.9.2000. This report contains observations on different issues such as construction of DG's bunglow, amendment of technical service rules, purchase of Computers, appointment of consultants, maintenance of log books, hiring of private vehicles and some other items.

All the concerned Sections/Divisions of ICAR have been requested to furnish their replies alongwith necessary details and documents. Some replies, which have already been received, are under examination. The observations mentioned in the report are being examined with reference to facts of each case as appearing in related documents and files and further necessary action will be taken accordingly.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Road Construction

*409. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow the private sector to invest in road construction work;

(b) if so, whether it has also been decided to collect additional amount upto a definite period from vehicles plying on roads to recover the cost;

(c) if so, whether it is likely to make road transportation costlier and also increase the production cost of industrial and agricultural goods;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to consider some other options and check the transportation cost from going up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir. To augment the financial resources required for the Road Sector, one of the methods the Government has approved is the concept of Private Sector participation for development, maintenance and operation of National Highways through Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(b) In the case of projects taken up under BOT scheme the selected private entrepreneur constructs and maintains the road at his own cost and is allowed to levy, collect and retain fee at the specified rates fixed by the Government from users for a specified concession period after which the facility reverts to the Government.

(c) and (d) Improved roads would reduce vehicle operating costs and journey time, thus resulting in savings to the road users. Toll levied on the National Highway projects under BOT and other schemes is generally less than the savings that accrue to road users.

(e) and (f) Other options adopted for financing of road improvement programme are the budgetary resources, cess collected from sale of petrol and diesel, obtaining external assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies and market borrowings.

[English]

Privatisation of SEBs

*410. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have been seriously considering privatisation of power grid transmission lines and also those SEBs which are not working satisfactorily; and

(b) if so, the details of such power grid transmission lines and SEBs ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) POWERGRID was established in 1989 with the mission to establish and operate Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the regions with reliability, security and economy on sound commercial principles POWERGRID has been declared as the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) in accordance with Section 27A of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. POWERGRID, as CTU is responsible for undertaking transmission of energy through inter-state transmission system and evacuation of power from all Central Power Stations and delivery of allocated power to constituent states.

There is no proposal to privatise existing transmission lines of POWERGRID. In order to augment the capability of POWERGRID to undertake investment in new transmission lines/inter-regional inter-connectors, it is proposed to use the legal framework for securing private sector investment in the construction of new transmission lines/inter-connections.

POWERGRID has identified the transmission lines under Tala Transmission System for evacuation of power from Tala Hydro-electric Project in Bhutan (1020MW) and other generation projects likely to be commissioned in the time frame 2004/2005 in the north-Eastern/Eastern Regions. The project is proposed to be executed under Joint Venture arrangement with private participation.

The decision to privatise transmission lines in the State Sector has to be taken by the concerned State Government after consulting the State Transmission Utility (State Electricity Board/Successor Entity) responsible for transmission within the State.

World Bank Study on India's Power Sector Policies

*411. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed willingness to conduct study on India's power sector policies;

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

(c) the details of the guidelines issued in this regard by the World Bank during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have implemented those guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from the World Bank for conducting a study on India's power sector policies.

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

Issue of Licence of National Long Distance Services to VSNL

*412. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to grant licence to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to operate national long distance services as a compensation package;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the objective and the purpose thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this package is likely to be helpful in achieving the target of national long distance services ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Government has decided to prepone the termination of the VSNL monopoly in International Telephony Services from April 1, 2004 to April 1, 2002 and in lieu, Government has approved a compensation package for VSNL as detailed below :

(i) Licence to run National Long Distance Services (NLD) with following package :

  (a) Government would pay to VSNL a sum equal to the amount paid by VSNL as entry fee and licence fee for a period of 5 years commencing from 1st April, 2001 net of taxes.

  (b) Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. 400 crores for the prescribed roll out will be waived.

(ii) VSNL will be granted Category 'A' ISP Licence which will enable it to provide internet access all over the country.

2. Govt. could also consider additional compensation if found to be necessary.

3. The National Long Distance Services have been opened up for participation by both private and public sectors. This will result in enhancing the National Long

distance Services network, bringing in competition, and providing better services to the subscribers. VSNL will be one of the Service Providers in this sector.

Construction of National Highways

*413. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction/widening of most of the National Highways Projects are facing hindrances in their implementation due to non-acquisition of land/compensation/rehabilitation of affected people in the States;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Policy to remove such hindrances;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure completion of work on all the National Highways within the targeted time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir. Out of about 1470 on-going projects on National Highways, only a few projects in some States are facing hindrances in their implementation mainly due to land acquisition problem.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to sanction new works for improvement of National Highways only after the requisite land for the project has been acquired. Further the National Highways Act, 1956 has been amended in 1997 to make the land acquisition procedure simpler and faster.

(e) The progress of all the National Highway works are being periodically reviewed with the concerned State Govt. Officials to ensure that bottlenecks if any are removed by taking appropriate remedial measures to complete as per targets set.

Statement

A) National Highway Projects with State PWDs facing hindrances in their implementation due to Land Acquisition Problem

S.No.	State	Name of the Project
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Palasa bypass from Km. 170.79-179.65 of V-B Section of NH-5
		2. ROB approaches at Km. 189/6, 200/2 & 209/4 of V-B Section of NH-5
		3. LA for construction of missing link from Km. 205 to 235 of NH-16
		4. Construction of Gendlakamma bridge at Km. 310/0 of M-V Section of NH-5
		5. Construction of Musi bridge at Km. 278/4 of M-V Section of NH-5 of BOT basis
2.	Assam	1. Providing side drainage of Lahowal at Km. 603 (P), 604 and 605 (P) on NH-37
		2. Providing cover drain at Km. 555 and 556 in Moran Town on NH-37
		3. LA for approaches to proposed BR No. 50/3 over river Ledo on NH-38
		4. LA for construction of ROB at Km. 1084 at Rangia on NH-31
		5. LA for Km. 118-125 (D.D. SEC) on NH-36
		6. STR. From Km. 155-165 on NH-37
		7. STR and raising from Km 53-58 on NH-37
		8. LA for ROB at Changsari at Km. 1114 of NH-31
		9. Reconstruction of A BR, No. 24/1 I/C approaches on NH-36

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	1. Strengthening in Km 41.8 to 51.8 on NH-23
		2. Widening and strengthening of Km. 22.8 to 34.8 of NH-23
4.	Delhi	1. Six laning (withoug strengthening) in a length of 4.80 Kms from Km. 16.50 to 21.30 of Delhi-Rohtak on NH-10
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Acquisition of land houses on NH-21 Km. 270/890 to 295/0
		2. Acquisition of land houses and trees in acquired width NH-20 Km. 175/0 to 180/0
		3. Re-alignment of PCM road NH-20 bye pass at Palampur Km. 112/510 to 114/0
6.	Kerala	1. L. A. for Cherlyappally bridge and approaches at Km. 424/00 of NH-17
		2. L. A. for Tellicherry Mahe byepass Phase II 7/140 to 9/742 of NH-17
		3. L. A. for realignment of NH-17 from Km. 214/00-225/00
		4. L. A. for widening to 4 lane from Km. 310/700 to 331/527 of NH-47
		5. L. A. for Padannakkadu ROB on NH-17
		6. L. A. for Pallikkara ROB on NH-17
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Construction of high level bridge across dyree nallah in Km. 117/2 road it's approaches on NH-3
		2. Reconstruction of bridge in Km. 8/8 on NH-25
		3. Land acquisition for construction of Rewa bypass on NH-7
		4. Land acquisition for construction of Gwalior on NH-3
8.	Chhattisgarh	1. Land acquisition for 4-laning in Raipur-Durg section on NH-6
9.	Orissa	1. Construction of missing link from Km. 20.840 to 25.950 on NH-23
		2. Construction of High level bridge and approaches over Bisnvi on NH-6
10.	Pondicherry	1. Widening the road land width from Km. 3.275-4.880 of NH-45A
		2. LA in km 11.95-20.0 of NH-45A
11.	Punjab	1. Patiala bypass on NH-6
12.	Rajasthan	1. Improvement of geometrics in Km 115.238 to 119.240 of NH-11
13.	Tamil Nadu	1. Improvement to Junction at Km. 606/2 of NH-47
		2. Reconstruction of Major Bridge at Km. 12/8 for NH-7A
		3. Improvements to Geometrics in Km. 8/0-14/0 of NH-7A
		4. Reconstruction of bridge at Km. 641/6 of NH-47
		5. Vilupuram Bypass on NH-45

B) National Highway Projects being Implementated by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) facing hindrances in their Implementation due to Non Acquisition of Land/Compensation/Rehabilitation of Affected People.

NH No.	State	Reach	
		From	To
2	West Bengal	Panagarh (Km 511)	Palsit (Km 581)
		Palsit (Km 581)	Dhankuni (Km 666)
6	West Bengal	Kolaghat (Km.72)	Kharagpur (Km 136)
	West Bengal	Dhankuni (Km 17, 6)	Kolaghat (Km 72)
60	Orissa	Balasore (Km 0)	Lakshminath (Km 53.41
	West Bengal	Laxminath (Km 53.41)	Kharagpur (Km 110)
5	Orissa	Khurda (Km 387.7)	Bhubaneshwar (Km 418)
	Orissa	Chandikhole (Km 61)	Balasore (Km 199)
	Orissa	Ichapuram (Km 23.3)	Khurda (Km 388)
	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam (Km 2.8)	Ichapuram (Km 233)
	Andhra Pradesh	Ankapalli (Km 359.2)	Eluru (Km 75)
	Andhra Pradesh	AP/TN Border (Km 52.8)	Chilkaluripet (Km 355)
	Tamil Nadu	Chennai (Km 11)	AP/TN Border (Km 52.8)

Policy on Allocation of Power

*414. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced any policy for the allocation of electricity generated from its new projects by converting the existing Gadgil formula;

(b) if so, whether some of SEBs are not willing to undertake power reforms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the new policy is likely to affect the working of SEBs and meet the power shortage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) It has been decided by the Government to treat the ``Formula" for allocation of power from Central Sector Generating Stations to the States/UTs as `Guidelines' for new Central Sector generating Stations. The Salient features of the `Guidelines" are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Conference of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers held in New Delhi on 26.2.2000 discussed various measures for improving viability of State Electricity Boards including compulsory metering and distribution reforms. The conclusions arrived at in the Conference are given the enclosed Statement-II. The States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan have Unbundled their State Electricity Boards. Several States have taken a decision to undertake power sector reforms. 14 States (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab) have since notified/ constituted SERCs, with a view to undertake rationalisation of electricity tariff and to bring about transparency in relation to tariff and subsidies.

As a part of the strategy to give impetus to reforms and restructuring in the power sector, the Central Government has entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the States of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, to support their reform efforts.

(d) The `guidelines' would enable reforming States in getting additional allocation of power from 15% unallocated quota in central sector power stations and also from new power projects.

Further, better commercial viability and resolutions of the problem of outstandings of the Central Power generating companies, as a result would enable them to grow faster and provide economical additional power needed by the country.

Statement-I

Salient Features of the Guidelines

(i) It will not disturb the allocation already made under the ``formula''. There will be no change to the contents of the``formula''.

(ii) Power from the new central sector power stations will be made in Accordance with power purchase agreements (PPAs) to be signed between the CPSU and the State/UT or any of their authorized agency/Board.

(iii) First offer for purchase of power shall be made by the CPSI to each Constituent (State/UT or their authorised agency) of the region as per their Entitlement.

(iv) In case any constituent of the region does not buy its share or part thereof, the CPSU shall have the right to sell that power to any other State/UT in accordance with the PPA to be entered into by them. However, such offer by the CPSU shall first be made to the State (s)/UT(s) within the region (where power station) is located) before diverting the power to State(s)/ UTs outside the region.

(v) Where there are more than one claimants to the surplus power, so offered, weightage in allocation shall be given to the power sector reforming State(s)/UT(s).

(vi) This does not affect allocation of 10% of the power to the State where the central thermal power plant is located and the 12% free power from the central Hydel power stations to the State(s)/UT(s) of the regions (including the State where the hydel project is located).

Statement-II

Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 26-02-2000

The Power Ministers' Conference took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. It noted the fact that :-

1. Outstanding dues of CPSIs have been increasing and have now reached Rs. 23, 000 crores. This trend if maintained would adversely affect their Current operations apart from inhibiting their future expansion plans.

2. Financial closure for private power projects is becoming increasingly Difficult.

3. The states are unable to finance new projects on their own.

4. Increased in budgetary support from State Governments as well as central Government for this sector is not feasible due to fiscal deficits.

II. The primary factors responsible for this unsustainable financial situation are :-

(i) Theft and pilferage at the macro level are estimated to be over Rs. 20, 000 crores per annum.

(ii) Technical losses in transmission and distribution for the country are also too High.

(iii) Large number of the thermal stations in the State sector run at an operational efficiency of less than 40%.

(iv) The average annual operational losses of the State Power Sector for the country is over Rs. 12, 000 crores.

III. It was also recognised that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained of industrial tariffs make Industry non-competitive in the new environment of increasing globalisation with elimination of quantitative and other restrictions. It becomes necessary to ensure that Indian Industry is not handicapped by unsatisfactory power supply or by tariff which makes it non-competitive,. Further, the consumer, including the farmer has a legitimate claim for uninterrupted good quality power supply. His willingness to pay reasonable costs is underestimated.

Resolutions

1. The Power Ministers' resolved after taking into account all the problems facing the power sector, that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. Delay in reform only increases the financial cost of reforms,. and the burden of liabilities only increases. Reforms must begin to show results within the next 2-3 years. The key elements of the reform strategy are :-

(a) Energy Audit at all levels.

(b) time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by dec. 2001.

(c) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

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

2. If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up corporatization/cooperatization/privatization of distribution, would have to be undertaken.

3. Since a large number of thermal stations within the State sector are running at a PLF below 40%, immediate Renovation and Modernisation including Life Extension would need to be undertaken on a urgent basis. Similarly, R and M/LE would require to be undertaken for old hydel power plants on priority.

4. Effective functioning of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions is essential for rationalization of tariff, and balancing the interests of the consumer and the need for commercial viability of the utilities in the environment where private sector participation in the industry is expected to gradually increase.

5. Unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards/bench-marking through separate distribution profit centres/corporations/companies may facilitate the Regulatory Commissions in promoting competition within the power supply industry-competition being the key to lower prices.

6. It was noted that the power system network in country's an unmatched reach to consumers and with the installation of optic fibre cables along the existing power lines using its right of way, it has the potential of generating very large resources in the coming years by providing facilities for multipurpose communication including cable TV, IT services, Telecom services etc. Hence efforts need to be made to creatively tap this potential source of large revenue from convergence.

7. In order to promote reforms, a new draft central legislation which obviates the need for separate enactments for the States, is being considered. The draft Bill submitted by the NCAER would form the basis for a national debate and a consensus on the contents of the new Bill. The States would be sending their detailed comments on this draft Bill, to the Ministry of Power at the earliest.

Private Participation in Mining Sector

*415. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to empower State Governments to approve mining plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mineral Advisory Council has made some recommendations for attracting private sector participation in mining sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) Mineral Concessions are granted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder. Section 5 (2) (b) of the Act, inter-alia, provides that no mining lease shall be granted by the State Government unless it is satisfied that there is a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government or by the State Government, in respect of such category of mines as may be specified by the Central Government, for the development of mineral deposits in the area concerned. Under Rule 22 (4A) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, State Governments have been empowered to approve mining plan of open cast mines (mines other than the under ground mines) in respect of 29 non-metallic or industrial minerals which were notified vide Gazette Notification number GSR 743 (E) dated 25.9.2000, copies of which have already been laid on the Table of the House on 27.11.2000. In respect of all other mines, the power of approving mining plan will continue to be exercised by the Central Government.

2. In the recently held meeting of Mineral Advisory Council, several measures were discussed for attracting private sector participation in the mining sector. Amongst other issues it was deliberated that some kind of time frame may be specified for disposal of applications for mining lease/prosecting licence/reconnaissance permit to ensure the transparency and fairness in the matter of granting mineral concessions. It was also decided to examine/ review the areas already reserved for exploitation by Central/State Public Sector Undertakings and to denotify the areas which are no longer required for public sector exploitation. Keeping in line with the thrust of the New Mineral Policy to encourage private sector initiative, State Governments have been asked to denotify the identified areas reserved under erstwhile Rule 58 of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Many of the States have undertaken the necessary exercise within the general policy frame-work of the respective State Governments.

Study on Transmission Losses

*416. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has recently conducted any study on the transmission losses in rural areas of various States;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to minimize such losses; and

(d) the targets fixed for the next three years by Rural Electrification Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has not conducted any study on the transmission losses in rural areas of various States. However, a statement showing the percentage of T and D losses including both the technical and commercial losses, as assessed by the concerned State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments, for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the entire State including rural areas is enclosed.

(c) In the Common Minimum National Plan for Power announced in December, 1996, the following measures have been suggested:

1. Compulsory metering at sub-stations on all major feeders.

2. Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections. Metering of all connections to agriculture sector exceeding 10 HP should be completed within a period of 2 years. All electric supplies should be metered by 2002 A.D.

3. Compulsory annual energy audit to be ensured in respect of large consumers of more than 100 KVA load.

4. Time of the day metering would be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

In order to reduce the commercial loss which occurs as a result of energy thefts, faulty billing and metering, it was resolved in the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000 that the State/UT Governments would implement the following measures :

a. Energy audit at all levels:

b. 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.

c. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified timeframe.

d. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.

Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), funds will be provided to the State Government for implementing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribution system including installation of Electric metering Systems.

With the implementation of these measures by the SEBs/Power Utilities, it will be possible to reduce both technical as well as commercial losses. Power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing illegal connections have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction. Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb the theft of electricity.

(d) State Governments/State Electricity Boards who own and operate distribution systems, fix the targets for reduction of transmission losses. REC provides financial assistance for System Improvement Schemes sponsored by the State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities for reduction of transmission losses. State Electricity Boards are also being assisted by the REC in strenghtening the LT distribution network and installation of energy meters wherever required.

Statement

Percentage Transformation, Transmission and Distribution losses (including Commercial Losses such as Pilferage ETC.) in SEBS/EDS

Region	SEBs/EDs	95-96	96-97	97-98
1	2	3	4	5
Northern Region	1. Haryana	32.39	32.77	34.04
	2. Himanchal Pradesh	16.09	18.02	20.13
	3. Jammu and Kashmir	47.52	48.27	49.95
	4. Punjab	18.49	19.10	18.94
	5. Rajasthan	29.27	26.28	26.41

1	2	3	4	5
	6. Uttar Pradesh	21.84	24.84	26018
	7. Chandigarh	33.72	21.88	22.38
	8. DVB (Delhi)	48.57	49.08	47.91
Western Region	1. Gujarat	20.08	17.14	21.57
	2. Madhya Pradesh	17.84	19.24	19.58
	3. Maharashtra	16.95	16.55	18.75
	4. D and N Haveli	9.31	8.80	12.90
	5. Goa	26.06	23.50	31.02
	6. Daman and Diu	12.80	8.15	14.69
Southern Region	1. Andhra Pradesh	19.34	33.19	32.14
	2. Karnataka	19.06	18.73	19.31
	3. Kerala	21.12	20.59	18.73
	4. Tamil Nadu	16.19	17.65	17.29
	5. Lakshadweep	17.23	15.11	15.70
	6. Pondicherry	16.54	17.38	13.56
Eastern Region	1. Bihar	15.91	25.31	16.26
	2. Orissa (GRIDCO)	24.17	50.15	50.10
	3. Sikkim	16.47	29.24	22.87
	4. West Bengal	19.26	18.01	19.67
	5. A and N Islands	19.25	19.15	20.59
Northern Eastern	1. Assam	26.91	25.97	27.32
Region	2. Manipur	24.85	22.95	21.09
	3. Meghalaya	12.55	19.75	12.28
	4. Nagaland	35.17	26.81	29.79
	5. Tripura	30.86	30.11	31.11
	6. Arunachal Pradesh	37.12	32.62	34.10
	7. Mizoram	25.18	34.35	46.84
All India Utilities		22.27	24.53	24.79

Source : DMLF Division, Central Electricity Authority (General Review)

Phasing Out of Use of Plastics

*417. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering phasing out the use of plastics to sustain eco -balance;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has launched any scheme to regulate the use of plastics that end up in garbage dumps posing disposal problems; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Outstanding Dues

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

(a) whether there are a number of telephone subscribers who owe crores of rupees to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any legal proceedings have been initiated against them to retrieve the dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The BSNL has a network of 2.46 crore subscribers spread over 22 Telecom Circles. Against a billed figure of Rs. 15.508 crores in a yead, the outstanding dues amount to 15% However, these figures of outstanding dues are inclusive of current bills, which are within the period allowed for payment at the time of computation. Further, these figures represent outstanding dues on a cumulative basis for over ten years. The cumulative outstanding dues as on 31st March for the preceding three years were as follows :–

(In Crores of Rupees)

Year	Amount Billed	Outstanding Dues	Outstanding Dues as % of amount billed
1997-98	11710	1636	14
1998-99	14025	1761	13
1999-2000	15508	2374	15

Circle-wise details of outstanding dues for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Depending upon the merits of each case, legal remedies usually in the form of Lok Adalats, reference to Arbitrators under section 7-B of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Courts of Law are availed to retrieve the dues.

Statement

Comparative Statement of Outstandings during the Last 3 Years

Sr. No.	Name of the unit	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Rs. in thousands)
1	2	3	4	5
1	A and N	26146	22621	23400
2	Andhra Pradesh	1255325	1499349	2245655
3	Assam	623377	609042	743684
4	Bihar	1410872	1441551	1666427
5	Gujarat	938936	919102	1662999
6	Haryana	358945	472122	525860
7	Himachal Pradesh	57209	57449	92104
8	Jammu & Kashmir	336305	347280	405635
9	Karnataka	1525588	1299332	1804693
10	Kerala	375530	326893	464547
11	Madhya Pradesh	559333	664191	1089835
12	Maharashtra	1314630	1510542	2315308
13	N. E.	469369	702048	1036330
14	Orissa	346561	394288	407862
15	Punjab	596298	563537	957167
16	Rajasthan	228907	271781	274121
17	Tamil-Nadu	545790	670294	821980
18	U. P. (East)	1647870	1908252	2562227
19	U. P. (West)	1076326	1148256	1218242
20	West Bengal	812556	906180	961930
21	Calcutta	1387649	1336343	1783272
22	Chennai	469729	536420	680769
	Total BSNL	16363251	17606873	23744047

Survey on Mineral Reserves

*419. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any systematic study on the available natural resources of minerals in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu.

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

(c) the import and export details of the same in the last three years, in both quantity and value for each mineral, and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the production of these minerals in India and also

for the conservation of the available mineral resources in india.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proved reserves of important minerals in the mineral rich States as a result of survey are given in the enclosed Statement-I Geological Survey of India has carried out systematic prospecting and exploration work in Tamil Nadu. Significant minerals prospected are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Information on import and export of minerals is not maintained state-wise.

(d) The Government has taken long term measures for development of the mines and minerals sector. The National Mineral Policy, 1993 for the non fuel sector was framed. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 and also recently in December, 1999 in order to make the mining sector more investor friendly and progressive. The recent amendments have introduced the stage of reconnaissance operations in line with global practice, delegated more powers to the State Governments for grant, renewal and transfer of mining leases for cutting down procedural delay, empowered the states to prevent and take action against illegal mining etc.

The conservation and systematic development of minerals and also for environmental protection, Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988 have been framed under Section 18 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. 1957 MCDR is monitored by the Central Government through Indian Bureau of Mines. Compliance of the mining plan stipulation is being checked from time to time through inspection by IBM officers. In case of irregularities, the same are pointed out by Indian Bureau of Mines under the appropriate provisions of mineral Conservation and Development Rules for Compliance/rectification.

Statement-I

PROVED RESERVES

Proved reserves of the important Minerals in Mineral Rich States

State	Iron ore Hematite Magnetite (M.M.T.)	Bauxite (000 tonnes)	Copper Ores (000 tonnes)	Gold Ores (tonnes)	Silver Ores (tonnes)	Coal (M.T.)
Andhra Pradesh		169848	338	438446	1161750	6624.83
Bihar*	18.25	15398	46584	7200		33532.00
Goa	404 + 64	33935				
Gujarat		43685	2225			
Karnataka	665 + 1427	1801	963	3270984	2283276	
Kerala				462280		
Madhya Pradesh*	771	52132	91498			10762.37
Maharashtra	88	62267				3633.30
Orissa	1349	380961			1274150	7097.88
Rajasthan			22275		74369900	
Tamil Nadu	-	1236	-	-	-	-
West Bengal						10127.19

*Undivided

The mining of the proved reserves is subject to the availability of land besides other factors like clearance from environmental angle and consideration if the area is lying within the forest region.

Statement-II

Significant Minerals Prospected in Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Mineral	Area
1.	Molybdenum	1. Karadikuttam, Madurai district 2. Alangayam, Vellore district 3. Harur-Uttangarai belt, Marudupatti, Dharmapuri district
2.	Bauxite	Salem, Madurai and Nilagiri district
3.	Limestone (Sedimentary)	Ariyalur, Tiruchirapalli district
4.	Iron Ore	1. Kanjamalai area. Salem district 2. Coimbatore Chenglepet. Kanyakumari. Madurai, Nilgiri, North Arcot,South Arcot, Ramanathapuram and Tiruchirapalli districts
5.	Lignite	South Arcot, Tiruchirapalli and Pondicherry districts
6.	Magnesite	Salem, North Arcot, Coimbatore, South Arcot and Tiruchirapalli districts
7.	Gold	Nilagiri, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Salem and Kanyakumari districts
8.	Gypsum	Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram. South Arcot, Tiruchirapalli and Tirunelveli Districts.
9.	Ilmenite, garnet and monazite sands	Kanyakumari, North Arcot, Pondicherry, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli
10.	Copper	South Arcot, Madurai, Chenglepet, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari, Tiruchirapalli and Tirunelveli
11:	Dimension stone/Granite	Madurai, Dharmapuri. Villupuram, Tiruchirapalli, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Pudukottai, Salem, Vellore, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Erode districts.

Source : Geological Suvey of india.

[Translation]

Target for Power Generation

*420. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether difficulty is being experienced to achieve the target of power generation upto 10,000 megawatt by the year 2000 due to shortage of funds and helplessness of the financial institutions to provide long term loans;

(b) if so, the extent to which the power generation is likely to came down;

(c) the total quantum of power generated under the public and private sector during the Ninth Plan as compared to the Eighth Five Year Plan, Sector-wise; and

(d) the remedial steps being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) The likely addition during the Ninth Plan period would be around 21,564 MW. The break-up is as follows :-

(IN MW)

	Central Sector	Private Sector	State Sector	Total
Thermal	3294	6691.8	4796.5	14782.3
Hydro	1040	316.0	4546.2	5902.2
Nuclear	880	0.0	0.0	880
Total	5214	7007.8	9342.7	21564.5

During the Eighth Plan, A capacity addition of 16422.60 MW was achieved. The breakup was as follows :-

(IN MW)

	Central Sector	Private Sector	State Sector	Total
Thermal	6252	1262.4	6040.5	13554.9
Hydro	1465	168	794.7	2427.7
Nuclear	440	Nil	Nil	440
Total	8157	1430.4	6835.2	16422.6

The following steps are being taken to ensure that the maximum amount of capacity is realized during the Ninth Plan period :-

1. Ensure full funding of on-going hydro projects.
2. Quarterly review by Empowered Committee chaired by Secretary, Power.
3. Setting up of Task Fores to monitor all ongoing thermal, hydro and private power projects.
4. Constitution of the Crisis Resolution Group for solving the 'last mile' problems of private sector projects.
5. Evolving an alternative securitisation package in view of the low escrow ability of SEBs.

Some power projects could not take off on account of funding constraints and inadequate security mechanism which prevented the financial closure of the projects. The poor financial position of the State power utilities has also contributed to slower investments by power producers.

[English]

Emergency Telephone Number

4324.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware that the emergency service numbers are providing wrong information by stating that "this number is not available" or "this number is temporarily out of order" as appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran dated November 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by the MTNL to tone up its working provide better and satisfactory service to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The news appeared in the 'Danik Jagran' dated November 12, 2000 pertains to Noida which is under Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). Presently three emergency services are working in Noida as follows :-

Code	Service
100	Police
101	Fire
102	Hospital

These nos. were tested and no such announcement as, "This number is not available" or "This number is temporarily out of order" has been observed.

Other emergency services as mentioned in MTNL Directory are :

Code	Services
1097	AIDS Information
1098	Child Care
1099	Accident and Trauma

These codes are not opened in Noida because concerned agencies like hospitals, Non Government Organisations etc. has not approached for the same. It may be possible that subscribers dial these codes and get the announcement "This number is not available".

Emergency services are being monitored by testing regularly.

Sanchar Haat

4325.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has set up 'Sanchar Haat' at different places of the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) MTNL has set up Sanchar Haat in Delhi only.

(b) Details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Location Details of Sanchar Haats

1. Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600111666
2. Bhikaji Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600114444
3. Delhi Cantt. Telephone Exchange, Delhi Cantt.
   Toll Free No. 1600111551
4. C-28, Naraina, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600111888
5. D-29, Flatted Factory Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600111777
6. AGCR Enclave, Karkardooma, Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600112200
7. S-5, Green Park, Main Market, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600114455
8. Sunder Vihar, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600111555
9. Janakpuri Telephone Exchange, New Delhi.
   Toll Free No. 1600113366
10. Shalimar Bagh, LSC, B Block, Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111122
11. Badli Telephone Exchange, Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111133
12. Parliament. Parliament Annexe, New Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600114477
13. Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Pkt.-V, Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111169
14. Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111168
15. Jheel, Geeta Colony, Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111170
16. Jor Bagh, New Delhi.
    Toll Free No. 1600111166

Sl.No.	Services	Regn. Amount
1	2	3
1.	NEW TELEPHONECONNECTION	
	a) Non-OYT (Genl. Spl. SS category)	Rs. 2,000)/-
	b) OYT (Genl. Spl.)	Rs. 15,000/-
	c) Tatkal	Rs. 30,000/-
2.	ISDN SERVICE	
	Basic Rate Access (BRA)	Rs. 16,500 (Including security deposit for NT-I)
	Primary Rate Access (PRA)	Rs. 60,000 (including initial deposit)
3.	INTELLIGENT NETWORK SERVICES	
	a) Free Phone Services	Rs. 17,000-/ (including security deposit for an one month rental)
	b) Premium Rate Service	Rs. 4,600-/ (including 2 months advance rental)
4.	INTERNET SERVICES TCP/IOP DIAL UP	
	• PSTN Dial Up	Rs. 500/-for 100 hrs. usage
	• ISDN Dial Up	Rs. 1000/-per 100 hrs. for 64 Kbps
5.	Voluntary Deposit Scheme	Rs. 1500/- Minimum deposit and in multiple of Rs. 500/-

1	2	3
6.	Telecardiology Charges	Rs. 50/-
7.	On sale	
	Telephone Directory on CD-ROM (corrected upto 31.10.99)	Rs. 100/-
	MTNL CARD (Virtual Calling Card)	Rs. 210/-, 525/-, 1050/- and Rs. 2100/-

Customer can collect detailed brochures on above services and non-priced forms free of cost.

Working time of Sanchar Haats is 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (excluding lunch time 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.)

Cellular Service of MTNL in Mumbai

4326.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Cellular Service in Mumbai has faced competition from Hughes Telecom Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses suffered by MTNL as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) M/s Hughes Telecom Company does not have licence to operate Cellular services in MTNL, Mumbai at present.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Power Reforms for Implementation of Power Project

4327.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has ruled out revoking all the provisions in the Indian Electricity Act which empowers the Government to amend or revoke any license in public interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has also expressed resentment over the demand of certain promoters of existing projects that show-case power projects should not be allowed to hinder their path;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other reforms being considered by the Government to give more powers to the private power sector for immediate implementation of the projects ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) It has emerged in the meetings of the Crisis Resolution Group (CRG) set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Power to resolve the 'last mile' problems of private power projects that the main factor responsible for the poor private sector investments in the power sector is the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEB) and the non-availability of adequate escrow cover as security. As such an alternative security mechanism is being evolved under which that IPP financing would be linked with the progress of reforms undertaken by the State Governments. Accordingly, the IFLs comprising of IDBI, IFCI, IDFC and ICICI have prepared a note indicating road maps and milestones for reforms which will run concurrently with IPP financing.

[Translation]

Assistance for Agriculture

4328.SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq has agreed to extend assistance to India in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Iraq has not entered into any agreement to extend assistance to India in the field of agriculture.

Assistance to Agriculture Universities

4329.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the criterion adopted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in providing grant-in-aid to the various Agricultural Universities; and

(b) the details of the grant-in-aid provided to the Agricultural Universities in each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The allocation of grant to the universities depends upon the strength of the educational programme, number of teaching institutions, number of programmes and the quality output of the graduates. Further those States, which have single Agriculture University gets higher plan allocation to the tune of around 4.5 to 5.0 crores. The States which are having more than two Agriculture Universities get around 3.0 to 3.5 crores during IX Plan.

(b) State-wise information is attached as Statement.

Statement

Amount released during last 3 years in respect of the Scheme "Development and Strengthening of State Agricultural Universities"

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	100.00	100.00	–
2.	Andhra Pradesh	90.00	90.00	69.48
3.	Bihar	182.00	153.33	82.54
4.	West Bengal	215.00	189.25	80.00
5.	Uttar Pradesh	268.00	286.51	144.98
6.	Gujarat	100.00	94.50	59.80
7.	Haryana	96.00	95.00	51.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	172.00	145.00	73.58
9.	Madhya Pradesh	250.00	150.00	68.00
10.	Kerala	95.00	60.00	55.00
11.	Maharashtra	321.00	305.00	193.18
12.	Orissa	100.00	170.00	55.00
13.	Punjab	100.00	96.00	60.00
14.	Rajasthan	140.00	190.00	128.00
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	110.00	425.00	56.20
16.	Tamil Nadu	150.00	120.00	80.00
17.	Karnataka	204.17	159.34	130.37

[English]

Impact of Shortage of Power on Industrial Production

4330. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of industries have been hit and their production fallen due to shortage of power in the country, particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of such States which have been badly hit as a result thereof;

(c) the extent to which production has been affected there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) As per quick estimates from the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the industrial production growth during the period April-August 1999 and during April-August 2000 was 6.2% and 5.3% respectively. However, the electricity generation alone does not affect the rate of industrial production. There are many other factors influencing the rates of industrial production like liberalized imports; economic status of the masses; productivity, quality and competition of production process, agricultural production, labour problems, transportation cost, availability of raw inputs and demand and supply conditions within the country and outside in the World etc. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State in primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board. The distribution of power in a State to various sectors/areas, including different categories of consumers, is decided by the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board/ Power Utility keeping in view the priorities as well as demand and availability of power. In Madhya Pradesh, restriction from 1800 hrs. to 2200 hrs. on power supply to HT industries was in force during the month of November, 2000. State-wise details of actual power supply position in the country including Madhya Pradesh for November, 2000 and April-November, 2000 is given in the attached Statement.

(d) The steps taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power are given as under :-

Short-term Measures

(i) Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network.

(ii) Renovation and Modernisation and life extension of old units of thermal and hydro power stations to maximize generation.

(iii) Implementation of short-gestation power projects.

(iv) Demand side Management.

(v) Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses by implementing various measures.

Long-term Measures

(i) Promoting private sector participation in Power Sector.

(ii) Formulation of Hydel Policy in August, 1998 for exploitation of hydro-potential at a faster pace, and promoting small and mini hydel projects.

(iii) Strengthening of transmission and distribution system and improving reliability of the system.

(iv) Reforms and restructuring of the power sector.

(v) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

(vi) Capacity addition programme of about one lakh MW by 2012.

Statement

Actual Power Supply Position

(All figures in MU net)

Region/State/ System	Nov, 2000				April-Nov, 2000			
	Require-ment	Availability	Shortage	%	Require-ment	Availability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Region								
Chandigarh	72	72	0	0	753	752	1	0.1
Delhi	1310	1268	42	3.2	12955	12469	486	3.8
Haryana	1315	1280	35	2.7	11655	11506	149	1.3
H.P.	258	258	0	0	2060	2039	21	1
J & K	535	481	54	10.1	4015	3588	427	10.6
Punjab	1755	1752	3	0.2	19810	19496	314	1.6
Rajasthan	2170	2162	8	0.4	16125	15762	363	2.3
U.P.	3810	3448	362	9.5	30390	26355	4035	13.3
N.R.	11225	10721	504	4.5	97763	91967	5796	5.9
Western Region								
Gujarat	4728	4196	532	11.3	35056	32089	2967	8.5
M.P.	3779	3115	664	17.6	25040	22597	2443	9.8
Maharashtra	7362	6183	1179	16	52560	46470	6090	11.6
Goa	152	135	17	11.2	1188	1036	152	12.8
W.R	16021	13629	2392	14.9	113844	102192	11652	10.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Southern Region								
A.P.	4028	3582	446	11.1	31103	28723	2380	707
Karnataka	2599	2349	250	9.6	18771	16891	1880	10
Kerala	1155	1066	89	7.7	8888	8252	636	7.2
Tamil Nadu	3534	3209	325	9.2	27833	25565	2268	8.1
S.R.	11316	10206	1110	9.8	86595	79431	7164	8.3
Eastern Region								
Bihar	787	733	54	6.9	5989	5647	342	5.7
D.V.C.	680	691	-11	-1.6	5674	5800	-126	-2.2
Orissa	992	1013	-21	-2.1	7702	8032	-330	-4.3
West Bengal	1444	1462	-18	-1.2	12553	12748	-195	-1.6
E.R.	3903	3899	4	0.1	31918	32226	-308	-1
Region/State	**Nov.-2000**						**April-Nov.-2000-System**	
Arunachal Pd.	10.4	10.8	-0.8	84.3	86.4	-2.1	-2.5	
Assam	259.5	293.7	-34	-13	2038.3	2219.5	-181	-8.9
Manipur	40.9	40.2	0.7	1.7	298	297.3	0.7	0.2
Meghalaya	46.9	49.7	-2.8	-6	346.7	384.4	-37.7	-10.9
Mizoram	21	22.1	-1.1	-5.2	155	161	-6	-3.9
Nagaland	19.1	20.1	-1	-5.2	142.2	147.9	-5.7	-4
Tripura	48.9	48.8	0.1	2.2	372.5	394.7	-22.2	-6
N.E.R	446.7	485.4	-39	-8.7	3437	3691.2	-254	-7.4
All India	42912	38940	3972	9.3	333559	309507	24052	7.2

Fire in Post Office in Chennai

4331. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent fire accident in Chennai General Post Office has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered thereby;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the guilty persons ?

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

(b) The total loss suffered is assessed as Rs. 80.78 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The enquiries are continuing and action would be based on the findings.

Mineral Based Units in Orissa

4332. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote mineral based units in Orissa particularly in Keonjhar district of the State;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the plan drawn up to set up new mineral based units in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts of the State during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) :(a) Orissa is a mineral rich State and a number of important minerals such as bauxite, chromite, dolomite, fire clay, graphite, limestone, silver ore, vanadium ore, etc. are found in the State. There is, therefore, a vast scope for setting up of mineral based units in Orissa.

(b) Under the liberalised industrial policy followed since 1991, the enterpreneurs can freely set up any mineral based industry. As per available information, there are mineral based industries including aluminium, cement, ceramic, refractory, sponge iron, etc. in the State of Orissa. The State Government has stated that no proposal for setting up new mineral based industries have been received either from the public sector or from the private sector in Keonjhar district during last three years.

(c) The Ninth plan proposal do not involve disaggregated plans for setting up any mineral based industry in the districts of any State.

Liberalisation of Telecom Sector

4333.SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the liberalization of Telecom sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of measures for liberalization of telecom sector, some of these are :-

1. National Long Distance has been opened for private participation.
2. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been allowed to set-up their own Submarine cable landing stations for international gateway for Internet.
3. ISPs have been permitted to take bandwidth directly from the foreign satellites that are co-ordinated over India, for setting up of international gateways for Internet.
4. 74% foreign equity is permitted in companies owning and operating Commercial satellite.
5. Opening of International Long Distance voice has been pre-poned to April 2002 from 2004.
6. FDI up to 100%, subject to certain conditions has been permitted in respect of the following areas in telecom sector :-
   (i) ISPs not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables);
   (ii) Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I);
   (iii) Electronic Mail; and
   (iv) Voice Mail.
7. Telecom services have been separated from the policy and licensing functions, and corporatised to from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL).
8. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI Act) has been amended to strengthen the regulator and constitute a Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

[Translation]

Target for Power Generation

4334.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the hydroelectric and thermal power in megawatts targeted to be generated in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allocated to achieve the targets;

(c) if not, whether the Government have sought foreign assistance for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether discussions have been started with foreign agencies;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to encourage the captive power plants in the country for the betterment of industrial sector; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Planning Commission had envisaged a capacity addition target of 40, 245.2 MW during the 9th Plan. This comprises

of 9819.7 MW from Hydro, 29545.5 MW from Thermal and 880 MW from Nuclear.

(b) The Planning Commission has allocated an outlay of Rs. 1,24,526.41 crore for power sector during 9th Plan. This comprises Rs. 53,299.41 crore in Central Sector and the balance for the State Sector.

(c) to (f) With the objective of mobilizing additional resources for capacity addition, the legislation governing the electricity sector was amended in 1991 allowing private investors to set up power projects in the country. The Government also enacted the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 to allow for inflow of private capital in the transmission sector. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has given techno-economic clearance to 57 private power projects and out of these, 50 have foreign equity participation. In addition, some projects are also assisted by multilateral/bilateral agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JBIC.

(g) and (h) The State Governments have been requested to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

Pollution in Nainital Lake

4335.SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the water of Nainital Lake in Uttaranchal is becoming injurious to health;

(b) if so, whether the government have provided or propose to provide any assistance to the State Government for cleansing the lake; and

(c) if so, the details of works undertaken so far ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. The water of Nainital Lake is not injurious to health. It is fit for drinking purposes after conventional treatment and disinfection.

(b) and (c) Nainital lake is one of the ten identified urban lakes included for conservation and management under National Lake Conservation Plan. The National Lake Conservation Plan has not yet been approved by the Government.

Emerald Mining in Rajasthan

4336.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given approval to any British Company for mining of emerald in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the places in Rajasthan where such mining work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is conducting survey for emerald in Rajasthan and has reported that in geological mapping and petrological studies carried out, several ultramafic bodies intruded by Pegmatite and Tourmaline veins with possible development of emerald mineralisation have been identified between Kaliguman and Gaongurha areas in Rajsamand and Ajmer Districts. The survey is in progress which is a continuous process.

[English]

Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

4337.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether expenditure on Corpus Fund and the subsidy to be given to small and marginal farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana is being shared by the Union Government and State Government in proportionate ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government have submitted any proposal to make changes in the ratio of share;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), the financial liability on account of contribution to the corpus Fund and subsidy on premium payable by the small and marginal farmers is to be shared by the Central Government and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis.

(c) to (e) In the Conference of State Ministers for Agriculture held at New Delhi on 14th September, 2000, most of the States including State of Maharashtra suggested sharing of financial liabilities under NAIS in the ratio of 2 : 1 (instead of 1: 1) between the Central Government and State Governments. The suggestions made by the States are under examination.

Telephone Connections in Post Offices

4338.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided in all the post offices in West Bengal;

(b) if not, the number of post offices yet to be provided with this facility; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be made available in all the post offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) 618 Post Offices in West Bengal do not have telephone facility.

(c) Telephone connections to Post Offices not having the same are provided by Telecom authorities subject to the availability of resources.

Post Offices in Chandigarh

4339.SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices functioning at present in Chandigarh, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices in newly developed sectors in Chandigarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Category-wise Post Offices functioning at present in Chandigarh are as under :-

Head Post Office	–	1
Deptl. Sub Post Offices	–	43
Extra Deptl. Sub Post Offices	–	2
Branch Post Offices	–	7

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is proposal to open a Departmental Sub Post Office in Sector-30, Chandigarh.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

4340.SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the Crop Insurance Schemes for farmers of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced by the Government with effect from Rabi 1999-2000 Season. The scheme is optional and is available to all the States/UTs . Presently, 18 States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh are implementing the scheme. State Government of Madhya Pradesh has notified crops and areas for Rabi 2000-01 season in the entire State prior to the formation of the new State of Chhattisgarh. The General Insurance Corporation of India, which is the Implementing Agency of the scheme has taken up the matter of financial liabilities for Rabi 2000-01 with both the States. As far as future seasons are concerned, the State Government of Chhttisgarh would have to take a decision regarding the implementation of the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of Post Offices

4341.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation for opening of new Post Offices and upgradation of existing Post Offices in the country;

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

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

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

(b) The details of representations received so far, for opening of Branch Post Offices and Upgradation of existing Branch Post Offices into Sub-Post Offices is given in the

Statement-I. The details of upgradation of Extra Departmental Sub-Post Offices (EDSOs) and Sub-Post Offices into Head Post Offices is given in Statement-II.

(c) The representations are processed and Post Offices are opened or upgraded, when justified as per departmental norms. The opening of a Branch Post Office and Sub-Post Office is further subject to sanctioning of the required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance.

Statement-I

Opening of Branch Post Offices and Upgradation of existing Branch Post Offices into Sub-Post Offices

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of representations received for opening of EDBOs	Number of proposals received for upgradation of FDBOs into DSOs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	Nil
2.	Assam	18	Nil
3.	Bihar	963	Nil
4.	Delhi	30	Nil
5.	Gujarat	6	1
6.	Haryana	13	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	13	Nil
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	Nil
9.	Karnataka	3	Nil
10.	Kerala	17	NIl
11.	Madhya Pradesh	57	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	35	1
13.	North-East	11	Nil
14.	Orissa	43	Nil
15.	Punjab	6	Nil
16.	Rajasthan	31	Nil
17.	Tamil Nadu	6	Nil
18.	Uttar Pradesh	263	Nil
19.	West Bengal	72	Nil
	Total	1608	3

EDBO : Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

DSO : Departmental Sub Office.

Statement-II

Upgradation of Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices into Head Post Offices

1.	Bihar	1. Kaimur SO into HPO
		2. Dalsingsarai SO into HPO
		3. Barh SO into HPO
		4. Akma SO into HPO
		5. Jamui SO into HPO
		6. Sahibganj SO into HPO
		7. Rosra SO into HPO
		8. Godda SO into HPO
		9. Gaunaha ED SO into HPO
		10. Alinagar SO into HPO
2.	Haryana	1. Panchkula SO into HPO
		2. Yamunanagar SO into HPO
		3. Kaithal SO into HPO
		4. Rewari SO into HPO
		5. Fatehabad SO into HPO
		6. Jhajjar SO into HPO
3.	Kerala	1. Kozhencherry SO into HPO
4.	Maharashtra	1. Kalna SO into HPO
		2. Panwal SO into HPO
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Bhatapara SO into HPO
		2. Dhantari SO into HPO
6.	North-East	1. Arundhatinagar SO into HPO
		2. Agartala HSG-I HPO into Gazetted HPO
		3. Mokokchung SO into HPO
		4. Ambassa SO into HPO
7.	Orissa	1. Rourkela-12 SO into HPO
		2. Talchar SO into HPO
		3. Nimapara SO into HPO
		4. Pipli SO into HPO
8.	Tamil Nadu	1. Thukalay HSG-II HPO into HSG. I HPO

9.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Noida SO into HPO
		2. Rudraprayag SO into HPO
		3. Pithoragarh SO into HPO
		4. Udhamsinghnagar SO into HPO
		5. Pauri Garhwal SO into HPO
		6. Bhagesar SO into HPO
		7. Hathras SO into HPO
		8. Mahoba SO into HPO
		9. Tetari Bazar into HPO
10.	West Bengal	1. Bifurcation of Burdwan HPO
		2. Hirapura SO into HPO

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Pali

4342.SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for installation of STD/ISD/PCO booths in Pali district of Rajasthan during the last two years;

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to clear the pending applications; and

(c) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths proposed to be set up in district during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, number of pending applications is nil.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No target is fixed for 2000-2001 as STD/ISD/PCO in Pali Distict are being provided on demand subject to technical feasibility.

Purchase of Farmers Produce at Support Price through Purchase Centres

4343.SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of delegation from Karnataka met him recently and urged to sanction adequate funds to the State for buying farmers produce at the support price through purchase centres; and

(b) the reaction of the Union Government on such demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) A team of delegation from the State of Karnataka met the Agriculture Minister. The Government have relaxed the specifications for procurement of maize as under :-

(i) Damaged grains upto a maximum limit of 2 per cent instead of 1.5 per cent provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 1.5 per cent.

(ii) Slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains upto a maximum limit of 6 per cent instead of 4.5 per cent as provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 4.5 per cent.

Recovery of Dues from STD/ISD/ PCO Booth Allottees

4344.SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD/ISD/PCO booth allottees do not remit the monthly bill regularly thereby the Government incur huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and losses suffered as a result thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against such defaulters and the measures taken to recover the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

STD Facility in Marathwada

4345.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide STD facilities in Marathwada region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereofor ?

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

(b) Status of STD facility, district-wise in terms of number of telephone exchanges in Marathwada region is given below :-

Sl. No.	District	Total No. of Exchange	With STD Facility	Without STD Facility
1	Aurangabad	126	64	62
2	Beed	90	30	60
3	Jalna	67	42	25
4	Latur	109	53	56
5	Nanded	101	61	40
6	Osmanabad	75	55	20
7	Parbhani + Hingoli	82	55	27
	Total	650	360	290

(c) Out of 650 exchanges, 360 exchanges are having STD facility at present. The balance exchanges are planned to be provided with STD facility by March. 2002 in a phased manner subject to availability of fund and equipment.

Cost of Power

4346. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of power in Assam and other States in the North Eastern region per unit has already gone up to Rs. 4 per unit;

(b) if so, the details of the prevailing power tariffs in domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial sectors in Assam and other NE States in comparative to other States;

(c) whether it is proposed to promote captive power plants by allowing sale of surplus power in the context of rising tariff and cost of production;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing details of cost of power in NE States including Assam and in other States is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995 has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

Statement

Details of Cost of Power in North Eastern States including Assam and in Other States

Sl. No.	Number of States	Tariff Effective from	Domestic 2 KW (110 Kwh/ Month	Domestic 5KW (400 Kwh/ Month	Commercial 5KW (220 Kwh/ Month	Commercial 10 Kwh/ Month	Agriculture 5HP 15% LF (408kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 10HP 20% LF (1089 kwh/ Month	Small Industry (10 HP, 25 & LF (14600 Kwh/ Month	Medium Industry (50 Kw, 40% LF, (14600 Kwh/ Month	Large Industry (1000 KW, 65 & LF (474500 Kwh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Prad.	1.1.99	136.00	298.50	436.00	502.00	37.45	35.92	356.50	378.36	409.59
2.	Assam	1.9.98	183.20	235.92	521.40	445.59	99.50	144.18	239.26 U 139.76 R	276.60	307.79
3.	Arunchal Prd.	1.3.93	95.00	135.00	210.00	235.00	-	-	185.00	195.00	250.00
4.	Bihar	1.7.93	139.00 U 46.00 R	150.75	451.00	297.80	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99
5.	Delhi	1.4.97	105.00	203.44	572.88	362.88	52.50	52.50	362.88	362.88	401.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6.	Gujarat	22.10.96	265.25 U 249.69 R	386.72 356.27	482.14	496.99	51.06	61.22	318.55	347.12	437.86
7.	Goa	1.3.99	95.00	143.75	316.25	389.75	70.00	70.00	225.00	286.85	337.79
8.	Haryana	15.6.98	270.00	304.50	402.00	402.00	55.15	50.00	402.00	402.00	402.00
9.	Himachal Prd.	1.9.98	69.75	93.81	225.00	272.00	65.00	65.00	165.00	215.00	245.00
10.	Karnataka	1.11.98	197.50	261.25	601.25	575.75	30.64	22.96	271.16	335.45	424.55
11.	J & K	14.99	292.80	244.00	489.22	311.10	61.00	61.00	164.70	164.70	164.70
12.	Kerala	1.2.98	150.00	286.00	528.77	487.63	66.43	64.94	177.57	171.64	182.97
13.	Madhya Prd.	1.3.99	92.20	194.73	413.71	473.32	73.53	55.10	227.60	371.57	409.96
14.	Maharashtra	1.9.98	176.70	393.72	411.00	622.20	91.91	107.44	295.29	438.45	429.36
15.	Meghalaya	1.9.96	85.00	103.75	176.00	184.00	56.00	56.00	149.49	168.43	156.07
16.	Manipur	18.3.2000	152.20	204.70	252.20	252.20	152.20	152.20	162.20	222.20	213.18
17.	Mizoram	1.3.2000	115.00	200.00	195.00	275.00	55.00	55.00	242.65	200.00	200.00
18.	Nagaland	1.12.95	200.00	275.00	300.00	350.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00
19.	Orissa (Gridco)	1.12.98	115.00	190.00	320.00	396.00	85.00	85.00	245.00	290.00	325.02
20.	Punjab	29.7.98	172.80	214.95	334.00	334.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	258.00	290.00
21.	Rajasthan	1.6.97	132.50	158.88	312.00	340.00	72.00	57.86	276.00	316.00	337.00
22.	Sikkim	1.5.99	125.00 U 90.00 R	177.50 131.25	257.50	267.50	195.00	197.04	201.63	135.12	149.44
23.	Tamil Nadu	7.1.2000	117.00	216.25			25.53	19.13	234.53		
24.	Tripura	1.4.99	269.00	192.50	605.00	264.00	120.00	120.00	140.00	190.00	–
25.	Uttar Pradesh	25.1.99	229.00 U 60.00 R	214.00	821.50	424.00	52.70	38.11	379.57		
	Non Con-tinuous Industry									407.36	409.99
	Continuous Industry									416.95	436.19
26.	West Bengal	26.1.99	181.25 U 168.81 R	339.44 31.33	362.18 U 349.92 R	477.50 U 460.63 R	54.66	123.00	336.56 U 313.57 R	407.46	377.48

U – Urban R – Rural

[Translation]

Establishment Expenditure of Agricultural Universities

4347.SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of effecting a cut in the establishment expenditure of agricultural universities is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the vacant posts are likely to be abolished;

(c) whether a number of departments in the Universities are likely to be merged;

(d) whether the land belonging to the universities is likely to be given to the farmers on lease;

(e) if so, whether the grants to the agricultural universities is to be stopped so as to give them financial autonomy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Universities are not under the control of Central Government except one Central Agricultural University at Imphal where there is no such proposal.

(b) to (d) Agricultural education is a state subject, creation or abolishment of posts, merging or reorientation of departments, utilization of land for revenue generation etc. are the prerogative of the university Governance or State Government policies.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Central grant-in-aid to the Universities is provided to cater to the specific needs of educational programmes and students welfare and no way related to financial autonomy.

[English]

Post Office in Sarita Vihar

4348. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Post office in Sarita Vihar in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which the post office is likely to be made operationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) A Post Office with the name Sarita Vihar is already functioning in an area adjoining F Block in Sarita Vihar.

(b) and (c) No reply called for in view of (a) above.

On Going Project in Bihar

4349. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going projects being financed from Central Road Fund in Bihar; and

(b) the details of estimated cost, fund released and used till date on each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) There are three on going projects being financed from Central Road Fund in the State of Bihar. Details of sanctioned cost and expenditure for these three Projects is given in the enclosed Statement. A sum of Rs. 373.31 lakhs has been released to the State of Bihar from 1990-91 to 1999-2000. A further sum of Rs. 856 lakhs has been released in November 2000 for schemes to be taken up under Central Road Fund.

Statement

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Sanctioned Cost/Date of sanction	Central Assistance	Expenditure upto March/ 2000	Remarks
1.	Improvement of Brahmpur-Kiran sarai Road	288.30 22.5.1989	156.82	340.55	Apart from the Contral assistance State has to bear the reamining Cost.
2.	H.L. bridge including approach over river Burhi Gandak near Magardihi ghat Samastipur-Darbhanga Road	220.00 23.1.1992	219.17	220.01	
3.	W/S of Chandi Soh Sarai Road 20 Kms. length in Nalanda District.	400.00 19.5.2000	400.00	Nil	

[Translation]

Bagasse Based Power Plants

4350. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up bagasse based power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to decrease the cost of power generation; and

(d) the names of States where such power plants are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A total surplus power capacity of 210 MW has been installed through 34 bagasse based co-generation projects in five States. A further capacity of 263 MW is under implementation.

(c) The average cost of generation of power from bagasse based co-generation projects varies from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.75/kwh depending upon various technical, financial and operating parameters. This cost already compares favourably with cost of power generation from other conventional sources.

(d) Bagasse based co-generation projects are under implementation in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttrar Pradesh.

Training Centre for Pisciculture

4351. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any training centre for increasing pisciculture in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Training Centres have been sanctioned by the Government of India under various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes for imparting practical training and increasing pisciculture in the rural areas. Details of training Centres sanctioned for establishment/upgradation is provided in the attached Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise List of Training Centres Sanctioned for Establishment/upgradation by various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Freshwater Aquaculture	Brackish Water Aquaculture	Fisheries Training and Extension	World Bank Assisted Project	ICAR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	3	–	–	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	1	–	–	1
3.	Assam	1	–	–	–	–	1
4.	Bihar	–	–	2	–	–	2
5.	Goa	–	1	1	–	–	2
6.	Gujarat	–	1	2	–	–	3
7.	Haryana	1	–	1	–	–	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	–	3	–	–	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	–	3	–	–	4
10.	Karnataka	1	1	5	–	–	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kerala	1	1	1	–	1	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	–	3	–	–	4
13.	Maharashtra	1	1	–	–	1	3
14.	Manipur	1	–	2	–	–	3
15.	Meghalaya	1	–	2	–	–	3
16.	Mizoram	1	–	1	–	–	2
17.	Nagaland	1	–	2	–	–	3
18.	Orissa	1	1	2	1	1	6
19.	Punjab	1	–	2	–	–	3
20.	Rajashtan	1	–	–	–	–	1
21.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–	–	–
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	2	–	1	5
23.	Tripura	1	–	2	–	–	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	–	2	–	–	3
25.	Uttaranchal	–	–	–	–	1	1
26.	West Bengal	1	1	2	1	–	5
27.	A and N Islands	–	–	1	–	–	1
28.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–	–	–
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–
30.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	–	–
31.	Delhi	–	–	–	–	–	–
32.	Lakshadweep	–	–	–	–	–	–
33.	Pondicharry	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	20	9	45	2	5	81

Telephone Advisory Committee

4352.SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) have been constituted in Solapur and Usmanabad district of Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the nominations of TAC members has been done as per the laid down rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telephone Advisory Committees for Solapur and Usmanabad districts of Maharashtra have been constituted up to 31st July, 2002 and 30th April 2002 respectively. There are thirty (30) members in Solapur TAC and thirteen (13) members in Usmanabad TAC. The Solapur TAC is headed by General Manager, Solapur Telecom District where as Usmanabad TAC is headed by the Telecom District Manager, Usmanabad Telecom District.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Summary of rules on Telephone Advisory Committee is given in the attached Statement.

(e) Does Not arise.

Statement

Summary of Rules Regarding Telephone/ Telecom Advisory Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

Telephone/Telecom Advisory Committees are constituted by executive orders one for each Telecom Circle/Telephone District/Union Territory.

2. COMPOSITION OF TACS

A TAC is constituted taking into account different types of users of telephone service by giving proper representation of persons representing them. The Categories/Professions represented in the TAC are indicated below :–

1. Members of Parliament [All the MPs (LS/RS) are members in one or the other TAC as per their option/constituency]
2. State Legislature
3. State Administration
4. Corporation/Civic Body
5. Press
6. Medical Profession
7. Legal Profession
8. All other Profession like Engineers/Architect etc.
9. Trade, Commerce and Industry
10. Public workers Others (unspecified category)

No specific qualification has been prescribed for becoming a TAC member. A person considered for nomination in a TAC should belong to at least one of the categories as above.

The normal strength of a TAC in various Circles/ Districts is determined as under:

TAC headed by CGMs	–	65
TAC headed by PGMs	–	55
TAC headed by GMs	–	50
TAC headed by TDMs	–	40

(The normal strength may be exceeded by 25% and above that under exceptional circumstances)

3. PROCEDUCE OF NOMINATION OF MEMBERS

Heads of the Telecom. Circles/Telephone Districts recommend a penal of names representing various categories of interests for the Advisory Committees including the names of Members of Parliament. Recommendations thus received from the Chief General Managers are considered along with other names received directly in the DOT and by the Minister (Communications). A Member of the Committee should normally be residing in the geographical jurisdiction of a Telephone District in the case of District Advisory Committee and the concerned State/Union Territory in the case of State Advisory Committees. However, there is no bar for any member residing outside the SSA/Circle of whose TAC he/she is a member, but he/she cannot discuss any point not pertaining to that particular TAC. So far as TAC telephone is concerned the same can be provided at the desired residence of the member on his request irrespective of the geographical jurisdiction of the TAC.

4. POLICY REGARDING NOMINATION OF MPs

It was decided by the then Hon'ble Minister (C) that all the MPs both from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha would be a member in one or the other TAC. Earlier, the Nomination of MPs in TACs was being made by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as per the vacancies intimated by Department of Telecommunications. As per the existing policy, all the CGMs send the list of the names of MPs (LS/RS) pertaining to his Circle for their nomination in the respective TACs. In case of MPs (RS), they are requested by the CGMs to intimate about their adopted constituency so that nomination can be made accordingly. However, in case of any delay, the nomination of Hon'ble MPs (LS/RS) are also sent directly from the TCHQ with the stipulation to modify the nomination of the Hon'ble MP in any other TAC as admissible under the existing rules.

Hon'ble Ministers who are also nominated as TAC members will depute a representatives for attending the TAC meeting of the TAC concerned. However, the telephone provided to the Hon'ble Ministers in the capacity of TAC members, can be retained by him unless otherwise specified by him. As per the existing rules, the TAC telephone can be installed at the desired residence of the Hon'ble MP.

5. TENURE AND MEETINGS OF TAC

The tenure of a TAC is normally for two years. Meetings of the TAC are held once in a quarter irrespective of whether new connections are to be released or not. In the Meeting due importance is given to discussions of problems of telephone service, expansion and development programmes, etc. The Heads of Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts circulate well in advance informatory notes to the Members to ensure purposeful discussion on these matters.

6. JURISDICTION OF TAC

The State level TACs will not have jurisdiction on stations for which separate TACs are constituted i. e. the Telephone/Telecom Districts.

7. FUNCTION OF TAC

The functions of the Members of the Advisory committees are as under :–

(a) Monitoring the performance of telecommunication services and advising the Department for their improvement;

(b) Bringing the telephone using public and the Department of Telecommunications into closer relationship;

(c) Giving the Public confidence that their grievances are being properly represented as well as attended to;

(d) Giving publicity to the action being taken by the Department for improving and developing the telephone service;

(e) Assisting the Department in handling the shortages in telephone equipment and lines by invoking co-operation and patience from public, and

(f) Assisting the Department in deciding Out-of-Turn connections as provided in the rules in a fair and equitable basis by joint assessment of the comparative merits of various applicants in the waiting list under the ``OYT'' and ``Non-OYT Special'' categories;

8. FACILITIES TO TAC MEMBERS

A TAC member is provided with a rent free residential service telephone connection for the period of membership provided there are no outstanding dues against Telephones in his/her name. In addition, each TAC member is allowed 1150 free telephone calls bimonthly. Apart from this, non-departmental members are entitled to draw TA/DA in accordance with circular No. 9-1/98-PHP dated 10th July, 2000 for attending each TAC meeting. Hon'ble Member of Parliament are entitled to draw TA/DA as per the rules applicable to them.

9. TERMINATION OF TAC MEMEBRS

The membership of a TAC member is liable to be terminated if any member fails to attend three consecutive TAC meeting of the TAC of which he is a member. Further, the membership is also liable to be cancelled on the report of the chairman of the TAC on misbehavior/unsocial, antisocial activities etc. by the TAC member.

Plantation of Bamboos

4353.SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a project for plantation of bamboos in the rural and tribal areas in Jharkhand State so as to provide means of livelihood to the rural and tribal people to maintain ecological balance; and

(b) it so, the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A project for Bamboo Plantation in Dumka and Ranchi Districts, now in Jharkhand State has been approved and sanctioned under the centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 102.63 lakhs for treating an area of 1500 ha. for the remaining two years of the 9th Plan. An amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has also been released as first instalment under the project.

[English]

Harmful Effects of Agro Chemicals

4354.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASHAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the harmful effects of agro-chemicals are showing up and world over greater interest is being shown towards organic products;

(b) if so, whether in western countries, demand of organic produce is outstripping supplies and estimated market is already of about $ 10 billion (Rs. 44000 crores);

(c) whether in view of environmental and health considerations the Government are considering to have National Commission on Organic Farming with sufficient Funds; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the organic farming is proposed to be promoted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The average consumption of plant nutrients in India through chemical fertilisers was about 95.00 kg/ha. during 1999-2000. This level of consumption is not considered excessive for causing adverse effects on soils/crops. However, the Government encourages Balanced and

Integrated use of chemical fertilisers, organic manures and biofertilisers for achieving optimum results.

To safeguard against the possible harm due to use of chemical pesticides, Integrated Pest Management, practices are being popularised among the farmers. Further, the effective implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1968, ensures the import, manufacture, distribution, transportation and the use of pesticides, within safety limits to human beings, animals and the environment.

(b) The demand of organic farming is on increase. However, no specific assessment of worldwide demand about the organic food is available.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to set up National Commission on Organic Farming. However, the Government has set up a task Force on Organic Farming with following terms of reference :-

(i) Collection of information on Organic farming including experiments undertaken in this field by Government/Non-Government bodies, Voluntary Organisation. Farmers Groups, individual farmers, etc.;

(ii) Assessment and propogation of appropriate techniques/technology of organic farming;

(iii) Setting up of standards in connection with the organic farming.

(iv) To suggest short-term, medium term and long term measures for development and propagation of Organic Farming; and

(v) To suggest measures for the marketing of the Organic Farming Produce.

Post Offices in North Eastern States

4355.SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of post offices in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open new post offices in these States;

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

(d) the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) While there is no shortage, however, to expand the Network further the Government proposes to open new post offices in these States.

(c) The State-wise targets for opening of new post offices fixed for North Eastern States for the year 2000-01, are as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of State	Target
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
2.	Manipur	7
3.	Meghalaya	–
4.	Mizoram	6
5.	Nagaland	13
6.	Tripura	8
	Total	42

(d) and (e) The opening of new post office is dependent upon the fulfilment of prescribed departmental norms and also sanctioning of required posts by the Ministry of Finance.

Telephone Rent in Rural Areas

4356.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to charge only Rs. 25/- as a telephone monthly rent in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

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

Increase in Forest Cover

4357.SHRI B. V. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has become the first State to involve industries like Indian Tobacco Company to increase the forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to involve industries in other States also to increase forest cover ?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) It has come to the notice

of Central Government that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had issued a Government Order No. 112 dated 22.09.2000 where it has been agreed in principle for involvement of the industries in supporting the Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS) in re-generating the degraded forest areas subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

(c) Assignment of any forest land or any portion thereof by way of lease or otherwise to industries not managed or controlled by Government requires prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry.

The basic objective of the National Forest Policy, 1988 is to conserve the bio-diversity of the country and to meet the requirement of fuel-wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations. It is also one of the objectives of the National Forest policy that industry should fulfil their requirement of raw-material through raising plantation on non-forest wastelands. In order to examine the Government order of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, issued on 22.09.2000 for involvement of industries in raising plantation on forest land, in the light of National Forest Policy, 1998 and other Central Acts, details of tripartite agreement to be signed between VSS, industries and State Government, areas earmarked for afforestation, modality for buy back arrangement and other details have been asked from the State Government by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Construction of New Bridge on Rapti River

4358. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests for the construction of new bridge on Rapti River between Bansgaon-Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which the above bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the proposal for the construction of an additional new two lane bridge over river Rapti in Gorakhpur town on National Highway 28 which was received in the Ministry.

(c) An estimate for survey and investigation for the construction of a new bridge over river Rapti in Gorakhpur town on National Highway 28 has already been sanctioned by the Ministry for Rs. 29.48 lakhs. The work of survey and investigation is in progress.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time by which the new bridge will be constructed as the project is still in the stage of survey and investigation.

[English]

Construction on Second Nizamuddin Bridge

4359. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese Government have provided grant for construction of second Nizamuddin bridge across the river Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the work on this project has been completed; and

(c) if so, the total amount spent on this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 82.09 crore.

[Translation]

Grants to Indian Olympic Assocaition

4360. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount given as grants to the Indian Olympic Association by his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) the details of the budget of the Indian Olympic Association including the amount received from other sources and spent for the development and promotion of sports during the above period;

(c) the amount spent by the officials of the Indian Olympic Association on their local and foreign tours out of the annual budget during the said period; and

(d) the role of his Ministry in controlling the income and expenditure of the Indian Olympic Association ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) The following amounts were given to Indian Olympic Association during the last three years :-

1997-98	-	Rs. 7,89,676.00
1998-99	-	Rs. 1,92,17,426.00
1999-2000	-	Rs. 84,10,751.00

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

(d) The Indian olympic Association is an autonomous organisation registered under the Societies of Registration Act and Registrar of Societies is supposed to check their accounts. Besides this, Directorate General of Audit Central Revenues also audits their accounts.

[English]

Inflated Telephone Bills

4361.SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inflated telephone bills are being received by the subscribers from Laxmibai Nagar area in Chanakya Puri Telephone Exchange during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the complaint ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, in the last three months, four complaints of excess billing have been received.

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

(c) Such complaints are examined and rebate is granted in genuine cases where technical faults etc. are found.

[Translation]

Development of Improved Seeds

4362.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the research work pertaining to development of improved seeds is also being carried out in the Atomic Research Centres of the Country;

(b) if so, the names of the centres in which this work is being carried out;

(c) the details of varieties of improved seeds developed by these centres;

(d) whether the seeds develped by these centres have also been got patented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only at one centre i.e. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, research work on seeds is being carried out.

(c) Crop varieties released for commercial cultivation are given in the attached Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Crop	Variety	Year of Release
1	2	3
Blackgram	TAU-1	1985
(Urd)	TAU-2	1992
	TPU-4	1992
	TU-94-2	1999
Greengram	TAP-7	1983
(Moong)	TARM-2	1992
	TARN-1	1995
	TARM-18	1995
Pigeonpea (Arhar)	TT-6 (Trombay-Vishakha-I)	1983
	TAT-10	1985
Groundnut	TG-1	1973
	TG-17	1985
	TG-3	1987
	TGS-1	1989
	TAG-24	1991
	TG-22	1992
	TKG-19A	1994
	TG-26	1995

1	2	3
Mustard	TM-2 (Black Seed)	1987
	TM-4 (Yellow Seed)	1987
Rice	Hari	1988
Jute	TAJ-40	1983

[English]

Free Telephone Facility

4363.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of different departments under his Ministry residing in several parts of Karnataka and Gurgaon district of Haryana have been deprived of free telephone facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the disparity by providing said facility to the affected persons of the said areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending Projects of Andhra Pradesh

4364. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of projects in regard to the agriculture sector including provision of central relief fund of Rs. 579 crore to augment the relief operations in the State submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) During 2000-01, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 776.75 crore in the wake of floods. Entire Central share of calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01, amounting to Rs. 148.54 crore, has already been released to the State for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities.

Difference in Power Tariff Rate

4365.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private power generating units functioning at present, State and Territory-wise;

(b) the generation capacity of power produced and cost of production worked out against the investment made by each unit, State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government have permitted to set up more units in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the basis for selection of site, State and Territory-wise;

(e) whether tariff rate for the power being supplied by these units has been fixed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith differences in tariff rate of power being supplied by units in Public Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of 10 private sector power projects accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) which have already been commissioned are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The generating capacity and the investment cleared by CEA for the above mentioned power projects are indicated in the Statement-I referred to above.

(c) and (d) In addition to the 10 projects referred to under (a) above, CEA have also accorded TEC to 47 more power projects which have not yet been commissioned. Details of the said 47 projects are indicated in Statement-II. The selection of the site is generally done by the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board (SEB). However, TEC is given by CEA after careful study regarding suitability of site, least cost option studies, demand supply angle based on the projected load growth in the concerned State/Territory, etc.

(e) and (f) The actual sale rate of electricity to be supplied by these projects depends upon the final completion cost, exchange rate and the terms and conditions of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) entered into between the Promoter and the SEB/State Generating Corporation. However, based on the approved estimated capital cost, tentative financial package, exchange rate and Government of India norms at the time of TEC, the indicative levelised tariff (at 12% discount rate and 68.49% Plant Load Factor) for the CEA cleared private sector projects has been indicated in the Statement-I and

Statement-II referred to above. The estimated cost of generation in private sector is comparable to similar generating units in public sector under similar circumstances.

The estimated cost of generation for some CEA cleared power projects in public sector is indicated in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Private Power Projects accorded Techno-Economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have been fully commissioned

S. No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	Estimated completed cost including IDC	Indicative levelised tariff Rs/Kwh (at 12% discount rate and 68.49% PLF)
Gujarat				
1	Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat Power Gen. Energy Corporation Limited)	654.7	Rs. 2298.14 Crs	2.33
2	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0	Rs.1666.56 Crs	2.18
3	Baroda CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	167.0	Rs. 368.22 Crs	2.47
4	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	250.0	US $44.538 million + DM 4.92M + Rs. 999.99 Crs.	2.40
Maharashtra				
5	Dabhol CCGT-Phase-I (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	740	US $2828.54 M*	2.86*
Andhra Pradesh				
6	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries Limited)	216	Rs. 827 Crs	2.22
7	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited)	208	Rs. 748.43 Crs	1.98
8	Kondapalli CCGT of M/s. Lanco Kondapalli Power Corporation	350	US$180.616 M + Rs.385.254 Cr	2.46
Karnataka				
9	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Limited)	260	Rs. 1093.86 Cr	2.60
Tamil Nadu				
10	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Limited)	200	US$ 125.82 M + Rs. 328.99 Cr	2.52

*Includes Phase-II also which has not so far been commissioned.

M = Million

Cr. = Crores

PLF = Plant Load Factor

IDC = Interest During Construction

Statement-II

Private Power Projects accorded Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have not so far been Commissioned

S. No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	Estimated completed cost including IDC	Indicative levelised tariff Rs/Kwh (at 12% discount rate and 68.49% PLF)
1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh				
1	Baspa Stage-II HEP (M/s JPIL)	300	Rs. 949.23 Cr.	1.35
2	Malana HEP (M/s Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.)	86	Rs. 341.911 Cr.	1.96
Uttar Pradesh				
3	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s JPIL)	400	US$ 107.35M + Rs.1233.57 Cr	1.34
4	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	US $ 280.7267M + Rs.1435.5284 Cr	2.12
5	Srinagar HEP (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	US$ 95.054M + Rs.1299.89 Cr	2.28
Rajasthan				
6	Dholpur CCGT (M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd)	702.7	US$ 364.29M + Rs.855.133 Cr	2.63
7	Barsingsar TPP (M/s Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	500	US$ 322.716M + Rs.1090.08 Cr	2.09
Madhya Pradesh				
8	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	US$ 213.29M + Rs.812.09 Cr	3.51
9	Korba (East) TPP (M/s Daewoo Power)	1070	US$ 863.95M + Rs.1623.05 Cr	2.01
10	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	US$ 175.412M + Rs.1820.627 Cr	2.36
11	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s GBL Power)	166	US $ 77.74M + Rs. 253.697 Cr	2.60
12	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s ITPL)	420	US $ 164.643M + DM 169.730M + Rs. 834.351 Cr	2.13
13	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	US $ 152.37M + Rs. 484.86 Cr	2.43
14	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	US $ 284.908M + Rs. 1172.155 Cr	2.23
15	Bhilai TPP (M/s Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	US $ 419.699M + Rs. 999.781 Cr	2.23
16	Raigarh TPP (M/s Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	US $ 85.176M + DEM 240.676M + Rs. 1628.075 Cr	1.98

1	2	3	4	5
17	Bhander CCGT (M/s Bhander Power Ltd.)	342	US $ 197.622M + Rs. 346.514 Cr	2.54
18	Pithampur DGPP (M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	US $ 68.729M + Rs.174.053 Cr	3.58
19	Ratlam DGPP (M/s GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	US $ 73.88M + Rs. 163.162 Cr	3.61
20	Khandwa CCGT (M/s Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	US. $ 76.0345M + Rs. 250.3315 Cr	2.80
Gujarat				
21	Jamnagar TPP (M/s Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.0	US $ 434.36M + Rs.726.429 Cr	2.40
Maharashtra				
22	Bhadrawati TPS (M/s. Central India Power)	1072	Rs. 5187 Cr	2.66
23	Patalganga CCGT (M/s Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1	US $ 319.02M + Rs.246.66 Cr	2.51
Andhra Pradesh				
24	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	US $ 943.75M + Rs. 1324.993 Cr	2.09
25	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s BPL Group)	520	US $ 369.3M + Rs.1073.56 Cr	2.01
26	Krishnapatnam >B= TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	US $ 355.131M + Rs. 960.614 Cr	2.25
27	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)	492	US $ 248.02M + Rs. 638.223 Cr	2.56
Karnataka				
28	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentrix)	1013.2	US $ 751.574M + Rs. 1580.89 Cr	2.29
29	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1015	US $ 273.795M + GBP 277.4M + F. Fr 907.19M + Rs. 1792.685 Cr	2.65
30	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6	US$ 56.577M + Rs.152.969 Cr	3.32
Tamil Nadu				
31	Neyveli TPS-=Zero Unit (M/s. ST-CMS)	250	US $ 261.59 M + Rs. 501.10 Cr	2.72
32	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s PPN Power)	330.5	US $ 206.549 M + Rs. 429.8 Cr	2.12
33	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050	US $ 585.96 M + Rs. 2402.24 Cr	2.47
34	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525	US $ 321.779M + DEM 145.893M + Rs.875.389 Cr	2.46
35	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.)	106	US $ 59.840 M + Rs.150.845 Cr	3.09
36	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s Samalpatti Power Co.)	106	US $ 61.222 M + Rs.153.098 Cr	3.33

1	2	3	4	5
37	North Madras TPP (M/s Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	US $ 147.915M + GBP 122.927M + F.Fr. 458.023M + Rs. 736.560 Cr	2.38
38	Cuddalore TPP (M/s Cuddalore Power Company)	1320	US $ 488.193M + GBP 203.922M + F.Fr 1258.811M + Rs. 2036.501 Cr	2.43
39	Vembar CCGT (M/s Indian Power Projects Limited)	1873	US $ 694.94 M + Rs. 2106 Cr	2.35
Kerala				
40	Vypeen CCGT (M/s Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	US $ 6.90M + S.Fr. 439.84M + Rs. 771.475 Cr	2.29
41	Kannur CCGT (M/s Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	US $ 210.010M + Rs. 587.91 Cr	3.91
Orissa				
42	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES IB Valley Cor.)	500	US $ 326.02M + Rs. 983.90 Cr	2.02
43	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	US $ 313.596M + Rs. 952.83 Cr	2.02
West Bengal				
44	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.)	500	US $ 227.96M + Rs. 1517.02 Cr	2.41
45	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd)	420	US $ 23.400M + J Yen 20544.27M + Rs. 925.157 Cr	2.31
46	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company)	150	US $ 28.07M + Rs. 548.566 Cr	2.20
Bihar				
47	Jojobera TPP (M/s Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	Rs. 1025.19 Cr	2.22

*Partially commissioned (120 MW)

M = Million

Cr. = Crores

PLF = Plant Load Factor

IDC = Interest During Construction

Statement-III

Details of Schemes in the Public Sector Techno-Economically cleared by CEA during 1998-99

THERMAL SCHEMES

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/State/ Executing Agency	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost	Date of CEA clearance	Indicative levelised tariff (Rs/Kwh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Kawas CCGT-Stage II, Gujarat (NTPC)	650	US $ 226.87M + Rs. 734.96 Crores	1.5.98 and 13.8.1998	288

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Anta II CCGT, Rajasthan (NTPC)	650	US $ 226.89M + Rs. 794.17 crores	21.5.98 & 13.8.98	294
3	Gandhinagar TPS-Unit-5, Gujarat (M/s GSECL)	1x210=210	Rs. 643.65 crores	29.5.1998	2.26
4	Auriaya CCGT-St.II, Uttar Pradesh (NTPC)	650	US $ 243.844M + Rs. 857.622 crores	28.9.1998	3.02
5	Jhanor Gandhar CCGT. St. II, Gujarat, NTPC	650	US $ 243.62M + Rs. 845.113 crores	16.10.1998	3.06
6	Ramagundam TPP, Andhra Pradesh (NTPC)	1x500=500	US $ 185.020M + Rs. 1284.265 crores	18.11.1998	205
HYDRO SCHEMES					
7	Chamera HEP St. II, Himachal Pradesh (NHPC)	3x100=300	US $ 2.79M + Rs.1304.59 crores + DM 21.53M	27.5.1998 (174th) 23.7.1998	2.88
8	Loktak Downstream HEP, Manipur (NHPC)	3x30=90	Rs. 667.46 crores	28.8.1998	3.87
9	Teesta HEP St. V, Sikkim (NHPC)	3x170=510	CHF 16.804M + Rs. 2523.56 crores	9.9.1998	2.14
10	Tuivai HEP, Mizoram, (NEEPCO)	3x70=210	Rs. 1258.84 crore	17.11.1998	2.51

Basic Telecom Operators

4366. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demands from Basic Telecom Operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The existing Basic Telephone Service Operators have requested for treating them at par with the future operators to be licensed under NTP' 99 and have sought for usage for hand-held sets for limited mobility by their subscribers of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology in the subscriber access network.

(c) Government has already announced unrestricted open entry for provision of Basic Telephone Service in all telecom circles including the six Circles where the private basic telephone service licensees already exist. As regards the issue of permitting usage of hand-held sets for limited mobility by the subscribers of Fixed Basic Telephone Service Providers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been addressed for its recommendation on the issue. TRAI has conducted Open House Sessions in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai after issuing consultation paper on the subject.

Rehabilitation of People Displaced by Setting up of Hydro Power Projects

4367. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to formulate a national policy for rehabilitation of people likely to be displaced by setting up of hydro power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of that national policy; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In terms of the Policy on Hydro Power Development, approved by the Government in August, 1998, it would be the responsibility of the respective State Governments to acquire land (Government/Private/Forests) for the hydro-electric projects and also to negotiate the terms with the land owners as per policy adopted by the respective State Governments. The Policy further stipulates that all the issues relating to resettlement and rehabilitation associated with the hydro-electric power projects have to be addressed by the State Governments. The Ministry of Rural Development is formulating a National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Project affected families.

Polluting Industries

4368.SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the wake of sealing polluting industries some automobile service stations including the Hindustan Service Station at village Ranhola on Nangloi-Nazafgarh Road were sealed during May, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the service stations sealed in the month of May, 2000 were unsealed during July-August after completion of certain formalities and a certificate to that effect given to the owners of such stations;

(d) if so, whether these unsealed service stations were again sealed in November this year despite their having non-polluting certificate;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of the authority empowered to seal such units again; and

(f) the steps being taken to ensure that non-polluting units are not harassed in the name of polluting industries ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Telephone Bills

4369.SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the member of persons found in Delhi who have not paid their bills in respect of previous disconnected telephone and have taken another telephone on the same address during the last three years;

(b) whether it is possible to take fresh telephone on the same address without payment of bills of previous telephone;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government against such officials found involved in such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Nine cases have come to light in MTNL, New Delhi.

(b and (c) It is not permissible under the Telephone Rules. However, if the customer suppresses the facts relating to outstanding bills and this goes undetected, he may get another telephone installed against the rules.

(d) No official has been found involved. However, action against the concerned subscribers have been initiated as per rules.

[English]

Recovery of Outstanding Fees

4370.SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rental fees and non-billing licence fees are not being recovered by Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of Telecommunication Circles and various foreign Missions;

(b) if so, the number of cases come to light during the last three years;

(c) the amount involved therein; and

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

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.

[Translation]

Telephone Wire Fitting Work in Kalyan

4371. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone wires fitting work has been completed in Kalyan district by the Maharashtra Telecom Department;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) (i) Telephone wire fitting completed during the year 1999-2000 for 68,000 lines.

(ii) Telephone wire fitting completed for 15,000 lines and work for 50,000 lines is in progress during current financial year.

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

[English]

Pay Scales in MTNL

4372. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have not been given pay scales as per the rules of MTNL;

(b) is so, the reason therefor and the number of employees working in MTNL;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any committee to review the pay scales;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the various group C and D employees have been given the pay scales as per the rules of Corporation after their absorption in MTNL from 1.11.98. Absorption of some other cadres including Group A and B officers is in process and they will be changed-over to the Corporation pay scales after absorption process is completed. Meanwhile these employees have been given an ad-hoc amount.

(b) the number of Group A and B officers to be absorbed is 10,533 approximately.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No applicable in view of reply at (c) above.

Production of Coconut

4373. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has sent a team to study the cost of production of Coconut;

(b) if so, the cost of production of Coconut in various States assessed by the CACP;

(c) the steps taken to declare minimum support price of Copra/Coconut;

(d) whether the minimum support price will be declared before next Coconut season;

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have succeeded in fetching minimum support price declared last year for farmers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. A team of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu during November, 2000 to discuss the issues of Price Policy for Copra for 2001 season.

(b) Based on model yield and real rate of interest the CACP has worked out the cost of production of coconut at Rs. 3.73 per nut for Kerala and Rs. 2.52 per nut for Karnataka.

(c) to (e) The price policy for copra/cocunut for 2001 season is under active consideration of the Government.

(f) and (g) The market prices of Milling copra during 2000 seasons remained subdued due to increasing production of coconut and falling price of edible oil. However, the interest of the coconut growers is protected interalia, by the price support operations of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). As on 13.12.2000 NAFED procured a total of quantity 160775 tonnes of milling copra. The procurement is still in progress.

Setting up of Thermal Power Project by Mangalore Power Company

4374.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court has directed the Government to file a compliance report with regard to Thermal Power Project to be set up by the Mangalore Power Company;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the reports given by expert bodies in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) In Writ Petition No. 790 of 1997, the observations of High Court of Karnataka in its judgement dated 29th August, 1997 are quoted as follows :-

> ``In the result, we conclude that none of the objections raised by the petitioners are sustainable to quash the clearance granted by the KSPCB or MOEF. However, considering the fact that certain material is available now and could not have been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities and in as much as the project is still at the initial stages of being put through, MOEF is directed to take into consideration the report of the DANIDA, NEERI and the views expressed by Mr. Sagardhara on the project. It shall also take note of the criticism of absence of the carrying capacity study and its impact to ascertain whether such information is such as the action taken by the 7th respondent will affect the quality of human life and environment in a significant manner or extent which has not already been considered by them and decide the issues arising therein. Such action shall be taken within a period of three months from today. If the petitioners or any other interested party so desired, they may file appropriate representations to MOEF for its consideration. Unless the MOEF considers oral hearing is necessary, the same need not be extended to the petitioners or any other party. Subject to these directions, these petitions stand dismissed."

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the Court's judgement, assessment of DANIDA, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and Sagardhara reports was undertaken and an affidavit filed in July 1999 in Contempt of Court Case No. 434/1999. The case was dismissed on 24th October, 2000.

[Translation]

Tender for Telecom Service

4375.SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited any tender for telecom services in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 1996 and till date;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay;

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(f) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General have made any observations in its report; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) In the year 1996 tender was invited for grant of licenses for UP (East) and Bihar Circles for Basic Telephone Service. While no bid was received for UP(East), bid for Bihar was received by the Government and Letter of Intent (LOI) for Bihar Circle was issued to M/s Techno Telecom Limited. However, on their failure to fulfill the conditions of LOI, the same was cancelled.

(f) and (g) Required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Long Distance Telecom Services

4376. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI A BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently revised the rules related to S.T.D. calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone subscribers have to pay more for STD calls between 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the extent of loss suffered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) after privatisation of National Long Distance Services/ STD services; and

(f) the names of the private companies authorised for the purpose and started functioning in each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The department has been progressively reducing the STD call charges. In the first phase effective from 1.5.99 STD charges were reduced by an average of 23 % and in the second phase effective from 1.10.2000 rates have been further reduced by an average of 13 % thereby resulting in a total reduction of approximately 36%. In addition, the department has been providing off-peak rates for the duration of 13 hours in one day, the off-peak rates being lower than the peak-rates ranging from 45% to 75%.

(c) and (d) In order to utilise the network capacity more optimally, the time slot of 7 P.M to 8 P.M. which was earlier in the off-peak (concessional rate) tariff slab has been converted into a peak time(full rate) tariff slab and simultaneously the peak time slot of 8 A.M. to 9 A.M. has been converted to off-peak by reducing the rates to half (approximately) from the earlier prevailing full rates. The basic principle, of providing 11 hours peak time and 13 hours off-peak time, has remained unchanged.

(e) and (f) Although the guidelines for private companies for providing National Long Distance Services/ STD Services have been announced on 13-08-2000, no licence agreement have been signed yet. In view of this, the question of loss suffered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited does not arise at this stage.

Cellular Telephone Services of MTNL

4377. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cellular telephone service of MTNL is not working properly in Delhi particularly in East Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The MTNL's cellular mobile service using CDMA WLL technology covers only certain areas as per the map advertised at the time of launch of this service. The reason for this selected coverage is on account of availability and limited number of Base Transceiver Stations at the time of launch of this service. MTNL is now upgrading the service except in respect of roaming facilities in case of service provided with CDMA technology. However, with GSM technology roaming shall also be possible.

(c) 30,000 subscribers are proposed to be provided mobile service covering all areas of Delhi by using CDMA WLL technology and one lac subscribers are proposed to be provided mobile service covering all areas of Delhi using GSM technology. These two projects are planned to be completed in this financial year so that customers get a satisfactory quality of service.

[English]

Global Warming

4378. SHRI RASHID ALVI : 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 ``El Nino and Global warming'' appearing in the `Times of India' dated November 7, 2000;

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

(c) whether global warming and El Nino events are now posing serious threat to the world;

(d) if so, whether apart from floods in low-level coastal areas, there could be serious threat to food production including aquaculture, coastal housing and community life; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to the India Meteorological Department, both El Nino and Global warming are projected to influence the climate systems but it is not yet scientifically established whether El Nino events are a part of Global warming of vice-varsa. Further, due to uncertainties in the currently available models, there is no firm evidence to suggest that El Nino would directly lead to a decline in food production.

National Emergency Management Force

4379.SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to create a National Emergency Management Force in the country for tackling manmade and natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said force is likely to be created ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration for creation of a National Emergency Management Force in the country for tackling manmade and natural calamities. However, there is a proposal to raise a Specialised Disaster Response Organisation (SDRO) with two units to be called Specialised Disaster Response Units (SDRUs) to augment/ supplement the resources of the States and the nodal Ministries at the Centre by providing specialized resources in natural and man made disasters, which are unanticipated and need specialized response. This proposal is at a very initial and formative stage.

Loss of Crops due to Scarcity of Water

4380.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the scarcity of water in the Hirakund Water Reservoir;

(b) if so, the total loss of Kharif crops in Sambalpur, Bargarh and several other districts in Orissa;

(c) whether any assistance have been extended to the farmers to compensate their losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has reported that due to erratic and inadequate rainfall, overall 9 lakh heactare of paddy crop has been affected by moisture stress conditions.

(c) and (d) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 41.05 crore has so far been released to Orissa State during 2000-01 to supplement the efforts of State Government for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The State Government have extended assistance to farmers on supply of seeds at subsidised rate.

[Translation]

Development of Flood Prone Areas

4381.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that various Centrally sponsored programmes launched for planned development of the flood prone areas have not left any positive impact '

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of the programmes;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce any special programme in place of general schemes going on at present ;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been considered in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) As intimated by the Central Water Commission, flood is a natural phenomenon. Complete protection to all the flood affected areas against all magnitudes of floods is neither practically feasible nor economically viable. Reasonable protection against flood using combination of structural and non - structural measures is the strategy adopted for flood management. Flood control/management is primarily the function of the State Government. Flood control/management schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Governments on the basis of availability of funds and priority fixed by them. Central Government makes available fund for flood control schemes in Annual Plans to the State Governments through Planning Commission. In addition, the Central Government gives special assistance to the border States and North Eastern States for taking up some special priority works.

The progress achieved in flood control works are indicated below :-

S. No.	item	Progress achieved
1.	Length of Embankments (Km.)	16,200
2.	Length of Drainage Channels (Km.)	32,003
3.	Towns Protected (Nos.)	906
4.	Villages raised (Nos.)	4,721

[English]

Incentives to Cotton Growers

4382.SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced some incentives to the cotton growers for upgradation in cotton manufacturing technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the production, yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has launched the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in February, 2000.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for enhancing production and productivity through the modification of on-going Scheme of intensive Cotton Development Programme. The intensive Cotton Development Programme. under Technology Mission on Cotton envisages enhancement of production and productivity of cotton by providing incentives through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration/farmers training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip systems, establishment of seed – delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent units, Pest surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and demonstration-cum-training supply of sprayers/pheromone trap/bio-agents.

Development of Cooperatives

4383.SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NCDC charges a very high rate of interest on its borrowings to the States for development of Cooperatives;

(b) if so, the present rate of interest charged by NCDC;

(c) whether NCDC propose to reduce its present rate of interest to make Cooperatives viable and sustainable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) The NCDC has reduced its rates of interest with effect from 16.8.2000 to make it competitive. The present rates of interest (effective) charged by NCDC on annual basis are given in the attached statement.

Statement

The present rate of interest (effective) charged by NCDC on Annual basis

S.No.	Scheme Description	Rate of interest per annum
1.	Special rate for working capital loan	13.50%
2.	All programmes in Under Developed/Least Developed States	13.75%
3.	Weaker Section Programmes	13.75%
4.	Assistance for Computerisation	13.75%
5.	Working capital loan upto one year in cooperatively developed States	14.00%
6.	Cold storage under capital investment subsidy scheme in cooperatively developed States	14.00%
7.	Other programmes	14.50%

Seizure of Animals in Private Zoo

4384. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of endangered animals have been recovered in a private Zoo near Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 6-11-2000 'Aayush Resorts and Suruchi Farm' on Mumbai-Pune Highway at Schedung village, Panvel, was raided by forest officials where a number of wild animals and birds were kept under capacity. Details of animals and birds are as follows :–

1.	Indian Gazelle	4
2.	Flamingos	4
3.	Barheaded Geese	9
4.	Spotbilled Duck	5
5.	Brahmini Duck	5
6.	Saras Crane	2
7.	Demoisle Crane	2

(c) A case of violation of Section 9,39,40,41,42,43,49 and 52 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been booked by Range Forest Officer (Vigilance) of Alibagh Forest Division. Three persons were arrested and two of them were produced before the judicial Magistrate.

Report by Sub-Group of Ministers

4385. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 163 dated July 24, 2000 regarding Report by Sub-Group of Ministers and state :

(a) whether the Sub-Group considering the new legislation to replace Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and regulate the conversions of telecommunications, infotech and television broadcasting has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) A specific term of reference of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence appointed by the Government is to prepare the draft of a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The Group had subsequently constituted a Sub-Group with Shri Fali S. Nariman, MP as the convenor for the preparation of the above said draft. The Sub-Group in its report has, inter-alia, recommended the establishment of a single autonomous and independent statutory body to be known as the Communications Commission of India to regulate all forms of communications. The Commission would be empowered to issue licences, determine licence fees and tariffs for licenced services, allot spectrum, facilitate competition, protect consumer interests, etc. The Sub-Group has also recommended the setting up a Communications Appellate Tribunal.

The Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, after discussing this report, has requested the Sub-Group to prepare a suitable draft of the proposed statute.

Payment of Inspection Fee by Importers of Woodlogs

4386. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether importers of woodlogs have to pay inspection fees to meet the cost of inspection of their consignment to the Government for long Cochin Island;

(b) if so, the total amount due from the importers and the amount indicating the time from which is outstanding against them;

(c) whether due to negligence of officials in Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Station Willingdon Island Cochin, losses to the extent of Rs. 34.79 lakhs have been suffered by the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against those officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d)

The arrears of plant quarantine inspection fee amounting to Rs. 34.79 lakhs were due in October, 1997 from 39 importers of woodlogs. These arrears arose owing to a Court's direction permitting them to make payment in cash only to the extent of 25% of the total fee payable. The matter was vigorously pursued and a sum of Rs. 32.87 lakhs has already been realised and an amount of Rs. 1.92 lakhs is outstanding from only one importer.

[Translation]

Wireless Sets to Forest Guards

4387.SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide wireless sets to all the forest guards;

(b) if so, the number of sets provided so far, State-wise; and

(c) the further steps proposed by the Government for checking of illegal felling of trees ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Strengthening the communication network through wireless sets in protected areas is one of the approved components of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger, Eco-Development Project, Project Elephant etc. Some State Governments have also acquired wireless sets from the State funds. The details are given in the attached statement.

(c) Steps taken for curbing illegal felling of trees :

(i) Legal provisions are available under Indian Forest Act, 1927 to control illegal felling and transportation of timber and other products. Amendments have been carried out in the said Act by a number of States for effective control of saw mills and other wood based industries including power of confiscation of vehicles used in transport of illegal timber.

(ii) State forest departments organise regular patrolling in sensitive areas, maintain check post on highways and conduct regular raids. Special Protection Forces have been set up to control illegal felling of trees.

(iii) Involvement of local people through Joint Forest Management Programs is done to protect the forest and check illegal felling.

(iv) Eco-Development Committees involving local people have been formed in and around the protected areas for controlling illegal felling and poaching etc.

(v) Reorganisation of protection staff into viable filed formations for effective patrolling.

(vi) Providing sophisticated weapons to the field staff, better coordination with other enforcement agencies for intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

Statement

Wireless sets for Protected Areas

	State	Number of sets
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32
2.	Andhra Pradesh	110
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	130
4.	Assam	317
5.	Bihar	509
6.	Delhi	38
7.	Goa	46
8.	Gujarat	501
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10
10.	Karnataka	327
11.	Kerala	393
12.	Madhya Pradesh	698
13.	Maharashtra	62
14.	Meghalaya	38
15.	Mizoram	24
15.	Nagaland	2
16.	Pondicherry	7
17.	Rajasthan	509
18.	Sikkim	1
19.	Timil Nadu	38
20.	Uttar pradesh	485
21.	West Bengal	270
	Total	4547

Power Generation from Gandhi Sagar Dam

4388.DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power generation from Gandhi Sagar Dam of Madhya Pradesh has been stopped owing to deficient rainfall and rapidly receding water level this year;

(b) if so, the quantum of power generated regularly therefrom and since when the power generation has been stopped;

(c) whether a lot of sand has been deposited in the reservoir of this dam due to soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to check soil erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board power generation at Gandhi Sagar HPS has not stopped. The generation at Gandhi Sagar HPS during April-Nov. 2000 was 101 MU as against a target of 235 MW. Low generation during this period is mainly attributed to low reservoir level on account of poor rainfall. Full reservoir level of Gandhi Sagar Dam is 1312 feet. The Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) is 1250 feet. Due to deficient rainfall, the level has come down upto 1250.13 feet on 12.2.2000.

(c) and (d) As per information available, the last capacity survey of Gandhisagar was carried out in 1976 i. e. 16 years after impoundment. As per capacity survey of 1976, the observed rate of siltation is 8.96 ha.m./100 sq. km./year and the annual percent loss in gross capacity is 0.26. A centrally sponsored scheme namely Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood prone rivers is being implemented covering 45 catchments in 20 States. This scheme includes Chambal catchment (Gandhi Sagar Dam) falling in the States of M.P. and Rajasthan. The scheme aims at treatment of degraded watersheds of catchment areas for enhancing its productivity and minimizing soil erosion from the selected watersheds. Till 1999-2000, about 5.02 lakh ha area has been treated out of 7.12 lakh priority area identified as a result of priority delineation survey by the All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Setting up of Agri Clinics

4389. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agri Clinics have been set up in Karnataka to provide adequate and timely support of quality inputs and to strengthen extension services to farmers;

(b) if so, the number of Agri Clinics set up in Karnataka so far, location-wise; and

(c) the amount released by the Union Government so far for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government proposes to take up a scheme for supporting the establishment of a network of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business centres by Agriculture Graduates. The scheme proposes to extend self-employment opportunities to eligible Agriculture Graduates to support agricultural development through establishment of economically viable Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business centres of which the selected Graduates would be the owners. To begin with, the scheme aims at supporting the establishment of 5000 such clinics/centres per annum at an average cost of Rs. 5 lakhs per venture with an outer ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per individual venture. The possible locations of the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business centres would be primarily decided by the Agriculture Graduate entrepreneurs themselves, and, therefore, Government do not intend to prepare the State-wise distribution of these ventures. Action has already been initiated for obtaining necessary approval of the Government for taking up the scheme for implementation from the next financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

(English)

Coal Scandal

4390. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal worth crores of rupees meant for three power plants in Ropar, Bhatinda and Mohabhat Lehra in Punjab has been found missing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have inquired into the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to check such scams in future and punish the guilty officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) As per the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB), the quantity of coal assessed short in lac metric tonnes at Ropar, Bhatinda and Mohabhat Lehra is as under :

Year	Roper	Bhatinda	Lehra Mohabhat
1997-1998	3.8	1.05	–
1998-1999	1.84	0.79	–
1999-2000	2.05	0.69	0.85
2000-2001 Upto 6, 2000	0.37	0.2	0.21

The likely reasons for this shortage are :

(i) Weigh-bridge errors at loading end.

(ii) Pilferage en-route from Bihar to Punjab.

(ii) Loss of moisture en-routs.

An Enquiry Committee has been set up by the PSEB at the direction of the Govt. of Punjab to quantify shortages on account of each factors and also to suggest measures for minimizing the shortages.

Axle Load on Trucks

4391.SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) has demanded raising the permissible axle load on trucks and grant of industry status to the transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with other demands made by the AIMTC; and

(c) the time by which the said demands are likely to be considered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI .B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The AIMTC has demanded that the Gross Vehicle Weight be increased by 25 per cent and Road Tax be charged on pro-rata basis. They have also demanded that road transport be declared as an industry with the benefits of industry status. The other demands are that the composite tax for National permit be Rs. 3000 p. a. and uniform throughout the Country and minimum freight rate of truckers be fixed.

(c) As these require detailed scrutiny and discussion, no exact time frame can be given.

[Translation]

Review of Telephone Services

4392. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to functioning of telephone services in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of telephone exchanges remain out of order for many days;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve telephone services in the country; and

(f) the amount spent in Uttar Pardesh during the last three years for improving the Telecommunications system ?

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

(b) The functioning of Telecom. service, in Bharat Sanchar Nigan Limited (BSNL) is reviewed by independent agency "India Market Research Bureau" (IMRB), and through some parameters monitored by senior officers of BSNL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply at (c) above.

(e) Improvement to Telecom Services is a continuous process. The steps taken in a phased manner to further improve the telecom services include the following :

(i) More RLUs are inducted in the network to reduce the cable length.

(ii) Rehabilitation of external plant.

(iii) Computerization of fault repair centres.

(iv) Provision of reliable transmission media.

(v) Provision of maintenance free Battery sets and stand by generators in rural exchanges to overcome the long duration power failures.

(f) Amount spent is as follows:-

1997-98	1018.09 Crores
1998-99	1014.20 Crores
1999-2000	1171.52 Crores

Telecommunication and Postal Facilities

4393.SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting was held with public representatives to solve the problems relating to telephone and postal departments of Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the matter discussed therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) **Department of Telecom** : The matters related to switching and transmission development plans, operation and maintenance of exchanges, Internet services, new technologies such as Mobile and WILL were discussed.

Department of Post : Besides matters regarding improvement in the condition of post offices and various other related issues, discussions were also held about how to meet the loss sustained by the Department on subsidized services like sale of postcards etc.

(c) **Department of Telecom** : All out efforts are being made to achieve the targets set for the year 2000-2001.

Department of post : Steps taken by the Department of Post are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Activities	Maharashtra Region	Vidarbha Region
1	2	3
(i) Opening of Post Offices	Departmental Sub-Office-2 Branch Post Offices-60	Branch Post Offices-12
(ii) Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra	220	50
(iii) Opening of new business centres for Mass Mailing		Nagpur General P.O. Amrawati AKL H.P.O. Wardha H.P.O. Chandrapur H.P.O.
(iv) Opening of Express Parcel Centres		Chandrapur H.P.O. Amrawati H.P.O. Akola H.P.O. Wardha H.P.O. Malkapur Sorting Office
(v) Departmental Buildings: (completed)		Horizontal extension of Yavatmal Post Office Vertical extension of Candrapur Head P.O.
(vi) Computeri-sation of Head Post Offices		Nagpur G.P.O. Nagpur City Akola Head P.O.
(vii) Computeri-sation of Savings Bank Work		Akola Head. P.O. Nagpur General P.O. Chandrapur Head P.O. Buldana Head P.O.
(viii) New services added		Greeting post and Media Post launched in Nagpur Region
(ix) Maintenance of heritage buildings		Nagpur General P.O. Office of DA(P) Nagpur

1	2	3
(x)	Extension of Head Post Office building completed	Yavatamal Chandrapur
(xi)	Premium services added	Speed Post, Media Post, Business post will be available in a number of Post Offices in the interiors of Vidarbha Region

(xii) Close co-ordination being maintained with the Transport authorities for quicker transmission of mails.

(xiii) Additional funds demanded for better maintenance of buildings.

(xiv) Induction of new technologies, Transmission of money orders through V.SAT, supply of multi-purpose counter machines in phased manner, computerisation of Registration work, Automatic sorting machine, mechanisation of delivery work through Mopeds.

Private Telephone-Enquiry Service

4394.SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently introduced a private telephone enquiry service in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the towns to be linked with this service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Power Plants in Manipur

4395.SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some power plants in Manipur in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Leimakhong DG Power Plant (36 MW), a State sector project, is expected to be commissioned in the State of Manipur During the Ninth Plan. In addition to the above, the Loktak D/s HEP (90 MW) is being set up in the State of Manipur under the Central Sector and is likely to be commissioned during the Tenth Plan.

Vacancy/Post Based Rosters

4396.SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether vacancy Based Rosters can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation as per the Supreme court's Verdict;

(b) if so, the details of the services regarding Class I, II, III and Class IV Category/Grade under the Ministry of Mines 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 'Post Based Rosters' have been introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' as a result thereof: and

(c) the reasons for introduction of 'Post Based 'Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' in those categories of services where representation has not reached the prescribed percentage of reservation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

EMT Service

4397.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Express Money Transfer Service was suspended in some Telecom Circles of the country especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therfor; and

(c) the remedial action taken to resume the service and to ensure prompt payment of EMT ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. EMT Service has been temporarily disrupted at some places due to change in banking arrangements following transition from Government system to Corporate System from 1.10.2000. In Karnataka the service has not been introduced so far. Necessary banking arrangements are being made to put back the services at normal level as soon as possible.

Funds for Plantation in Tamil Nadu

4398. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for plantation programme in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government in regard to actual utilization of funds during the said periods ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Funds provided to Tamil Nadu for taking up plantations under the various centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests are as follows :

	Rs. in lakhs
1997-98	159.89
1998-99	155.26
1999-2000	509.23

The utilisation of these funds by the State Government has been satisfactory.

Import of Oil Seeds and Rice

4399. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of oil seeds and rice has adversely affected the farmers;

(b) if so, whether oil-seeds and rice growing farmers are switching over to cultivate other profitable crops; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote and encourage production of oil seeds and rice to protect the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) In the case of oilseeds, due to huge import of edible oil, there was a distress sale of some oilseeds like Soyabean, Rapeseed-Mustard and Sunflower in some parts of the country. In the case of rice, import has no impact on the farmers.

(b) The area under oilseeds is fluctuating year to year basis due to unfavourable weather conditions prevailed in the country and no specific area has been diverted from oilseed crops to other crops. In the case of rice, there has been increasing trend in its area.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, Question does not arise. However, to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and rice two centrally sponsored schemes, namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and Integrated Cereals Development programme (ICDP)-Rice are in implementation in the country. Under both these schemes financial assistance is being provided on the various critical inputs by way of subsidy. The import duty on various categories of oil has been increased recently to protect the interest of farmers.

[Translation]

Deep Sea Fishing

4400. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any interest in deep sea fishing;

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

(c) the number of Government owned trawlers available at present ?

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

(b) The Government has taken the following steps for development of Deep Sea Fishing Sector :

(i) Six major fishing harbours completed for operation of deep sea vessels with 100% Central assistance.

(ii) A total of 872 Mates. 865 Engine Drivers 527 Skippers Gr.II, 179 Engineers and one Skipper

Gr. I have been trained by the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training for meeting the statutory requirements of deep sea fishing vessels.

(iii) The two Institutes viz.., Fishery Survey of India and Integrated Fisheries Project under this Ministry has been carrying out exploratory and experimental fishing to generate date on the deep sea resources for use by entrepreneurs.

(iv) In the past the Government had financed acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels. Permission also grated for introduction of deep sea fishing vessels under joint venture scheme.

(v) Government has already constituted and Expert Group for formulation of a Comprehensive Policy for Marine Fisheries under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Gopakumar, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Group is expected to submit its report shortly.

(c) There are 15 Government owned trawlers at present.

[English]

Admission of SC/ST Students

4401.SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, recommended for admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent against their quota of seats in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of seats offered in different faculties/ disciplines in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, in Graduation/Post Graduation level courses during each of the last five years; and

(d) the total number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last five years, Year- wise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the concerned Ministries/Authorities have been informed for necessary compliance.

(c) and (d) Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun conducts only post-graduate course in Wildlife Sciences. The admission to this course is through national test conducted every alternate year. There are 10 seats for Indian students and 2 for overseas students. One seat out of 10 is reserved for SC/ST candidate. The course-wise details are as under :-

S. No.	Year	Total Seats	Total No. of SC/ST students	%of SC/ ST
1.	1991-93	7	Nil	Nil
2.	1993-95	7	Nil	Nil
3.	1995-97	10 + (1 overseas)	1	10%
4.	1997-99	9	1	11.11%
5.	1999-2001	10 + (2 overseas)	1	10%

[Translation]

Criteria for Opening Post Offices

4402.YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the existing criteria for opening Post Offices in rural, urban, tribal and backward areas in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : The norms for opening of Post Offices in the country is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Norms for Opening Post Office

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices :

1.1 Population :

(a) **In Normal Areas :** 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas :** 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance :

(a) **In Normal Areas :** The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas :** The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases

where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income :

(a) **In Normal Areas :** The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.1/3% of the cost.

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas :** The minimum anticipated income would be 15% of the cost.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices :

(a) **In Rural Areas :** The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural Areas and 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) **In Urban Areas :** In Urban areas, the Post Office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two Post Offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban. No two-delivery Offices, however, should be closer then 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

[English]

Development of Livestock

4403. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any central scheme for livestock development in Tribal dominated backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the destricts of North-East States are likely to be covered under the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the amount to be spent on this scheme and the amount likely to be allocated during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise ?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Multipurpose Technology

4404. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Renewable Energy Development Agency has developed solar cooker which can operate in harsh winters in Kargil Hills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a lamp has also been developed using same technique;

(d) whether similar technology has been innovated in any other country of the world;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the sectors in which the Government propose to utilize this multipurpose technology; and

(g) the details of the scheme, if any, formulated by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been supporting the development and use of solar energy devices in the country for a variety of purposes. Following the Kargil conflict in 1999-2000, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a financial institution under the Ministry, donated six solar cookers and 10 solar lanterns for use by an Army Unit stationed in Kargil. The solar cookers were specially designed to function in the high altitude and extremely cold conditions prevailing in the Kargil hills. Among the features incorporated in the cooker are : (i) the cooker box is made light-stabilised polyester resin re-inforced with fiber glass; (ii) extra thick high density insulation has been provided; (iii) special rubber and silicone sealants have been used to withstand the low temperatures; (iv) the cover glass plates are made of toughened glass.

(c) The lantern supplied to Kargil also uses solar energy. The electronics used in the lantern unit have been specially designed to withstand low temperatures.

(d) and (e) Both solar cooking and solar lighting are well-known and established concepts. Different designs of solar cookers and solar lighting systems have been

developed and are in commercial production in several countries including USA, Germany, Japan, China, South Africa and Switzerland. These products are usually adapted to suit local conditions and requirements.

(f) and (g) Solar cookers, solar lanterns and other lighting systems are already in commercial production in the country. Several lakhs of these systems have been supplied under the solar energy programmes of the Ministry in various parts of the country. The Ministry is implementing well-formulated schemes for this purpose. The Photovoltaic Programme of the Ministry provides for subsidy to users of lighting systems and is implemented through the renewable energy agencies in various States. The Ministry also supports promotional activities such as publicity, training and demonstration in respect of solar cookers.

Productivity Awards

4405. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether productivity award are given on the increase in Production; and

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for giving such awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes Sir. The National Productivity Awards are given to Institutions/Organisations/Government Departments to recognise excellence in productivity performance within different sub sectors. The National Productivity Awards are given for increase in production per unit area (yield). better utilisation of inputs, machinery and capital. The awards are not given to individuals.

(b) The criteria for assessment are quantitative and qualitative factors. The quantitative parameters used for assessment are Crop Productivity, Cropping Intensity and efficient utilisation of input resources. The qualitative factors are quality of produce, Export Orientation, Human Resources Development, Training, Skill improvement, Safety measures, etc. The list of National productivity Awards given in Agricultural and Food Processing Sector are given in the attached statement.

Statement

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1. Agricultural Extension Services.
2. Animal Feed Processing.
3. Bio-Fertilizer Producers.
4. Command Area Development and Irrigation Projects.
5. Dairy Development and Production.
6. Dry Land Farming.
7. Horticulture Development Co-operatives.
8. Inland and Marine Fish Production Co-operatives
9. Marketing and State Oil Seed Federation in Co-operative Sector.
10. Poultry Production and Development.
11. Seed Corporations.
12. State Agro-Indusfries Corporations.
13. State Farm Corporations.
14. Warehousing Corporations.

FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR

1. Cereal Processing Industries.
2. Consumer Edible Products.
3. Dairy Processing Industries.
4. Flood Processing Training Centres.
5. Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries.
6. Marine and Sea Food Processing Industries.
7. Meat Processing Industries.

[English]

Pollution in Ramganga River

4406. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of effluents put into the Ramganga river of West Uttar Pradesh by polluting industries in Moradabad; and

(b) the steps being taken to preserve its cleanliness and to stop the river being polluted further?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The total quantity of effluent being discharged into Ramganga river by industries is 5000 kilolitres per day. There are three grossly polluting industries identified along the river Ramganga. Out of these, one unit is closed and the remaining two units have provided requisite effluent treatment facilities.

Hydel Power Project at Farakka Barrage

4407. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a hydel power project is proposed to be set up at farakka Barrage Project;

(b) if so, whether necessary clearance has been awarded in this regard;

(c) whether Farakka Barrage Project has imposed any term and condition for this construction on hydel power station of the structure of the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Detailed Project Report of Farakka Hydroelectric Project [5x25=125 MW] in West Bengal prepared by the Central Water Commission and received in the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance was found in order by CEA on 11.11.1991 subject to certain conditions for execution by Farakka Barrage Hydro-electric Project Authority under the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) The project is awaiting environmental clearance.

(c) and (d) The construction, operation and maintenance of the hydro-electric Project shall have to be done in such a way that the safety and security of the barrage is not put to any risk and the rail and road traffic is not interrupted due to construction activities.

Setting up of Power Projects by Foreign Industrialists

4408.SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign industrialists delegation has visited India during the last year and evinced interest in power sector particularly in hydel power;

(b) if so, the details of the other issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the locations where these power projects are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Since the inception of the private power policy of the Government of India in 1991, foreign investors have been visiting India from time to time and evincing interest in participating in the private power programme of the country. The details of the proposals for setting up hydro-electric power projects in the private sector received till date involving participation by foreign investors, are given below :

S.No.	Name of the Project/Promoter/State	Cap.(MW)	Name of the foreign promoter
Projects accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)			
1.	Shrinagar HEP by M/s. Duncans North Power Co. Ltd in Uttar Pradesh.	4x82.5	M/s Synergics Energy Development Inc., USA
2.	Maheshwar HEP by M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corp. Ltd in Madhya Pradesh.	10x40	Ogden Asia Pacific,USA/Siemens AG, Germany/ABB, Germany
Projects accorded 'in-principle' clearance of CEA and the promoters and who are required to submit the complete Detailed Project Report to CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance.			
1.	Upper Krishna HEP by M/s. Chamundi Power Corporation Ltd. in Karnataka	1107	M/s Chamundi Power Corporation Ltd/ TAPCO, USA/ Asia Power Developments, New Zealand/ GE (Hydro), UK.
2.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP by M/s. Dhamwari Power Co. in Himachal Pradesh	70	M/s Dhamwari Power Company/Harza Engg/ USA

[Translation]

Medicinal Plants in Maharashtra

4409.SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified any medicinal plants in the hilly areas and forests in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any initiatives for conservation of existing medicinal plants and development of such plants in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No comprehensive inventory on medicinal plants have been carried out by this Ministry so far in the hilly and forest areas in Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A pilot scale project on conservation of medicinal plants in few selected areas in Maharashtra has been taken up. This project which is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) includes identification and insitu conservation of medicinal plants.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Hydel Project in Hamid Nagar Barrage

4410. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for setting up of new hydel project including the Hamid Nagar Barrage at river Punpun;

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

(c) whether the Government have cleared this proposal;

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

(e) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) No proposal for setting up hydel project on Punpun river near Hamid Nagar. Has been received in the Central Electricity Authority from the Government of Bihar. However, the Detailed Project Report to build Punpun Barrage at an estimated cost of Rs. 84.55 crores was received in the Central Water Commission in May 2000 from the Government of Bihar. Comments on various technical aspects have been sent to the State Government. Clearance of the project is linked with the compliance of observations of various Central Appraisal Agencies by the State Government.

[Translation]

Thermal Beej Mathako of Gujarat

4411. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal involving an expenditure of Rs. 1.10 crores of Gujarat Ecological Commission for scientific study on environmental impacts of Thermal Beej Mathako of Gujarat has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Air Pollution

4412. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Environmental Pollution Authority has called for strict measures to reduce air pollution in Delhi and scrapped the Indraprastha Power Station;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have since taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has accorded environmental clearance to the proposed Pragati Power Plant of the Delhi Vidyut Board subject to the condition that the existing indraprastha Thermal Power Station will be decommissioned within six months of the commissioning of the new plant.

Per Capita Telephone Facility

4413. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the average per capita telephone facility available in rural and urban areas of each State particularly in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : State-wise details of average per capita telephone facility in rural and urban areas per 100 persons, as on 31/10/2000, are given in the attached statement and the same for Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh is 1.47 and 8.13 respectively.

Statement

Stat wise Rural and Urban Per Capita Telephone Facility Per 100 Person as on 31/10/2000

S.No.	Name of State	- Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.14	8.64

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	0.22	8.34
3.	Bihar	0.17	3.95
4.	Gujarat	1.19	10.70
5.	Haryana	1.10	10.94
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.82	22.64
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.13	5.76
8.	Karanataka	1.38	9.30
9.	Kerala	4.38	10.83
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0.42	5.12
11.	Maharashtra	1.03	12.51
12.	North East	0.43	5.35
13.	Orissa	0.41	5.98
14.	Punjab	2.13	14.19
15.	Rajasthan	0.71	6.99
16.	Tamil Nadu	0.44	12.81
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.24	5.74
18.	West Bengal	0.41	7.31
19.	Delhi	0.00	16.29
	Total (All India)	0.74	9.19

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 Sikkam, Andeman Nicobar State.

Bihar State includes Jharkhand State.

Madhya Pradesh State includes Chattisgarh State.

Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttranchal State.

Telephone Service in Villages

4414.SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Manker region Bankura district of West Bengal having and yet not having telephone facility at present; and

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 15 villages around Manker region in the district of Burdwan are having telecom facility. The number of villages not yet having telephone facility is 12.

(b) The remaining villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility by March, 2002.

Fraud in Sealed Unit

4415.SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : 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 "Lawyer held for opening sealed unit" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated 3 November, 2000;

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

(c) whether senior officials of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee are also involved in this fraud; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Tanslation]

Airtel Telephone Company

4416.SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether AIRTEL Company is providing its services in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered thereunder at present;

(c) whether certain districts in the State are still deprived of this facility;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these districts are likely to be covered thereunder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Complaints against Construction/ Repair of Post Offices

4417.SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received complaints about poor quality of construction/repairing of Post Office Buildings/staff quarters and also the use of sub-standard material; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality of construction/repairs in the existing Post Offices, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Irrigated/Unirrigated Areas

4418.KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the irrigated/unirrigated areas of the country in hectares alongwith the factual details in this regard; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have initiated any concrete programme for irrigating the unirrigated areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The State-wise details of irrigated/unirrigated areas of the country are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The following important schemes/programme are being implemented by the Government to expand irrigated areas :

(i) A centrally sponsored scheme "Command Area Development" (CAD) was initiated with the basic objective of bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and that utilised so as to increase agriculture production from the irrigated commands. The scheme, *inter-alia*, envisages the following :

- construction of field channels,
- land leveling and shaping,
- implementation of warabandi for rotational supply of water,
- construction of field drains,
- adoption of drip and sprinkler systems,
- conjunctive use of surface and ground water.

(ii) The Government of India is implementing Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97, under which the Central Government provided Central Loan Assistance on matching basis to the State Governments for early completion of their selected large irrigation and multi purpose projects. In 1999-200, pattern of assistance was liberalised and assistance under this scheme is being extended for Minor Irrigation projects of North Eastern States, Hilly States and drought prone districts of Orissa. The revised funding pattern for general category States is in the ratio of 2:1 (share of Centre and States) whereas the pattern of funding for special category States of North Eastern States, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and for selected districts of Orissa is in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre : State).

The Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 1460.60 crores was released during 1999-2000.

(iii) Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) was launched under the aegis of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for providing loans to State Governments to attend to the needs of rural infrastructure including ongoing irrigation projects, watershed development, soil conservation, flood control, drainage, roads and bridges etc.

Statement

Irrigated and Unirrigated Area under major States during 1996-97

(000 hectares)

State/Union Territory	Net Irrigated Area	Un-irrigated Area	Net Area sown
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4395	6439	10834
Arunachal Pradesh	36	149	185

1	2	3	4
Bihar	3624	3713	7337
Gujarat	3042	6558	9600
Haryana	2755	860	3615
Himachal Pradesh	105 *	453*	558*
Jammu & Kashmir	313	420	733
Karnataka	2325	8285	10610
Kerala	357	1912	2269
Madhya Pradesh	6399	13395	19794
Maharashtra	2567 @	15309	17876
Orissa	2090 @	3878	5963
Punjab	3847 *	292*	4139*
Rajasthan	5588	11202	16790
Tamil Nadu	2892	2594	5486
Uttar Pradesh	11999	5476	17475
West Bengal	1911	3552	5463
All India	55143	87676	142819

@Relates to 1993-94

*Relates to 1995-96

Performance of Indian Telephone Industry

4419.SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plants set up in the country by the Indian Telephone Industry (ITI), location-wise;

(b) the details of various tools/equipments being manufactured by these plants at present;

(c) whether all the necessary tools/equipments required for the telecom sector are manufactured by these plants; and

(d) if so, the performance of ITI during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are seven plants set up in the country by Indian Telephone Industry (ITI). They are as under :

1. Main Plant, Bangalore, Karnataka
2. E.C. Plant, Bangalore, Karnataka
3. Palakkad Plant, Kerala
4. Naini Plant, Uttar Pradesh
5. Rae Bareilly Plant, Uttar Pradesh
6. Mankapur Plant, Uttar Pradesh
7. Srinagar Plant, Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) The details of various equipments manufactured by these plants at present are as under :

1. Switching Equipment	:	OCB 283 (LOCAL), OCB 283 (TAX), C-DOT Exchanges, Small Exchanges viz. ILT and MLT.
2. Transmission equipment	:	Digital Radio, Optic Fibre (PDH) and SDH MCPC VSAT, C-DOT (TDMA)
3. Terminal Equipment	:	Telephone Instruments

(c) ITI is not manufacturing tools required for Telecom, Sector. Majority of the equipments required for the Telecom Sector are manufactured by ITI Ltd.

(d) The performance of ITI Ltd. during the last three years is as under :

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Sales Turnover	2085.18	1539.09	1263.05
Profit	45.79	27.10	15.26

[English]

Creation of Posts by C-DOT

4420.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Finance Ministry have imposed any ban on creation of Plan and Non-plan posts with effect from August 5, 1999;

(b) if so, whether C-DOT have created posts of Joint Secretary without obtaining prior sanction/approval from Cabinet Committee of Appointments and Finance Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have investigated/ propose to investigate into the matter; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir. C-DOT has not created posts of Joint Secretary level after 5th August, 1999.

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

Declaration of State Road as National Highway

4421. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI VINOD KHANNA :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to declare State Road connecting Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Dosuya, Mukerian, Gurdaspur, Kathua as National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposals are considered keeping in view the criteria laid down for inclusion as NH e.g. the traffic needs interse-priority with other proposals received from the State Governments and the availability of funds.

Energy Efficiency Methods System

4422. DR.B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not made any efforts towards providing energy efficient methods and budgetary support to activities like Energy management Centre;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of future strategies and institutional mechanism of the Government to enhance and optimize energy efficiency in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Government has a long term strategy and plan for efficient use of energy and its conservation on a national basis. The Government is providing budgetary support for encouraging energy efficiency and its conservation in all sectors of economy (agriculture, domestic, industry and commercial). The activities covered include energy audits of power plants and industries, extensive awareness campaigns, training of manpower, institution of energy conversation awards, reduction of T and D losses, introduction of energy efficient power generation technologies and promotion of energy efficient appliances in lighting, agriculture and industrial sectors.

The Ministry of Power has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on the 24th February, 2000. The Bill provides for the following :

(a) Establish the Bureau of Energy Conservation (BEC) by merger of existing Energy Management Centre (EMC) to provide legal framework for promoting energy efficiency and its conservation in the country;

(b) Specify norms for process and energy consumption standard for any equipment, appliance which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy;

(c) Prohibit manufacture or sale or purchase of specified equipment unless such equipment or appliance conforms to energy consumption standards; and

(d) Direct display of such particulars on label on equipment or appliance specified.

Solar Energy Projects In Tamil Nadu

4423. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up solar energy projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therfor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has several schemes to promote solar energy projects in various States of the country, including Tamil Nadu. Under the Solar photovoltaic Programme, subsidies are being provided for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants and to the users of solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems and solar pumps. For commercial users, soft loans are available from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a financial institution under the Ministry. Under the Solar Thermal Programme, soft loans are provided to users of solar water heating, drying

and other systems through IREDA and some banks. In Tamil Nadu, the State Government is also providing subsidy on some solar devices through the Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA). Some projects have also been implemented by private organizations with their own resources or using loans from IREDA.

The following are some of the solar energy projects already undertaken in Tamil Nadu :

(1) 8 Solar photovoltaic power plants with an aggregate capacity of 232 kW have been installed at different locations in the State.

(2) 7493 solar lanterns, 21 home lighting systems, 2081 street lights and 692 solar pumps have been installed so far under the programmes of the Ministry. During 2000-01, 2000 solar lanterns, 50 home lighting systems and 100 street lights have been allocated to Tamil Nadu.

(3) TEDA has installed 2822 domestic water heating systems and 333 larger water heating systems in the State. During 2000-01, 300 domestic systems and 15 larger water heating systems have been sanctioned by the State Government.

(4) A number of solar industrial drying systems for drying of tea, spices, vegetable, etc. have been installed by private companies.

(5) A solar bowl concentrating system for steam generation and cooking has been supported by the Ministry at Auroville as and R and D project. A project for the installation and testing of a 10 kW Solar Stirling Engine System at Vellore has also been recommended by the R and D Advisory Committee of the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Mekong-Ganga Link Project

4424. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mekong-Ganga link project has been launched; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.)SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Vientiane Declaration of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation was signed in Laos on 10 November 2000 between India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar,Thailand and Vietnam. This initiative aims to promote cooperation among the six countries in the areas of Tourism, Culture, Education, Transport and Communication.

Conversion of Forest Land

4425. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the forest land is used into various other purposes; and

(b) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land can be used for various other purposes. The policy and procedure for allowing such use is as per the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981 and the Guidelines framed thereof, which are communicated to the State Governments from time to time.

[Translation]

Failure of Ash Boosting Pump at B.T.P.S.

4426. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an ash boosting pump house and approximately 5 Km long pipe line was constructed with a cost of Rs. 20 crore at the Bokaro Thermal Power Station about three years back for pollution control;

(b) if so, whether this project has failed;

(c) if so, whether the Government have investigated the reasons for failure of this project and fixed the responsibilities in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An ash Boosting Pump House and related four C.I. pipes of 5 K.M. each route length were constructed/erected and the pipe lines were tested with water in February 1999.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Compensation to Farmers of Distress Cell

4427. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large scale Distress Cell of paddy and wheat in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so. the steps the Government are taking or contemplating to take to check Distress Cell;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide compensation to farmers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh from where the Distress Cell is reported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding distress sale of rice during the Kharif marketing Season 2000-01 were received from Bihar, Haryana, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi and in respect of wheat, during the Rabi Marketing Season 2000-01, from Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These reports were immediately sent to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as the concerned State Governments for urgent remedial action to prevent their recurrence. Further, the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to increase in admixture of lower class in rice from 10 per cent to 13 per cent of MTU 7029 has been allowed by the Government.

Utilisation of Funds

4428.SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry failed to utilise Rs. 281.08 crores during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was steep rise in the amount of funds unspent under capital section in the preceeding three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD). SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) A sum of Rs. 220.26 crores remained unutilized under Capital Section.

(b) Non-utilisation of above amount was mainly due to less expenditure by States, and reduction in allocation to National Highways Authority.

(c) There has been increase in unspent amount of money in three preceding year prior to 1997-98.

(d) The progress of works is being periodically reviewed to take appropriate remedial measures wherever there are any bottlenecks in order to complete the works as per physical and financial targets. Further the existing system of payment through reimbursement which involved delays has been reviewed and system of direct payment introduced wherever necessary to ensure utilisation of funds.

Effect of Fly Ash on Crops

4429.SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research have conducted any studies regarding effect of fly ash on some crops;

(b) if so, whether the fly ash contains toxic and heavy metals affecting adversely on the health of soil;

(c) whether the results of long term studies under the Mission Project have since been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the findings of the studies are likely to be submitted to the Government ?

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

(b) Fly ash contains toxic/heavy metals such as nickel, cadmium and lead which may affect the soil health adversely in the long run.

(c) to (e) The Department of Science and Techology is implementing a Mission Mode project on fly ash to explore its use in various fields, including agriculture. The preliminary studies under Department of Science and Techology project indicated an average yield increase of the order of 15-20%.

[Translation]

Environment Task Force in States

4430.SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts where environment task force have been constituted in the country, State-wise;

(b) the works undertaken to improve environment so far and the achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have provided assistance to the States for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether more districts are proposed to be included under the scheme;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (g) No environment task force has been set up in the country by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, 4 Ecological Task Forces have been established which are currently operating in Dehradun (Uttar Pradesh), Pithoragarh (Uttar Pradesh), Mohangarh (Rajasthan) and Samba (Jammu and Kashmir). During 1997-2000 in the Ninth Plan, soil conservation measures and planting over 4,529 hectares of non-forest land have been carried out by these Ecological Task Forces for which expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Environment and Forests was Rs. 1683 lakhs. No financial assistance is provided to the States in this regard. Additional districts are not proposed to be covered under the scheme in the Ninth Plan due to budgetary constraints.

Narmada Valley Project

4431. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which his Ministry has approved the water project report of the River Valley Project;

(b) the funds provided to various watershed projects (phase-wise) as per the annual targets, under the Narmada Valley Development Authority to the Madhya Pradesh Government during the last three years alongwith the amount spent unit-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have made any assessment in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Narmada Valley Project Authority have ignored the norms regarding approved annual expenditure pattern phase-wise;

(e) if so, the details of the amount provided to the Madhya Pradesh and Narmada Valley Project Authority under river valley project.

(f) whether Narmada Valley Development Authority, Bhopal has furnished the details of the accounts of the said amount; and

(g) if not, the action taken against the officials responsible for furnishing such details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The catchments covered under River Valley Projects are surveyed by a Central Organization, namely, All India Soil and Land Use Survey and the catchments are divided into small watersheds, which are prioritized into five categories i.e. Very High, High, Medium. Low and Very Low, according to the magnitude and criticality of degradation of watersheds due to soil erosion and run-off. Only High and Very High degraded Watersheds are eligible for treatment under the scheme. The watersheds proposed by State Government of these categories are only approved following the guidelines of the scheme.

(b) to (g) The funds provided by Government of India to the State of Madhya Pradesh, for implementation of River Valley Project by Departments of Agriculture and Narmada Valley Development, for last three years and expenditure reported by State Government are attached as Statement.

An assessment of the performance of the State Government with respect to physical and financial achievements has indicated that the targets set could not be achieved. The State Government were advised to improve the implementation of the Scheme in the State.

Statement

Yearwise Central Assistance released and expenditure made during last 3 Years in Madhya Pradesh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of River Valley Projects

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Year	Madhya Pradesh			
		Agriculture Deptt.		Narmada Valley Dev. Deptt.	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1.	Balance as on 1.4.97 (Revalidated)	3.64		0.26	
2.	1997-98	7.00	6.87	2.00	2.00
3.	1998-99	10.33	8.70	5.60	3.72
4.	1999-2000	8.00	8.03	5.00	4.38
	Total	28.99	23.60	12.86	10.10

[English]

Shortage of Underground Telephone Cables

4432. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of underground telephone cables in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Procurement of underground telephone cable is done progressively during the Year. There is no shortage of cable as of now. Already orders for 75% of the annual requirement have been placed. Balance 25% of the cables is in the process of procurement for utilization before the end of this financial year.

(c) Rs. 5160.70 Crores for annual plan 2000-2001.

Projects Based on N.C.E.S. in Maharashtra

4433. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects based on non-conventional energy sources sanctioned for Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any of such projects have since been completed and commissioned ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing various projects/ schemes such as biogas, improved chulhas, special area demonstration programme, small hydro power, biomass gasifier, wind power, solar cookers and solar photovoltaic programme etc. In the State of Maharashtra. The details of projects/schemes sanctioned and implemented in the State of Maharashtra during each of the last three years are given in the attached statement. Among the bigger projects, one project of 4 MW power generation capacity from Municipal Solid Waste in Nagpur city is likely to be completed by December, 2001, one project of 1 MW (2x500 kilo watt) for power generation from biomass gasifier is likely to be completed by the end of 2000-2001 and one project of 3 MW capacity of small hydro power is likely to be completed by the end of 2001-2002. It is also expected that wind power capacity of about 80 MW will be added during 2000-01 in the State of Maharashtra.

Statement

Details of Projects/Schemes sanctioned and implemented during each of the last three years in the State of Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of Projects/Schemes	1997-98	1998-99	1999-200
1.	Biogas (nos).	15406	13474	13682
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP (nos).	21	35	35
3.	Improved Chulhas (nos. in lakh)	2.13	1.03	1.10
4.	Wind Power (MW)	0.23	23.34	50.35
5.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	2.50	0.21	–
6.	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	–	100	200
7.	Special Area Demonstration (nos.)	5	–	2
8.	Solar Cookers (nos)	1520	760	950
9.	SPV Water Pumping Systems (nos.)	8	4	20
10.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme (nos.)			
	1. Street Lighting.	15	44	55
	2. Home Lighting	28	62	89
	3. Solar lanterns	276	537	663

CBP/IBP/NBP-Community, Institutional, Night-soil-based biogas plants, SPV-Solar Photovoltaic.
MW-Mega Watt, kW-Kilo Watt.

[Translation]

Development of Agriculture in Bihar

4434.MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar State is lagging behind in the field of agriculture as compared to other States;

(b) if so, whether the average production of both wheat and paddy in the State is much below than the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of agriculture in the State or received any proposal from the State Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government on this proposal so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The State of Bihar is lagging behind in the field of agriculture compared to some other States. The average production per hectare of area (productivity) of various crops in Bihar is lower then that of some other States. The productivity of some of important crops in Bihar vis-a-vis that of all India level during 1998-99 is given under:

Kgs/Hectare

Crops	Bihar	All India
Rice	1301	1928
Wheat	1992	2583
Foodgrains	1441	1620
Oilseeds	699	944
Sugarcane	48547	72560

The productivity of crops depends on a large number of factors such as Agro climatic conditions farm size, application of inputs, level of investment and managerial skill. Since these factors vary a great deal from State to State, so does the productivity.

(d) to (f) To develop agriculture in different parts of the country including Bihar, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme envisages integration of 27 Plan schemes into one scheme for supplementation/ complementation of State' efforts through work plans which give flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.

The Government has received a work plan proposal from Government of Bihar under Macro Management Scheme which is under examination.

[English]

Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

4435. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh where there is no Post Office at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to open Post Offices in all the villages in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of villages in Andhra Pradesh where there is no Post Office is 15196.

(b) The opening of Post Office is done according to the fulfilment of prescribed departmental norms, and is subject to the sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

(c) It is proposed to open 15 Branch Post Offices in the villages in Andhra Pradesh during the current Year (2000-2001).

[Translation]

Setting up of New Power Projects in Uttar Pradesh

4436.SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up Thermal Power Station in the State;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have sent back some proposals for resubmitting according to new modified policy in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have received revised proposals for these projects from the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details of those projects and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of proposals for setting up thermal power stations in State Sector/Private Sector in Uttar Pradesh are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) to (e) The details of proposals returned to project authorities due to various reasons and requesting them to submit revised Detailed Project Reports are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

(A) CEA CLEARED/APPRAISED

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Date of TEC
1.	Anpara 'C'-UPSEB (Sonebhadra)	2x500= 1000	11/94	9.8.96 (appraised)
2.	Rosa TPP (Ph-I) (M/s Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.) (Shahjahanpur	2x283.5= 567.0	04/96	20.8.97
	Total	1567		

(B) DPR under Examination in CEA

1.	Jawaharpur TPP (M/s Jawaharpur Power India pvt. Ltd.) (Etwah)	2x400= 800	26.12.96	

Statement-II

Schemes Returned/Submission of DPR Expected

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA
1	2	3	4
1.	Paricha Extn.	2x210=420	6/79 (I) 4/89 (II) Revised
2.	Auraiya GT	5x120=600	7/84
3.	Narora	3x210=630	3/82
4.	Partabpur	2x500=1000	1/84
5.	Dohrighat	2x210=420	5/78
6.	Belthara Road	3x250=750	11/92
7.	Aonla CCGT	600	3/91
8.	Babrala CCGT	600	4/91
9.	Shahjehan Pur	600	5/91
10.	Jagdishpur GTCC	4x35 (GT) + 2x35 (ST)	5/89 (I) 8/90 (II)
	Total	5830	

[English]

National Botanical Garden

4437. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Botanical Garden on the lines of one at NOIDA is proposed to be set up at Nasik;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) A proposal to set up a National Botanical Garden at NOIDA is under consideration with the Government. There is no proposal to set up the National Botanical Garden elsewhere in the country.

Internet Services

4438. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present pattern of call charges for Internet;

(b) whether the cost of running the Internet services is very high as compared to other neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the said cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) All basic telephone service operators are charging the same tariff for internet call as for the voice calls from their subscribers. Also, at present Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing access to the nearest Internet node at local call charges.

(b) and (c) There is no information available to indicate that the cost of running the Internet services is very high as compared to other neighbouring countries. In fact the access charges in Internet Service have shown consistent downward trend and a few Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are offering free Internet access. Also, the following steps by the Government would reduce the cost of running Internet service :-

(i) Licence fee for Internet service is waived upto 31.10.2003 and Re.1/-per annum thereafter.

(ii) ISPs have been allowed to import telecom equipment viz. Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) switches, Frame Relay Switch, Routers, DWDM equipment and Ethernet switch at the concessional custom duty of 5%.

(iii) ISPs have been permitted to set up International Gateways for Internet using satellite as well as submarine cable medium.

(iv) A 20% concession is being offered by BSNL on annual lease line rentals for lease lines taken for Internet acccess.

(v) BSNL plans to establish a National Internet Backbone for carriage of internet traffic. It aims at providing easy interconnect point to the ISPs.

(vi) Under the National Long Distance policy the infrastructure providers would be encouraged to provide end to end bandwidth.

(vii) Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has announced substantial reduction in charges for International leased circuit and port charges from 1st January, 2001.

[Transalation]

Corruption in MTNL

4439. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether corruption in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is on increase;

(b) the number of persons found involved during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such tendencies in the MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) 359.

(c) The following steps have been taken :

(i) Surprise checks are conducted in close co-ordination with other investigating agencies.

(ii) All complaints are entertained and attended to promptly.

(iii) Threshold monitoring is being done more effectively in all Exchanges.

(iv) Under punitive vigilance, action is taken against the officials found guilty.

Improvement of National Highway from Bharuch to Vapi

4440. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway from Bharuch to Vapi requires repairing and there is heavy traffic pressure on the above National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the improvements brought about on the national Highway between Ahmedabad to Mumbai in 1996-97 alongwith details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) All National Highways including Bharuch to Vapi section require maintenance and repairs, which are carried out on continuous basis. For maintenance and repairs of this section, a sum of Rs. 498 lakhs has been allocated by National Highways Authority of India to Bharuch Division of PWD Gujarat during the year 2000-2001.

(c) Three works costing Rs. 115.94 lakhs in Maharashtra and four works costing Rs. 2,927.75 lakhs in Gujarat were undertaken for improvement of the section in 1996-97.

Non-Functioning of Telephone Lines

4441. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL :Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone lines of the Baraut Exchange, district Allahabad remain down from 9 p.m. in the evening to 9 a.m. in the morning; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to keep the said lines functional round the clock ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Telecom Facilities

4442. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of telephone exchanges in rural areas of Mandvi, Brauch and Banaskantha regions of Gujarat, Baramulla region of Jammu and Kashmir, Bettiah region of Bihar and Kheri (Lakhimpur) region of U.P. are less than requirement;

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

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in these regions as on October 31.2000; and

(d) 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) to (d) The information is contained in the Attached statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Region	Whether the number of telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the region is less than requirement	If so, steps taken by the Government in this regard	Number of persons in the waiting list in the region as on October 31, 2000	The time by which the waiting list is likely to be celared
1.	(a) Mandvi	Yes, Sir	New exchanges/Ex-	5960	July, 2001
	(b) Bharuch	Yes, Sir.	pansions have been	5214	July, 2001
	(c) Banaskantha of Gujarat	Yes, Sir.	planned as per requirement	7739	July, 2001
2.	Baramulla of J & K	Yes, Sir	-do-	4630	July, 2001
3.	Bettiah of Bihar	These are as per requirement	Does not arise	680	March, 2001
4.	Kheri (Lakhimpur) of UP	Yes, Sir.	New exchanges expansions have been planned as per requirement	3703	March, 2002

[English]

Waiving of Agriculture Loans

4443. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for waiving of agriculture loan and interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government have also decided to waive of the agriculture loan of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir State;

(e) if so, the details thereof and proposed plan of the Government; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No representation for waiving of agricultural loan and interest has been received in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. As a matter of policy Government of India are not in favour of any blanket any waiver of agricultural lean as it tends to vitiate the recovery climate and thus undermining the viability of the financial institutions.

[Translation]

Four Laning of Agra-Mumbai National Highway

4444. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of four laning of Agra-Mumbai National Highway has been started;

(b) if so, whether no-objection for constructing this National Highway through forest land of Gwalior district has been obtained:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to divert bypass of the above National Highway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Special permission has been granted by Hon'ble Supreme Court for cutting of trees in the section from km 60 to 70 of National Highway-3.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Bridge at Chowkighat on NH-52

4445. SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a bridge across Zia Bhorali river at Chowkighat on National Highway No. 52;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount allocated for the purpose during the current year;

(d) whether there is proposal for conversion of National Highway No. 52 into double lane; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI.) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consultant submitted the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) in December 1997 on the basis of approved span arrangement, feasible for the changed course of the river as it existed at that time. Subsequent to the submission of the report by the consultant, the active channel of the river again outflanked the proposed abutment locations of the bridge affecting the site conditions significantly which required review of the DPR. The consultant has suggested a model study for the project before preparing a fresh proposal. The model study is being carried out by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune. Findings of the model study will be taken into consideration before the DPR of the project can be finalized.

(c) A provision of Rs. 1.00 crore has been made in the Annual Plan 2000-01 for carrying out model study for the project.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The stretch of NH52 from Baihata Charali to North Lakhimpur (350 km) is already double-lane. The provision for double laning of another 10 km of the length between North Lakhimpur and Jonai is provided in the Annual Plan 2000-01. Double laning of the remaining length is proposed to be taken up in phased manner subject to availability of funds.

Misutilisation of Funds by N.E. States

4446. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4710 dated August. 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the Government of N.E. States have submitted their reports regarding utilisation of funds allocated for the purchase of energy meters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the utilisation reports from the State Governments are likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, Rural Electrification Corporation sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 516 crores to the Electricity Department, Government of Manipur for purchase of energy meters and, on the basis of invoices a sum of Rs. 3.4 crores (90% of Rs. 3.77 crores towards cost of material) was released to the Government of Manipur on 31st March, 2000. The Electricity Department, Government of Manipur have reported that they released the following amount of money to the manufactures out of the payments released by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) :-

(i) State Electricity Department (SED), Government of Manipur has released Rs. 1.83 crores to

M/s. Capital. Power Systems Ltd. upto October, 2000.

(ii) SED has released Rs. 1.20 crore to M/s. Elymer Electric upto October, 2000.

(iii) The balance amount of Rs. 36.54 lakhs is being released shortly as informed by the SED.

(c) It has further been reported by Electricity Department, Government of Manipur that disbursement of payment for energy meters will be cleared during the current financial year.

Integated Fisheries Project

4447.DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the multi-purpose jetty at Integrated Fisheries Project at Kochi was completed;

(d) the initial estimated cost when the jetty project was conceived and the total amount spent when completed;

(c) whether any internal audit was undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action initiated against the persons responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) A sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs was paid to Cochin Port Trust for preparation of design and estimates of a new multipurpose jetty to be constructed at Integrated Fisheries Project, Kochi. Further, a sum of Rs. 2.32 lakhs was also paid to Cochin Port Trust for preparation of techno-economic feasibility report and soil investigation for construction of the proposed jetty. After receipt of project estimates from Cochin Port Trust the proposal was examined in the Ministry and it was decided not to go for construction of jetty and the proposal was dropped. The estimated cost for construction of the jetty was projected as Rs. 146.91 lakhs. Local Audit while auditing accounts of Integrated Fisheries Project, Kochi for the year 1995-96 observed that the expenditure of Rs. 3.82 lakhs incurred for preparation of design, estimates, soil investigation, etc. appears to be infructuous. The factual position of the case has been intimated to the Local Audit by integrated Fisheries Project, Kochi with a request to drop the audit objection.

Post Based Roaster

4448.SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SARDAR BUTA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether DoPT has introduced Post Based Roaster' in place of 'Vacancy Based Roasters' for implementing reservation w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under his Ministry and all the Autonomous/Statutory organisation, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under Para (5) of the DoPt O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 2.7.1997.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the excesses shortages found in all the above categories of services as on July 2,1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The post-based reservation rosters have been introduced in all the PSUs, Autonomous/Statutory Organizations, Attached/Subordinate Offices under the administrative control of this Ministry (except Bhakra Beas) Management Board, which follows the reservation rules of the Punjab State Government) in place of the vacancy based rosters as per the directives issued by Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum no. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2.7.1997.

(d) and (e) The details are enclosed in Statement.

Statement

Organization-wise Statement showing details of the Excesses(+)/Shortages (-) of Reserved Vacancies in All Categories of Services

Name of the Organization	Group A			Group B			Group C			Group D		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
National Thermal Power Corpn.	-713	-481	-17	-76	-96	0	-139	-226	-3	-83	-53	+1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
National Hydro Power Corpn.	-60	-47	0	-38	-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nathpa Jhakri Power Corpn.	-4	-2	-1	0	-1	0	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1
Tehri Hydro Development Corpn.	-27	-13	-58	-22	-18	-66	-77	-70	-209	0	-34	-100
Power Finance Corpn.	+2	-3	-34	+1	0	-3	+5	0	-4	+1	+1	0
Rural Electrification Corpn.	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	-1	-15	0	-4	-34
Power Gride Corpn.	0	0	0	-97	-22	0	-137	-437	0	-88	-51	0
North Eastern Electric Power Corpn.	-17	+5	0	0	0	0	0	0	-86	0	+191	0
Damodar Valley Corporation	-56	-36	-14	-58	-78	0	0	0	-14	0	0	0
Bhakra Beas Management Board	Not Applicable(*)											
Central Electricity Authority	+15	-16	-11	-9	-18	-15	+5	-8	-8	0	-1	-1
Central Power Research Institute	+7	+1	-15	-8	-4	-26	+38	+20	-65	+83	+3	-63
National Power Training Institute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry of Power (Proper)	0	0	0	+7	-14	-29	+9	-8	-56	+26	-2	-13

(+) denotes excess, (-) denotes shortage and (*) Bhakra Beas Management Board follows reservation rules of Punjab State Govt.

Value Added Services

4449. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of classical and value added services provided to the consumers by the Department of Posts;

(b) the services out of them running under losses; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The names of classical and value added services provided to the consumers by the Department of Post are as under:

Classical Services :

1. Postcard
2. Printed Postcard
3. Competition Postcard
4. Letter card
5. Letter
6. Registered Newspapers
7. Book, Pattern and Sample packet
8. Book packets containing printed books
9. Book packets containing periodicals
10. Parcel
11. Registration
12. Value payable post
13. Insurance
14. Money Order
15. Telegraph Money Order
16. Indian Postel Order
17. Foreign Post
18. Acknowledgement.

Value Added Services :

1. Speed Post
2. Express Parcel Post
3. Greetings Post.

(b) As per 1999-2000 (Cost-Projections) the following services are in deficit :-

1. Postcard
2. Printed Postcard
3. Competition Postcard
4. Letter card
5. Registered newspaper
6. Book Packet containing printed books
7. Book Packets containing periodicals
8. Registration
9. Value payable post
10. Money Order
11. Telegraph Money Order
12. Indian Postal Order
13. Acknowledgement.

(c) The Department of Post has not been suffering losses as such but has been in deficit. The Department of post has been making all out efforts to control expenditure and enhance revenue, in order to contain the deficit.

Expenditure control is effected through economy measures and closer monitoring of expenditure. Postal tariffs are revised from time to time to reduce the subsidy provided in each service keeping in view the eventual social obligation of the Department.

[Translation]

Use of Fuels for Power Generation

4450. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given permission for the use of different type of fuels for power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of fuels used at present in the country;

(c) whether the Government have estimated the cost of power generation using these fuels; and

(d) if so, the estimated cost of power generation and the annual power generated by using each of the above fuels in the country, project-wise;

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

(b) The various fuels allowed for power generation in the country are Coal, Lignite, Natural Gas, Naphtha, High Speed Diesel (HSD), Condensate, Heavy Fuel Oil Liquified Natural Gas (LNG), Corex Gas, Orimulsion and other refinery residues. As per the existing policy, the use of HSD as a primary fuel for power generation is allowed only as a special case.

(c) and (d) Based on the approval capital cost, tentative financial package, exchange rate and Government of India norms at the time of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the indicative levelised tariff (at 12% discount rate and 68.49% Plant Load Factor) for the CEA cleared private sector power projects using different fuels is as under :

(i)	Coal Based TPS	Rs. 1.89/Kwh to Rs. 2.66/Kwh
(ii)	Lignite based	Rs. 2.09/Kwh to Rs. 2.72/Kwh
(iii)	CCPP	Rs. 1.98/Kwh to Rs.3.91/Kwh
(iv)	Diesel	Rs. 2.52/Kwh to Rs. 3.60/Kwh

Actual power generated by using the above fuels is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Energywise-Performance Status All India-Fuel Wise Period : Apr-Nov. 2000

States/Systems and Type of Generation	Generation (GWH) (Actual)
1	2
FUELWISE BREAKUP	
Thermal-Coal Based	
Central Sector	75458
State Sector	128056
Private Utility	8769
Total Coal Based	212283
Multifuel Fired	
D=Varn 1-4	725
Trombay	5278
Total Multi Fuel Fired	6003
Lignite Based	
Kutch Lign	629
Surat IPP	791
Neyveli	9414
Total Lignite	10834
Liquid Fuel/ Gas Based GT/CCGT	
NTPC	
F=Bad CCGT	1360
Anta GT	2012
Auriya GT	3168
Dadri GT	3702
Kawas GT	3117
Gandhar GT	1560
Kayamkulam	1220
DVC	
Maithon GT	9

1	2
NEEPCO	
Kathalguri	783
Agartala G	221
SEB	
D.V.B.GT	688
Pampore GT	0
Ramgarh GT	153
Dhuvran GT	113
Utran	0
Utran GT	496
Uran GT	2255
Vij=Swaram	1266
B=Bridge	97
Narimanam	16
Karalkal G	162
W. Bengal G	2
Namrup GT	306
Lakwalkobi	253
Baramura G	20
Rokhia GT	141
Private Pvt. Utility	
Vatwa GT	336
Trombay GT	557
IPP	
Hazira Imp	453
Gipcl I	476
Gipcl II	433
Paguthan G	2136
Dabhol	2012

[English]

Amendment to National Co-operative Development Corporation

4451.SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the National Co-operative Development Corporation Bill to include all the animals used for milk, meat, wool and leather etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to include `livestock' to enable NCDC to plan, promote and finance programmes through cooperative societies. `Livestock' include all animals to be raised for milk, meat, fleece, skin wool and other by-products.

(c) The Bill will be introduced in the Parliament after completing due procedural formalities.

[Translation]

New Post Offices/Sub Post Offices in Jharkhand

4452.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices/Sub Post Offices in Jharkhand State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Jharkhand State is a part of Bihar Postal Circle for opening of post offices. It is proposed to open the following Post Offices in the rural/urban areas of the newly created Jharkhand State during the current year (2000-2001)

	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	Departmental Post Offices
Urban	nil	01
Rural	10	nil
Tribal	15	01

[English]

More Avenues to Increase NCES

4453.SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any new initiative to explore more avenues to increase the Non-Conventional Energy resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reduced the incentives to entrepreneurs to install non-conventional energy projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government propose to re-consider for providing more incentives to the entrepreneurs to augment the production through Non-conventional Energy Sources (NCES) in the country; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has prepared a detailed plan to exploit various Non-conventional energy sources during the 9th Five Year Plan Period. The details of targets during the 9th Five Year Plan period are given in the Statement. In addition, during the year 2000-2001, the Ministry has also introduced four new schemes namely Scheme for Project Preparatory Assistance in non-conventional energy; Scheme for Business Development and Export Promotion in non-conventional energy, Rural Energy Entrepreneurship and Institutional Development (REEID) and Women and Renewable Energy Development to explore more avenues for utilisation of Non-conventional Energy Resources.

(c) to (f) The Ministry considers reduction/increase of incentives given under various programmes/projects purely on the basis of commercialization level and economic viability of the projects. The Ministry is already providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives i.e. central subsidy, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional custom duty, excise duty/sales tax exception, soft term loans, conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale of renewable energy power etc. to attract private sector participation for augmentation and installation of non-conventional energy projects.

Statement

Details of Programme-wise Budgetary Allocation and Physical Targets Fixed during 9th Plan Period

Sl. No.	Programmes/Schemes	FINANCIAL (Rs. in crores) 9th Plan Allocations	PHYSICAL 9th Plan Physical Target
1	2	3	4
1	Biogas	286.00	10 Lakhs
2	Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants	30.00	800 Nos.
3	Improved chulha	84.00	150 Lakhs
4	Biomass/Gasifier	25.00	40 MVV
5	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	53.00	660 (old Blocks) 200 (New Blocks)
6	Special Area Demonstration Programme-Energy Parks	8.00	200 Energy Parks
7	Urjagrams	1.00	
8	Animal Energy Programme	2.14	
9	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Demonstration	219.00	
	SPV Home Light		2 Lakhs
	SPV Lanterns		3 Lakhs
	SPV Power Plants		1.6 MVV
10	SPV Pumps	46.50	4000 Nos.
11	SPV Research and Development	25.00	
12	Solar Thermal (ST) Energy	34.00	
	Solar Water Heating Systems (M.sq. collector area)		1.5 Lakh

1	2	3	4
	Solar Cooker		1.5 Lakh Nos.
13	Wind Pumps and Hybrid Systems	8.00	1000 Nos. 250 kw
14	Solar Energy Centre	24.00	
15	Wind power	63.00	1000 MW
16	Small Hydro Power (SHP)	187.00	
	(SHP)		130 MW
	(Water Mills)		700 Nos.
	(Repair and Maintenance)		65 MW
17	Biomass Power	226.00	314 MW
18	Solar Power	63.00	141.5 MW
19	Urban and Industrial and National Bio-energy Board	62.00	42 MW
20	New Technology		
	a Chemical sources	7.00	
	b Hydrogen Energy	4.50	
	c Alternate Fuels	7.50	
	d Ocean Energy	3.00	
	e Geo-Thermal	3.00	
21	I and P	15.00	
22	International Cooperation	9.00	
23	Project Preparation Assistance	2.00	
24	TIFAC	6.00	
25	Seminars	2.50	
26	Regional Office	4.00	
27	NIRE	20.00	
28	State Nodal Agencies	15.00	
29	Rural Energy Entrepreneurship/Institutional Development	5.00	
30	Market development and Export Promotion	5.00	
31	Women and Renewable Energy Development	1.00	
32	HRD and Training	6.00	
33	IREDA		
	a Equity	250.00	
	b Technology Commercial Funds	10.00	
	Total Domestic Budgetary Source (DBS)	1822.14	
	Externally Aided Projects (EAP)	300.00	
	TOTAL Gross Budgetary Sources (GBS)	2122.14	
	Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)	1678.00	
	Total outlay	3800.14	

MW = Mega Watt; kW = kilo Watt; M.sg = Meter Square Collector Area.

[Translation]

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

4454. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of Punjab and other States are agitating for not getting remunerative price for their products;

(b) whether the State Governments had demanded any financial or other type of assistance in this regard; and

(c) the extent of assistance provided by the Union Government to various States so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to enable the procuring agencies to purchase paddy the Government has allowed procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto maximum limit of 8 per cent instead of 3 per cent provided in uniform specifications for Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 for the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

It was also decided that in respect of those farmers, whose paddy had been purchased below minimum support price (MSP) the State Government will make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs. 100 crores. The Government of India will compensate to the expenditure of 50 per cent and the balance will be borne by the State Government.

Similarly, in order to reduce hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale of Maize the Government has decided to procure Maize in Karnataka with :-

(i) Demaged grains upto a maximum limit of 2 per cent instead of 1.5 per cent provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 1.5 per cent.

(ii) Slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains upto a maximum limit of 6 per cent instead of 4.5 per cent as provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 4.5 per cent.

[English]

Promotion of Specific Area Crop Varieties

4455. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote ``specific area'' crop varieties in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been made available to each State for implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research has designed and developed ``All India Coordinated Research Projects'' (AICRP) for coordinating and developing location specific crop varieties and technologies for increasing the productivity and production of all important crops namely Wheat, Rice, Pulses, Oilseeds, millets and commercial/ cash crops. The above projects are implemented through State Agricultural Universities including. National Research Institutes, National Research Centres, Project Directorate of different crops etc. The varieties and technologies so developed are tested at diverse agro-climatic condition before recommending for adoption under specific location.

In addition, in order to promote area specific crop varieties, the Seed Minikit programme in respect of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds are being implemented in various states of the country. Under the programme, prereleased/recently released location specific High Yielding Improved varieties of these crops are demonstrated to popularize their cultivation among the farmers.

A sum of Rs. 696 lakh (at RE level) for Seed Minikit Programme of Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals has been provided for 2000-2001. The Seed Minikit of Pulses and Oilseeds are covered under Centrally Sponsored schemes - National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme, respectively. The minikits of Pulses and Oilseeds are being supplied through central agencies to the different States as per their requirement. A sum of Rs. 800 lakh has been allocated for implementation of this programme during 2000-2001.

Vacancies Reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs

4456. SHRI R. S. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs remain unfilled in various PSUs under the control of the Ministry since 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, PSUs-wise; and

(c) the time by which the backlog of reserved vacancies is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Certain vacancies of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the PSUs of the Ministry of Power remain unfilled since 1997.;

(b) PSU wise reasons for vacancies reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs remaining unfilled are as under :-

1. **National Thermal Power Corporation**

Due to non-availability of suitable candidates having requisite skill/experience/qualification etc., suiting the requirements and surplus manpower on account of power stations taken over by NTPC in UP and Orissa.

2. **National Hydro Electric Power Corporation**

Due to non-availability of suitable candidates belonging to SC/ST and OBC and non joining of the candidates to whom offers were issued.

3. **Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation**

Due to Government's directives regarding 50% ceiling on filling the reserved posts (backlog + current) the vacancies reserved for SC/ST and OBC could not be fully filled up so far. Fresh recruitment in the organization is very few and limited to very critical areas. Non-availability of suitable SCs/STs and OBCs candidates and non-joining of candidates tc whom offers were issued.

4. **Tehri Hydro Development Corporation**

Continuous pressure for employment from Project Affected Persons whose lands had been acquired for construction of the project.

5. **Power Finance Corporation**

Non-availability of suitable reserved candidates. Due to Government's directives regarding 50% ceiling on filling the reserved posts (backlog + current), the vacancies reserved for SC/ST and OBC could not be fully filled up so far.

6. **Rural Electrification Corporation**

No recruitment in the Corporation since 1986 in Group B, C and D except a few appointments on compassionate grounds. No suitable OBC candidate could be found for Group A post.

7. **Power Grid Corporation**

Inadequate response from SC/ST and OBC candidates. Non-availability of adequate no. of candidates fulfilling the criteria. Backlog carried forward due to mass transfer, absorption of employees from other organization viz., NTPC, NHPC, NEEPCO, NLC etc. in Powergrid.

8. **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation**

The project officers of the Corporation are located in the seven states of North Eastern Region and in some of the states almost 90% of the population is from ST category. Therefore, some posts reserved for SCs and OBCs remain unfilled.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made to clear the backlog of reserved vacancies. In the light of the removal of 50% restriction on the backlog of vacancies reserved for SC/ST and OBC vide DOP and T's O.M. No. 36012/ 5/97-Estt. (Res.) Voll. II dated 20.7.2000, it is expected that the process of clearing backlog in reserved vacancies will be accelerated.

[Translation]

Sports Centres in Bihar

4457.SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Hockey-Football-Kabbadi training centres in all the districts of Bihar for promotion of these games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Relief Measures to Fishermen

4458.SHRI V. S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to grant special assistance of Rs. 10 crore for relief measures to be taken for the fishermen, who lost their houses, fishing equipments and for the reconstruction of Coastal roads, damages to coconut

plantation, errosion of sea wall etc. damaged due to the unprecedented fury during South West Monsoon in June 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government. There is ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking necessary relief measures.

The Government of Kerala had submitted a Memorandum indicating damage to core sectors like Agriculture, Housing, Communication and Transport in the wake of heavy rains and floods and sought Central assistance for flood damage and anti sea erosion works. During 2000-01, Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 17.34 crore has so far been released to the State for undertaking relief measures.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Condition of National Highways

4459. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the dilapidated condition of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of works being carried out on National Highway No.-69 of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) the allocation of funds made for the purpose during 2000-2001;

(e) whether the funds allocated are sufficient keeping in view the condition of this National Highway;

(f) if not, whether the Government propose to enhance the allocation of funds in near future for improving the condition of the said Highway; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) National Highways in Madhya Pradesh are being maintained generally in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) and (d) 11 works sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 2036.70 lakhs are in progress on National Highway-69.

(e) to (g) The National Highway No. 69 was entrusted to State Govt. in September, 1998 The development of National Highway is a continuous process and development works on this National Highway are being taken up in phases depending upon the availability of funds. Funds are allocated State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

Rural Electrification in Bihar

4460. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allocated to the Government of Bihar for rural electrification during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal for power sector from the Government of Bihar during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) An amount of Rs. 114.90 crores has been allocated for the State of Bihar by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under Normal Programme, and an amount of Rs. 41 crores has been allocated under the Minimum Needs Programme during the first three years of the Ninth Plan (1997-1998 to 2000-2001).

(b) to (d) It has been reported by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) that they have not submitted any proposal for power sector (new power projects) to the Government of India during the last two years.

Plantation of Fruit Trees on Forest Land

4461. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of ENVRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to encourage plantation of fruit trees on forest land which will not only boost the production of fruits but also help in maintaining eco-friendly environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Forest land is likely to be distributed on lease hold basis for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Central Government does not encourage planting of horticultural varieties of fruit trees on the Forest land. However, plantations of wild varieties of fruit trees are carried out on Forest land along with other natural growing species with the objective of supporting the bio-diversity of the area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of National Highway No.57

4462. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No.-57 in Bihar was sanctioned in the year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted therefor;

(c) whether a survey had been taken up in four blocks for alignment of the above mentioned National Highway;

(d) whether the State Government had approved the alignment report received from the Consultant and forwarded the same to the Union Government in December, 1999; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the construction work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Highway No-57 was notified on 31st March 1997;

(b) Survey is being conducted in four different packages as mentioned below :-

Package I	–	Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga.
Package II	–	Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur.
Package III	–	Jhanjharpur to Forbesganj.
Package IV	–	Forbesganj to Purnea.

The Survey and Investigation is being done by consultants and it is in final stage and likely is to be completed by March 2001.

(c) Yes, Sir. Survey work is being conducted in four packages as mentioned in para (b) above.

(d) No Sir, the State Government has not forwarded any alignment reports to the Union Government in December 1999. However in August 2000 alignment proposal duly recommended by State Government was received. The Ministry has finalized the tentative alignment after site inspection in September 2000. The detail engineering reports for final approval have been called from the State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Out of Order STD and Local Telephone Services

4463. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places in Uttar Pradesh especially district Khiri (Lakhimpur) where STD and local telephone services remained disrupted since January, 2000 till date, district-wise;

(b) whether telephone service functioned uninterrupted during this period in various exchanges of Khiri and Mohanlal Ganj in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(d) the reasons for disruption of telephone services in Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken by the Government so far for providing better telephone services in the State?

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.

[English]

Natural Calamities

4464. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve new guidelines and norms for financial help to States in regard to natural calamities like drought and floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 11th Finance Commission has given any recommendation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d)

The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has inter-alia recommended constitution of a Committee of Experts to review the list of items approved for incurring expenditure from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), creation of a National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to provide financial assistance to the States over and above what is available in the CRF or other Plan/Non-Plan sources, establishment of a National Centre for Calamity Management (NCCM) to monitor all types of natural calamities. The recommendations have been accepted by the Government.

Forest Development Banks

4465.SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up refinery in Bhatinda (Punjab) by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is pending with the Government for environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to accord clearance to the said project ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The proposal to set up a refinery in Bhatinda (Punjab) by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. was accorded environmental clearance on 6th November, 1998.

Restructuring of Breeding Operations

4466. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union government have launched a programme of restructuring of Breeding operations to cover the entire breedable population through insemination and sanctioned a project to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a detailed action plan for the release of fund for 2000-2001 and up to 2003-2004;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has now requested to release the amount of budget in two years instead of five years; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

(b) to (f) Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for restructuring cattle and buffalo breeding programmes seeking central grants to the tune of Rs. 21.00 crore during 2000-2001 and Rs. 20.00 crore during 2001-2002 which also envisaged investment of Rs. 40.00 crore by the State Government. An amount of Rs. 751.12 lakh has been sanctioned under centrally sponsored schemes of which installments totaling Rs. 552.25 lakh have already released to the State. The Chief Minister of the State has also been assured at the level of Minister of State for Agriculture that sanction of further grants under relevant schemes can be considered during current year if the sanctioned grants are utilised.

[Translation]

Shortage of Virtual Credit Cards

4467.SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of Virtual Credit Cards with the value of Rs. 210 and Rs. 525 in Delhi and other metropolitan cities during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of V. C. cards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, sale of VCC cards is increasing day by day leading to more and more demand. We are able to meet the demand.

(c) Following steps have been taken to meet the increasing demand of VCC;

(i) Dedicated dial-up coding positions have been provided.

(ii) Bulk printing of stationery has been arranged.

Plan for Sugarcane Farmers

4468. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for sugarcane farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the heads under which the Government have provided assistance to these farmers during the year 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c)

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is in operation since 1995-96 in 20 States and one Union Territory of Pondicherry on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and State Governments. The main thrust of the scheme is to increase productivity and quality of sugarcane. During the year 1999-2000, sugarcane farmers have been provided assistance on farm implements and drip irrigation system. Besides, demonstrations and farmers training have also been organized during the year. Assistance to State Governments is also provided for seed multiplication, heat treatment plants and State level training.

[English]

Funds to Postal Sector

4469. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds provided to Postal sector during the first three years of Ninth Plan has remained unutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of funds utilised, year-wise;

(c) the target envisaged and achieved during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to utilise the remaining amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The total approved outlay of the Ninth Five Year Plan for the Department of Posts is Rs. 507.25 Crores. The Department has been able to effectively utilise most of the allotted funds. The total plan allocations, funds utilised and the percentage utilisation during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan is given the attached Statement-I.

(c) Major targets envisaged and achieved during the first three Years of the Ninth Five Year Plan are given at Statement-II. As can be seen, most of the targets have been fully achieved during each of the Annual Plans.

(d) In the fourth year (2000-2001) of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Department's outlay for various plan activities is Rs. 120 crores. The various steps taken to ensure full utilisation of the allocated funds which are under the control of the Department are improvement in monitoring, coordination and review mechanism through more frequent interaction with the field formation. However, for various activities, inter-Ministerial action is required which is beyond the control of the Department.

For the last year (2001-2002) of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Department is in the process of drawing up the Annual Plan.

Statement-I

Annual Plan	Total Plan Allocations	Amount Utilised	Percentage of Funds Utilised
1997-98	Rs. 80 Crores	Rs. 72.27 Crores	90.33%
1998-99	Rs. 84.11 Crores	Rs. 73.69 Crores	87.61%
1999-00	Rs. 100 Crores	Rs. 88.28 Crores	88.28%

Statement-II

The Physical Performance in the First Three Years of the Ninth Plan

Activity	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Phys. Target	Achiev.	Phys. Target	Achiev.	Phys. Target	Achiev.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Expansion of Postal Network						
Opening of Extra Departmental Post Offices	500	402	598	598	500	386
Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices	50	52	50	50	50	49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provision of Infrastructural equipment to Extra Departmental Post Offices	4800	7746	2700	3395	500	798
Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	–	–	200	200	500	486
Upgradation of Technology						
Installation of Extended Satellite Money Order Stations	350	318	250	–	266	266
Installation of Very Small Aperture Terminal Stations (VSATs)	–	–	20	–	62	62
Upgradation of Very Small Aperture Terminal Stations (VSATs)	–	–	30	21	–	–
PC based Conter Machines including SB LANs	1000	918	800	1429	1250	1250
Modernisation of Post Offices	205	308	60	98	75	139
Mechanical equipment						
Hand Cancelers	2000	–	10000	3285	–	5705
Stamp Cancelling Machines	20	20	20	20	20	20
Electronic Franking Machines	100	250	150	150	111	111
Tying and Bundling Machines	–	–	30	30	–	–
Human Resources Development						
In-service Training for Group 'A' Officers	50 Officers	30 Officers	25 Officers	24 Officers	30	170
In-service Training for Group 'C' Officers including Supervisors	6000 Officials	7107 Officials	3000 Officials	6970 Officials	1800	7400
Decentralised training for EDBPMs					18,000	17,501
Computer training of Officials	1500 Officials	2755 Officials	2100 Officials	4062	3200	8002
Refresher training for SB/SC work	4000 Officials	4551 Officials	4000 Officials	4315	2500	2782
Modernisation of Mail Processing						
Mail Office modernisation	20 Offices	20 Offices	35 Offices	43	30	38
Business Development and Marketing						
Computerisation of Speed Post Concentration Centres	10	7	20 Centres	20	30 Centres	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Refreshe training for staff working in premium products	100	100	100 Officials	100 Officials	200	210
Postal Life Insurance						
Computerisation of RPLI work in Regions	6 Region	19 Region	12 Regions and 120 head offices	11		
Upgradation of Computer systems in Circles	4 Circle	5 Circles	4 Circle + and PLI Dte.	4 Circle + 1 PLI Dte.	10	10
Training in Computers to officials	500 officials	490 officials	50 officials	89	–	–
Training in marketing/Sales Promotion/ publicity to officials	26 officials	23 officials	50 officials	62	66	66
Training in insurance to Departmental officials and EDAs	34800 EDAs	39939 EDAs	10000 officials	10875	5000	8965
Market surveys	1 survey	–	1 survey	1 survey	–	–
Modernisation and Development of Philately						
Computerisation	5 Bureaus fully and 10 partially	5 Bureaux fully and 10 partially	25 Bureax	21	15	16
Tools and equipment for Bureaux	To cover 5 Bureaux	5 Bureaux	40 Bureax	52	13	13
Training of officials in promotion of Philately			125 officials	165	160	261
Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters						
Construction of Post Offices/Mail Offices	65 Post offices and 3 mail offices	53 Post offices and 1 mail offices	22 offices	25	15	35
Construction of staff quarters	175 Staff Quarters	275 Staff Quarters	120 Quarters	196	27 (spill over) + 117 (new)	133
Construction of administrative offices	1 offices	4 offices	3 offices	2	2	2
Public Grievances						
Customer Care Centres	14 Centres	67 Centres	59 Centres	60	55	55

Funds for Drip Irrigation System in Maharashtra

4470. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra has cent a proposal seeking additional provision for installation of drip irrigation system during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the central share provided by the Union Government to the State Government during each of the first three years of the plan;

(d) whether the State Government has asked to provide at least Rs. 100 crore per year for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra requested for providing Rs. 500.00 crores for drip irrigation during the Ninth Plan.

(c) The central share provided to the Government of Maharashtra during the first three years of the Ninth Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture is given below :-

Year	Amount Released (Lakh Rs.)
1997-98	2447.00
1998-99	3194.13
1999-2000	2704.75

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Based on the budgetary allocations under the Scheme and their performance, the State Government of Maharashtra was provided assistance during the first three years of the Ninth Plan. With effect from the year 2000-01, the programme for drip irrigation has been amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States Efforts through Work Plans. Accordingly, the State Government was informed to provide adequate funds for drip irrigation in their Work Plan.

[Translation]

Land Acquired under Forest Conservation Act

4471. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any land of some villages of Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh has been acquired under Forest Conservation Act during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons rehabiiitated so far and the total amount paid to them as compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No Sir. There is no provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to acquire any land.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

JBIC Fund for New Projects

4472. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have requested the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for funding new projects viz., Aravalli Forestry Project, Gujarat Integrated Forestry Development Project and Rajasthan Forestry Development Project;

(b) if so, the response of the JBIC in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be made available by Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the projects alongwith its terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Aravalli Afforestation Project (Phase-II) has been sent to Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) through Department of Economic Affairs seeking external assistance for the project. JBIC has not sanctioned any new forestry project including Aravalli Afforestation Project-Phase II from 1998 onwards, due to curtailing of Overseas Development Assistance to India. Rajasthan Forestry Development Project (Phase-II) and Gujarat Integrated Forestry Development Project (Phase-II) have not been sent to JBIC for external assistance.

Centre for C-Dot

4473. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre for development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the department of Telecommunication (DoT) have come in for severe criticism by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for investing Rs. 3.81 crore in a technology which become obsolete ever before implementation;

(b) if so, whether C-DOT had adopted the Satellite based Rural Telegraph Network in 1986 to fulfil the need of adequate telegraphic facilities in rural areas of North East region;

(c) if so, whether even before the network could be put into place through 50 rural telegraph terminals, a more modern and sophisticate multi channel radio system replaced the SBRTN in 1994, rendering waste the Rs. 3.71 crore investment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such wasteful expenditure in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. CAG have observed in their report No. 5 of 2000 (Scientific Departments) for the year ended March 1999 that technology developed by C-DOT became obsolete even before adoption and DOT incurred wasteful expenditure of Rs. 3.81 crore on an obsolete technology.

(b) Based on conceptualization of the project by Planning Commission, This Satellite Based Rural Telegraph Network (SBRTN) project for North East Region was designed and developed indigenously by erstwhile Telecome Research Centre (TRC) Society and Space Application Centre (SAC) between 1986-89 and productionised by Indian Telephone Industry (ITI). After the merging of TRC (Society) with C-DOT, the project was adopted as a natural transfer to it from TRC Society.

(c) No Sir, The development and fabrication of 50 rural telegraph terminals and the network for the same was a pilot phase of the project having a provision of 1000 terminals in future. However, at a later stage the user preferred to have additional feature which meant a completely new design in terms of time and investment as the product had already been developed, proto-tested and production cleared by 1989. The project was not continued after the development stage. Technologies in Telecommunications have been changing at a fast pace. Therefore, in any R and D activity, it is but natural that all developmental projects do not necessarily culminate in commercially deployable product and it would not be correct to treat such expenditure as wasteful.

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

[Translation]

Utilization Capacity of Themal and Hydel Power Plants

4474. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of thermal and hydel power plants being utilized in the country in comparison to America, United Kingdom, Russia, China, South Korea, France and Australia;

(b) whether the assessment in regard to utilization of the installed capacity of thermal and hydel power projects was made at the time of their installation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The capacity utilisation of thermal and hydro plants in India (in 1996) as compared to America, United Kingdom, Russia, China, South Korea, France and Australia is given below :-

Country/year	Net installed capacity (thousand KW)	Utilisation of Installed Electric Generating capacity (in KWH/KW)				
		Total	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Geo-thermal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
United States	783502	4416	4176	3528	6672	3915
U. K.	73262	4737	4411	1158	7330	4226
Russia Federation	210857	4018	3999	3771	4661	2727

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
China	217067	4981	5335	3759	6285	–
Korea Republic	39239	5799	5595	1681	7688	–
France (including Monaco)	109443	4638	1634	2801	6626	2279
Australia	39693	4467	5016	2101	–	3500
India	96803	4466	4777	3483	3596	2108

(b) and (c) According to the norms of operation and Plant Load Factor (PLF) stipulated by the Government of India notification of 30.03.1992, Plant Operating hours of 6000 hours/KW/Year (68.49% of PLF) is considered while assessing Thermal Power Projects.

As regard Hydro Power Plants, storage Hydro Power Plants are designed for peak load operation/low load factor operation. Run-of-river hydro plant with diurnal pondage are normally designed to operate at base load during monsoon period and to provide peaking support during lean winter months. Generation from Hydro Power Plants depends upon the inflow in the river, prevailing reservoir conditions, requirement of water for various other uses, etc. These aspects are duly taken care at the stage of project appraisal.

[English]

World Junior Wrestling Championship

4475.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether world junior wrestling championship was held recently in France;

(b) if so, whether the Indian team could not win any medal due to dismal performance and irresponsible behaviour of Indian officials;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been made in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) if not, the time by which the inquiry is likely to be made and report submitted; and

(e) the action proposed against the persons found responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian team could not win any medal but its performance can not be said as dismal as Indian Wrestlers have got ranks from 4th to 10th in this World Championship. The behaviour of Indian officials was also upto the mark except in one case where a walk over was given against our Wrestler Mukesh Kumar.

(c) to (e) On enquiry, it was found that the Chief Coach with the Greco Roman Wrestling team Shri Randhir Singh Panghal had taken the Indian Wrestler Mukesh Khatri for lunch and while they were away the bout of Mukesh Khatri against another Wrestler was announced and he could not be present at the mat and a walk over was given to his opponent. Accordingly, Shri Randhir Singh Panghal, Chief Coach was held responsible for this lapse and he has been removed from the position of Chief Coach.

Cases against Cricketers

4476.SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of corruption have been registered against various cricket players of India by the CBI during 1997 to till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culprits have been punished on the basis of the judgements given by the courts in these cases;

(d) if so, the number of cases disposed of indicating the persons acquitted and found guilty; and

(c) the number of such cases lying pending alongwith their duration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) As per information received from CBI, it has not registered any case of corruption against any cricket player during 1997 to till date.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Herikera Tank

4477. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to release Rs. 404.75 lakhs for the rehabilitation of Herikera Tank in Dharwad City in the State;

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been released;

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

(d) the time by which the amount is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Doyang Hydro-Electric Project

4478. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doyang Hydro-electric Project has been completed and commissioned;

(b) if so, the details of phases and how far it has added to the power generation capacity of North-East Electric Power Corporation alongwith the cost thereof;

(c) the areas to be covered including those in Assam; and

(d) the per unit production cost of power by this project and how it compares with the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) On each of the three units of 25 MW each of Doyang hydro-electric Project executed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) in Nagaland at an estimated cost of Rs. 758.70 crores, were commissioned on 29th June, 5th July and 8th July, 2000 respectively. With the commissioning of the project, the aggregate installed capacity of power projects of NEEPCO was raised to 700 MW. The power generated from the project is allocated to all the seven States in the North Eastern Region as indicated below :-

Assam	–	37.3%
Manipur	–	6.7%
Meghalaya	–	6.7%
Nagaland	–	17.3% *(including 12% free Power)
Tripura	–	6.7%
Arunachal Pradesh	–	6.7%
Mizoram	–	4.0%
Unallocated	–	14.6%
		100%

(d) The cost of energy generation (excluding Return on Equity and cost of 12 percent free power to the home State) works out to Rs 3.64 paise per unit. Information on cost of production from other projects commissioned by CPSUs/SEBs in the same time frame is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of By-Passes In Bihar

4479. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of those cities in Bihar in respect of which decision for construction of by-passes has been taken by the Government; and

(b) the details of amount provided by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) :(a) No decision for construction of bypasses has been taken. However in Annual Plan 2000-2001, there is a provision for Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering of Patna Bypass Phase-III, Bakhtiarpur and Bhagalpur Bypass.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident Rate on National Highwatys

4480. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to have an outside agency to study the high accident rate on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-bound report is organised in this regard;

(d) the steps taken to ensure that National Highways Authority of India adheres to safety guidelines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) National Highways Authority of India is upgrading the existing 2-lane single carriageway National Highway sections to 4/6 lane divided carriageway facilities which itself enhances the safety substantially. While undertaking detailed design for these facilities, safety guidelines are adhered to and safety features are incorporated such as improvement of intersections, segregation of local traffic in built up stretches by providing service roads, bus bays, pedestrian crossings, facility for parking of trucks, signs and markings with improved materials which are visible in night also, safety barriers at hazardous locations and subways for cattle/pedestrian crossings.

World Bank Assistance to IREDA

4481. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to finance a second line of credit of US $ 135 million to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA);

(b) whether IREDA has to invest a part of this loan in energy efficiency and conservation projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any criteria for identifying such projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether IREDA has identified any such projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. IREDA has received a line of credit from World Bank consisting of IBRD loan of US $ 80 million. IDA credit of SDR 37.2 million (equivalent to US $ 50 million) and GEF grant of SDR 3.72 million (equivalent to US $ 5 million).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The second line of credit is meant to finance Small Hydro and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects. There is an indicative budget of US $ 110 million for investments in Small Hydro projects, US $ 20 million for investment in Energy efficiency Projects and US $ 5 million for Technical Assistance.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The projects should augment power supply through investments in environmentally sustainable small hydro projects and promote investments in energy efficiency and demand side management.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. There is shelf of project proposals with IREDA for loan assistance in the area of small hydro, energy efficiency and conservation. These will be considered once the World Bank's line of credit becomes operational.

Post Offices in Urban Areas

4482. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some post offices in urban areas in the cities are operating below their capacity;

(b) if so, whether there is less postal articles and letters to be delivered in metropolitan cities than earlier;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to down-size some of the post offices in the said cities;

(d) the extent to which this postal facilities be shifted to rural areas where the postal network is still not developed; and

(e) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. Periodical reviews are undertaken and staff strength is adjusted by redeployment to meet requirements of other offices.

(b) The overall mail traffic in the country is showing progressive increase. In some of the metros cities volume of mail has increased and in others it has remained steady.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise in view of 'C' above.

[Translation]

Telecom Facility in Rural Areas

4483. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes regarding expansion of basic infrastructures for electronic communication media in rural areas of the country, especially in Maharasthra;

(b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) To expand the basic infrastructure for electronic communication media in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra, the following schemes are being implemented :

To provide telephone on demand by March, 2002.

To provide village public telephones in all the villages by March, 2002.

To provide reliable transmission media to all exchanges by March, 2002.

Exchanges are opened on continuous basis depending upon the demand of telephones. 3431 new exchanges and 100,000 VPT's have been planned to be provided in the rural areas of the country during the current financial year. 800 new exchanges are planned to be Opened in rural areas of Maharashtra during the current financial year. 10,926 villages are without telephone facility in Maharashtra at present which are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Provider.

[English]

New Food Processing Policy

4484.SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to frame a new food processing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the farmers for producing raw material for food processing industry; and

(d) the time by which this policy is likely to be finalized ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Department of Food Processing Industries organized four Regional Seminars at Calcutta, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow and a National Conference at New Delhi to elicit inputs towards formulation of a National Food Processing Policy. Accordingly, a Draft National Food Processing Policy has been drawn up which broadly covers issues relating to availability of raw material, backward linkages, processing facilities including post-harvest infrastructure, packaging, food quality and safety marketing of products domestic and exports, awareness about processed foods and fiscal incentives.

(d) Taking into consideration the various procedures to be followed, a definite time-frame for the finalisation of the policy is difficult to envisage.

Fragile Coast Line

4485.SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a fragile coast line in India;

(b) if so, the magnitude/dimensions of the components of shore line, beach line, coast line, attraction/ focal points for tourists, rehabilitation of fishermen, water pollution protection from drains, protection of coral reefs and development of forests; and

(c) the details of the concerned departments, which plan, develop and construct above components in terms of their structure and functions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The coastline of India is around 7500 kms which included coastline of the main land and the group of islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar. The coastal stretches of the country have diverse geomorphological and ecological features, including sandy beaches, sand dunes, mud flats, cliffs, barrier islands, estuaries, lagoons, and other features. These diverse geomorphological features not only determine functioning of the coast but are also home to diverse ecosystems and species. Due to this interdependence of biotic and abiotic features, the entire coast line of the country is important.

The total area covered by mangroves in the country is 4871 sq. km and that of corals/coral reefs 2330 sq. km. An area of 15,048 hectares have been identified in the coastal States for coastal shelter belt plantation. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 lays down guidelines for development of beach resorts/hotels for the purpose of coastal tourism Reconstruction/ construction of dwelling units of fishermen are permitted beyond the No Development Zone of the CRZ. Under the same notification, discharge of untreated municipal or industrial waste into the sea is prohibited.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is responsible for conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs and for implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991. This notification regulates specified activities in the coastal zone. The Ministry of

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry is responsible for activities related to fisheries and aquaculture. The Department of Ocean Development carries out scientific studies and monitoring of the seas. The problems related to coastal erosion and sea wall construction are looked after by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Development of Chilka Lake

4486. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to frame laws to restore the ecology of Chilka Lake;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the specific measures suggested by the Government to Orissa for the development of Chilka Lake ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) On the basis of views expressed by the concerned State departments, Govt. of Orissa is considering framing regulations to restore the ecology of Chilka Lake, Environmental Protection Act, 1986 also specifies protection of ecologically fragile areas under which a number of wetland ecosystems in the country will be notified.

Based on the recommendations of various academic/ research institutions, the State Government is making an integrated action plan for Chilka Lake to address the problems of siltation, decrease in salinity gradient, decrease in fishery potential and weed infestation etc.

(c) Specific measures suggested by the Ministry to Orissa Government for development of Chilka Lake include catchment area treatment, improvement of water exchange and salinity gradient, weed management, fishery resource development, mass awareness, habitat restoration, upliftment of economic conditions etc.

Frozen Semen Banks

4487. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal for establishment of new Sperm Station at Birur and Koila districts and establishment of Frozen Semen Banks at Bangalore, Dharwad, Munirabad, Birur and Koila under the Centrally sponsored scheme titled ``Frozen Semen Technology Programme";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have released any funds to Karnataka during the last three years for the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision of the Government in regard to new proposals of the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal during 1999-2000 seeking assistance of Rs. 10.00 crore towards strengthening of cattle and buffalo breeding network in the State.

(b) to (e) A sum of Rs. 420.49 lacs was released under Extension of Frozen Semen Technology to the State towards strengthening of 5 Sperm Stations, 14 Frozen Semen Banks and 1300 A. I. centers. The amount could not be spent by the State during 1999-2000 and the same was revalidated for use during 2000-2001. Release of further grants to the State for this purpose will be considered after receipt of report of physical progress and utilisation certificate with respect to the amount already sanctioned.

Growth of Coffee on Forest Land

4488. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and not permitted on forest land;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for exemption under Forest Conservation Act to grow coffee on the forest land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, cultivation of coffee has been defined as non-forest activity and therefore for carrying out such activity on forest land, prior approval of Central Government is required to be obtained by the State Government.

(b) and (c) A request of State Government of Andhra Pradesh for exemption under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to grow coffee on forest land in Vishakhapatnnam and East Godavari districts was received. In view of provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Government was informed that it is not possible to grant general exemption under the Act, however, if the State Government submits formal proposal as per the rules and guidelines made under the Act, then it can be considered. So far, Central Government has not received any formal

propsal in this regard from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Increase in Rate of Power by NTPC

4489. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has increased their rate of power for certain States during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The tariffs for various power stations of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) till 14th May, 1999 have been determined and notified by the Government of India (GOI) under section 43 A (2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. This function has been transferred to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) with effect from 15th may, 1999.

(b) The details of tariffs notified by the GOI/CERC during the last three years are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Stations	Date of Notification by Govt.	Tariff		Effective Date	Beneficiaries
			Fixed Charges (Rs. Crs/Yr)	Variable Charge (P/KWh)*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Gandhar GPS (288.60 MW)	28.04.97	225.82	71.73	01.03.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Gandhar GPS (432.90 MW)	28.04.97	321.52	71.73	01.07.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Gandhar GPS (657.39 MW)	28.04.97	599.90	71.73	01.11.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
2.	Kahalgaon STPS (210 MW)	10.10.97	170.03	31.99	01.01.95	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
3.	Kahalgaon STPS (420 MW)	10.10.97	253.28	34.21	01.04.95	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
4.	Kahalgaon STPS (630 MW)	1.1.98	340.45	38.14	01.02.96	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
5.	Talcher STPS (500 MW)	13.5.98	356.87	28.14	01.01.97	Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
6.	Farakka STPS (600 MW)	5.11.98	190.92	30.72	01.01.95	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
7.	Farakka STPS (1100 MW)	5.11.98	426.98	32.17	01.04.95	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
8.	Singrauli STPS (2000 MW)	30.11.98	325.90	37.05	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Rihand STPS (1000 MW)	30.11.98	478.74	34.29	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
10.	Unchahar STPS (420 MW)	30.11.98	221.71	55.83	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
11.	Anta GPS (419.33 MW)	30.11.98	92.92	61.27 (with nox) 60.55 (w/o nox)	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
12.	Auraiya GPS (663.36 MW)	30.11.98	160.20	61.92	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
13.	Ramagundam STPS (2100 MW)	30.11.98	463.40	37.66	01.11.98	APTRANSCO, KPTCL, TNEB, KSEB, Pondicherry, Goa
14.	Gandhar GPS (657.39 MW)	30.11.98	646.49	71.73	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
15.	Kawas GPS (656.20 MW)	30.11.98	294.63	61.11	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
16.	Korba STPS (2100 MW)	30.11.98	380.04	20.42	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
17.	Vindhyachal STPP (1260 MW)	30.11.98	390.33	34.74	01.11.98	
18.	Farakka STPS (1100 MW)	30.11.98	466.03	32.17	01.11.98	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
19.	Kahalgaon STPS (630 MW)	30.11.1998	368.90	38.14	01.11.98	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
20.	Talcher STPS (500 MW)	30.11.98	387.95	32.72	01.11.98	Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
21.	Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW)	9.12.98	441.10	50.86	01.08.96	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
22.	Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW)	9.12.98	477.88	50.86	01.11.98	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
23.	NCTPP Dadri (840 MW)	25.2.99	416.78	90.56	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Delhi
24.	NCTPP Dadri (840 MW)	4.3.99	447.58	90.56	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Delhi

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Dadri GPS (829.78 MW)	5.5.99	240.14	69.39 (with nox) 68.58 (w/o nox)	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
26.	Talcher STPS (1000 MW)	5.5.99	593.80	32.72	01.07.97	Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
27.	Talcher STPS (1000 MW)	5.5.99	644.99	32.72	01.11.98	Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
28.	Farakka STPS (1600 MW)	7.5.99	611.39	46.16	01.7.96	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
29.	Farakka STPS (1600 MW)	7.5.99	668.33	46.16	01.11.98	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, DVC, Sikkim
30.	Singrauli STPS (2000 MW)	14.05 99	333.876	37.05	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
31.	Rihand STPS (1000 MW)	14.05.99	505.570	34.29	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
32.	Unchahar STPS (420 MW)	14.05.99	225.807	55.83	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
33.	NCTPP Dadri (840 MW)	14.05.99	459.79	90.56	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Delhi.
34.	Anta GPS (419.33 MW)	14.05.99	100.042	61.27 (with nox) 60.55 (w/o nox)	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
35.	Auraiya GPS (663.36 MW)	14.05.99	171.506	61.92	01.11.98	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh
36.	Korba STPS (2100 MW)	14.05.99	315.788	20.42	01.11.92	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			320.104	20.42	01.04.93	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			323.437	20.42	01.04.94	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			366.449	20.42	01.04.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			366.425	20.42	01.04.96	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			367.484	20.42	01.04.97	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			396.034	20.42	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
37.	Vindhyachal STPS (1260 MW)	14.05.99	332.869	34.74	01.11.92	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			335.331	34.74	01.04.93	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			336.297	34.74	01.04.94	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			369.549	34.74	01.04.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			370.378	34.74	01.04.96	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			371.491	34.74	01.04.97	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			399.006	34.74	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
38.	Kawas GPS (656.20 MW)	14.05.99	276.710	61.11	01.04.94	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			298.900	61.11	01.04.95	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			309.403	61.11	01.04.96	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			306.118	61.11	01.04.97	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			335.480	61.11	01.04.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
39.	Gandhar GPS (657.39 MW)	14.05.99	599.62	71.73	01.04.96	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			599.03	71.73	01.04.97	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			599.03	71.73	01.04.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
			645.54	71.73	01.11.98	Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
40.	Ramagundam STPS (2100 MW)	14.5.99	512.924	37.66	01.11.98	APTRANCO, KPTCL, TNEB, KSEB, Pondicherry, Goa

Sl. No.	Stations	Date of Notification by Govt. approval of Tarrif by CERC	Tariff		Effective Date	Beneficiaries
*1.	Vindhyachal-II (500 MW) Ist unit (Provisional)	24.2.2000	314.52	62.83		M. P., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
*2.	Kayamkulam CCPP (359.58 MW) (Provisional)	24.7.2000	259.83	325		Kerala
*3.	Unchahar-II (210 MW) (Provisional)	24.2.2000	225.p/Kwh			Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J and K, Chandigarh
*4.	Faridabad CCPP (140.827 MW) (Provisional)	24.2.2000	109.10	128.35		Haryana
*5.	Faridabad CCPP (281.654 MW) (Provisional)	10.8.2000	90% of 194.62	90% of 140.43		Haryana

*Fuel price adjustment charges.

Abbreviations :

•MW : Mega Watt

•GPS : Gas Power Station

*STPS : Super Thermal Power Station

*NCTPP : National Capital Region Thermal Power Project

*CCPP : Combined Cycle Power Project

*Tariff approved by CERC.

Production of Cheeku Fruit

4490.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Cheeku fruit" is being produced only in Thane district of Maharasthra;

(b) if so, the details of produce of this fruit during the last three financial years with quantity exported year-wise and foreign exchange earned;

(c) whether the crop of this fruit has completely been damaged this year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide financial assistance to the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Cheeku is being produced in many States in the country including various districts of Maharashtra State.

(b) The available information on production and exports of cheeku during three years is given below :

Year		Exports	
	Production (000 Tonnes)	Quantity (000 Tonnes)	Value (Lakh Rs.)
1996-97	588.5	3.92	536.1
1997-98	643.9	2.65	292.1
1998-99	667.6	1.05	136.9

(c) and (d) No report has been received by the Government about the complete damage to cheeku crop during this year.

(e) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme the State Governments can take up programmes for the development of all fruits including cheeku as per their priority needs through the Work Plan.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4491.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people waiting for telephone connections in Maharastra particularly in Aurangabad district as on November 30,2000 district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In Maharashtra Telecom Circle 4,16,117 persons and in Aurangabad district 20228 persons are on waiting list for Telephone connections as on 30-11-2000. District-wise details is given in attached Statement.

(b) It is planned to clear the waiting list booked up to 31st March, 2000 for Maharastra including Aurangabad district by 31st March, 2001 progressively.

Statement

S. No.	Name of District	Waiting List as on 30.11.2000
1	2	3
1	Ahmednagar	44055
2	Akola and Washim	5685
3	Amravati	6157
4	Aurangabad	20228
5	Beed	6021
6	Bhandara and Gondia	3564
7	Buldhana	3968
8	Chandrapur and Gadchiroli	4511
9	Dhule and Nandurbar	7885
10	Goa	13422
11	Jalgaon	16600
12	Jalna	2106
13	Kalyan	60970
14	Kolhapur	24770
15	Latur	22635
16	Nagpur	10579
17	Nanded	19752
18	Nasik	11980
19	Osmanabad	5910
20	Parbhani and Hingoli	12454
21	Pune	42329
22	Raigad	4154
23	Ratnagiri	4960

1	2	3
24	Sangli	24762
25	Satara	9540
26	Sindhudurg	4486
27	Solapur	17458
28	Wardha	1730
29	Yeotmal	3444

Wind Power Generation

4492. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for wind power generation during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

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

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) A target for installation of 1000 M W wind power capacity has been fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan. State-wise targets have not been fixed. Wind power projects are mainly set up as commercial projects through private investments.

(c) A wind resource assessment programme is being undertaken in the country. 204 potential sites in 13 States/UT's have been identified which can be considered for setting up wind power projects. Fiscal and promotional incentives are available for commercial projects. Attractive policies have been announced by the potential States for wheeling, banking, third party sale and buy-back of electricity generated from wind power projects. Soft loans are also available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for wind power projects.

Widening of NH-5 from Chandikhol to Jagatpur

4493. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the widening of National Highway No. 5 from Chandikhol to Jagatpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 137.60 crores in November 1997. Tender for this work was awarded on 9th December 1999. The work is in progress since February, 2000.

(c) The target date for completion of work as per contract is February, 2003.

Re-Tendering

4494. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed re-tendering for 36 varities of Polythene Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) Cables for which advance purchase order had been issued; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities

4495. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of those colonies under his department in which STD/ISD, FAX, grocery, vegetable and fruit shops are running;

(b) whether only NDMC has the right to allocate space for commercial units/STD/ISD shops in NDMC areas;

(c) if so, the basis on which these shops are running in these colonies;

(d) whether his department is recovering rent from STD/STD shops vegetable and fruit sellers on the basis to local market value;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such illegal of running of shops in departmental colonies ?

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.

MTNL Cellular Telephone Service

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4496. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the range of cellular telephone service of MTNL as provided by the other private cellular Companies to its subscribers so that the it telephones remain operational through out the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The MTNL's cellular mobile service using CDMA WLL technology covers only certain as per the map advertised at the time of launch of this service. The reason for this selected coverage is on account of availability and limited number of Base Transceiver Stations at the time of launch of this service. MTNL is now upgrading the service except in respect of roaming facilities in case of service provided with CDMA technology as there is no other network operational in India using CDMA. However, with GSM technology roaming shall be possible. One lakh lines of GSM equipment is under installation at both Delhi and Mumbai.

Merger of Deptt. of Telegraph with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

4497. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge the Department of Telegraph with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these offices would be provided with latest Information Technology;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to enable the Telegraph Offices to face the existing global competition;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated to utilize the public fund;

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Telegraph service is already a part of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(c) Telegraph offices are equipped with Micro Processor based Message Switching network. Internet PCOs are also provided in some Telegraph Offices for public utility.

(d) Telegraph services are not facing any global competition and hence there is no specific scheme enabling the Telegraph offices to face the existing global competition.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal or scheme at present.

Stretches of National Highways

4498. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of one lane and two lane stretches of the National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade the National Highways to meet the growing demand of road transport in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to seek cooperation from the private sector in view of its limited resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) The percentage of single lane and intermediate lane National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is 16.7 percentage. The balance of the roads are two laned.

(b) Government is upgrading the National Highways in the country within resources available. Priority is given to sections where congestion is the most severe.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Bypasses, bridges and stretches which are economically viable are proposed to be taken on Built Operate Transfer (BOT) basis.

[English]

Allocation of Gas for Uran Power Project in Maharashtra

4499. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of gas sanctioned and supplied by the Gas Authority of India Limited to the Uran Power Project in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the short supply of gas has affected the production of power in the Uran Power Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) According to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Uran Gas Station had initially got a commitment of 4.5 MMCMD of gas but as per contract agreement, 3.5 MMCMD of gas supply was to be made by M/s GAIL. However, the actual supply is inadequate, resulting in loss of generation. The average gas supply during August and September, 2000 has been of the order of 2.25 MMCMD only and generation loss during August and September, 2000 has been about 333.814 MUs and 293.779 MUs respectively, The Ministry of Petroleum, and Natural Gas have been impressed upon the need to increase natural gas allocation to Uran Station with a view to ensure optimum generation from this Power Station.

[Translation]

Purchase of Electricity from Thermal Power Projects

4500. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has completed the process for purchase of electricity from Tanda Power Project of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time since when the corporation has got the full rights of the said project;

(c) whether N.T.P.C. propose to supply electricity to Uttar Pradesh from this project; and

(d) if so, the quantum of power and rates thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) took over Tanda Thermal Power Station of the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh State Electicity Board vide the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Reforms (Transfer of Tanda generation undertaking) scheme, 2000. The scheme came into effect on 14.1.2000 and since then the station is owned and managed by NTPC.

(c) and (d) As per Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed on 7.1.2000 between NTPC and Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL-erstwhile UPSEB), the entire power generated from Tanda Thermal Power Station (440 MW) has been allocated to UPPCL and the supply is being made accordingly to them.

The following provisional rates have been agreed in the PPA signed between NTPC and UPPCL on 7.1.2000 till the tariff is determined by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission;

Fixed Charges	Rs. 294.93 Crore/Year
Variable Charge	to be worked out each month based on agreed provisional parameters (138.45 P/KWH in October, 2000).

[English]

Setting up of Mega Marketing Complex at Kannamangala Bangalore

4501. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has decided to set up a mega marketing complex at Kannamangala near Whitefield, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed project;

(c) whether the land has been acquired;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The national Dairy Development Board has decided to set up a modern fruit and vegetable market at Kannamangala, near Whitefield, Bangalore.

(b) The proposed project, which would also include establishment of infrastructure, for backward and forward linkages, exports and a cold store is estimated to cost Rs. 150 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government of Karnataka has allotted 60 acres land in the Kannamangala farm for the proposed project.

(e) The first phase of the project is likely to become operational by the end of 2002.

Strengthening of National Highway Nos. 31, 37 and 52

4502. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the National Highway Nos. 31, 37 and 52 during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of schemes prepared and allocation made therefor, scheme-wise; and

(c) the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The improvement of National Highway works in certain stretches are taken up during the current year.

(b) and (c) The following improvement works have been taken up during the current year.

NH-31

(i) Six works of improvement of riding quality, costing Rs. 18.29 crores with allocation of Rs. 18.29 crores have been sanctioned.

(ii) Three works for strengthening and four laning have been taken up with the allocation of Rs.65.00 crores.

NH-37

(i) Two works of improvement of riding quality costing Rs. 7.56 crores with allocation of Rs. 7.56 crores have been sanctioned.

(ii) One work of strengthening and four laning have been taken up with allocation of Rs. 15.00 crores.

NH-52

Two work of improvement of riding quality costing Rs. 5.68 lakh crores with allocation of Rs. 5.68 crores have been sanctioned.

Protection of Plant Varieties

4503.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to Introduce lagislation for the protection of plant varieties and farmers rights in the country;

(b) if so, whether views of the State Governments have been taken into consideration in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the views of experts of agriculturists were also incorporated in the proposed legislation; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision for introducing the legislation is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture had introduced the ``Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Bill, 1999" in the Lok Sabha on 14.12.99. The Bill was referred to a joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament.

(b) to (d) The Committee visited various States and received the comments/suggestions on the provisions of the Bill from experts/individuals/associations/organisations. Based on the comments, the Committee Modified the Bill and presented its Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 25.8.2000. The Bill, as revised by the Committee, is proposed to be considered for passing during the current session of the Parliament.

Earth Caving Incident in Karnataka

4504.SHRI R. L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to earth caving in Kallur, Gubbi Taluk, Karnatka a number of houses had been damaged;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned any financial assistance for shifting of the villagers;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any National Policy for Disaster Management to tackle such incidents; and

(d) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be formulated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) No report has been received from the Government of Karnataka in this regard.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government. There is a National Contingency Action Plan and specific action plans are drawn up keeping in view the nature, impact and intensity of the natural calamity. There is ready availability of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking relief measures. During 2000-01, Rs. 27.97 crore has been released to the State Government as Central share of CRF.

[Translation]

Power Generation Through Non-Conventional Energy Sources

4505. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL :
SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

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

(a) the areas in the country where there is immense pctential of power generation through the non-conventional energy sources is available;

(b) whether power generation plants have been set up in some of such areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether cooperation of any private company is also being sought in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) There is potential to generate power from non-conventional energy sources throughout the country depending upon the availability of the resource, namely, solar, wind, biomass and small hydro. the following total potenitial has been estimated :-

Wind Power	-	45,000 MW
Biomass Power	-	19,500 MW
Small Hydro Power	-	15,000 MW
Waste to Energy	-	1,700 MW
Solar Power	-	35 MW/Sq. Km.

(b) and (c) A total capacity of 2842 MW has been set up so far based on non-conventional energy sources. These projects have mainly come up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Fiscal and financial incentives and soft loans are available; and, conducive policies have also been announced by several States to attract private sector participation. Wind power, biomass power and bagasse cogeneration projects have mainly been set up as commercial projects through private investments. The private sector has also shown considerable interest in setting up small hydro power projects.

[English]

Funds to State Governments by NABARD

4506. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh has urged the NABARD to provide Rs. 1,500 crore for taking up various development works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount provided for the purpose; and

(d) the projects taken up by the State Government so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by NABARD, no such request has been received by it from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Loans totalling Rs. 80000.32 lakhs under various tranches of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) have been disbursed by NABARD to Government of Andra Pradesh for 3173 sanctioned projects.

(d) Necessary information is being collected from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

PCO/STD/ISD Booths

4507. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI M. CHINNASAMY :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for installation of PCO/STD/ISD Booths in the country paricularly in all the districts of Orissa and Bihar during the last three years and as on October 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for installation of said booths in the country particularly in Rajasthan during 2000-2001; and

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

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.

Expansion of Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra

4508. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to expand Tiger Reserve in Melghat forest area in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for development and rehabilitation of villagers affected by the said scheme; and

(c) the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) A proposal was mooted by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra to enlarge the area of Melghat Tiger Reserve by including following additional areas

Narnala Sanctuary	12.35 sq. km.
Ambabarwa Sanctuary	124.73 sq. km.
Wan Sanctuary	205.86 sq. km.

However the State Government has not approved the proposal as yet.

(b) and (c) Do not arrise.

[English]

Strengthening of Pollution Control Boards

4509. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned any projects for strengthening some of the State Pollution Control Boards;

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

(c) whether on the basis of those sanctioned projects, the Union Government propose to supply necessary equipments and hardware to State Pollution Control Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank sanctioned the Industrial Pollution Control Project (IPCP) in 1991, the Industrial Pollution Prevention Project (IPPP) in 1994 and the Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Projet (EMCB) in 1997 for strenghtening some State Pollution Control Boards. While the first two projects were intended to assist the Government of India's efforts to prevent environmental degradation caused by industrial operations, the EMCB Project was launched with the objective of strengthening the environmental management capacity in selected areas at the National, State and community levels.

(c) and (d) A total of 1557 equipments were provided under the IPCP to the 4 project beneficiary SPCBs and under the ongoing IPPP further 4 SPCBs have been provided a total of 728 equipments till date, in addition to putting in place a Geographic Information System in Gujarat State. The EMCB Project's Zoning Atlas sub-component includes provision of equipment to 18 participating SPCBs to carry out spatial environmental planning activities and the Air Quality Monitoring sub-component also, includes provision of equipment to selected SPCBs.

Speed Post Facilities in States

4510. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down to provide speed post facilities in various States;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide speed post facility in the backward areas to northern part of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which said facility is likely to be made available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations, Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, anticipated revenue and transport network.

(b) and (c) In North Bengal, Siliguri is on the National Speed Post network, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling are on the State Speed Post network. Besides, Speed Post Booking facility is also available at Head Post Offices at Malda, Mal, Balurghat and Coochbethar.

(d) Does not arise.

Kapila Zoo

4511. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kapila Zoo of Dhenkanal district has been recognised by the Zoo Authority of India;

(b) if so, whether any financial allocation has been made therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Kapila Zoo has been granted conditional recognition as a Mini Zoo by Central Zoo Authority.

(b) and (c) Central Government has decided that the funds available with Central Zoo Authority, in the First instance, be concentrated over improvement of zoos with substantial animal collection so that optimum utilisation of resources for improving the quality of life to zoo animals is achieved. Therefore, no financial assistance to mini zoos is provided by the Central Zoo Authority.

Research Activities Carried Out by Universities

4512. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agricultural Universities of Punjab and Haryana are facing shortage of adequate funds to carry out research activities; and

(b) If so, the steps taken to assist and monitor research projects in those Universities?

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

(b) Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana have taken steps including starting consultancy services to generate funds. A proposal has also been submitted to the State Government to create a research fund by imposing Cess Fee of Re. 1/-per quintal on the sale of Wheat and Paddy. In this way, the University is likely to generate resources to the tune of Rs. 25 crores for research activities.

As regard CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, the State Government have imposed ban on filling of vacancies. In addition, ICAR has sanctioned 69 NATP schemes for three years with a budget provision of Rs. 15 crores. These projects have no posts and only contingent provision exists to carry out research activities.

Sale of Modern Food

4513. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under captioned "Modern Foods old guard fears sack" appearing in the Times of India dated November 9,2000;

(b) if so, whether modern food has been sold to the Hindustan Lever Limited;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount spent on the modern food by the Government for upliftment purposes and save from sick units during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has disinvested 74% of its equity holding in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) to M/s Hindustan Lever Limited.

(c) The disinvestments of equity in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited was according to the policy decision of the Government.

(d) As long as MFIL was a Government Company, financial assistance was provided for its business purposes.

The details of the financial assistance during the last three (3) years are as under :-

1997-98	-	Rs. 248.50 lakhs (as equity and loan)
1998-99	-	Nil
1999-2000	-	Rs. 500 lakhs (as Grant for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme)

Encroachment of Forest Land

4514. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

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

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted a proposal during the recent past for regularisation of encroachments of Forest land by Tribals;

(b) if so, whether the approval has been accorded; and

(c) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be given ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Proposals for regularisation of encroachment on forest land which had taken place prior to 1.7.1980 was submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan during January to March, 1996. On scrutiny it was found that the proposals were incomplete in many respects and, therefore, the State Government was requested to submit consolidated proposal with complete information in March, 1996. The State Government furnished information in June, 1998 where proposal for regularisation of 4771 number of persons (including tribals) involving 3171.248 hectare of forest lands in 10 districts was submitted. The proposal was discussed in Forest Advisory Committee meeting on 18.11.1998. As per the observation of the Committee, the State Government was asked on 2.12.1998 to furnish certificate of the Chief Secretary of the State Government that there is no other proposal in the State for regularisation of encroachment on forest land and also requested to send reconciled number of encroachers and forest areas as pointed out by the Regional Office, Lucknow in its site inspection report. The State Government was also reminded on 30.7.1999 to send complete information. The complete report is not furnished by the State Government so far.

(c) Only after receipt of the complete information from the State Government, final decision on the proposal is possible

World Bank Assistance for Power Sector in Maharashtra

4515. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of World Bank has expressed dissatisfaction with the slow pace of power sector reforms in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to extend financial assistance to the Maharashtra Government to raise power capacity;

(d) if so, the total amount of financial assistance given by the World Bank to Maharashtra for the development of power sector;

(e) the extent to further assistance agreed by the World Bank; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto in regard to continued dependence on World Bank loans for power projects in the country ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal in the recent past for availing of World Bank Assistance for Power Projects. However, the following Power Projects have been completed with the World Bank Assistance in Maharashtra.

	Name of Project	World Bank Assistance (in US$ Million)
(i)	Chandrapur Unit-5 and 6	280.00
(ii)	High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission Link	107.33
(iii)	Dhanu Thermal Power Project	200.00
(iv)	Trombay Combined Cycle Power Project	98.00
(v)	Maharashtra Power Project (Koyna)	337.00
(vi)	Second Maharashtra Power Project	350.00

(f) The Government of India is seeking financial assistance for Power Projects in the country not only from World Bank but also from other multi-lateral/bilateral funding agencies as well as other financial institutions.

[Translation]

Expansion of Rural Energy Scheme

4516. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the rural energy scheme;

(b) if so, the target fixed for expansion of this scheme in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount required to be spent in this regard and the number of persons likely to be benefited in Madhya Pradesh through this scheme ?

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

(b) and (c) Out of 71526 inhabited villages in the undivided State of Madhya Pradesh as per 1991 census, 68346 villages have already been electrified as at the end of September, 2000. State-wise and year-wise financial outlays and physical programmes have not been finalised by the Planning Commission for the Ninth Plan Period. However, an allocation of Rs. 5.49 crores has been made for Madhya Pradesh (including the areas now included in

the new State of Chhattisgarh) under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) being released directly to the State as part of Normal Central Assistance during the current year. Similarly, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has allocated an amount of Rs. 25 crores for rural electrification programme for the year 2000-2001.

Scheme for Extension/Maintenance of National Highways

4517. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme with the Government for extension and maintenance of the National Highways in the country;

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

(c) the number of National Highways likely to be extended by the end of the ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and this is taken up in a phased manner depending on the availability of resources. The National Highway Network has already been extended by 23439 Kms. during the Ninth Plan and now stands at 57,737 Kms.

[English]

Felling of Trees

4518. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

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 "Sikkim cops stumble upon massive tree felling racket" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 11, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to stop rapid deforestation in Sikkim Forest so as to save the fragile Himalayan eco-system;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against erring officers involved in tree felling racket ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) Yes Sir, the Government of Sikkim has reported that the departmental enquiry revealed that less than 100 trees have been felled. The matter has also attracted the attention of the Sikkim High Court and the Court has directed CBI to investigate further and find out the truth.

(b) and (c) The latest report of the Forest Survey of India have revealed that there has been a decrease in the forest cover by 11 Sq. km. in the State of Sikkim. The management and development of the forests is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and funds are provided as additionality by the Central Government through various afforestation schemes of National Afforestation Eco-Development Board. The States have been requested to strengthen the forest protection machinery and involve the local people in forest protection and development under Joint Forest Management Programme.

(d) The Government of sikkim have reported that since there is no verdict of the High Court against any officer as yet, the question of taking action does not arise.

Setting up of Nutritional Gardens

4519. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States have started setting up of 'Nutritional Gardens' in rural areas with cent percent assistance from the Union Government; and

(b) is so, the total assistance provided to each State during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Nutritional Gardens are being set up in the States/Union Territories with the financial assistance provided by Government of India through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the Scheme 'Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas.' The total financial assistance provided to each State/Union Territory for the above scheme during last 2 years is given in the enclosed Statement.

The pattern of assistance, at present, under the scheme is as under :

Distribution of fruits plants and vegetables seeds in Minikits	@ Rs. 250/minikit/family
Zero Energy Cool Chambers	Rs. 2500/zero energy cool chamber per school/village in a panchayat selected for demonstration.

Demonstration	Upto Rs. 5000/-per school/ panchayat selected for Demonstration (only wherever the land is available)

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	Assistance released during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27.38
2.	Goa	3.00
3.	Maharashtra	2.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	13.75
5.	Karnataka	15.50
6.	Kerala	14.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh (Plains)	33.50
8.	Madhya Pradesh	22.00
9.	Orissa	32.00
10.	Gujarat	5.00
11.	Bihar	30.70
12.	West Bengal	38.82
13.	Meghalaya	5.00
14.	Manipur	11.525
15.	Mizoram	1.00
16.	Assam	3.00
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.75
18.	Nagaland	15.00
19.	Tripura	1.50
20.	Sikkim	5.00
21.	Rajasthan	12.00
22.	Haryana	18.50
23.	Himachal Pradesh	24.00
24.	Punjab	5.25
25.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.00
26.	Delhi	6.824
27.	Uttar Pradesh (Hills)	4.50

[Translation]

Software System In Post Offices

4520.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the software for Dak Services has been developed in the country;

(b) if so, the number of post offices where multi-purpose computer machines have been installed and the new software systems setup;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to set up software systems and instal said machines in all the post offices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this scheme is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) Multipurpose Counter Machines have been installed in 1,560 offices and the software systems developed for these machines have been deployed and are operational in all of them.

(c) The schemes for setting up the softwae systems and installing Multipurpose Counter Machines in various post offices is part of the plan schemes under the 5 Year Plans. The machines are procured, installed and commissioned in the post offices depending on the amount of funds allotted under the plan schemes in the annual budget. Within the allotted funds efforts are made to maximise the number of machines commissioned in the post offices.

(d) The time by which computerisation of all the post offices will be completed through installation of Multipurpose Counter Machines depends on the availability of funds in the annual budgets. It is therefore, not possible to predict a time frame by which all the post offices in the country would be covered.

[English]

Production of Arecanut

4521.SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the quantum of production, productivity, area under cultivation of Arecanut in the country, State-wise;

(b) the price fixed which the farmers sold Arecanut for the past three years, Year-wise;

(c) whether there is a fall in Arecanut price; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to help the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The state-wise details of productions productivity and area under Arecanut in the country is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The monthly average wholesale prices of Arecanut (Supari) in some select markets during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 is given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To stabilise the prices, the Government has increased the import duty on betelenuts to 100% from 35%.

Statement-I

Area, Production and yield of Areacanut during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

State	Area (000 Hectare)			Production (000 Tonnes)			Yield (KGS/Hectare		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	@	@	@
Assam	74.1	73.8	74.5	64.0	56.7	55.4	864	768	744
Goa	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	@	@	@
Karnataka	84.6	93.1	91.5	121.0	133.3	131.5	1430	1432	1437
Kerala	72.8	76.1	80.6	80.1	94.0	92.5	1100	1235	1148
Maharashtra	1.9	1.9	1.9	4.7	7.5	7.5	@	@	@
Meghalaya	9.5	9.5	9.6	12.0	12.1	11.6	1263	1274	1208
Mizoram	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	@	@	@
Tamil Nadu	3.0	2.8	2.8	4.0	5.7	5.7	@	@	@
Tripura	1.8	2.3	2.5	3.5	4.2	4.5	@	@	@
West Bengal	7.5	8.1	8.2	10.7	12.4	13.7	1427	1531	1671
A and N Islands	3.6	3.6	3.6	5.1	5.2	5.5	@	@	@
Pondicherry	0.1	0.1	0.1	02	Neg.	Neg	@	@	@
All India	261.2	273.7	277.7	307.7	333.5	330.1	1178	1218	1189

Neg – Negligible

@ Since production/area is low, yield is not worked out.

Statement-II

Monthly Average Wholesale Prices of Arecanut

(Rupees/quintal)

Months	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Mangalore	Kozhikode	Mangalore	Kozhikode	Mangalore	Kozhikode
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April	7274	6150	14732	12175	10665	9075
May	7567	6150	14203	12125	10126	8350

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
June	7693	6475	13819	11850	9308	7250
July	8512	7160	14094	12380	10240	8200
August	10108	7475	15277	13275	9144	7075
September	9468	7733	15607	12950	8308	6060
October	9257	8333	15495	13760	7073	4900
November	7740	9225	11435	13750		
December	7617	8425	9826	10100		
January	8628	8940	11475	9177		
February	10544	9125	11399	9125		
March	14217	12200	10575	8840		

Delay in Delivery of Money Orders

4522. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI M. CHINNASAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Money Orders sent from various Post Offices of Punjab to U. P. during the last three years;

(b) whether the Money Orders are reaching very late due to negligence and carelessness of the employees;

(c) if so, whether such cases have also occured in Tamilnadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such delays in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Number of Money Orders booked from Post Offices of Punjab for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are :–

Year	Number of Money Orders booked
1997-98	8,23,575
1998-99	7,60,448
1999-2000	6,55,380

(b) No, Sir. Complaints received in this regard shows that there is delay in respect of some of these Money Orders only and the reasons for that are :

(i) illegible, incomplete addresses written by remitters of Money Orders.

(ii) low line-limits on foot/cycle lines for conveyance of cash due to situation in the area.

(iii) delay in transmission due to delayed trains, flights and buses.

(iv) natural calamities causing distruption of communication. Human failures have been found responsible for only a few of such complaints.

(c) Occasional complaints are received about delayed payment of money orders in Tamil Nadu.

(d) During the past three years, the number of Complaints received about delay in payment of money order in Tamil Nadu Circle are :

Year	Number of complaints about delay in payment of money oders
97-98	2533
98-99	4182
99-2000	3080

On an average, during these three three years 14% of the money order complaints were for delayed payments.

(e) In order to overcome constraints and ensure prompt and effective payment of money orders, various features of the service are reviewed continually and the following steps have been taken :-

(i) 62 more High speed V. SAT stations are being set up during the current Annual Plan.

(ii) Every complaint is immediately enquired into and in case no reply is received within 10 days from the paying office, there is provision to issue duplicate money order.

(iii) close coordination is kept with the transport authorities for punctual, regular and timely conveyance of mails.

(iv) checking squads have been formed at the headquarters of each Circle to pay surprise visits to check on prompt payment of money orders.

(v) A random check of prescribed number of money orders paid is carried out every month by the supervising officers to detect delay in payment and initiate suitable action.

(vi) periodic special drives are launched to ensure prompt settlement of complaints.

(vii) a senior officer has been designated in each Circle/Region to keep a watch over prompt payment of money orders.

(viii) Deterrent action is taken against officials found responsible for any inadequacy of service.

Losses in PSUs

4523. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the detail of losses suffered by PSUs under his Ministry during the last three years, PSUs wise;

(b) whether the Government have contemplated any measures to check the causes of losses in these PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The State Farm Corporation of India Ltd. (SFCI) is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Corporation has suffered losses for the past three years as detailed below :

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Net Loss	835.40	1172.53	1384.81
Accumulated Losses	1887.43	3059.95	4444.77

(b) and (c) The government have contemplated the following measures to check losses :

- Improved management practices and close monitoring of farm operations;
- Introduction of VRS/VSS to reduce staff strength;
- Disposal of non-viable farms;
- Prudent financial management and reduction of expenditure;
- Optimum utilization of available resources;
- Augmentation of irrigation facilities to expand cultivable area;
- Replacement of obsolete machinery;
- Shift in production strategy to focus on high value seeds;
- Improved marketing strategy;
- Engagement of Consultant for conducting a study of the organization to recommend ways and means of improving its functioning.

[Translation]

Funds for Conversion of NH-2 into Four Lanes

4524. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of funds allocated so far for converting the National Highway No. 2 into four lanes;

(b) the stretch of road in Kilometre that has already been constructed on the above National Highway;

(c) whether the road construction work has been held up due to forest falling in the way of this National Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which this problem is likely to be resolved and the work completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) It is proposed to take up 477 km. of National Highway No. 2 between Agra and Barwa Adda with World Bank loan assistance of US $ 516 million. Besides, a length of 35.4 Km. at a cost of Rs 141 crore between Barakar and Raniganj is in progress with World Bank assistance, and a length of 84 Km at a cost of Rs. 419.50 crore between Barwa Adda and Barakar, and Raniganj and Panagarh are in progress with Asian Development Bank loan assistance.

(b) Delhi-Agra section in a length of 200 km. has been completed.

(c) None of the works now in progress on National Highway No. 2 have beeri help up due to want of permission for tree cutting.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortfall in Agricultural Crops

4525. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is likely of shortfall of nearly 9 million tonnes in the output of various agricultural crops in Kharif 2000-2001 season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the biggest drop expected in sugarcane production;

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

(e) whether the Government have launched some schemes to bridge the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised;

(f) if so, the details of these schemes;

(g) the details of the work done under these schemes, Statewise; and

(h) the details of the funds demanded by the State Governments and released by the Union Government under these schemes; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) According to advance estimates, expected production of important kharif 2000-01 crops vis-a-vis those of last year i.e. kharif 1999-2000 are given as under :

(Million tonnes)

Crop	1999-2000	2000-01
Rice	75.63	74.07
Coarse Cereals	23.47	23.11
Pulses	4.80	5.50
Foodgrains	103.90	102.68
Oilseeds	12.55	12.11
Cotton*	11.99	13.16
Sugarcane	309.31	300.58

* Million bales of 170 kgs. each.

Since only 39% of net area sown in the country is irrigated, the production of agriculture crops depend, to a great extent, on performance of monsoon and other agro climatic conditions. This causes fluctuations in production performance of various crops.

(e) to (h) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Scheme Sponsored Command Area Development Programme was launched during 1974-75 to bridge the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised. Till the end of 1999-2000, 228 irrigation projects with a Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 22.27 million hactares spread over 23 States and 2 Union Territories were covered under the Programme. Main components of the programme include On-farm Developmental (OFD) works like construction of field channel, field drain, land leveling and shaping and enforcement of warabandi. Central assistance is provided on matching basis to States for carrying out most of the activities.

The State-wise details of work done under core components of OFD and central assistance provided are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Physical Achievements and Funds Released Under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme Since inception Upto March, 2000

Sl. No.	State	Physical Achievement Under CAD (Thousand hectares)				Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
		Implementation of Warabandi	Land Leveiling and Shaping	Construction of Field Drains	Construction of Field Channels	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	413.31	369.65	9.07	675.84	9297.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.09	10.00
3.	Assam	78.71	0.01	21.52	55.40	1997.96
4.	Bihar	86.31	1.29	0.00	1283.43	10918.43
5.	Goa	20.14	0.81	0.01	10.34	917.93
6.	Gujarat	695.18	177.18	2.91	885.53	10910.05
7.	Haryana	298.26	37.30	0.00	389.64	11625.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12.98	0.00	1.14	12.37	556.29
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	306.16	39.81	12.49	71.17	2553.95
10.	Karnataka	302.12	749.78	33.72	1077.43	13022.49
11.	Kerala	145.74	1.19	77.25	171.26	8269.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	417.79	44.16	37.76	1021.77	8678.85
13.	Maharashtra	482.93	585.96	328.34	1188.67	24121.68
14.	Manipur	20.16	9.03	11.95	47.47	1160.32
15.	Meghalaya	0.50	0.70	0.00	1.00	74.29
16.	Nagaland	0.16	0.00	6.02	0.21	31.43
17.	Orissa	567.26	16.38	106.88	375.48	6053.50
18.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.37	3852.06
19.	Rajasthan	661.61	113.58	30.61	1094.79	38870.58
20.	Tamil Nadu	523.80	0.00	29.20	783.88	14900.98
21.	Tripura	0.20	0.00	0.10	0.32	12.18
22.	Uttar Pradesh	4624.59	8.48	222.15	5674.20	43766.13
23.	West Bengal	0.06	3.08	0.00	98.89	2749.41
24.	D and N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	9657.96	2158.39	931.27	14959.35	214351.51

Ban on Dumping of Wastage in Ganga River

4526. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring legislation to ban dumping of any type wastage in Ganga river;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to declare Ganga as National river; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. There are already two legal instruments in force namely Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act. 1986 to deal with the discharge of wastes into rivers and water bodies which also cover river Ganga.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Special Unit to Combat Wildlife Crimes

4527. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI B.V.N. REDDY :

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

(a) whether a London based N.G.O Environment Investigating Agency has criticised India for its failure to protect Tigers;

(b) whether it has suggested for setting up a specialised Enforcement Unit to combat wildlife crime and illicit trade;

(c) if so, whether the Government have set up any special unit to combat wildlife crimes and illicit trade;

(d) if not, the reasons for not setting up of the said unit so far; and

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Environment Investigating Agency has been monitoring wildlife conservation efforts in this country on a regular basis. During the course it learnt about the initiative of this Ministry of establish a specialised unit for combating wildlife crime and preventing illicit trade in Wildlife products. EIA has criticised the delay in setting up the specialised unit.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has imposed restrictions on the creation of new posts with a view to right size the Government. In view of this situation final decision on setting up of specialised unit has not been taken so far.

[Translation]

Telephone Connection in Rural Areas of Uttar Pradesh

4528 SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connection in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh were provided by the Government under the LDPT scheme;

(b) if so, the number of such telephones provided in each district during the last three years;

(c) whether these telephones are working properly;

(d) if not, the number of such telephone lying out of order, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps for rectifying them;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government propose to replace the said scheme by an alternative scheme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The telephones in rural areas have been provided under the Village Public Telephones (VPTs) Scheme which has replaced the erstwhile LDPT Scheme.

(b) 36,589 Villages have been provided with telephone facilities in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. Most of these VPTs are working satisfactorily.

(d) 12,950 VPTs were faulty as on 30/11/2000. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Several steps have been taken for rectifying the faulty VPTs which are as under.

(i) Testing of all VPTs is being done on daily basis from the exchanges and immediate attention is given to the telephones found faulty on testing;

(ii) Master readings are being checked fortnightly and low master reading is taken as an indication of poor performance immediate remedial action is initiated.

(iii) Flying squads have been constituted at Circle level for immediate rectification of faulty VPTs.

(iv) Repairs centres are opened in each Circle for rectification of faulty systems.

(v) AMCs are being entered with the suppliers of the equipment.

(g) Question does not arise in view of reply to (f) above.

(h) The LDPT scheme has already been replaced by the VPT scheme.

(i) Under the VPT scheme, the Government plans to provide telecom facilities to all the revenue villages of the country by March, 2002.

Statement

Sl. No.	District/Secondary Switching Area	VPTs provided during the last three years	Faulty VPTs on 30.11.2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	1204	460
2.	Azamgarh	1459	460
3.	Bahraich	718	215
4.	Ballia	813	232
5.	Banda	547	205
6.	Barabanki	596	237
7.	Basti	1038	337
8.	Etawah	500	174
9.	Faizabad	1102	308
10.	Farrukhabad	511	320
11.	Fatehpur	237	144
12.	Ghazipur	780	179
13.	Gonda	867	348
14.	Gorakhpur	1216	195
15.	Hamirpur	452	75
16.	Hardoi	710	67
17.	Jaunpur	784	22
18.	Jhansi	603	167
19.	Kanpur	811	332
20.	Lakhimpur	997	328
21.	Lucknow	126	102
22.	Mainpuri	469	163
23.	Mau/Deoria	1251	394
24.	Mirzapur	1056	356
25.	Orai	495	191
26.	Pratapgarh	966	221
27.	Raebareli	702	183
28.	Shahjahanpur	830	216
29.	Sitapur	881	261
30.	Sultanpur	936	302
31.	Unnao	658	208
32.	Varanasi	755	208
33.	Agra	163	52
34.	Firozabad	81	84
35.	Aligarh	791	55
36.	Hathras	395	15
37.	Almora	388	442
38.	Pithoragarh	145	476
39.	Bageshwar	132	137
40.	Champawat	301	139
41.	Badaun	1020	425
42.	Bijnore	1419	290
43.	Bareilly	604	458
44.	Dehradun	239	27
45.	Etah	229	219
46.	Ghaziabad	109	17
47.	G. B. Nagar	213	28
48.	Bulandshahar	280	25
49.	Meerut	4	82
50.	Mathura	363	153
51.	Baghpat	17	27
52.	Moradabad	596	154
53.	J. P. Nagar	343	121
54.	Muzaffarnagar	972	8
55.	Nainital	212	50
56.	Udham Singh Nagar	419	78
57.	New Tehri	310	20
58.	Uttarkashi	115	41
59.	Rampur	540	63
60.	Saharanpur	160	571
61.	Haridwar	111	
62.	Pilibhit	389	230

1	2	3	4
63.	Pauri	235	214
64.	Rudraprayag	47	32
65.	Chamoli	177	99
	Total	36589	12950

Financial Crisis in Power Projects

4529. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some on-going power projects are facing acute financial crisis for their completion in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the funds required for completion of these projects during the last year;

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

(d) the sources from which funds are likely to be collected during this year and the next two years, source-wise; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to help the State Governments in solving the financial crisis with regard to improvement of power transmission by the State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The details of thermal and hydro projects which are languishing due to paucity of funds, their latest estimated cost, etc. are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Implementing Agency	Capacity (MW)	Latest estimated Cost (Rs. Crore)
Thermal Projects facing acute financial crisis			
1.	Tenughat TPP St. II (TVNL)	3x210	2400.00
2.	Muzaffarpur TPS (BSEB)	2x250	2250.00
3.	Gas Based CCGT project at Amguri	2x30 GT + 1x30 ST	1200.00
On going H.E. Project languishing due to paucity of funds			
1.	Upper Sindh-II (J&K)	2x35	399.50
2.	Upper Sindh-II Extn. (J&K)	1x35	42.27
3.	Chenani-III (J&K)	3x2	46.28
4.	Sewa-III (J&K)	3x3	60.00
5.	Shahpurkandi Ph. I&II (Punjab)	2x40 + 2x40+1x8	1538.00
6.	Maneri Bhali II (U.P.)	4x76	1249.18*
7.	Lakhwar Vyasi (U.P.)	3x100 + 2x60	1446.00
8.	Katapathar (U.P.)	2x9.5	27.58
9.	Dhansiri (Assam)	5x3x1.33	78.63
10.	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani) (Assam)	2x50	288.37

* Estimated completion cost

(d) No decision has yet been made on how the resources would be raised for the above projects.

(e) The Government is considering to set up special funds providing financial assistance to SEBs/utilities to undertake power transmission and distribution improvement, under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). The funds are proposed to be provided to the SEBs/power utilities for (i) Renovation, Modernisation and Upgradation of Power stations (both hydro and thermal), (ii) Strengthening upgradation/improvement of sub-transmission and distribution scheme.

The Government has also enacted the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 which treats transmission as a distinct activity and would also promote private sector investment in the transmission area. Guidelines have also been issued in January, 2000 for private sector investment in the transmission sector.

[English]

Monitoring of Air Pollution in Metro Cities

4530. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ambient levels of benzene and VOC are being monitored in metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same exercise is proposed to be extended to other cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of 290 stations in 92 cities of the country for three criteria pollutants namely, Sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and suspended particulate matter. Monitoring of specific pollutants like benzene and volatile organic compounds (VOC) has been initiated in Delhi, Mumbai and Kanpur, extendable to other cities depending upon availability of resources.

Irregularities in utilising the Drought Relief Fund by State Governments

4531. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found several irregularities in the utilization of drought relief funds by various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that relief, funds are not misused in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No. 3 of 1999 (for the year ended March, 1998) has pointed out certain irregularities in the operation of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), for natural calamities including drought, by various State Governments.

(b) The C&AG Report indicates diversion of funds out of CRF, non setting-up of separate CRF, non separation of CRF from general revenues, violation of investment and expenditure norms, expenditure in excess of norms, retention of funds with executing agencies, outstanding utilisation certificates, deficiencies in cash book and instances of alleged misappropriation etc.

(c) The observations have been brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned and they have been requested to take corrective measures. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has again emphasised the need for observing the scheme of CRF and guidelines issued there under for being followed scrupulously by the State to avoid recurrence of such instances. The States have taken up necessary corrective action.

Police Stations in Forest Areas

4532. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of Police stations in forest areas has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy to be adopted by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Some State Governments are contemplating reorganising forest protection staff into viable formations. The details in this regard have not been finalised. The Central Government supports this initiative of State Government.

Vacancy Based Rosters

4533. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether DoPT has introduced 'Post Based Roster' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reservation w.e.f. July 2,1997;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under his Ministry and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under Para (5) of the DoPT O.M. No 36012/ 2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the excesses/shortages found in all the above categories of services as on July 2,1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the judgement of Supreme Court, the Post Based Roster, has been introduced by the DoPT, from 2-7-1997.

(c) The procedure outlined in DoPT O.M No. 36012/ 2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 has been followed.

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

Post Based Rosters

4534.SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoPT has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reservation w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under his Ministry and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DoPT O.M. No. 36012/ 296-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the excesses/shortages found in all the above categories of services as on July 2,1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Payment of Local Call Charges by Officials

4535.SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all entitled Government officials have to pay for the local calls made from their residential telephone provided by Government in excess of the 325 local calls that are paid by the Government;

(b) some officials do not deposit such excess call charges causing huge revenue loss to the Government;

(c) if so, details of the officials who have not deposited such excess call charges for the period for January 1995 to November 2000, Ministry-wise;

(d) the action Government propose to recover such due from those officials together with time limit with which such recovery is likely to be made;

(e) whether any penal interest is proposed to be recovered on the dues from such officials who have not deposited excess local call charges payable by them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discovery of Rain Forests

4536. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Rain Forest discovered in Assam" appearing in Times of India dated October 4.2000;

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

(c) whether a Environmentalist Saumyadeep Dutta has discovered a rain forests in Assam which spills into Arunachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the news item. Saumyadeep Dutta and others discovered 500 sq. km. of Rain Forest in Assam which spills over into Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) A proposal has been received from Nature's Beckon Group for declaring Joypur, Dirak and Upper Dihing forest as Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Government has been requested to take necessary action in the matter as the power to declare any area a sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act vests with them.

[Translation]

Great Himalayan National Park

4537.SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up the head quarters of the Great Himalayan National Park in Kulu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be set up there ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The headquarters of Great Himalayan National Park has been established at Shamshi in Kulu District which is 9 km from the district headquarter.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Preservation of Forests

4538. SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh for preservation of forests during the year 1999-2000 district-wise;

(b) whether any complaints has been received regarding the non-utilisation of the funds especially in Bulandshar district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not allocate funds district-wise. However, the Ministry has released Rs. 1147.58 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh for preservation of forests during 1999-2000.

(b) No complaint has been received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding the non-utilisation of funds in Bulandshar district of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) do not arise.

National Cattle Research Institute

4539. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are research institutes for Buffalo, Goat, Sheep, Enquine, Camel, Yak, Mithun, Poultry etc.;

(b) if so, whether there is a research institute and Project Director for Poultry;

(c) whether the Bhartiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation (BCRDF) has been making representations for quite long for National Cattle Research Institute; and

(d) if so, the State on which the Cattle Research Institute stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established the Central Institutes for Research on Buffalo, Goat and Sheep. There are also National Research Centres on Equine, Camel, Yak and Mithun. A project Directorate on Poultry has also been established.

(b) There is a Central Avian Research Institute established at Izatnagar (UP) and a Project Directorate on Poultry at Hyderabad (AP).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Project Directorate on Cattle has been established at Meerut (UP) by the ICAR. No proposal is under consideration at present to establish a Cattle Research Institute.

[Translation]

Special Telephone Numbers

4540. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded legal recognition to sex phone calls in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this business is going on with the approval of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(d) whether the MTNL has provided them specific telephone numbers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the steps being taken by the Government to stop sex phone racket ?

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) and (d) No. Sir. No permission has been granted for such a service. The special Nos allotted are for premium rate service.

(e) The service enables Professionals and information providers to offer advice/Consultation, forecast in any field, fortune telling, share market consultation, job consultation and information on sports etc. using telecom. network which is the fastest means. The service provider (Professional/Information Provider) is allotted a PRM

service No. by the MTNL. (Network Operator) and this No. can be accessed by telephone subscribers/information seekers all over Delhi and Mumbai irrespective of the location of the information Provider.

[English]

In-House Veterinary Hospital

4541.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cow shelters (Go-Sadans) cannot function properly without an in-house veterinary hospital;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide in-house veterinary hospitals in cow shelters, if so, the details of the relevant rules as per law;

(c) total number of Go-Sadans in Delhi and the number of Go-Sadan out of them are functioning without a veterinary hospital;

(d) the details of NGOs working in the said field and quantum of money granted to them by the Government for running the shelters;

(e) whether any audit of these NGOs has been conducted;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (g) As informed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment a scheme for grant in aid to be released to NGOs for construction of shelter houses for animals including cows is being run by that Ministry. That scheme also provides for grant in aid to construct an in-house dispensary. Under this scheme, grant in aid amounting to Rs. 55.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to three organisations in Delhi for construction of shelter houses for cows including construction of in-house dispensary. These shelter houses have their own doctors, para-medical staff, medicines and necessary equipments for the treatment of the cows. Even doctors from neighbouring Government hospitals regularly visit some of these shelters. The Annual Accounts in four parts, i.e. Audit Reports, Income and Expenditure Accounts, Receipt and Payment Accounts and Balance sheet duly audited by a certified Chartered Accountant are received invariably from each organisation by that Ministry. The Utilisation certificate for the item-wise grant released to them is also separately received by that Ministry which is again duly certified by a Chartered Accountant.

Private Sector Investment In Power Sector

4542.SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector investment in power sector is not picking up as expected;

(b) if so, whether the Electron de France has pulled out of the Bhadravati power project as it was hanging for too long;

(c) whether Videocon Group which is handling the Tamil Nadu project has stopped the work and apprehending cancellation of escrow cover granted earlier by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board;

(d) whether the highly restrictive Purchase Price Preference (PPP) is still in force deterring the private bidders for the NTPC's Rihand and Ramagundam packages;

(e) whether the PPP has been providing protection the domestic industry and PSUs including BHEL which has outlived its utility by shutting out competition from private bidders; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities is one of the reasons indicated by M/s. Electricite de France (EDF) for pulling out from the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Power Project.

(c) As financial closure had not been achieved by M/s. Videocon Power Ltd., who are promoting the 1050 MW North Chennai stage-II Thermal Power Project in Tamil Nadu inspite of 4 extensions given by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) had decided not to renew the escrow given for the project. TNEB have also informed that construction work on the project is yet to commence.

(d) to (f) The Policy of purchase preference to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), extended by the Government vide OM No. DPE/13(3)2000-Fin GL.30 dated 14-9-2000, is in force upto 31.3.2002. The main purpose of the purchase Price Preference is to provide a level playing field to the CPSUs vis-a-vis their foreign counter-parts.

Although a total of 16 prospective bidders comprising domestic and foreign bidders had purchased the bidding

documents following the issue of invitation for bids for main plant of Ramagundam Stage III (1x500MW) and Rihand Stage II (2x500MW) in October, 1999, however, only the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) submitted the bids for both these projects, which were finally opened in October, 2000.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Farmers

4543. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale subsidy is given in America and other European countries in the field of Agriculture for products to be used indigenously as well as those meant for exports;'

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

(c) whether this subject was discussed by the Government in the talks held under the banner of World Trade Organisation;

(d) if so, the names of the members of the Indian delegation that went for holding talks; and

(e) the outcome of the discussions held in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the high level of domestic support to agriculture and subsidies on exports in several developed countries, India has been articulating the demand for substantial reduction in domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries.

(c) In the Special Sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture proposals filed by some member countries for reduction of subsidies and support to agriculture in developed countries were discussed in which India had also participated.

(d) Shri R.C.A. Jain, Additional Secretary,-Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was deputed from India to attend the Special Sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture held in June, September and November, 2000 in Geneva. Besides Shri S. Narayanan, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to W.T.O. and other officers from the Permanent Mission of India to WTO at Geneva have also been participating in the discussions on the Agreement on Agriculture in the WTO.

(e) The member countries have time upto December, 2000 to file their initial negotiating proposals on Agreement on Agriculture. The Committee on Agriculture will discuss these proposals in its subsequent Special Sessions. No time limit has been fixed for concluding the negotiations.

Jobs to Dependents of Deceased Employees

4544. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the employees died while in service particularly in the Animal Husbandry Department during the last three years, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the number of dependents of the deceased out of them given jobs;

(c) the time by which the remaining cases of appointment of dependents of the deceased are likely to be settled;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow to retain their quarters till the dependents are given jobs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Sir, information is being collected.

[English]

Daily Allowance to Indian Participants of Sydney Olympics

4545. SHRI A.P. ABDULLA KUTTY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the Government for providing authorised daily allowance to the participants of Sydney Olympics;

(b) whether any discrepancy has been noticed in regard to payment of the said allowance to different participants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether authorised daily allowance to the players entered in the passport is different from that what they actually received; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA

KRISHNAN) : (a) The Government of India did not sanction/ provided daily allowance to the participants. However, Indian Contingent cleared by Government was sanctioned out of pocket expenses @ USD 35 per day.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Based on the information and reports in the media on the issue of conversion of money into foreign exchange and transfer thereof during the Sydney Olympics, Government asked Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to furnish complete details in the matter. The IOA has since intimated the details in this regard. The matter has been again referred to Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue for its opinion.

Raising the Height of Almati Dam

4546. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to raise the dam height of Almati Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its cost;

(c) the number of farmers and families who are likely to lose their land homes in the process; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Irrigation portion of Upper Krishna Stage II Multipurpose Project was accepted by the Advisory Committee for Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 519.6 meter for the Almati Dam in its 73rd meeting held on 31.5.2000 subject to the following conditions.

(i) Clearance of forest, environment and Rehabilitation and Re-settlement Plan from the respective Central Ministries;

(ii) The FRL will be restricted to 519.60 metre and there would be no physical capacity to store more water above 519.60 metre;

(iii) The operation of the project would be such that there will not be any submergence in territory of Maharashtra;

(iv) Canal capacity would be restricted to water requirements as per the demand table and considering 10% extra for irrigation and the design FSL should ensure irrigation in the command under Stage II.

(v) The Utilization shall not exceed 173 TMC under Stage I and II of Upper Krishna Project;

(vi) Finalization of cost estimate of the project with FRL 519.60 metre and firming of the other economic parameters of the project.

As regards the condition at (vi) above, the cost estimate of the project with PRL of 519.6 metre has since been finalised for Rs. 2358.86 crore at 1998-99 price level and the other economic parameters of the project have also been firmed up. The position in this regard has also been intimated to the Planning Commission on 15.11.2000 for consideration of investment clearance. As regards condition at (i) above, Ministry of Environment and Forest have accorded clearance subject to strict compliance to certain terms and conditions mentioned therein. The Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited has certified that no forest land is to be required or used for implementation of the Upper Krishna Stage II Project including the construction of Almatti dam and no tribal population is being displaced due to the project. As regards conditions at (ii) to (v) above, Government of Karnataka will have to ensure compliance to these at the time of operation of Almatti dam.

The Upper Krishna Project Stage I which is an irrigation project was originally approved by the Planning Commission on 28.11.1963 for an FRL of 512.2 metre for the Almatti dam.

The details of submergence indicating the population affected as beow :-

Sl. No.		Upto RL 512.2 Metre (Stage-I)	Between RL 512.2 metre (Stage I) and 519.6 metre (Stage-II)	Between 512.2 metre (Stage-I) and 524.256 metre
1.	Area of Submergence	18000 hectare	24557 hectare	57366 hectare
2.	Village affected	136 nos.	Nil	22 nos.
3.	Population affected	180000	Not Available	87541

(d) For the 95 affected village upto E.L 509 metre (i.e. Upper Krishna Report Phase-II of Stage - I), it is proposed to create 68 Rehabilitation Centres (RCS) 50 Rehabilitation Centres have been formed with basic amenities and land has been acquired for remaining Rehabilitation Centres and work is in progress.

In addition to the above, part of the Bagalkot township would also be affected under Almatti Dam for which the State has created Bagalkot Town Development Authority. The restoration work is being executed by this Authority.

Out of 1800 hectare of land required for relocation purposes 1747 hectare land has already been acquired for possession taken over. The process of acquisition of remaining land is in progress. In all 49 sectors will be developed to receive about 10000 Project Displaced Persons (PDP) 6 sectors are ready to receive about 630 PDPs likely to be affected in Phase-II construction of Upper Krishna Project.

Demarcation of 22 sectors and roads in new township has been completed and for remaining 21 sectors road work is under progress.

Construction of Primary School buildings and 5 Nursery School Buildings and road works for 6 sectors are completed.

Construction of primary school buildings in sector No. 9,46, and 60 shops in sector No. 33,70 shops in sector No. 17 and shop houses in sector No. 34 and 38 are under progress. Road work for 22 sectors are nearing completion. Load work for further 21 sectors are under progress. Construction of Bagalkot to Sangari Road 0 to 8 km. is under progress. Construction of drain in sector No. 5 and 6 of Bagalkot new township is under progress. Construction of High School building in sector No. 48 and 52 prototype house buildings in sector No. 33 are completed.

Marine Life in Jamnagar

4547. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether marine life and aqua culture are being harmed due to presence of oil refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to check deterioration of marine life in Jamnagar?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Marine life and aquatic fauna of the Marine National Park Jamnagar in Gujarat does get affected because of the activities of oil refineries at Jamnagar.

(b) Steps taken to protect the bio-diversity include :

- Denial of access to oil tankers to the marine park.
- No Pipelines are allowed through the national park without detailed impact assessment.
- Indian Coast Guards have prepared a disaster management plan to deal with the oil slicks.

Power Generation in U.P.

4548. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to increase the additional power capacity in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the capacity of power generation added so far in U.P. against the said target; and

(d) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Planning Commission had fixed a target of 1705 MW for capacity addition during Ninth Plan in U.P. of which, a capacity addition of about 1705 MW is likely as per details given below :-

Name of the Project	Target for Ninth Plan	Status
Auriya CCGT II Central	650 MW	Spilling over beyond Ninth Plan.
*Tanda TPS Central Sector	110 MW	Commissioned
Tehri St. I Central Sector	500MW	Likely 2001-02 (for 500 MW)
Unchahar II Central Sector	420 MW	Commissioned
Katapather HEP State Sector	19MW	Work not yet started
Sobla State Sector	6MW	Commissioned
Total	1705 MW	

*Taken over by NTPC recently

Shortage of Telegraph Men

4549.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delivery of Telegrams is badly affected due to shortage of Telegraphmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rental/Own Buildings

4550.SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph offices being run in their own and rented buildings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of buildings constructed for the said offices in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the proposal approved by the Government for construction of buildings in Maharashtra; and

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

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.

Post Offices/Sub Post Offices In the Country

4551.SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set any target to open Post Offices and sub-post offices in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh :

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the achievement made vis-a-vis the targets, State-wise;

(d) The number of Head Post Offices, Post offices and branch Post offices functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(e) whether branch Post offices are not being opened in several villages despite fulfilling the laid down criteria for this purpose;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the number of villages where Branch Post Offices have been decided to be opened during the year 2001-2002 ?

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

(b) and (c) Circle-wise targets and achievements made with regard to opening of Sub-Post Offices (SO) and Branch Post Offices (BO) including that of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) Circle-wise number of Head Post Offices, Post Offices and Branch Post Offices functioning in the country is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) Post Offices are opened as a part of the Plan activity according to Annual targets, subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms and sanctioning of required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance.

(g) Targets for opening of Post Offices in rural area are yet to be finalised for the year 2001-2002.

Statement-I

Circle-wise break up of Post Offices opened during last three years

Sl.No.	Circle	Target 1997-98		Opened 1997-98		Target 1998-99		Opened 1998-99		Target 99-2000		Opened 99-2000	
		BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	4	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2.	Assam	25	2	18	3	54	5	54	5	50	4	24	7
3.	Bihar	40	5	31	4	72	2	72	2	50	3	51	Nil
4.	Delhi	5	2	5	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2
5.	Gujarat	25	2	18	3	31	2	31	2	30	3	28	2
6.	Haryana	15	2	13	2	13	3	13	3	15	2	12	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	4	Nil	7	1	7	1	7	1	2	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	1	11	1	23	1	23	1	15	1	14	1
9.	Karnataka	30	5	24	5	12	4	12	4	21	3	21	3
10.	Kerala	10	2	7	1	12	3	12	3	4	2	4	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	37	2	41	2	50	5	50	5	40	4	40	4
12.	Maharashtra	35	3	34	4	69	3	69	3	50	2	50	3
13.	North-East	25	3	18	3	54	3	54	3	40	2	19	3
14.	Orissa	27	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2
15.	Punjab	17	2	12	2	12	2	12	2	10	1	9	1
16.	Rajasthan	33	2	33	1	30	1	30	1	27	2	24	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	21	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	15	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	70	6	57	6	82	3	82	3	50	3	10	2
19.	West Bengal	50	3	24	4	43	4	43	4	43	9	41	9
	Total	500	50	402	52	598	50	598	50	500	50	386	49

Statement-II

Category-wise number of Post Offices in the country as on 31.3.2000

Sl. No.	Circles	Head Offices	Deptt. Sub Offices	Extra Deptt. Sub Offices	Extra Deptt. Branch Offices	Total No. of Post Offices
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104	2363	53	13672	16192
2.	Assam	19	597	36	3259	3911
3.	Bihar	42	1442	127	10354	11965
4.	Delhi	9	420	20	126	575
5.	Gujarat	43	1366	45	7530	8984
	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Nil	3	Nil	32	35
	Daman and Diu	Nil	6	Nil	12	18
6.	Haryana	15	467	13	2155	2650
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18	444	18	2287	2767
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	247	25	1379	1660

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Karnataka	70	1785	296	7722	9873
10.	Kerala	51	1455	524	3026	5056
	Lakshdweep		7	5	2	14
11.	Madhya Pardesh	52	1383	98	9843	11376
12.	Maharashtra	61	2084	129	10195	12469
	Goa	2	104	3	149	258
13.	North-East					
	Arunachal	1	46	nil	524	301
	Manipur	1	52	nil	638	691
	Meghalya	2	62	1	422	487
	Mizoram	1	38	4	357	400
	Nagaland	1	40	nil	281	322
	Tripura	3	80	14	615	712
14.	Orissa	35	1666	195	6739	8135
15.	Punjab	21	765	10	3093	3889
	Chandigarh	1	43	1	7	52
16.	Rajasthan	55	1404	102	8833	10394
17.	Tamil Nadu	91	2731	219	9030	12071
	Pondicherry	1	33	nil	61	95
18.	Uttar Pradesh	86	2844	458	16845	20233
19.	West Bengal	44	1645	337	6636	8662
	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	25	7	65	98
	Sikkim	1	19	6	180	206
	Total	840	25166	2746	125799	154551

[English]

Special Course of Fisheries Science

4552. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the C.M.F.R.I. is conducting a specialised course in the field of Fisheries Science;

(b) whether the fisheries post graduates are being recruited in Central Fisheries Research Institute under ICAR; and

(c) if so, the number of fisheries post graduates recruited in these C.M.F.R.I. during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is conducting Master's and Doctoral courses in Mariculture.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 2 (Two).

Pollution By PSUs

4553. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pollution problems due to public undertakings in Mumbai have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against polluting undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Chembur in Mumbai were posing pollution problems due to emissions of gaseous pollutants. There has been substantial improvement in environmental quality of the area after the industries have adopted pollution control measures as per the directions issued by Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (MPCB).

A Committee was appointed by the State Government to review the industrial units causing foul smell problems. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the MPCB directed closure of one industrial unit in the Chembur area.

The area is regularly monitored by the MPCB. The liquid and air effluents are collected periodically from the industrial units for taking appropriate action. The PSUs have also undertaken a tree plantation program, thereby improving the air quality in the area.

[English]

12.01 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past twelve of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Sir, I have a request to make. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.1½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A Copy of the Municipal solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.908 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October , 2000, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No.LT 2874/2000]

(2) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2875/2000]

(3) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Centre For Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2876/2000]

(4) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A Ccpy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2877/2000]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A Copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2878/2000]

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A Copy of the Indian Telegraph (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 783(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2000, under sub - section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2879/2000]

(2) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of the India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 23 and sub section (3) of section 24 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(iii) A Copy of the Orders (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2880/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review of the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2881/2000]

(b) (i) Review of the Government of the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual report of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2882/2000]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual report of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2883/2000]

(d) (i) Review of the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2884/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2885/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields, for

the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2886/2000]

(4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 8 of 2000)- Public Sector Undertakings- National Aluminium Company Limited, for the year ended the March, 1999, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2887/2000]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement(Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2888/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) 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 Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2889/2000]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2890/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.(RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : I beg to lay on the Table--

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-

(i) S.O. 1199 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December,1999 declaring the land vesting absolutely in Central Government for four laning of NH-4 in Karnataka.

(ii) S.O. 556 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June,2000 regarding levy and pay fee by user of NH-4 in Hubli-Dharwad.

(iii) S.O. 568 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13 June, 2000 declaring the land visiting absolutely in Central Government 403/800 to 433/200 NH-4 between Hubli-Dharwad in Karnataka.

(iv) S.O. 578 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June,2000 authorising Manager,NHAI, Davangiri, as competent authority to acquire land for 4 laning NH-4 in Karnataka.

(v) S.O. 624 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2000 authorising Manager,NHAI, Dharwad, as competent authority to acquire land for 4 laning NH-4 in Karnataka.

(vi) S.O.953 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2000 authorising Special Land Acquisition Officer, National Highways, Dharwad, as competent authority to acquire land between Hubli-Dharwad By pass in Karnataka.

(vii) S.O.721 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2000 regarding entrustment of National Highways 4B and 4C to National Highways Authority of India.

(Major General (Retd) Shri B.C. Khanduri)

(viii) S.O. 765 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

(ix) S.O. 766 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2000 entrustment of NH-17B to National Highways Authority of India.

(x) S.O. 917 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2000 omitting the Stretch Sikandra-Bhognipur -Bara from the National Highway No.2

(xi) S.O. 918 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2000 alignment of Sikandra-Bara Stretches to NH-2

(xii) S.O. 919 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2000 regarding declaration of NH-2A.

(xiii) S.O. 923 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2000 regarding declaration of 31 new routes as national highways.

(xiv) S.O. 790 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2000 regarding levy of fees to be recovered from users of two lanes tunnel on NH-4 between Pune and Satara.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) to (iv) of the item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2891/2000]

(3) A Copy of the Notification No.G.S.R.911(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2000 making certain amendments in the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2892/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2893/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On Behalf of Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2894/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2895/2000]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2896/2000]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited Faridabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2897/2000]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2898/2000]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, New Shimla, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited New Shimla, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2899/2000]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2900/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, For the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2901/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with the Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2902/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Energy Management Centre, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Energy Management Centre, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2903/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : I beg to lay on the table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English version) under sub-section 619A of the companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India limited, New Delhi, for the Year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No.LT 2904/2000]

[Shri Shripad Yasso Naik]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2905/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts, under sub-section(4) of sections 14 and 16 of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* LT No. 2906/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2907/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : On behalf of Dr. Debendra Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :–

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2908/2000]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited Bhopal, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2909/2000]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bangalore for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (c) of items (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2910/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :–

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Lakshadweep, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Lakshadweep, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2911/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Diary Development Board, Anand for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2912/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N.RAMACHANDRAN) : A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No.3 of 2000) - Performance Appraisals, for the year ended the March, 1999, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2913/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : On behalf of Shri Tapan Sikdar I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2914/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2915/2000]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No.LT 2916/2000]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000. along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2917/2000

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2918/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the HTL Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2919/2000]

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the ITI Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No.LT 2920/2000]

12.05 hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Report

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on First Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on excess over voted Grants and charged Appropriations (1996-97).

12.5½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Study Tour Report

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Study Tour Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings relating to Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

12.5 ¾ hrs

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

First and Second Reports

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Sir, I beg to present the First and Second Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

12.06 hours

At this stage, Dr. Manda Jagannath and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.6½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Report

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of standing committee on Defence :-

(1) The Seventh Report on modernisation of Indian Airforce.

(2) The eighth report regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the third Report of the Committee on "the upgradation and modernisation of Naval fleet" (Twelve Lok Sabha), and

(3) Ninth Report on Repair/maintenance facility for Naval fleets.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Tenth Report

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals regarding the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in fourth report on "Demands for Grants related to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas - 2000-2001.

[English]

12.7½ hrs.

PROCUREMENT OF PADDY BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA IN ANDHRA PRADESH

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up the Zero Hour. Shri Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Yerrannaidu to raise the matter. Please go back to your seats.

12.08 hours

At this stage, Dr. Manda Jagannath and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr Speaker, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translations]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are being betrayed by the Government. The Government have 4 crore 60 lakh tons of grains in its store. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Yerrannaidu says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, I have called Shri Yerrannaidu. Shri Yerrannaidu, please ask your Members to resume their seats. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, you have allowed me to speak. Why is Madam unnecessarily disturbing the House? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Yerannaidu says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last one month, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been writing letters to the Government of India to intervene in the interest of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. For the last one week, the farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price. They are in distress. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing, except what Shri Yerrannaidu says, should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the hon. Prime Minister, the Consumer Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister.

Sir, he is writing so many letters to the Government of India. Even the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public distribution has visited Andhra Pradesh and has given a categorical assurance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, even then, the Food Corporation of India has not acted so far, as per the assurance given by the hon. Minister Shri Shanta Kumar. . . .*(Interruptions)* That is way the farmers are in distress now. After taking into account the ground reality, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter yesterday to the hon. Prime Minister and also to the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public distribution requesting to immediately accept all the demands as the farmers are in distress and there is no minimum support price. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is the duty of the Government of India to provide the minimum support price to the farmers in India, particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public distribution is aware of all the demands that the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested. He is aware of everything. That is why the Government of India should respond and accept all the demands posed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)*

What are the demands of Andhra Pradesh? The hon. Chief Minister has mentioned about nine demands. The first one is on procurement of rice at the rate of 10 lakh MTs per month from December, 2000. But the actual procurement is only 3.80 lakh MTs as on 17th December, 2000

Sir, major point is the demand to instruct FCI to accept paddy of Swarnamasuri (MTU 7029) and other similar varieties like MTU 2077, MTU 2716, MTU 2067, MTU 5293 of paddy as Grade 'A', without insisting on length and breadth ratio as assured by the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public distribution and to procure the above-mentioned paddy on varietal basis by relaxing admixture suitably.

The next point is to accept the above varieties of paddy meant for boiled rice also as Grade 'A'. But the local FCI officials have refused to accept it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, you cannot read the entire thing in the 'Zero Hour'

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the hon. Minister has given an assurance to procure the raw rice and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is willing to take the same rice in PDS system. . . .*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister

*Not recorded.

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

has assured to take the boiled rice as Grade 'A' variety. Now we are asking : As you have accepted the Swarnamasuri rice for Grade 'A', why are you denying it for the swarnamasuri paddy ? That is our humble request. The Government of India is aware of all the demands. The Government should reply to all those demands. I am waiting for the hon. Minister's reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : There was an Adjournment Motion earlier on this subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Yerrannaidu has raised a right issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Jaipal Reddy.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, my only problem with this is that a right issue has been raised by a wrong Party and a wrong Member. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad) : Sir, what is this? This is not correct. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, we are totally condemning Shri Jaipal Reddy's statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, my only point is : The vote of the TDP must be where their mouth is. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Yes. That is right. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, at the beginning of this Session, our Party tabled an Adjournment Motion on the very same issue. The TDP did not vote with us. I am only placing the facts on record. It is for them and us to explain this position to the people. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE (Vijayawada) : Sir, it is highly objectionable. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : There were different reasons for that. We are the supporting Party. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, the Congress Party had other intentions. That is why we have not supported their Motion. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party is not for the farmers.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, those things are different. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, in the same House this very important issue has been raised. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, Please come to the subject of the farmers' issue.

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTHRA (South Delhi) : It is highly objectionable. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, how can you speak like that, while sitting in the House ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : This is the practice here.

MR. SPEAKER : You have been practising that.

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, he is only interested in deriving political mileage, and he is not interested in the farmers' issues. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, be that as it may, the issues raised, though belatedly, by Shri Yerrannaidu are absolutely correct. I represent Miryalguda, which is one of the biggest rice bowls in the country. I would like to ask this Government whether they want to reduce the farmers to the status of beggars.

Sir, this Government, in spite of assurances offered on the floor of the House, offered by the Minister to the people at Hyderabad, has not been able to organise procurement of paddy at the minimum support price. The market rate, as I said before, is more than Rs. 150 less today in Andhra Pradesh than the MSP. This is a fact of life. I do not know how the problem can be addressed. I am not Saying that this is peculiar to Andhra Pradesh; it is a problem that is affecting the Kisans in many parts of the country including Punjab and Karnataka.

Therefore, I would like to relate myself to the farmers all over the country. This Government is anti-kissan. My friend, Shri Shanta Kumar, is very generous with his words, but is extremely parsimonious with his package. He is not prepared to take any initiative in the matter. It is not a party issue and, therefore, I want all the B.J.P. Members, the NDA

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

Members, to give expression to their conscience. They are not voting here.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that they have given notices. Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, if it is on the same issue, you can also associate with Shri Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the question of only those Members who have given notice, rather it is the problem of the entire nation. It is the question of farmers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given notice, you please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I have given notice for other subject.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later. Prabhunathji I will also call you later.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today my colleague, Shri Yerrannaidu, on behalf of our Party, has raised a very important issue, that is, about the distressful condition of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh because of the fall in the prices of almost all the commodities, particularly in the case of paddy and rice.

Sir, I do appreciate the concern and solidarity expressed by Shri Jaipal Reddy on this issue. At the same time, right from the beginning, I would say that he is concerned over getting political mileage out of this whole issue, which is condemnable. He said that we did not support the issue when they raised it in the beginning of the Session. Though it is a right issue, since it has been tabled by a wrong Party, to put it in his own words, the entire House has condemned that. They wanted to get political mileage out of it, and they never wanted to get remunerative prices for the farmers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record

(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, for the past fifty years the Indian farmers have been watching the performance of the Congress Party in regard to their contribution towords agriculture. It is this party which is responsible for the deteriorating standards of agriculture and for bringing the status of agriculture to this condition. They must feel ashamed of it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot call anybody's name without notice.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddy with all his literary acumen at his command had been saying that he was the hardware of the Non-Congress Parties and the Software of the Congress Party. His body belongs to the non-Congress Parties but what he is saying today is the version of the Congress Party. Now, in spite of the assurances given by the hon. Minister in this House and in spite of his having visited the State of Andhra Pradesh, none of his assurances has been carried out by the officers of the FCI till this point of time. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, there are four issues involved in it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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

PROF. UMMEAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the Government agreed to procure ten lakh tonnes during this particular reason. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translations]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak. The problem of Bihar is very serious. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Raghunathji, you have not given notice for this subject. The subject for which you have given notice for speaking will come later.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the Government gave an assurance to produce ten lakh tonnes of rice during the month of December itself. But in actual terms, only 3.8 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured as against the assured ten lakh tonnes.

Sir, in regard to transportation of rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh to the neighbouring States it was assured that five lakh tonnes would be transported from the state of Andhra Pradesh to the other neighbouring States. But in actual terms, only 2.2 lakhs tonnes have been transported.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Venkateshwarlu there are other notices as well.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, in regard to hiring of godowns, the Government of Andhra Pradesh came forward with the proposal to keep at the disposal of the FCI godown facilites for five lakh tonnes, but they have taken two lakh tonnes.

Sir, what happened ultimately was that when we raised this issue on the 6th and 7th of December, the prices went up. Before the 5th of December, the prices were Rs. 500, on the 6th of December and 7th of December it went upto Rs. 510/. Then again on 8th of December, it went upto Rs. 530/- and on 9th if went upto Rs. 540 and they reached the level of the Minimum Support Price. After that, due to confusing orders from the officers, the prices again went down to Rs. 500/-. This is an alarming situation. . . . *(Interruptions)* Instructions that are being sent out from the Head office are totally different from the actions that are being carried in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This state of confusion is resulting in a lot of distress for the farming community and they will have to be assured. . . . *(Interruptions)* The issues that have been raised by our hon. Chief Minister would have to be addressed by the hon. Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister must given an assurance to the issues raised by our hon. Chief Minister and unless an assurance is given by the Minister to the issues raised by our hon. Chief Minister, the farmers would not be able to retrieve the situation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)* Thank you.

SHRI S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad) : There should be a categorical reply from the Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNMAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh is suffering a lot. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers of Bihar is very bad. No one is ready to purchase their paddy. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Punjab may give minimum support price of paddy to Rs. 510 per quantal then why Bihar Government is not doing the same ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please issue instruction to the Government that it should purchase paddy at the minimum support price in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers are distressed in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh are compelled to sell their paddy at the rate of Rs. 350 per quantal. . . . *(Interruptions)* Whatever paddy have been purchased at the Government's procurement centres belong to the businessmen. Otherwise even today the paddy of the farmers are being sold at very cheap rate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet) : Sir, with your kind permission I would like to say a few words. This is not an issue to trade political charges. I do not agree with it. But right from the beginning of this Session, this subject is being discussed in one form or the other.

But, unfortunately, nothing is happening on the ground. Hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar had assured this House. When we went home we saw him on the TV, along with Hon. Minister, Shri Dattatreya, assuring the people of Andhra Pradesh - at the instance of the Chief Minister, or the Government, or the public, or the Members of Parliament - that he was going to order purchase of ten lakh tonnes of rice at minimum support price. Unfortunately, nothing has happened. What happened to the assurance then?

Sir, you are the Speaker of this House. You are from Andhra Pradesh. You know the plight of the farmers there. Your area is a paddy-producing area. What is the point in the Minister going on giving assurances in the House and nothing happening on the ground ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister, please.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, we have to associate with the subject . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow all the Members. I have called the names of those who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same question is being raised time and again. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If I have to allow all the Members in the 'Zero Hour'. We can take up only one notice today.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak later.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Sir, we have raised this issue many time but Govt. have not . . . *.(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, how can you raise any matter in the 'Zero Hour' without giving any notice? What is this ?

[Translations]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are being cheated and discriminated . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Yerrannaidu ji told. . . . *(Interruptions)* For last one month these subjects relating to Andhra Pradesh were coming before me. . . . *(Interruptions)* The hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. . . . *.(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is an important issue relating to farmers. You are not allowing the Minister to reply to it. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tried to solve all the problems of the farmers that have been put before me in course of my discussion with the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. . . . *.(Interruptions)* Few days back he had told me that whatever rice is produced by the FCI, the quantity of admixture in that should be kept 13 per cent instead of 10 per cent. It should be considered seriously. . . . *.(Interruptions)* At least you listen to it. *(Interruptions). You* even do not want to listen *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is such an important issue and you are not behaving properly in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : At Least listen to the reply. . . . *.(Interruptions)*

12.29 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Kanti Singh came and stood near the Table

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Kanti Singh, please go to your seat.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you want to raise, you may raise later on. Presently, you allow the hon. Minister to reply the question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. You are not allowing the Minister to Speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Sushila Saroj came and stood near the Table.

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Sushila Saroj went back to her seat.

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you are asking about the farmers is OK but you are not allowing the Ministers to make reply.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the problem ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)**

12.30 ½ hrs.

At this stage Shri Ram Prasad Singh came and stood near the Table

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may complete your reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first thing that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh told that. . . . *(Interruptions)* The quantity of admixture in rice was increased from 10 percent to 13 percent. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It shows how much interest you have about the farmers.

[Translation]

The Minister is replying about the farmers and you are not listening to it. You are not interested in the welfare of the farmers.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please sit down. Please listen to the hon'ble Minister first, later on you can raise your point.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a serious matter regarding farmers condition. Please sit down first. This is not the way. First you listen to the solution of the Government, then you raise your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You cannot raise your questions from here, first you go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

12.37 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Kanti Singh and Shri Ram Prasad Singh went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem regarding the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The entire county is watching the behaviour of hon'ble members on the issue of farmers. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself visited Andhra Pradesh when the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh written me regarding the problem of farmers. I talked to him and I would like to apprise the hon. Members regarding two-three points. I have heard what you all have started. Now please listen to me. The main demand was. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the hon. Minister's speech.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister is giving reply regarding farmers condition in the country.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he had mentioned about the problem of Swaran Masuri rice in Andhra Pradesh, he stated that the admixture in respect of rice which is 10% at present should be increased to 13% so that the growers of this quality of rice should get the remunerative price of their produce. Immediately, the necessary action was taken in this regard. The demand was accepted on 8th of this month and the orders were issued in this regard. The percentage of admixture was increased to 13 per cent. . . .*(Interruptions)* There may be some shortcomings but it is not like that the no action has been taken as stated by my friends on the other side. Earlier rice was used to be procured through levy route in Andhra Pradesh. As my friends present in the House have stated, bumper crop of rice has been produced this year in Andhra Pradesh, therefore, necessary steps for the additional procurement of rice should be taken. FCI has been directed in this regard. Arrangements were made for the additional procurement and as a result of it, 13.15 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured there till now. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in comparison to the last year. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? If you do not want any reply from the Government, then I will ask the Government not to give any reply. . . .*(Interruptions)* When the Minister is giving reply, you are not allowing him to complete. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may please address the Chair and not the Members.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of farmers can be solved only through talks. . . . *(Interruptions)* The Members have stated about their plight and I have heard them. It would be against democracy, if you do not listen to me now. 13,15,000 tonnes of rice has been procured. The current procurement exceeds that of previous year by 4 lakh tonnes. Therefore, the statement made by my friends that no actions has been taken, is baseless.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year farmers are facing more problems than last year. State Government suggested that FCI should procure not only the rice, but paddy also. However, the actual position is that State Government has neither made any arrangement for the procurement of rice in FCI nor for the training in this regard. But as the State Government has made this suggestion, Union Government also felt that it is essential and took the decision to procure paddy. Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was demanding the procurement of paddy on the pattern being followed in Punjab. The demand has been accepted. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Procurement of paddy has been started in Andhra Pradesh on the same pattern of Punjab. As per the Punjab pattern, 70% procurement is done by State agencies and 30% is done by FCI. This time also Punjab has produced 102 lakh tonnes out of which 70% procurement has been done by the State Government and 30% has been procured by Union Government through FCI. Central Government has acceded such demand of Andhra Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Based on that pattern procurement of paddy has been started in Andhra Pradesh also. Till now 11,000 tonne paddy has been procured by Union Government though State agencies have procured only 900 tonnes. Based on the Punjab pattern if State Government have 900 tonnes then the procurement by FCI should have been 300 tonnes. But the procurement of 11,000 tonnes has been made against 300 tonnes.

State Government was having another demand that no foodgrains should be sent to Andhra Pradesh from

*Not recorded.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

Northern India. Central Government acceded this demand also and have ordered that foodgrains will not be sent to Andhra Pradesh from Punjab or other parts of Northern India. One more step has been taken in this regard. Foodgrains are required in Kerala and other States of Southern India. Requirement of foodgrains in these States are not being fulfilled from Northern India rather that requirement is being fulfilled from Andhra Pradesh so that more space could be created in Andhra Pradesh. State Government will provide space for 5 lakh tonnes of procurement out of which two lakh tonnes have been procured. Central Government are committed to procure five lakh tonnes. State Government has demanded to procure 10 lakh tonnes of rice in the month of December which was accepted and till now 4,15,000 tonnes have been procured. I would like to assure the hon. House that the Government will definitely fulfil its commitment of procurement of 10 lakh tonnes.

There is one more important issue. . . .*(Interruptions)* A fresh demand has been raised that the relaxation given in respect of rice to use 13% admixture instead of 10% should be given to paddy also. This demand has also been accepted and the same relaxation of admixture will be provided for paddy also.

Regarding transportation efforts are being made to create space there. Till this month 4,16,000 tonnes have been procured. . . .*(Interruptions)* More space is required to procure 10 lakh tonnes but the space is available for 5,36,000 tonnes of procurement. The target is for the procurement of 10 lakh tonnes which is to be achieved in this month. To monitor the whole process, three officers of SRM level have been sent there today in the morning to make all the required arrangements. . . .*(Interruptions)* My submission is that the demands made by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have been acceded and I would like to assure that. . . .*(Interruptions)* So far as Bihar is concerned. . . .*(Interruptions)* Please listen regarding Bihar situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is speaking about Bihar.

(Interruptions)

12.47 hrs.

At this stage Shri Nagmani and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to assure Bihar that the Government are ready to make procurement in Bihar on Punjab pattern. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

We are ready. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Kharabela Swain's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

12.48 hours

At this stage Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Swain to speak.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Swain's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Swain's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

12.50 hours

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : A National Museum was constructed at Imphal. There is not only a National Museum but a National Monument has also been constructed there. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Swain.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Swain says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, no one is listening to us in the House, therefore, we walk out of the House.

12.51 hours

At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

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*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : We are walking out in protest.

12.52 hours

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Netaji Subash Chandra Bose was one of the greatest sons the mother India has ever produced. . . .*(Interruptions).* He was born in Cuttack. In his honour, a National Museum and a National Monument have been constructed at Imphal. *(Interruptions).*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Swain.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Swain says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It speaks volume about the Indian National Army. He organised the Azad Hind Force. . . .*(Interruptions)* In India, the war places of all the national heroes have been declared as National Museums and National Monuments. I regret to say that this house in Oriya Bazar where Netaji was born. . . . *(Interruptions)* I regret that this house in Oriya Bazar is being run by a private trust. The Government of Orissa as well as the Government of India have not cared to declare it as a National Museum. My appeal to the Government of India, through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is that the Government should declare this house as a National Museum.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Thank you for the opportunity given to me. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forest towards the CRZ Notification.

In this context, I recall the nation-wide struggle of the people of the coastal area and the fishermen organisation against the CRZ Notification. The Government of Kerala had also submitted some proposals. Considering the people's agitation as also the recommendations made by the Kerala Government, the Ministry of Environment and Forest appointed Balakrishnan Committee which submitted its report. Unfortunately, the Government is not implementing the proposals contained in the report of the Committee, as a result the people of the coastal areas are agitating. I request the hon. Minister to implement the accepted amendments of the CRZ Notification.

SHRI A. C. JOS (Trichur) : Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important question. A large number of ex-Servicemen in this country, especially the javans and people belonging to the rank of Havaldars are in great difficulty. Their pension has not been properly evaluated. Their service has not been properly evaluated and their pension has not been revised. The Fifth Pay Commission has given a report. Along with that report, the Government has published an order but that order is applicable only for the ex-Servicemen above the rank of Havaldars. Javans are the real people who are suffering. There has always been insurgency of war and they get wounded. They are the real sufferers but they are not properly taken care of by the Government.

My request to the Government is to appoint a Commission to look into the welfare of the ex-Servicemen as far as possible so that they can get some relief in this matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Ramjilal Sumanji, I will call you later on, I have the list of notices.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should not raise your hands. I am having the list of speakers with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many tourist spots in Bihar related to Buddha, Jain and Sikh religion and famous tourist places are Rajgir, Pawapuri, Nalanda, Bodhgaya, Vaishali, Patna Harmandir Saheb. Factually speaking, Rajgir, Bodhgaya, and Nalanda are the most important places from religious point of view for followers of Buddhism all over the world. These places can become amongst the most popular tourist places of the world if fast and safe means of transportation for visiting these places as also modern facilities of staying here are provided. In order to exploit the extreme possibilities of tourism development in this Buddhist circuit, it is very necessary to provide latest communication and transportation facilities in order to connect these tourist spots inter-se and basic facilities regarding tourism, viz hotel, entertainment park, golf course etc. may be developed. There is also need to connect these tourist spots by road and air with the other places in Buddhist

*Not recorded.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

circuit in Utter Pradesh and Nepal viz Kushinagar, Sarnath, Lumbini.

Sir, similarly Sitamarhi Valmiki Nagar, Buxar, Sitakund are there which are related to Lord Ram and these places have been work place of historical and mythological persons connected with lord Ram. There is need to develop these places as 'Rama Circuit' on the pattern of Buddhist circuit. Besides this, there are many other tourist spots viz. The world famous animal fare of Sonpur at Harinath area, the tomb of Shershah Suri in Sasaram, Madhubani paintings, ancient university of Vikram Shila, Ashoka's Stambh (Ashoka Pillar) of Begusarai, Shakti Peeth at Thaven in Gopalganj etc. I demand that the Union Government should extend all assistance for developing tourist potential of these places.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, I have given a notice on the Adjournment Motion. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : So what, if you have given the notice. It is one o'clock now. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I gave the notice before 10.00 O'clock. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Has the Speaker given his consent ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, you have given an adjournment notice which is under my consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is an on-going affair. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is under my consideration.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Kindly permit me to inform the House, through you, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When the Chair says that it is under his consideration, how can you raise the matter in the House? There is no procedure to raise it in such a case.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Once it is under the consideration of the Chair, the Chair has to decide. How can you raise it ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I abide by your decision. I am not going to speak but you may kindly permit me to mention.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

13.00 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this should not be part of the record.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that it should not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Since it is under my consideration, it cannot be raised.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the statement of Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozadad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Maruti Udyog labourers were on strike in front of Udyog Bhawan since 13th December.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you have given notice about the health workers.

[Translation]

How can you raise this matter.

[English]

This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to raise anything about health workers, you can raise it, Otherwise, you cannot because this not the procedure.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr Speaker Sir, hon. Minister wants to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice on a different matter. How can you raise the matter regarding Maruti Udyog? Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking you, how can you raise a different matter while your notice is on other matter? Everything is important. The other notices are also on important matters.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government toward the important issue of national security. Anti-national activities are going on in the India-Nepal border area in the recent past, large scale smuggling of China made articles and arms is going on, Moreover, a large scale smuggling of fake Indian currency notes is also going on there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Yogi Aditya Nath. The other Members are also important in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are not allowing the junior Members also, what is this ?

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, along with this, the Maoist organisations are also engaged in anti-India activities. Nepal bandh was organised sometime ago. . . .*(Interruptions)* No one raised any voice. . . . *(Interruptions)* against that bandh and not only this, bomb explosions have taken place at four places in Kathmandu, just three days back. Newspapers have reported that the main accused of Mumbai Bomb Blasts, Daud Ibrahim has purchased a building in Kathmandu. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Nepal faces any danger than that becomes a serious issue connected to national security of our country. I request that Government of India should talk to Nepalese Government to stop anti-national activities at India-Nepal border and also to have a check on Moist organisations in Nepal. Government should also take necessary action to solve this problem.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padruna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nepal is our neighbouring country and my constituency adjoins this country. We are also affected by this problem. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be given chance to speak.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, very unfortunately, I would like to draw your kind attention towards an important issue. One of the Cabinet Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kavre, was murdered one year ago. I had raised this issue in the House also. But I am very sorry to say that after one year, it has been mentioned in the newspapers and a view has been expressed in the newspaper that his murder was committed by the naxalites. I congratulate the Union Government for getting this matter enquired by CBI. In the last one year, since the division of Madhya Pradesh has taken place, Balaghat is the only place in Madhya Pradesh, where naxalite activities are continuously going on. Murders are being committed quite often after the murder of the said hon. Minister. Things would not go right merely by saying that hon. Minister has been murdered by the naxalites. The more serious thing is this that the Minister was killed by naxalites. The CBI has not clarified its stand on this fact. The newspapers, myself and family members of the Minister had drawn the attention in this directions. I request the Government that CBI may be given directions in this regard so that it pays due attention to this matter without any pressure.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I am raising this issue with a lot of grief. It is good that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. The hon. President of India has a very respectable position but it really hurts us if the family members of a former President are not given proper facilities after his death. Gyani Zail Singhji has been a reverred President of India. On first December, the electricity connection of his house, where his widow is residing, was disconnected. His family members were tired of talking to the NDMC engineers and officers. Officers were not present on the telephones. Today it is 18th of December and there is no electicity at Four, Circular Road for the last 18 days. They are living without light and are really disturbed. They had also given an application to hon. Prime Minister for restoring their power. The facilities provided to a Government servant should at least be provided to the widow of the President. A copy of this matter has been sent to hon. Home Minister. I have another copy of this with me and I shall give it to you right now. Please do the needful in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of it. Now you have said about it, I shall definitely look into it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, around seven to eight lakh people are coolies in the country. They

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*Not recorded.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

help in upholding the Status of high class people. They carry their luggage on their shoulders. For long, they have been demanding the status of class IV. They want that a rest room may be provided to them for taking some rest. Down trodden and poor people are working as coolies. Once Shri Ishwarchand Vidya Sagar had visited a station. He saw a man who was asking for a coollie but no one came but he went there. All films of Amitabh Bachhan were going flopped, but his 'coolie' film proved to be box office hit.

When I went to Patna, the railway coolies surrounded me and said that their issue was never raised in the Parliament which is the highest Panchayat. The 7-8 lakh coolies of Railway, who are downtrodden, and belong to scheduled caste category. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to discuss the demands for grants for Railways.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I will speak on this issue then also. I am drawing your attention towards it now.

MR. SPEAKER : You will speak on both occasions.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I request that their demands be accepted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the age limit for General category candidates in the recruiment to Government jobs is 25 years and for the candidates of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, it is 30 years. In view of this, I request that their retirement age should be increased by 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mahajan Ji is present in the House and so I submit that Government should consider the issue. I also support the issue raised by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Ji. Porters should be accorded the status of class IV employees. It is not good if the porters are denied justice even after Amitabh Bachchan acted as a porter in the movie 'coolie'. Therefore these people must get justice.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 26-27th November, World Bhojpuri Conference was held at Mavalankar hall where representatives from abroad had also come. It was inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar. A total of 13 resolutions were unanimously passed in the Conference wherein it was said that the number of people speaking Bhojpuri in the world is more than 20 crores and in this country itself more than 12 crore persons speak this language has not been included in the Eighth Schedule. The resolution relating but it to inclusion of Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule was passed unanimously in the Conference. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit, I am already to read out all the resolutions or I can lay them so that the resolutions are recorded in the proceedings. I can read them in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Are they related to the subject ?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Yes, Sir I have already read one resolution and the second resolution is that Bhojpuri language should be included in the approved list of Sahitya Akademi and should be accorded all the benefits. A development centre for the development of Bhojpuri language should be constructed within the area of Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Government should arrange all necessary facilities and resources for the exchange of social and cultural traits of Bhojpuri area of the country with the areas having other languages. Bhojpuri language should be given the status of a language paper in the exams conducted by the Public Service Commission of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The indecent literature and cassettes which are being sold in the name of Bhojpuri should be banned. The teaching of Bhojpuri language should be arranged in the primary and secondary schools in the Bhojpuri speaking area. For census purposes, Bhojpuri should be recognised as a separate language. At present, it is not recognised as such. In the Universities of the Bhojpuri speaking area where the teaching of Bhojpuri language is still not done, it should be arranged without delay. Government should provide a separate package for the cultural development of the Bhojpuri speaking area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I want to say is that Government should seriously consider the 13 resolutions passed in the conference and Bhojpuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the resolutions read out by Shri Prabhunath Singh.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we use Bhojpuri words.

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shrimati Kanti Singh can associate, not you. Shri Basudeb Acharia.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Shiv Sena Supremo, Shri Bal Thackeray has made a very dangerous statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, he is making allegations against a person who is not present in the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please verify the subject of your notice. On which subject have you given notice? Your notice is on a different subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is another notice of mine. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have given only one notice. Do you want to raise the Airport issue ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again he tries to mislead the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Vijay Goel to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, he has given a different notice. Please verify it. Without verifying it, how can you support him? Please see the notice of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given another notice.

MR. SPEAKER : That was already disallowed. That notice is making an allegation against a particular person. That has already disallowed. You have given a different notice. It is about on the Airport issue. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, if you want to raise the Airport issue, you can raise it. Otherwise, I have already disallowed your other notice since it is making an allegation against a particular person.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious issue. Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the extent to which underworld has penetrated the film industry. The leader of the underworld Dawood Ibrahim is in Dubai and Mumbai. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paranjpe, I have already disallowed it. Why are you making noise in the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the version of Shri Vijay Goel.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am drawing attention of the House towards a serious issue. Entire film industry has been hijacked by the underworld and its leader Dawood Ibrahim is ruling from Dubai. Recently the producer of the film 'Chori Chori Chupke Chupke' Shri Nazim Rizvi was arrested for his alleged relations with Chhota Shakeel Mafia group.

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*Not recorded.

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*Not recorded.

[Shri Vijay Goel]

In 32 tapes, they have accepted that they have given threats to many people in the film industry and terrorised them. Thereafter, the hero of this film Salman Khan was also called.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the Union Government should conduct an investigation into the facts that the way film industry is being threatened and people in the film industry, be it producers, or heroes, or heroines - all are dancing to their tunes. Sir the way underworld is pressurising the film industry by saying that such and such hero or heroine should work in such and such film, should all be completely investigated and the police may tell as to who is associated with the underworld gangs, the king pins of which are people like Chhota Shakeel, Rajan and other such persons. Film Industry should be provided security in the present times and it should also be seen as to who are the persons in the film industry having nexus with these underworld people.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even I am willing to speak on this subject. This is not a simple matter. It relates to Pakistan, Dubai and other places. Even ISI and other people are involved in this. It is a serious matter and the Government, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Maharashtra and the States which are having film industries, all should consider this matter seriously.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It will be really good, if the Government give some assurance in this regard. Manohar Joshi ji is sitting here who is a Minister and hails from Maharashtra. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not his job, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, even after allowing you, again you are disturbing the proceedings of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH (Phulpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, poor people from every nook and corner of the country, are brought to Delhi for kidney transplantation. Poor people are being given hardly 50 to 60 thousand rupees and big doctors in big Nursing Homes are selling kidneys for four to five lakh rupees. I want that the Government should divert its attention towards this fact and see how poor people are being compelled to sell their blood, or parts of their body, all this should be immediately curbed. And if any person is willing to sell his kidney, it may be done in the Government hospitals and he may be given the market price so that the poor people may be provided adequate amount for the same and Nursing Homes could also be prevented from doing so. And the degree of such doctors may be cancelled.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to divert the attention of the Government towards district Murena where scheduled caste people are caught by dacoits and are released after extracting ransom of lakhs of rupees from them. Still atleast ten people of district Murena are in the clutches of dacoits. The State Government has paid no attention for their release. They are not able to work in their fields because when they go in the fields, dacoits catch hold of them, such is the situation there. I request you that kindly divert the attention of the Madhya Pradesh Government in this direction so that persons in the grip of the dacoits could be released. Moreover arms license may be issued to those scheduled caste people, willing for it.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the problem of dacoits is concerned, it may be said in this regard that the dalit people, harijans are intentionally abducted and troubled. Such incidents are occurring in the entire Bundelkhand and hon. Chief Minister is not taking any interest in it as a result of which, the entire scenario is getting deteriorated over there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Government to set up a separate Ministry for the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. After signing of the WTO agreement, and after 2005, we have to pay at least Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 for each tablet in respect of all allopathic drugs, including common drugs like paracetomal. The Indian Systems of Medicine and the issues relating to it are occupying the backbench. I would request for an overall development of all activities relating to the standard of Indian systems of medical education, need to check the proliferation of colleges, providing essential infrastructural facilities, bringing in the integration of healthcare delivery system in the areas of education, research and medicinal plants, and the need to fill up vacant posts in the colleges teaching the Indian Systems of Medicine.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am raising a very important issue. Even yesterday, some mild earthquake was experienced in the hilly districts of Kerala.

Accordingly, the Government of Kerala has deputed an expert committee to examine the place and it was found that cracks had occurred in Mullaperiyar Dam. The Government of Tamil Nadu is asking for raising the height of the dam, but cracks had occurred in the dam now. The expert committee appointed by the Government of Kerala had stated that it was highly dangerous. It is also reported that the Government of Tamil Nadu is making an attempt to cover up these cracks in the dam with cement to hide them. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except what Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have also informed the Prime Minister about this matter. So, I would request the Government to immediately send an expert committee from here to ascertain the cause for the cracks found in Mullaperiyar Dam.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards heart disease. Saffola Art Foundation has conducted a research and a survey, which has revealed that there would be more than 103 percent of increase in deaths caused by heart diseases in India between 1985 to 2015 and there would be three to four times less heart diseases in America, six times less in China and 20 times less in Japan as compared to India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I urge upon the Government that there is only one big institution in Northern India known for the treatment of heart diseases, viz - All India, Institute of Medical Sciences, wherein people from all over the country come for treatment of their heart diseases, but the number of beds in Cardiology department there is very less and even most critical patients have to lie down in verandahs. There has been no increase in the number of beds in this institution in the last ten years and the number of patients is continuously on increase due to which other patients and heart patients are facing a lot of problems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Government to kindly increase the number of beds in Cardiology department of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from the border area of Rajasthan.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have given your notice at 10 :26 a.m.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN : Yes Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Sriganganagar of border areas of Rajasthan State. There is one meter gauge railway line from Sriganganagar to Sarupsar, which is required to be converted into broad gauge. Hon. Prime Minister had visited Hanumangarh in 1998, he too had made an announcement for converting this 127 kms. long meter gauge line into broad gauge line, but I am sorry to say that the Railway Department has paid no attention towards this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important railway line of the border area, which is required to be made broad gauge. Sir, through you, I request hon. Minister of Railways to give immediate approval for converting this 127 kilometer meter gauge railway track into broad gage line.

MR. SPEAKER : If you speak on this matter at the time of Demands for Supplementary Grants, then it would be better.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Shri Varakala Radhakrishnan has stated just now about. The earthquake that had occurred in Kerala last week.

MR. SPEAKER : You have also given your notice late, at 10 :06 a.m.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I am sorry for that.

Sir, a team consisting of only two members had visited Kerala from the Centre. I would appeal to the Central Government to send a high level team Comprising of experts to visit the area. The rumblings and after-shocks are still continuing. My constituency, Idukki district is the most affected area in this earthquake and people are living in fear, because there are about 14 dams and reservoirs in that area.

Shri Varkala Radhkrishnan had pointed out about Mullaperiyar Dam which had developed cracks. It is 104 years old. So, the Central Government should immediately send a team of experts to examine the safety of the dam. Though no lives were lost in the earthquake, people have lost their dwellings, in the sense that damages have occurred to their house. So, the Central team should also assess the damages caused to them.

That has to be compensated. The Central Government should take not of this.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : My notice is also there, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.30 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assambled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Insurgency and Violence in North Eastern States

SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "Situation arising out of insurgency and violence in North Eastern States resulting in killing of several persons and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the overall security scenario in most States of the North East has been in control. However, the situation in Assam, Tripura and Manipur has been causing concern.

The Government is particularly distressed about the spate of recent killings in Assam, unleashed mainly by the banned ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom) and targeted principally at Hindi speaking persons. Since 22 October, 2000, as many as 96 civillians, all Hindi speaking Assamese, have been brutally killed.

In the past few years, ULFA has been rapidly losing public support. There has also been a powerful backlash against its anti-national activities. There has been conspicuous demoralisation in the ranks of this militant organiastion. During the last three years, nearly 3000 ULFA millitants have laid down arms and surrendered to the Government.

A special meeting of the Strategy Group for Assam was convened at Guwahati on December 3, 2000 to discuss the situation which was also attended by the Joint Secretary (North East), Ministry of Home Affairs. An emergent meeting was convened by me at Delhi on December 8, with the Governor and Chief Minister, Assam for discussion on the law and order situation in Assam. This meeting was also attended by the Defence Minister, Chief of Army Staff, Union Home Secretary, several officials of the Ministries of Home and Defence and of the Government of Assam. Based on these meetings, an action plan to tackle the situation has been drawn up. In pursuance of this, orders have been issued releasing additional 27 Companies of the CRPF to the Government of Assam.

The situation in Manipur is a cause for concern and is being constantly kept under watch. The State Government has been repeatedly advised to deal firmly with the police personnel responsible for repeated loss of weapons. The State Government has also been asked to deploy more force on counter insurgency operations.

The situation in Tripura has also been closely monitored in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I had also personally visited Tripura earlier this year and comprehensively reviewed the law and order situation with the State Government and the officials there.

The Government has taken various measures to curb the activities of extremists in the North Eastern States, which inter alia, include deployment of Para-military foreces and Army in the States, co-ordinated action by Army, Para-military Forces and the State police for counter insurgency operations and declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of insurgency affected States as "disturbed areas" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernisation/ upgradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the Situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA : Sir, the extremist violence in the North-East is a matter of serious concern. It is rather unfortunate that the Government has taken a rather complacent attitude as is seen from the statement of the hon. Minister who says that there have just been 'some' incidents of violence in the North-East ! They believe that the situation is otherwise under their control. As everybody

knows, the entire nation has been shocked at the spate of killings we have had recently in Assam.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The words, 'spate of killings' have been used in my statement.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, there is a reference to the words, 'The spate of killings in Assam'. But then, the complacent attitude is, that those are only 'some' incidents of violence, whereas we find that.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Banatwalla ji, but the number is not mentioned.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I have a copy with me. Shall I place a copy of the statement on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No need. You go on.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You are talking technically.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Not technically. It is there; it is very much there.

The Assam situation was never so bad since the Nelli massacre in 1983 when 1,500 Muslims were massacred. Now, the situation is that we have this spate of killings recently. The number of incidents of violence has grown from 568 in 1998 to 614 in 1999. In these two months also, since October, according to the Government itself, 96 civilians have been killed in Assam. There has, therefore, been a spate of killings of the non-Assamese people in Assam. The result is a panic over there and the fleeing of various people outside the State itself.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have given this statement now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : All right. I do not know but I have three versions with me. The first was supplied to me, then a second one was supplied to me and now a third one has come ! That shows how uncertain a mind this Government has and what attitude has been taken at this particular situation that is there.

As I said, in Tripura itself, nearly 48 killings have occurred in these two months itself. The Tripura Government's writ does not seem to run also in many parts of the State. The leaders of the indigenous people of the Front of Tripura declared the Council Area as being out of bounds for the State Police. The chief Executive Member of this Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District council says that the State Police would not be allowed also within the jurisdiction of the Council and that they would have their own Police Force.

They have approached the Central Government - the Tripura Government has approached the Central Government and the Minister of Home Affairs- and I do not know what is the response of the Government in this unconstitutional, shocking situation.

I want to emphasise one particular fact and that is that the extremist activities feed upon certain prejudices. They draw their strength from misconceptions and prejudices and, unfortunately, the Government and the official action on the policy simply goes to strengthen these prejudices and misconceptions. We talk, for example of the high magnitude of infiltration. The immigration factor, the factor concerning infiltration is exaggerated beyond proportions as if there is an invasion from outside. These things go on feeding the extremist attitude.

In Guwahati, there was a meeting. The Chief Minister and others were there and a leader of a particular party, already in the Central Government over here, even said that all the Muslims are foreigners and, of course, we recently had an echo also from Mumbai with the Shiv Sena Pramukh condemnably saying that the Muslims should be disenfranchised. In view of all these things, I say that the extremist activities feed upon prejudices and, unfortunately, the Government action goes to promote these prejudices.

An important functionary of Assam- unfortunately, I cannot name him because in order to name him, there must be a substantive motion-goes on to say that there is such an infiltration and such a large number of foreigners in Goalpada, and Dhubri in particular, that they may even cede and go to Bangladesh. These are things on which the extremists feed upon. In Tripura, a Front identifies that there are State estimates of 26 lakh out of which, 20 lakhs they identified as aliens. So, this is a particular thing the Government has to take note of and see to it that such types of prejudices are not created. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, Please listen me. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, please do not interrupt. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Goelji, please sit down.

[English]

He is not yielding.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the Government relied heavily on anti-Bengali sentiments to build up these extremist attitudes and the leaders have over-emphasised the language and the immigrant issues.

I have certain important postures to make to the Government. The first one is with respect to the adequacy of the security forces. Adequate security forces are not deployed and that is also the complaint of the State Government. I also have here figures of the sanctioned strength and the actually deployed strength of the security forces in these North-East States. Time may not permit me to give all those figures but then you will find that in the aggregate on the Indo-Bangladesh border manned by BSF, deployment is below even the sanctioned strength. While the sanctioned strength is 56 Battalions, the deployment is only of 41 Battalions.

This also is inadequate. The State Government have been asking for more and the Central Government is turning Nelson's eye or deaf ear to the repeated requests of the Governments of these States. There is a Unified Command in Assam which is needed in all other places and the Central and the State forces have to work together.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, there shall not be any debate. You just make your point.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, these are the questions that I am putting. The Central and the State forces have to work in consonance with each other. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can only ask a clarificatory question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes Sir, I have ten minutes which I shall take and I will not go beyond that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time of ten minutes is over. Please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA : The question is this : What are the forces required or asked for by the State Governments and what has been provided and how many Companies and Battalions have been accordingly provided to each of these States including Assam? On the security-related expenditure, guidelines were decided somewhere in 1995. There is need to amend those guidelines. The question is this : What steps the Government is taking in order to amend these guidelines so that the States are properly reimbursed?

The matter is that there must be improved relations with neighbouring countries. What contacts have been established with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar and whether any constant liaison is maintained with them? I want to know whether any pressure is being brought upon these Governments to see that there is no operation of insurgency from their soil against our country. When were the last contacts with respect to this made with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar in these matters?

There is also a need for counter-insurgency Cell or Force, I may say. Counter-insurgency has become an art or a science. You simply cannot leave it to the BSF or even to the Army. You need specialised and trained cadre in counter-insurgency.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Sir, he is supposed to ask only clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, He is asking the questions which the hon. Minister has to reply. Shri Banatwalla, please conclude. You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA : Sir, let me complete my questions and then I will resume my seat.

What steps are being taken in order to build up such a Cell or a Force? How many major outfits of extremists are there and against how many outfits have you taken necessary action? The Government has made renewed appeals to the militants to come forward and have talks. What has been the response to these renewed appeals that have been made?

On the question of fencing the Indo-Bangladesh border, till February, 2000 fencing has been completed of 818.96 kilometres of the border. What about the remaining 2,421.50 kilometres? By what time are you expecting it to be completed? Has there been any monitoring with respect to the areas where fencing has been done and whether that fencing has contributed or not towards the improvement of the situation?

These security forces can-help only in containing militancy but cannot ensure peace for which economic packages are required. But, here, the economic packages as announced by the hon. Prime Minister are a mere eyewash and there is no implementation thereon. What monitoring is being done for the purpose of implementation of those packages ?

The situation is serious. There is a panic among the minorities. You look at the situation in Assam or in Tripura. The Government cannot have a complacent attitude.

Let them see to it that adequate forces are deployed, and the necessary steps, as I have been saying, are also taken. Thank you.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East) : Sir, the Statement of the hon. Home Minister itself indicates

how serious the Government of India is in dealing with the problem of North-East in regard to insurgency. I belong to Arunachal Pradesh. My constituency is in the eastern part. We have sensitive borders with China and Myanmar. There is no indication in the Statement of the hon. Home Minister about the insurgency activities in the two districts of Arunachal Pradesh, that is, Tira and Changlang. During the recent years, there have been some insurgency activities in these two districts. In the last two or three months, the insurgency activities have gone up, and they have not been properly handled by the Government of India. We have been requesting them for deployment of more forces. Though the Government of India has invoked the Special Armed Forces Act, 1958 in these two districts, it is not that effective; kidnapping, killing and extortion are taking place there. In the last month itself, in my district, five or six people have been kidnapped; some people have been killed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to ask questions.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA : I am coming to that. What I personally feel is that the ceasefire which has been declared in Nagaland has certain lacunae. We feel that the ground rules of this ceasefire have to be rectified. After a ceasefire has been declared in the State of Nagaland, some of the insurgent groups, specially the IM faction, have penetrated into the neighbouring States and are creating a lot of problems. In my district, I am talking about the headquarters itself, after five o'clock, nobody comes out to the market. It is almost like a ghost town because people are being kidnapped; in the town itself, a few people have been killed. They are making their ground in all these areas. It will be very, very detrimental to the interests of the nation.

After crossing these two districts, you come to Lohit District which is having a border with China. We are hearing from certain sources that arms procurement is going on; a lot of extortion is going on. Even the Service people have to pay two percent of their salary or wages to them. So, I would like to know from the government of India whether it is making any effort to bring peace in the North-East by taking into confidence the Governments of those States and also the Members of parliaments. Now, people keep on asking questions like, "What is the progress in the last three years?" The Government of India has declared a ceasefire, but no tangible result is there. Every time, when we go to our constituencies, people keep on asking questions like, "What is the progress ?

[Translation]

What is in the cease fire agreement, what decision has been taken by the Government ?

[English]

These are the questions which they keep on asking. During the tour to Nagaland by the Members of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, I was surprised to know from the Government of Nagaland that it was not taken into confidence when this ceasefire agreement was made with the insurgent groups.

Sir, why are the elected Governments not being taken into confidence? Why are the public representatives not being taken into confidence? We are totally in the dark. Therefore, for all practical purposes, the cease-fire has been limited to the insurgent groups and the security forces. The killings of the civilian people are continuing as usual. I have got a few data and statistics with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask your questions.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Sir, we are from the affected areas.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we seek your indulgence in the matter. We have been waiting for the last 15 days for this discussion to take place. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA : Sir, our place has become so vulnerable that it has become a problem for us to visit our constituencies. But this issue has not been addressed by the Home Ministry.

Sir, there had been no mention about the places like Tira and Changlang. The Government employees there, have started giving two percent of their salaries and wages to the insurgent groups. People are being killed but they are scared to report to the police. This is what has been told by the Superintendent of Police of the area. He admitted that there have been killings but nobody is coming forward to report the cases. There have been cases of kidnappings also but nobody is coming forward to register cases. This is the situation in Tira and Changlang. Other militant organisations also are coming up in the area. The Bodo militants are raising their heads in the other part of Arunachal Pradesh which is on the Capital (Itanagar) side. The Papumpara area has been affected by insurgent groups.

Sir, some of the problems could have been solved at the initial stage itself. But because of the negligence of the Central Government, new problems are cropping up every now and then. We have been fighting this problem of insurgency for the last forty years. Instead of problems being solved, more insurgent groups are coming up. What is the reason for it ? Why is the Government not taking this issue seriously ? None of the prominent leaders has been taken into confidence while negotiating with the

[Shri Rajkumar Wangcha]

insurgent groups. Nobody has been taken into confidence. Neither have the Chief Ministers of the affected States nor any leader from the affected areas have been taken into confidence. I strongly feel that in any negotiation with the insurgent groups for solving this problem, the democratically elected people of the area would have to be taken into confidence. Otherwise, a wrong message would go to the people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA : Sir, I would like to mention one or two more points here.

Sir, here we are only talking about solving the problem of insurgency. I have a strong belief in cease-fire. But it should be a meaningful cease-fire. The ground rules would have to be rectified. Proper ground rules would have to be framed. The State Governments and the public representatives would have to be taken into confidence. Only the bureaucrats would not help. The ground rules would have to be framed keeping in view the situation as obtaining in the various States.

Sir, arms and ammunition are being openly carried by people even after the declaration of the cease-fire. They are going to the villages and are extorting money. So, what is the use of such a cease-fire when such activities are going on unabated ? Therefore, the cease-fire should be meaningful.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA : Sir, I would just like to take two more minutes. These activities have spread their wings to areas like the Karbi-anglong.

I know the area of Karbi Anglong well. People of Karbi Anglong have come on to the streets. For the last ten to fifteen years they have been demanding for an autonomous State within the State of Assam. It is a genuine demand. It is enshrined in the Constitution under article 244. Their demand has not been met by Government of India. Some groups have now come up. These are being encouraged by NSCN and are creating problems in this area. The Government of India should address all these problems with a view to solving them immediately.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Sir, I have gone through the Statement of the hon. Home Minister. I am not going to dispute the figure he has quoted of the people killed because I am not a person to argue over the dead bodies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to ask your questions.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : I will definitely do that, Sir.

A lot more people have been killed. It is not a new thing. We, the representatives from the North-East, wonder as to why there is a strong secessionist movement in the North-East. The people's representatives in the Parliament are always for national integration and unity of the country. One has to think that it is not simply a law and order problem. Even the Army Generals of the Unified Command have also made public statements saying that this problem cannot be controlled only by military action. The situation is becoming very serious and grave. One has to pay greater attention to the problem. If this goes on like this, one would not be surprised if the situation in this area will get worse than what we have Kashmir.

As Shri Banatwalla has mentioned, Constitutional functionaries have to be very careful when they say something in the media. They have to keep in mind that ours is a multiracial State where people belonging to every race and religion live. One has to be very conscious while making any statements. The Constitutional functionary there has said that two Districts of a State will merge with Bangladesh. Such reckless statements being issued by responsible people after this incident, is condemnable. It is not only the Hindi-speaking people who are being attacked there, other people too are affected. If you go through the newspaper, you will find that people are killed there irrespective of the fact whether they are linguistic minorities, religious minorities, or whether they belong to the majority groups. I do not want to go into the identities of the people killed by these outfits.

After this incident took place, the Head of the Government there appeared to have worsened the already fragile situation prevailing there by making a sectarian and chauvinistic appeal to the affected people. He aired his view publicly that attempts at ethnic cleansing of Biharis and the Hindi-speaking people would create a void in Assam which would be filled by a further influx of Bangladeshis. I would like to know if the Central Government knows about this statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : This is a responsible statement made by the Governor of the State, Sir.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Today, students' organisations and people of Assam are observing Assam Bandh protesting the statement made by the Constitutional Head of the State. If responsible people make such reckless and irresponsible statements, how will the situation improve? I appeal to the Home Minister to check this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman Sir, it may not be discussed here. So it should be expunsed from the proceeding of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Governor made a statement against Biharis. We have a right to discuss it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House cannot discuss the conduct of Governor unless there is a substantive Motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Unless there is substantive Motion, you cannot discuss Governor's conduct in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We discussed the Romesh Bhandari issue. What is wrong in discussing it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ghatowar, you ask your question please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there can be no reference to the Governor without a proper Motion.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, I am not blaming the Constitutional head. Let the hon. Home Minister find out and take corrective steps because we are for the national integrity of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, please ask the question.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, on many a time, the State Governments of the North-Eastern region have given statements that they are not getting the cooperation of the Central Government in dealing with the insurgency problem there. Many of the insurgency groups are operating from the neighbouring friendly countries.

My question is whether the Government of India has taken any step to discuss this issue with the neighbouring friendly countries to contain this insurgency problem.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman Sir, I had visited Assam. There I came to know that the Congress Party has relations with ULFA. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vijay Goel, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, Shri Vijay Goel has visited Assam for a day but I live in that part of the country. I know what is the situation there. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, please conclude now.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, I am concluding within a minute.

So, we would request the Central Government to kindly set up an Inquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and find out who are the parties, who are the people linked with the extremists organisations. We are always against such activities. We are not habitual to play politics on the dead bodies of the innocent people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly confine yourself to the Calling Attention.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, it is high time for the Government of India to think whether this whole problem is political or economic. Let the Government of India think on how to address the political and economic situation there.

Sir, unemployment among youth is one of the main reasons for the insurgency activities in the North-East. Has the Government of India any programme to deal with this ?

Sir, we are not fighting a losing battle. We are fighting the battle for the unified and nationalist India. So, I appeal to all the political parties to rise above their political thinking and think for solving the North-Eastern problems. Otherwise, it will be too late to address the problems of the North-Eastern parts of the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in North Eastern States is very bad. I would like to state in brief the real situation prevailing there. 15 days back it has been said that the Minister of Home Affairs will give a statement. This shows the sensitivity of this Government. Nobody had paid attention towards this. The Government is giving a statement when the calling attention motion was permitted by the Chair. The people are being killed. The incidents of kidnapping and extortion are taking place. Murders are being committed in the event of denial of extortion money. There is reign

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*Not recorded.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

of terror. The Central Government saying that there will be unified command. It is terrorism and it should be kept above the party politics. Today I would like to ask a specific question to the Minister of Home Affairs, whether any enquiry has been conducted there. The terrorism is in existence in this area in different names like ULFA in Assam. The terrorism in Nagaland, Tripura and some other states have different names, somewhere it is called "Muibawala" and somewhere khaplangwala. The terrorist organisations have such names. If there would have been combined operation of the Central Government and the State Government under the unified command, the terrorism would have been countered. So my first request is that the Central Government and the State Governments should not pass the buck and try to check murder extortion and killings.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry, whether the terrorists enjoy protection from any political party or whether anyone have soft corner for them. There the common people do not have any soft corner for the terrorists. I had gone there and talked to the people. The people of those States are not supporting extremists and terrorists. They are against them. But the people are helpless. The poor and weak people can not counter them whether any political party or certain section of the Central Government have any understanding with the terrorists or they have good rapport with the State Government. I would like to know that the Government should furnish separate details of each of the incidents there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sun rises first in the north eastern States however the ray of the development reach therein the end. It is also one of the reasons for terrorism there. The poor people, blacksmiths, carpenter and craftsmen used to visit those regions. It was said in older days that region was champion in sorcery. People were made captive by converting them into ram. Sometimes it is said that the people who visit there do not return, they were kept there in the form of ram. They were excellent in black magic. Earlier they were converting them into ram now they are butchering them. The Minister of Home Affairs will give reply in this regard. The State Government demanded for 40 companies but the Union Government sent only 27 companies. The UF Government had asked for financial assistance, please tell us as to what assistance was given. My submission is that there should be a discussion in the House on the problems of all seven eight north eastern States. There should be a discussion regarding the development, politics and economic policy of the north eastern States. I would like to request the Chair that the problem of north eastern States should be discussed under the rule 193 separately, otherwise no improvement would be taken place there. That is a border area. There the extremists groups are trained and get shelter in neighbouring States like Bhutan and Myanmar. The extremists take shelter in the neighbouring States. What action has been taken by the Central Government. It is not possible for the State Government to counter across border terrorism. The terrorism is flourishing and getting help from the neighbouring States. The Minister of Home Affairs will tell that there is peace. But there is no peace there. He will say that the incidents of extortion and the killings are slightly declining. But the State Governments are not taken into confidence. The Chief Minister of those States say that they are not consulted by the Central Government, they hold separate discussion. Thus the killings are going on and separatism and terrorism are on the rise. The people of Bihar, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh who had settled there are being driven out and killed on the basis of the language. What action has been taken by the Union Government for those who have been killed there. The Minister of Home Affairs should tell us about the action taken so far. The incidents of killing are taking place. What action was taken and what assistance was provided by the Central Government in the event of killings of 10-20 people in the forest. The villagers were killed and kidnapped ? The Government should clearly tell the House about this otherwise we will believe that the Central Government is inefficient and are unable to face terrorists and check the killings and is incapable of providing internal as well as external security to the nation. They claim that situation is under control though thousands of people are being killed still they say that the situation is under control. What is their criteria for assessing the situation? Upto how many killings, the situation will be declared under control and after how many killings, the situation will be declared not under control ? What is he saying ? They say that the situation is under control. There the people are being killed and are leaving their homes. I am raising the issue of national integrity. It is due to this Government that our national integrity is in danger and I challenge this Government that it is not tackling the situation properly and trying to escape from this issue and directly or indirectly encouraging terrorism, separatism and disturbances. So there is exodus from North Eastern, Guwahati and other places. The Government should tell us about this otherwise we all in the opposition are united to take care of this Government.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need some specific information from the hon. Home Minister.

Certain happenings in the series of incidents that took place in the North-East, particularly in Assam remain unexplained and some salient points are missing from the hon. Home Minister's statement. I want to ask those questions now.

First of all, incidents of killing took place between 22nd October and 7th December this year that involved eight cases of group killing allegedly by terrorists, in a span of 46 days, taking a toll of 102 dead and injuring many. My first question is this. One can understand that the first two or three cases may catch the Government off guard. But having seen the pattern of killing, targeting mostly the Hindi-speaking people, the Government should have been alert and immediately identified the vulnerable areas and organised at least mobile patrol.

I give you one instance for the specific information of the hon. Home Minister. One incident that occurred at Nasadiya-Balijan-Kukurmara Reserve Forest area led to killing of 30 people and injuring 16. This far-flung area is predominantly inhibited by Hindi-speaking people who are petty traders. They were attacked while returning in three trucks from the weekly market at Teju at Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. The Government should have anticipated this and no alert administration could miss those vulnerable points inherent in such a scenario. Even the attackers need some preparation in advance to intercept and ambush three truck loads of people on a fixed weekly market day. But it was not done. Had they taken some action, the Government could have saved those people. So, I accuse the Assam Government for failure to save so many lives. The Central Government is also equally accountable since it did not do anything except sending one or two Joint Secretaries on a shuttling errand between Guwahati and New Delhi.

My second point is this. The hon. Minister's statement lacks focus on one particular point. It was an attack not only on the Hindi-speaking people, but it was an attact on the composite character of Assamese society. If this composite fabric disintegrates, there will be more hatred, more conflicts and more bloodshed. It is known to the Home Ministry that there were chauvinistic attacks on the social harmony in the past too.

In 1960 and 1972, a section of people attacked the linguistic minority. In 1983 the same chauvinistic forces wearing communal colour attacked and massacred people at Nelli. Nearly 1500 people were killed. Whenever these linguistic and religious communities are attacked, the attack by these forces is directed on the national Parties. Other national Parties in Assam may testify it. It is a part of the history, I am sorry to say, that the AGP, which is ruling Assam for the second time, is the full manifestation of this chauvimism. The Assam Government now condemns the terrorists for boycotting the Republic Day and Independence Day but the AGP itself had resorted to the same till they came to power in 1986. Now, they sermonise Assam on the national mainstream. I am not saying that the AGP Government is engineering these killings. Far from that. But a climate of violence created by them since 1979 and heightened, since 1998 by Govt. backed secret killings is responsible for the current spate of violence.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they (Congress party) did all this while they were in power. The ULFA and the Bodoland came into existance at the time when the Congress party was in power. All the terrorist organisations and forces are the creation of the Congress. The Congress party is the creator of all such things. The policies of the Congress led to the emergence of terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir and North Eastern States. The root cause behind all these evils is the Congress party. *.(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : You should known the facts first. Do not make statements while sitting here. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really shocking for them but it is the Congress party which gave shocks to the nation. They have created terrorism all over the country. The Congress is responsible for all such things. . . . *.(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, the hon. Member from BJP is making an allegation. I hope the hon. Minister while replying to the debate tell whether we are guilty or not. We expect the Home Minister to tell whether we are guilty or not and if we are guilty, we accept the punishment. . . . *.(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, I accuse the Government of Assam not only of failure to protect the composite fabric of society in Assam but of destroying the socio-cultural milieu in the State. I accuse the Central Government also of abetting and allowing the collapse of this society.

I now come to my last point for clarification. Why does the Government not spell out the strategy how to handle and end terrorism? Since the Government has alleged that this spate of killings is the handiwork of the terrorists, then what is its solution? I may tell you Shri Katiyar, that the Congress Party is the worth sufferer. Already 10,000 Congress workers have been killed by the terrorists. With

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

the connivance of the AGP Government, already 10,000 workers have been killed by the terrorists not only during their first tenure but before and after that tenure also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I am on the last point. We are the affected persons. We known how our hearts pain. It is known to all that the Central Government headed by Shri Chandra Shekhar dismissed the then State Government for its nexus with ULFA. The hon. Member is now talking like this, as though he pretends that he does not know it or he is ignorant. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, who had created LTTE, who had trained them. I would like to tell that LTTE were trained by the Congress. You are responsible for strike in the country. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

15.00 hrs.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, in 1991, after the general elections. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : You have set up the commission. . . .*(Interruptions)* you take commissions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even the devils are citing from the scriptures. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Is it not the fact that the Central Government headed by Shri Chandra Shekhar dismissed the Government of Assam in 1991 for nexus with the terrorists? I think Shri Katiyar does not know this. Again in 1991, after the elections on the day the Congress formed the Government in Assam, the terrorists defied it by kidnapping 16 officials of ONGC and senior Government officials including one senior IAS officer. After Killing one of the Hostage, they left his dead body near the residence of the then Chief Minister, Shri Hiteswar Sakia in Sivasagar District. . . .*(Interruption)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not is the list. Under the rules, you cannot be permitted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, the Home Minister should known that in 1996 General Elections, two Congress candidates including a Cabinet Minister were gunned down to terrorise the voters. . . .*(Interruptions)* yet we desire that alongwith stern action, Government should explore ways for dialogue with the terrorists.

MR CHAIRMAN : Shri Handique, please sit down now. You should listen to the Minister also. You have asked so many questions.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, you give me more time . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Rongpi, please take your seat. Your name is not there.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District-Assam) : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But your name is not in the list. Under the rules, you cannot be permitted.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But your name is not here. Only five Members can be included.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please hear the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Under the rules, you cannot be permitted.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the sentiments expressed by hon'ble Members that it would be better to have a wholly dedicated discussion on the North-Eastern States which should include the problems of insurgency and development. The other House had debated it in the last session but this House did not do it. As per the rule, only, five Members could give their names to speak on an admitted Calling Attention Notice. But there are other Members from that region including Shri Rongpiji and other hon'ble Members who had raised the issue of murders in Assam on that day. But now that the issue is

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*Not recorded.

being debated under Calling Attention everybody is giving his own opinion. Now, it is up to the hon'ble Speaker to decide whether we could discuss it in this session or in the next session . But I fully appreciate that whatever criticism either of the Central Government or the State Government has been made by hon'ble Members is a result of their agony, their pain. When I was preparing my statement, I did not mention the eight States separately, since the Calling Attention Notice mentioned North-East as a whole. That is why I mentioned about North-East as a whole that out of 8 States, we are more concerned about three and even among them we are very much concerned about one. But it does not mean that other states are not having cases of violence. I agree that situation in Arunachal Pradesh is more or less peaceful except for two districts of Tirap and Changlan where situation has worsened in the last few days and which we have declared as 'disturbed areas'. Like Arunachal, we have Sikkim, Meghalaya and Mizoram-these four States are definitely more peaceful than the other States. In other four States, the situation is not so good. Out of these, situation is comparatively better in Nagaland where cases of violence and extortion have declined during the last three years as a result of ceasefire. There are cases of crime and extortion but murder and violence are slightly on the lower side. One might say that what is the use of it if you are not able to stop extortion.

[English]

. . .*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. As a result of that attack, you may be aware, what kind of stand we had taken against NSCN (IN) in that meeting.

[Translation]

On the whole I agree that four States are effected with violence while four States are relatively free of violence and I, for one, am not among those who hold the State Government responsible for it because the problem of insurgency is more than just law and order issue. Therefore, if Shri Banatwallaji says that police is ineffective in Tripura. I would not agree with it. I believe that the State Government is sincerely trying to stop such activities, but they are facing some difficulties. In some forum, the issue of raising a village police was also raised. We are considering the matter. But on the whole police in Tripura are doing their job. In those States, I always quote the example of Punjab, where in the beginning of the decade of 90s when insurgency was at its peak and everyone used to wonder whether normalcy would ever return to the State. But now normalcy has been restored there and the credit goes to the military, the paramilitary forces, the State Government and the people of Punjab. I always say that the local police has a key role in such circumstances. I quote this example to the Government of all these 8 States.

Shri Banatwallaji also raised the issue of adequacy of paramilitary forces. He also gave figures of sanctioned strength and the actual number of para-military companies. I would like to inform that the strength of para-military forces particularly in these areas are as per the rules prevailing near Indo-Bangladesh border. That is not meant for counter-insurgency. We have deployed the forces stationed in border areas in counter-insurgency operations in view of the severity of the problem. I would like to tell you that at present Assam has 128 companies of para-military forces, Nagaland has 34, Manipur has 74 and Tripura has 88 companies. Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have 12 companies each. Even after the deployment of so much para-military forces, we consider the issue of inadequacy of the forces, then I would say, particularly in view of the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, that we need to raise more para-military forces. The Ministry of Home Affairs is in touch with Finance Ministry in this regard and it has sanctioned funds for that.

You are right that if our military, para-military forces or police pursue the terrorists, they flee to the neighbouring countries and take shelter there. Bhutan is the main country in this regard. I am in a position to inform the House that we have talked to Bhutan in this regard and you would be satisfied to learn that Bhutan has formally passed a resolution in its Legislature to the effect that the terrorists would not be provided shelter there and action will be taken against them. We are discussing with the Bhutan Government about the details of action to be taken against them. Similarly, about Myanmar, I would like to inform the House that Myanmar has at least on one occasion, taken action against the terrorists. They also had to suffer casualties in the action but the terrorists were chased back in our country so that action can be taken against them. We have also had talks with Bangladesh and Nepal. There is not a single neighbouring country with which we are not in contact, we are not holding discussion, and to which we are not telling, if they provide shelter to the terrorists or allow them to open camps and get training, they would also have to face the same problems which we are facing today. Many among them are now taking cognizance of it.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Who are masterminding the innocent killings of the Hindi-speaking people ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I fully agree with Shri Handikji. It is not just an attack on the Hindi speaking people, but also on the basic character of Assam and aimed at driving away all non-Assamese. This conspiracy should be

[Shri L.K. Advani]

understood and recognized and as such action should be taken in this regard.

Someone spoke here that it is the issue between Assamese and Biharis, but I do not agree with it. Everybody knows that some people might be Hindi speaking, but they have been living there for the last 100 years, so they are Assamese like others. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : But the Chief Minister has described it as an ISI activity. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Choudhary, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : As far as the ISI is concerned, wherever such situation arises, the ISI tries to take advantage of it and further they come forward to contribute their mite in worsening such situation. There is no doubt about it but atleast we are alert now. I have told you about the Assam Government that an officer have been sent from the union, he is one of our Chief Joint Secretary who has been looking after the North East for several years and he is fully apprised of the situation of the region. He participated in the strategy meeting which was conducted there and took the decision of taking all necessary steps and immediately after that you all were invited here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : It is high time that you visit there once. This is our appeal to to you. You yourself should visit there once.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have no hesitation. I will go there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Immediately after that, the Chief Minister, Governor, Chief Secretary, DGP and other officers of the State were invited here on eighth. Senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence, Minister of Defence himself and the Chief of Army Staff were also present at the high level meeting which was conducted afterwards and this scheme was formulated at that meeting.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Instead of calling them here you yourself should visit Guwahati and there you take them into confidence.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will visit the State. Somebody had referred to the ceasefire here and said that desired results have not been achieved. I think that we have not progressed much on the course of the political solution of the problem. However such peace is required to last there for three years that militants themselves start thinking that ceasefire should continue. The situation in Assam is under control and if a vested interest is developed, then it is an achievement in itself and we should not regard it a less achievement. We do not have any problem in breaking ceasefire. After all ground rules have been framed and if any violation takes place anybody can back out of the ceasefire as they can do so in case of violation of the ground rules and there are instances when the ground rules were broken. After all the extortion of ground rules is a violation. We know that extention is taking place but then no violence is there, no killing is there, this is also an achievement. Therefore, gradually we are progressing in this direction.

I would like to make it clear that is here. It was also mentioned that some constitutional functionary had provoked people there. I have gone through the entire statement where it is mentioned. Many People had complained that militants have weapons whereas they do not have weapons. In last several days the credibility of ULFA militants has been wared to the extent that they have earned notoriety in Assam. The main reason of their notoriety was that when the India was fighting with its enemy in Kargil, the ULFA people said that they should support the enemy of the country. Consequently, whenever any ULFA terrorist was traced by the villagers, they handed him over to the nearest police stations and many such militants were handed over to police. This incident was mentioned by that officer. It is a fact that militants are equipped with weapons and our problem is that we cannot provide weapons to everybody for self defence but with some courage you can defend yourself, protect yourself and defeat them with anything within your reach such as lathi or stones in the manner your people did there. That will be very good.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Kaliabor) : The Governor has appealed as a Bihari to other Bihari communities. It has appeared in the Hindustan Times. . . .*(Interruptions)* He has appealed as a Bihari. This is my appeal. The Editorial of the Hindustan Times also criticised the Governor's sectarian attitude. I am not talking of the magazine. . . . *(Interruptions)* in the Hindustan Times, it has appeared that the Governor has appealed as a Bihari. That is why I am objecting to it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The governor has stated that insurgency has ended. But now we are witnessing

terrorism. What is the semantical nuance between the two? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not aware of it, may be you were referring to the news in the Hindustan Times.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : All the Bihari are being killed and they are making fun of it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a copy of a prime English daily of Assam 'sentin'. In this regard, I have its editorial part with me, in which while defending strongly, they have said –

[English]

"What is so objectionable about telling anyone that it should also be their own concern to ensure their own self-defence as best as they can since the Security Forces obviously cannnot guard each hectare of Assam's territory nor protect every single individual."

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It has been unfair to him to say that he provoked the parochial sentiments, anything of that kind. I have seen the statement and this editorial coming from the leading daily of Guwahati. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is replying, please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : They are killing Biharis. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will also mention about this because he was pointed at without mentioning his name. Therefore, I felt myself accountable to personally ask him and he came to see me and explained me the whole matter and provided all his statements. On the basis of that, I can say that whatever he said, which was supported by Chief Minister is true and therefore, I think that putting such allegation on them is totally baseless. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, please take you seat. Why are you disturbing when the Minister is replying ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I would like to say that in the starting of this year, hon. Prime Minister himself called a conference of the Chief Ministers and Governors of all North Eastern States and after holding discussions on all the aspects several exhaustive decisions were taken in that conference. Today, both the Ministry of Home Affairs and PMO keep on monitoring that every month as to how much of it has been implemented and how much is yet to be implemented. I am sure with the kind of approach the Union Government is working, we will be able to face the insurgency taking place in all North Eastern States and we will also be able to pay proper attention to the development aspect there. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We are not happy with the reply of the hon. Home Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* Particularly, he is protecting a Constitutional Head who was instigating the Biharis that they should protect themselves against the ultras. . . .*(Interruptions)* We want the Minister to visit Assam. . . .*(Interruptions)*

15.22 hours

At this stage, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and some other hon. Members left the House.

15.23 hrs.

MOTION RE : SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory committee presented to the House on the 15th December, 2000."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee Presented to the House on the 15th December, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

15.24 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to take steps to make Chambal River pollution free at Kota and Keshavrai Patan, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kota is an important city of Rajasthan. The river Chambal flows here but this river is getting polluted from Kota to Keshavrai Patan. Keshavrai Patan is a pilgrimage centre where fairs are held and people take holy dip in the Chambal river. Due to pollution its importance is decreased. Central Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 12 crore and 44 lakh under National River Conservation to make Chambal river free from pollution from Kota to Keshavrai Patan. In the first phase a sum of rupees 63.85 and Rs 15.74 lakhs were allocated in January, 2000 for the construction of toilets, developments of ghats and development of cremation ground. But due to non-submission of DPR by State Government the work is not being initiated. It is necessary to make Chambal river pollution free from Kota to Keshavrai Patan from social, religious and health point of view. I urge upon the Union Government to ask the State Government to submit the DPR immediately and issue a direction for initiating the work.

(ii) Need to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Food Corporation of India is suffering loss to the tune of crores of rupees due to mismanagement. Due to inadequate storage facilities thousands quintal of wheat is lying outside and rotting. A proposal to buy the wheat on good price by country's most of the Floor Mill owners is turned down by the Food Corporation and an agreement was signed with the foreign countries to export the wheat at low prices. At the one side Corporation has to face loss of crores of rupees because of such activities and at the other the farmers are also being denied the minimum support price.

I request the hon'ble Minister to ensure proper functioning of Corporation so that farmers can be benefited by getting remunerative prices of their produce and the wheat and other foodgrains remain available in the country.

15.25 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

(iii) Need for early completion of Rajghat Project with a view to solve acute drinking water problem in Sagar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Sir, apart from a divisional headquater, Sagar Nagar is also a big centre of learning in my Parliamentary Constituency Sagar. It is facing acute problem of potable water from the last 10-15 years due to which people are suffering a lot. The Rajghat project meant to solve this problem but it could not be completed due to lack of funds till now.

This acute problem is in the month of December where people get tap water only once in four days. In some areas they get water only once in six days. Due to which people are suffering a lot.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to get this Rajghat project completed at the earliest by making funds available through HUDCO and NABARD in order to solve this problem for ever so that the people of this area get potable water easily.

(iv) Need to set up a Software Technological Park at Chandigarh

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, Chandigarh, the modern city, planned and developed on the personal initiative of the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has already shown immense potential as an educational, tourist, convention and financial centre. However, it is only recently that the Administration has taken note of the development potential of Information Technology in the Union Territory. With a strong pool of educated young citizens and good environment and infrastructure, Chandigarh can be an ideal place for faster development of I.T. industry and contribute enormously to the national economy.

I urge the Government to assist the Administration meaningfully in this regard and take steps to set up a Software Technology Park in the City.

(v) Need to provide additional financial assistance to Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by drought in Banswara Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswara) : Sir, Southern Rajasthan is predominantly a tribal area. My parliamentary constituency Banswara is in this region only. The district of Dungerpur and Banswara come under my parliamentary constituency. Southern Rajasthan is in

severe grip of famine. Such type of famine was never witnessed in the last 100 years. People are facing problems of drinking water, food and employment. Fodder is not available for animals due to which they are dying. Wells and tanks of water in the villages have dryed up. The water level has receded alarmingly low and hand-pumps and tubewells are not functioning. People are migrating to the contiguous border State of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. But they have to return back on those areas are itself in the grip of severe famine. Due to non-availability of drinking water, fodder and grain people are in distress everywhere.

I would like to request the Government of India to provide maximum financial assistance to Rajasthan Government to deal with this situation of drought.

(vi) Need to declare Minimum Support Price for Agricultural produce in Kerala

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need to announce Minimum Support Price for agriculture produce.

Even though the Government of India announces Minimum Support Price for 24 crops, Kerala gets the benefit of Minimum Support Price only for copra. The price of various agricultural commodities in kerala are falling from the year 2000 onwards. This is mainly due to globalization with liberal imports of agricultural commodity consequent to the W.T.O. Agreement. Hence, the resource poor, risk prone small and marginal farmers of Kerala cultivating arecanut, pepper, coffee etc. have to be protected through the Minimum Support Price Programme.

In the circumstances, I request the Union Government to announce Minimum Support Price for the above agriculture commodities urgently to protect the interest of the farmers.

(vii) Need to set up a Chilly Board

SHRI Y.V RAO (Guntur) : Sir, chillies are essential commodities and are being used in every household of the country. There has been a long standing demand for constituting a separate statutory Committee Board for Chillies to promote the productivity, quality, preservation and marketing facilities, etc.

We have already set up Statutory Boards for other essential commodities, such as, Tea Board and Coffee Board. These Boards are doing commendable jobs for productivity, maintaining quality, marketing and export of commodity to maintain market stabilisation.

Andhra Pradesh produces maximum chillies of good quality.

I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to constitute a separate Chilly Board.

(viii) Need to declare Allahabad University in Uttar Pradesh as a Central University

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Sir, Allahabad University in the country is the oldest university (except Calcutta University) amongst the present Central Universities. This University was established in 1887 with the efforts of the then Education Minister and a learned scholar, Lieutenant Governor of Uttar Pradesh of that time Sir, Alfred Kamins Loyal. Two students of this University have sacrificed their life for the country in 1942 and 1947. This University has also produced some people who on the later stage hold the important posts in the country. There has been a long standing demand to convert this University into a Central University but Government has not taken any action in this regard.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate action and declare Allahabad University as a Central University so that this University is known in the world for its contribution in the field of education.

(ix) Need to open more Petrol/Diesel and LPG outlets in each Block Headquarters of Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency, Orrisa

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the need to open adequate number of petrol outlets and gas agencies in my Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency in Orrisa. The Kendrapara Lok Sabha Constituency has seven Assembly segments spread over 14 blocks oldest Municipality of State and one NPC. The Constituency is having a population of 14 lakhs and divided by a number of river barriers.

At present, there are two petrol pumps and diesel outlets, one at Kendrapara and another at Patamundai and only one LPG agency at Kendrapara. The distance between one part of the Constituency and other end is as far as 120 kilometres. The existing petrol pumps/diesel outlets are not able to cater to the need of the entire district.

I request the Government to open at least one petrol/diesel outlet and one LPG agency in each block headquarters of Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency. The gas agencies of neighbouring areas at Cuttack,

[Shri Prabhat Samantray]

Bhubaneswar, Paradip Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrakh- be directed to entertain consumers from Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency till alternative arrangement is made.

(x) Need to develop Vaishali in Bihar as a Tourist Resort of International Status

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, Vaishali has been the 'Karmbhoomi' of Lord Buddha and birth place of Lord Mahavir. It was also the birth place of Lichhivi Republic. The Government is going to celebrate 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir. Foundation stone was laid in 1956 by the then President.

I urge upon the Government to that in order to develop this historical and mythological place, a proposal should be invited from the State Government and also do the best to bring this place on international tourist map.

(xi) Need for creation of separate States such as Bodoland, Telengana, etc.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Sir, there is a dire-necessity to take certain positive and concrete political policy decisions and take constitutional initiatives on the part of N.D.A Government at the Centre, for the creation of separate States of "Bodoland, Gorkhaland, Telengana, Vidarbha, Harit Pradesh/ Panchal Bundelkhand Coorg/Kodagu and a few others" on the lines of "Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh" without any further delay for the all-round development of under-developed regions in the country.

(xii) Need to take suitable steps to check severe Erosion caused by Rivers in Bihar

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of people and thousands of villages have been ruined for the past many years due to massive erosion by main rivers like Ganga, Kosi, Budhi Gandak, Gandak and other rivers of Bihar. Due to this reason the pecple living on the banks of these rivers are in distress.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to protect the people living on the banks of these rivers from massive erosion.

15.36 hours

[English]

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, last Friday, I had referred to some of the forms of child abuse and the situations that render children disabled, orphaned, homeless traumatised, defenceless and shattered.

This legislation takes cognisance of and provides for some of those situations but is completely silent on the punishment for crime against child. This is a serious infirmity which should have attracted the attention of the Government when it set out to revamp the law on the subject in the light of the covenants of the Convention on the Right of the Child.

Sir, one shudders at the very thought of it, but there are cases where a child is sexually abused by a father, a father with animal instincts. Then there are cases and I think, the scope of a legislation like this should be enlarged to cover those cases of infanticide and of foeticide. Nothing do we hear about that from the Government side.

Coming to the running of the special homes, the children homes, etc. under this legislation, while I appreciate the spirit of according recognition, though belatedly to the Panchayats and the Municipalities under this legislation as instrument and catalyst of social welfare and social defence, also I do support the need to put greater trust in these bodies and to encourage them to work as vibrant tools of grass root democracy. At the same time, I do feel the inclusion of the representatives of these bodies in these committees to inspect children homes and in the advisory board is a welcome step. They should also be associated with the Social Auditing stipulated under this legislation. But I do, however, feel that the conferring on them the power to discharge and transfer inmates from one place to another could cause problem, particularly in the case of such transfers from one State to another. These functions, I feel, could be better performed by the Juvenile Justice Boards or the Children Welfare Committees which are the competent authorities under this legislation.

Sir, voluntary organisations have also been assigned a vital role in many important matters and it is desirable to do so but it may be very difficult for them to run special homes and manage the affairs of say, 17 year and 18 year olds, who have been found to be involved in commission of serious offences. Such functions. I would suggest, could be better performed by the State through well trained, public spirited, sensitised child friendly officials who would otherwise symbolise authority. For all other matters

including running of children homes and after-care centres, inspection and also social audit, etc., the association of voluntary organisations of repute will, I hope, serve a salutary purpose and I do support that measure.

As I said briefly that day, I feel this Bill has been drafted in a hurry without visualising the legal implications of many provisions. For instance, clause 33 read with clause 32 leaves some scope for confusion and duplication of an inquiry and making of a report thereafter. Sir, having placed the police at par with the various other individuals regarding the entitlement or eligibility to produce a child before a Welfare Committee, I think there was no reason to provide for making of a report to the police by anyone who wishes to produce the child before a Committee much less for the police to hold an inquiry therein before the production of the child before the Committee. Such inquiry initially has to be before the presentation of the child before the Committee, I suppose it is only to the Committee that you should have to report and thereafter it is for the Committee to authorise any Social Worker or any institution to go in or hold an inquiry into the matter before finally taking a decision on that matter. Sir, for this, I have suggested one amendment, No. 27 to clause 33 of the Bill.

Then, under clause 32 (i), (iv) a Social worker or a public- spirited citizen has to first seek authorisation by the State government before producing a child before a Committee. I could not understand the rationale behind this. This would unnecessarily delay the matter, particularly, in those cases where time is of critical importance. All that this Bill should have provided for is that a person who wishes to produce the child before a Committee should have to seek only the authorisation or the permission of the Committee concerned and not beyond that. I did wish that these amendments would be taken note of by the Government but I am sorry that despite the fact that I had given a notice of amendment quite a few days back, perhaps, those have not been considered necessary by the Government.

Sir, adoption of abandoned or orphaned children is a responsibility of the society more than that of the State because it is in families and not in institutions that the development of an infant can be adequately achieved. Happily, today families are coming forward to even adopt girl children. This has to be encouraged by the Government, the media, the NGOs and other organisations. But at the same time, steps have got to be taken to check and punish for rackets involving adoption of innocent children who are ultimately targetted for inhuman and sadistic pastimes like camel races with frightened and crying children tied on their backs as it was reported sometimes back.

I find another thing missing in this Bill. It is good that the composition and the nature of the Welfare Committee has been changed. They have been made more humanistic than bureaucratic or court-like. But there is no provision of payment of honorarium, etc. to the Members of these Committees and Boards. I think that has to be provided for. I do appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Minister to bring and seek the passing of this Bill without delay. But, given only a little more time for drafting or by referring it to the Standing Committee, that could have been done earlier. I am not advocating now, but had that course been followed, certain shortcomings, lacunae and mistake could have been avoided and we could have come out with a piece of legislation that would have always stood the scrutiny of court. That is, again I have submitted an amendment to that effect. For instance, the appointment of a Member of a welfare Committee or a juvenile Board is liable to termination under clauses 4 and 29 respectively if he fails to attend a minimum of three-fourth of the sittings in a year. The phraseology used there is, 'fails to attend less than three-fourth of the sittings in a year". Sir this term gives a contrary meaning to these provisions, gives a contrary meaning to the intention of the Government. I think there is need to illustrate this. The provision as it now stands in the Bill is " if he fails to attend less three-fourth", 50 per cent or one half is less than three-fourths, but the intention is not to say that a Member would lose his membership, or his membership would be terminable if he fails to attend 50 per cent of the meetings. The stipulation is that he must at last attend 75 per cent of the meetings. And, therefore, the words that should have been used- should have been, I emphasise with all humility- are that if he fails to attend "at least" that three-fourth of sittings.

The Government has to consider this aspect. If a matter ever is taken to a court, I think, it could lead to some problem. If a Member says, that he attended 50 per cent of the meetings in a year, that would meet the provision here. Even if he fails to attend less than three-fourths, he could say," Well, the word is' less than three-fourths; I have not failed to attend less than three-fourths "This would be his reply.

Sir, I think this could have been taken note of, and instead of 'less than' it should have been 'at least' and that would have met the problem.

Along with this, there is another provision when the Bill provides for the terminability of the membership on failure to attend three consecutive meetings, it is qualified by the words, 'for valid reasons'. This is all right. I think that provision or qualification should have also been added, in case of failure to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings because there could be valid reasons for a person not to attend the meetings. There could have been

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

a valid reason for a person to have been sent abroad, by none other than the Government itself and then if he fails to attend at least 75 per cent of the meetings, because there is no provision for him to explain the validity of his absence, he could lose the membership.

I hope the hon. Minister takes note of this submission of mine.

To conclude, while I commend this Bill I do want to add that these objectives cannot be achieved simply through legal measures. The community, the NGOs and the media need to be sensitised in these matters so that the issues relating to infants and children attract our closest attention. Public-spirited individuals and NGOs have to be encouraged to participate enthusiastically in this important national task so that the children in need of care are assured that there is somebody to care for them. Similarly, children in conflict with law have not only to be provided accommodation, maintenance and protection against moral danger or exploitation but also facilities for education and vocational training- and when I say' vocational training' it should be according to their aptitude and option. Because, long back when I happened to visit one of these institutions, I found that a young boy was being made to work as barber, a work in which he had the least possible interest. So, vocational training should be according to the aptitude and option of the child and it should also equip him to get some sort of a diploma thereafter and given him some right or eligibility to apply for a job thereafter. Also, facilities should be provided for development of character and ability to ensure an all round growth and development of this personality.

I conclude with a hope that the hon. Minister looks into some of the suggestions I have made today and the other day when we began this discussion and also, I want to urge the government of India that it takes a holistic view of the entire matter concerning the children and considers the desirability of bringing all these matters under one Ministry. Because then, we could deal with the various problems relating to children, maybe in a better way and that approach could be more result-oriented. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, every year in India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru birth anniversary is commemorated on 14th November on as Children's Day. I am happy to observer that today the Bill is being introduced by hon'ble Minister who is daughter-in-law of same family. She has realised the agony of children. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was enacted in 1986. There are two categories of children-one, who have violated law and the second are the neglected lot. for whose upbringing, more attention is required to be paid. Thus there are two categories of children. Earlier, their age limit was 14 years which has now been increased to 16. Hon'ble Minister deserves to be felicitated for this act. Some reputed and efficient organizations should come forward which can render help to the needy children and the State Government should grant them recognition. For meeting expenses on this account, you have made a provision that it should be met out of the consolidated Fund of States, which would amount to 50 per cent and the Union Government would also provide assistance in this regard. Both would work for upliftment of children. But, my point is that children still face inhuman treatment. They are not properly treated. Whether they are Juvenile or neglected one, there is a provision to keep them separately but in fact this rule is not being complied with. It is a very serious matter that the Juvenile and Neglected ones both type of children are confined in the same room in same jail.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point is that even police personnel do not know as if there is any Act to deal with them. If any child comes to their notice, be it girl or boy, of 16 years or 18 years, they would just confine him. My submission is that there should be an Act having a provision for such children. Since hon'ble Minister has realized their agony and have decided to have an Act to deal with this issue, therefore, I would like to convey my thanks to her.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every police station should have a copy of this Act. When an individual wears uniform of a police personnel, he spares none, be it a boy or a girl, of 16 years or 18 years. He does nothing except hurlting abuses and slapping him. There is no arrangement for providing them nutritious food. The Protection Home run by the social welfare department harbouring juvenile or the neglected children have the strength more than its capacity. Sir, in Delhi's famous Tihar Jail also, juvenile and neglected children, whether they are boy or girl, are kept together in a common barrack. Children upto the age of six, are put up together.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge upon hon'ble Minister to constitute a commission at national level in this regard which should function under Supreme Court of India. Similarly, commission should be constituted in states also, even at district level. There should be made accountable to respective courts. If action is initiated on these line, I feel, we can achieve something in this regard. It is a very difficult task and I have given you some suggestions to accomplish it-that a National Commission for Children be constituted which should function under Supreme Court of India and similar commissions be constituted at State level and even at District level. Then

only we can achieve something in this regard. Today, lakhs of children are illiterate who work as child labour in factories, some work in hotels and restaurants as washer boy, some work as weavers. Majority of them do petty jobs and thereby their condition continue to be pitiable. Some of them die of hunger. If a provision is made regarding adoption of these neglected children and some of our M.Ps., who are in need of adopting a girl or a boy, adopt some of the children, I am sure, we can contribute a lot in this regard. It is my humble request.

Further, I would like to say that at several places even Doctors are not available. Normally, Doctors come during day and if any child falls sick during night time, then there would hardly be any doctor or staff to look after ailing child. Government of India launched a scheme for providing break-fast and lunch to school-children. I urge upon hon'ble Minister to re-introduce that scheme and nutritious breakfast be provided to children. You may kindly consider this issue seriously. My submission is that a commission should be constituted to abolish child labour prevalent in India.

If we look at figures, as per a survey conducted recently, crime amongst children are on the increase. During 1997, 4414 cases relating to child-rape below 16 years of age, 107 cases of child-murder and 57 cases of foeticide were reported. Eight children were forced to die. Since children are prospective citizens of India and future of the nation as well, as such they should be brought up properly. If we bring them up properly, the future citizens of our country would be able to progress and prosper properly.

Therefore, I strongly support the Bill brought forward by hon'ble Minister and I request her to rectify the lacunae in the Bill in the interest of children at large. I feel, when she has an attachment with animals such as Dog, Cat, Cow, Bull etc., I am sure she would have great attachment for children also. I extend my thanks to her and I strongly support this Bill.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of children) Bill, 2000.

The Bill which has been introduced in new form after repealing the old Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, is indicative of that intention of the Government that it is seriously thinking for the welfare of the children. But I am of the view that this intention of the Government is nothing but a show off and lacks sincerity. Besides Fundamental Rights, it has also been mentioned under the Directive Principles of State Policy in our constitution that it shall be the duty of each State to provide free and compulsory education to the children below 14 years of age. But this provision has not been implemented so far due to which the children of the poor families or who are orphans either wander on roads as rag-pickers or work as child labourers in various industries like Biri manufacturing, matchbox industry or cracker industry. They are constantly exploited there. The hon. Prime Minister had stated in FICCI auditorium that the Government must to do away with 10000 Government jobs every year and the BJP Government of U.P. has also said 10 days ago that 10000 vacancies will be dispensed away from Government sector every year. I would like to ask from the Government as to what will happen to those families and who will be affected in those families where the earning members will lose their jobs in pursuance of the target fixed by the Government regarding the job curtailment exercise. It will directly affect the children. The decision of the Government is completely unjust. If we want the welfare of children then we will have to provide employment to their parents instead of snatching employment from them. The logic of the Government that the people should try to seek employment opportunities in private sector tantamount to shirking away from its responsibility and deviating from the deals of socialism. The employees who work influenced by socialist doctrine do so with full commitment when they work in private sector. They will get neither gratuity nor bonus nor medical facility not other benefits like pension, leave etc. and their children will be forced to starve.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through a sort of showbiz is going on by bringing in this kind of legislation but I would not oppose it for something is better then nothing. Hence, instead of opposing it, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to make some more amendments in this Bill even if it requires some more time, so that the injustice against the children may be done away with and their interest could be protected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill brought for the children below 18 years has not been introduced with a due thought. In this Bill, the criminal juveniles have been divided into two categories i.e the criminal juveniles and the juveniles belonging to the have not sections of the society. The children of the second category do not enjoy any facilities. I would like to suggest that the Government should ponder over the issue seriously. Merely constructing children homes for such children and taking the issue to committees is not going to yield any result. I am of the opinion that the best option for the welfare of such children would be provide employment to the parents of such children and to provide financial assistance to these families besides giving them free and compulsory education. If this happens then these children will not be forced to wander in roads besides this will not put an extra burden on the Government.

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

With these words, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the ambit of right to protection of the children should be widened by bringing some more amendments in the Bill and the sexual exploitation of the children should be treated as a criminal act of rape. The present situation is such that the sexual exploitation of children is not treated as a rape and the same is going on unabatedly. Second kind of exploitation to which the children is being made subject to that their body parts like kidneys etc. are sold in the market after surgically removing from the body. Some people even force the children for begging and turn them into permanently handicapped person in lure of the money. Hence, it is my suggestion to the hon. Minister to frame concrete laws to check the atrocities being committed on the children and adolescent so that their welfare may take place. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to heartily support the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000 which has been brought before the House by the hon. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment for consideration and passing. On behalf of my DMK Party, I heartily support this Bill.

At the outset, on behalf of the children of India, I would like to thank the hon. Minister Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

I am very grateful to the hon. Minister because it is only due to her enthusiastic role that this Bill could possibly be passed today. It is a normal practice that Parliament passes several Bills, but there are certain Bills which become milestones for the Government. Such Bill, like this Bill which changes the life-style of the children, change the life-style of a particular section of the society.

It is a good Bill. While taking serious note of issues as to whether the children have been properly guided and protected, whether there is a friendly approach to the children, certain strong measures have been taken.

The provision relating to 'child in need of care and protection' has been well defined in almost all aspects both in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in Clause 2 (d) of the Bill.

The penalties that we have proposed in this Bill are not a severe one. Clause 25 days :

> " Whoever gives, or causes to be given, to any juvenile or the child any intoxicating liquor in a public place or any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance except upon the order of duly qualified medical practitioner or in case of sickness shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine."

In this regard, I would like to say that some severe punishment is necessary. A mere three-year simple imprisonment is not sufficient; it is a very lenient punishment.

Sir, I would like to appreciate the hon. Minister for clause 21 which has a provision for prohibition of name, address or school juvenile involved in a proceeding. It is a welcome step that has been proposed by the hon. Minister.

Sir, then again inclusion of a clause like 34 is also a welcome step. It is regarding the children's home. It states that State Government, may establish and maintain either by itself or in association with voluntary organisations one children's home in every district. It would be a good system for proper care of the children.

Sir, clause 35 clearly states :

> "The inspection Committee of a State, district or a city shall consist of such number of representatives from the State Government, local authority, Committee, Voluntary Organisation and such other medical experts and social workers as may be prescribed."

It is a welcome step.

Sir, this Bill has been introduced to repeal the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. This Bill pays much greater attention towards the child and the juvenile. The system of justice that is now applied to the adults is not suitable for the juvenile. It is also necessary to see that juvenile justice reaches the needy juveniles.

Sir, the other proposals as contained in the Bill are, uniform age of eighteen years for both boys and girls and speedy disposal of cases pending against the juveniles. It is heartening to note that there is a time limit for disposal of the cases and also there is a provision for creation of special juvenile police units. All these are welcome steps.

This Bill has been introduction for the purpose of achieving proper care and protection of the juvenile or child. On behalf of the DMK Party, I support this Bill.

*SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Vishnupur) : Mr Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000. I also thank the Hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment for bringing this important Bill. After supporting the Bill I would like to express some views regarding the condition of children in our Country. As per clause 3 of article 15, E and F of article

*Translation of the speech originally delievered in Bengali.

39 and articles 45 and 47A of our Constitution some rights and protection have been provided to women and children. Both women and children should not be occupied in any job which is harmful for health and body. We have provisions in our Constitution for better opportunity fruitful programmes so that the children have holistic development and spend their childhood and young age properly. Keeping this in view our Constitution provided certain rights and protection and felt the motto education for all should be fulfilled within 10 years after we got independence. But what is there in reality? A large number of children has been deprived of the fundamental right for primary education. But why these children have been denied to learn and write and remain educationally challenged. We must explore the reasons for the non-fulfilment of Constitutional rights even after 52 years of independence. When we achieved freedom our first Education Minister realised that the advancement and development of the country depends on education. Human resource is the most valuable resource in our country. We cannot prosper until and unless we utilise our human resource by providing proper education and training for their over all development. It was also felt that there should be equal budgetary allocation for defence and education. But what do we find in reality. There is just one percent budgetary allocation for education. When a demand is made to enhance the budgetary allocation for education to six percent it is enhanced only by three percent. As a result a large number of children do not get the opportunity to have education. Moreover due to the economic system and condition prevailing in the country 40 percent of population in our country are below poverty line and as such are not in a position to afford education to their children. I must also mention that only two percent budgetary allocation is provided for health. As a result most of the under privileged children suffer from malnutrition. Since these children lack facilities in every aspect, whether food, education or entertainment or other facilities, they do not have normal development. The uncongenial atmosphere in the surroundings often drives these children to criminal activities. The children are epitome of God. A child is not a criminal when it is born. But lack of proper education, normal atmosphere, lack of proper food, clothing, the basic needs of life, make the child indulge in criminal activities. This happens because of our faulty economic and social system. These children of lesser God are also compelled to work in factories harmful for their health. When they just cannot continue in the hazardous job, they are driven towards criminal word for easy money. So they are not born criminals. They are the victims of their surroundings and this only compels them to become criminals. We must try to explore the reasons that compel these children to attract to criminal world. The economic factor is one of the main reasons for these children to become criminals.

After independence our country was progressing slowly. But since a decade after globalisation our market has been flooded with all foreign articles. As a result our people are becoming poorer day by day. They are losing their jobs and becoming unemployed. As a result these people have been struggling just to have the bare necessity for their survival and do not have the opportunity to provide education to their children. So we have to find out the real reason why these children are not getting education. There is an urgent need to provide education to these children. It is our primary responsibility to ensure that all the needs of the children are met and their basic human rights are fully protected. We have the Juvenile Justice to provide care and protection for the children enacted in 1986. We also have Juvenile homes in different parts of our country. Unfortunately though these homes are meant for providing care and protection these have been transformed into a business centre and as such fail to fulfil their duty to safeguard the interest of the child. Sometimes the children in the shelter home undergo mental and physical torture. I am mentioning this because we have come across many incidents of children being killed in the juvenile homes and sometimes they just run away from shelter home because they cannot bear the torture inflicted on them. I urge upon the government to take appropriate action against the guilty. We also should have a drastic change in our social system. Until and unless we are able to alter the prevailing social system, we cannot achieve our aim of providing the basic Constitutional rights to our children. I also urge upon the Government to adapt appropriate measures to bring certain changes so that there is a perceptible decline in people below poverty line.

I once again thank the Hon. Minister for bringing such an important Bill and thank you Sir for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : I rise to support the Bill introduced by hon. Menkaji. I support and respect her sentiments. She has a strong feeling of love and compassion for the children and adolescents.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to make this Bill more comprehensive. I am saying so far some views have also been expressed by Shri Arun Jaitleyji regarding the juvenile act. But the efforts for bringing piecemeal legislation will not provide much relief. Hence, both the Ministries need to jointly deliberate over the issue and try to frame a comprehensive law in respect of juvenile so that they may be really benefited from it. Though I am of the opinion that irrespective of how many laws are framed, the tendency towards committing crimes cannot be removed unless there exists some economic and social parity in the country. I would like to give an example in

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

this regard. You might have seen movie 'Roti' starring Rajesh Khanna in which it was very skillfully shown and narrated as to how the poverty drives a person to commit crime. It is owing to the poverty that the children of poor families are forced to become child labourer in such age when they need to engage themselves in studies and games and the rich people try to take advantage of these compulsions. I also want that a law should be framed but along with it, we should also be concerned as to how the upliftment of the poor persons can be brought. You frame a law that the children up to 14 years of age will be provided free education, but the purpose can only the served when a child will be left free to join a school. But it can not be done when he does not get them a full square meal. The child of the poor families who feed these families by working as child labourers can not be expected to get education. Today even the education is divided into two parts. This children of the rich do not study in Government school in village. Only the children from socially and economically backward families go and study there. Though you are framing laws, you must also pay attention towards the problems being faced by the children. There are several reasons of court cases in respect to village children. Not all the people are the culprits. False cases are framed to generate tension among particular families to embrace them. It is the police which has to regulate law and order. I do not want to comment on these moral uprightness for everyone is aware about it. The children commit crimes unintentionally or they are forced to commit it as a part of conspiracy. They are subjected to intense torture by these policemen. Though there is provision of juvenile cells in jails for juveniles but inhuman condition prevails in most of these cells. There is neither a facility of proper food nor rest for the children who unfortunately lend there. They have to face to several problems here. Hence I moved like to exhort Shrimati Menkaji to think over the issue and also to the fact as to what extent to which the social and voluntary organisations would be effective in tackling the problems of juveniles. But if you are sure about the beneficial role of these organisations then I do not have any reservation over it.

Sometimes the mistakes committed by the children must be pardoned. Their offence are not judged from legal point of view. It was seen that during Ramayana age, when Parsuramji became extremely infuriated at what Lakshmanji uttered during the verbal duel between them, Lord Rama asked Parsuramji to forgive Lakshman considering him as a child. These were provisions in earlier era also for granting pardon to the crimes committed by the children but the laws framed by us today are nothing shorts of doceit. A conspiracy is being hatched to ruin the lives of young children in the name of guiding them on the new path, pardoning them and showing them new vistas by entrapping them in the web of legalities.

What well happen to these children who have come to Delhi from U.P and Bihar when the industries are closing down. Children used to work at Rs. 1000 or 1200 per month for the small jobs like washing the utensils and other household jobs. You can understand as to how they could have managed their livelihood by getting such meagerly sum of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1200 per month and even this has been snatched away from them. I would like to congratulate the Supreme court for snatching away source of livelihood of 10 to 12 lakhs people. The discussion on this issue is also going on with the hon. Prime Minister also. Among these 8-10 lakh people these will be at least 1 lakhs children about whom we are discussing and who are being rendered unemployed

I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Low Minister should try to make this comprehensive by holding joint deliberations over it and also over the aspects as to how to make the maximum benefit for the children and adolescent. I would also like to stress that no law can be effective unless the economic disparity is done away with and they are provided equal educational opportunities. Hence I would like to once again submit that you must hold discussion over framing law seeking to do away with social and economic disparity. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I oppose this Bill for the following reasons.

What is the right of the child ? The rights of a child are survival, development, protection and participation. This Bill is not taking care of the rights of the child.

The Bill deals with the children between ages six and fourteen. The children up to five years of age are not dealt with in this Bill.

The Children's Code Bill, 2000 has already been formulated and presented to the hon. Prime Minister of India by a Special Experts' Committee under the Chairmanship of no less a person than Justice V.R Krishna Iyre in consultation with UNICEF. It is going to come up shortly for discussion. It has dealt with children up to 18 years of age at length and breadth. I fail to understand the hasty introduction of this Bill.

I would say that the concluding observations made by the United Nations' Convention have not been taken into consideration. The Convention recommended the full implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; the Bonded Labour System

(Abolition) Act, 1976; And the Employment of Manual Scavengers Act, 1993. All these recommendations have not been taken care of in this Bill.

The constitutional rights of children below 18 years are not taken care of. As far as this Bill is concerned, it does not reflect the spirit of CRC. The guiding spirit of any law or any policy must be in the best interest of children, and children must have the right to participate in the decisio-making process. In this Bill, Children were not given the opportunity to participate in it.

Finally, constitutional rights of children are described under articles 15 (3), 39 (e) and (f), 45 and 47. I do not want to go into the details. But those factors are totally neglected in this Bill.

There are about 375 million children in this country and they constitute more than one-third of the population. A country's budget is the most solid expression of its Government's priorities, performances, decisions and intentions. It will not be out of place if I say that there are about 11 million children living on the streets. Forty- five per cent of the children in India are employed, which is the largest number of working children in the world. The Government estimates that of the nine-lakh prostitutes in India, four lakhs are child prostitutes. There are about 15,000 children orphaned due to Kargil war. Every third rape victim is a minor. In the last ten years, rape of children below 16 years has accounted for more than 25 per cent of the reported cases. Rape of children below the age of 10 years has increased by 10 per cent. According to the Budget allocation for children, it has come down from six per cent of GDP to 3.2. per cent. All these factors are not taken care of in this Bill.

Coming to this Bill as such, Chapter II deals with Juvenile Justice Board. It seems that even this Board is not going to take care of the demands of children. In that Board, there is not going to be any lady member, there is not going to be any counsellor, there is not going to be a psychiatrist and there is not going to be a lady police personnel posted on the Board. We are discussing about a very important Bill and there is no interpreter in the Board to understand what the children are going to say in their local languages. This is the ultimate failure of this Bill. Participation of children is, as I said earlier, neglected in this Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I have not yet started. Please give me a few minutes more.

Childhood is the foundation of a person and if you neglect children of 0-6 years of age, will we go in the right direction? The Government of India has now formed a separate Ministry for Primary Education. But this Bill does not say anything about primary education, about nutrition, about health care conditions, formation of juvenile homes, etc. This Bill is going to increase and encourage child labour. At page 9, clause 22 talks about punishment. It should be increased at least to five years, because the duration given is very less. Since the punishment is not severe, it will encourage more criminals only.

In the Bill we are going to deal with the children, mostly below the age of 14. During Madam Puratchi Thalaivi's regime in Tamil Nadu, she introduced all-women police station who had taken care of not only children but also the women. All-women police station will be a solution to render justice children.

I urge upon the Minister to circulate this Bill for public opinion.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000. At the outset I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, to the following. In the Bill it is said:

> "And whereas, the General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the 20th November, 1989."

I think it should be 1959 instead of 1989. I think it should be corrected as 1959. Kindly verify and correct it.

It is not a new Bill. This has been re-enacted. This Bill seeks to replace the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The purpose of this new enactment is to make the law more juvenile and child friendly. The new enactment has two parts. One part deals with juvenile offenders. Second part deals with juvenile child who deserve care and protection.

It is not a punitive law. It is a reformative one. It is not an ordinary piece of law to be adjudicated in the courts but it is a message and guideline for a high culture and compassion. These are the ingredients of this enactment. This has drawn inspiration from our Constitution. Article 15 gives the right against discrimination. In article 15, clause 3, it is said that special provision may be made for women and children.

Article 39 (e) and (f) comes under Directive Principles of State Policy. Sub class (e) states :

> "That the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced be economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength."

Sub-class (f) says :

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

> "That children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment."

Article 45 has not yet been fulfilled. It also comes under Directive Principles of State Policy. Sir, you know pretty well that article 45 provides for free and compulsory education for children within ten years of the adoption of this Constitution.

Forty years have lapsed. 'After 10 years of the Constitution, the State shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years...' , this has not yet been achieved. Doubts would definitely arise whether the message given in this enactment will be achieved. Section 47 is for nutrition and prohibition. It has not been achieved. So far as section 39 is concerned, the hon. Member, Shri Bansal had said yesterday that the 'child abuse' should be defined. He had also given a model definition for that. If it has not been defined, then we go by the dictionary meaning of the term. 'Child abuse' is amply defined in the dictionary.

The second point with which we are more concerned is, this enactment is in conformity with a number of international conventions. For this reason, this enactment deserves consideration and implementation. When I say 59 or 89, it is the United Nations declaration of the rights of the child : 'The child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguard and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after the birth. Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give'. That is the message, that is the guiding principle, that is, we should carefully deal with the juvenile offenders or those juveniles who are in conflict with the law. The child shall enjoy special protection and shall be given opportunities and facilities by law and by other means to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of proud and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interest of the child shall be of paramount consideration. This is the declaration of the rights of the children. While giving a model enactment for the signatory States to follow, the United Nations has made it abundantly clear, 'that all the signatory nations are alarmed of the conditions and circumstances under which juveniles are being deprived of their liberty World wide- not only in India but World wide. Those vulnerable, who are deprived of that liberty are highly vulnerable to abuse, victimisation and violation of their rights. Therefore, because of their high vulnerability, the juveniles deprived of their liberty, require special attention and protection and that their rights and well being should be protected during and after the period when they are deprived of their rights'. This is the message.

The question is not of the enactment of law but care is necessary while implementing the law. The United Nations has given more consideration to the personnel, those who will administer the law. ' The personnel should be qualified and include sufficient number of specialists such as educators, vocational instructors, councillors, social workers, psychiatrists and psychologists.' These are the things that are necessary. If you do not take them in, this enactment will be of no value at all. The administration should provide for the careful selection and recruitment of every grade and type of personnel.

Since the proposed management of detention facilities depends on their integrity, humanity, ability and professional capability to deal with juveniles as well as the personnel suitability for the work, more attention should be paid on the personnel who deal with these juvenile offenders or those who are in conflict with law.

I have my own experience as far as care of the children is concerned. I may take only two minutes to explain this point. I have seen that the street children in the cities pick rags and plastic materials, sell them, earn two-three rupees a day and take it to their parents or guardians. They do not have access to education; nor do they have access to nutrition. They should be taken care of in such as manner- not the way they are being drawn by the NGOs nowadays- that they should feel that they are not away from their homes and that they are not deprived of the affection of their parents. They should feel that they are part and parcel of the society and they are not being looked down upon. These things are to be essentially kept in mind while administering the law.

I support the Bill. It is a very good Bill, no doubt. But, if there is some deficiency at the time of the enactment, as it happens in many of the cases, then the entire intention of the Bill will go futile and will serve no purpose. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this fact so that the personnel who deal with this part of the law should have a human face, should be properly educated, trained and should possess all the qualities to deal with juveniles in conflict with law and the children who deserve care and protection.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me for speaking. First of all, I would like to offer my support for the amendments you are proposing in the law but if we consider it seriously, we will find that there are two reasons for such tendency among the children. Our society used to be based on joint family.

Children used to think that they have an elderly person with them who can help them. But the system of joint family collapsed because children were affected by the media and also by the changes in their educational system. Earlier, the education system, as also the books were such that moral values and Sanskaras were instilled in the children. Now, it is no longer possible as a result of media-influence and change in the syllabi. It is the principal cause of all the perversions - be it of criminal type or any other-found among the children. Earlier, our religious institutions such as temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches used to help destitute children and Government also used to assist them but now it is seen than the funds provided by the Government are misused and the money is spent on personal works. The interests of the children are ignored. There are many big ashrams in Haridwar and other places. A great work was accomplished in 1998 in Haridwar. Media published it in their headlines. Here in Delhi also, there are a number of children's homes. There is one children's Home where 100 children died during the last five years. The institutions involved in child care activities are not doing their work honesty. It results in the exploitation of the children and their becoming criminals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is important to have laws framed but, as hon. Members said, it is more important to implement them properly. There is a standing order in the original Act of 1952, for the keeping of one copy of the Act in every police station as well as with the Superintendent of Police. I can challenge you to ask any sub-inspector or SHO about this, they are sure to be ignorant of this Act. Usually in the police station, children are treated in the same manner as any ordinary criminal. My request to you is to formulate such laws as would enable the prevention of exploitation of children. What you are thinking is definitely good for the country besides the hon. Minister is very concerned about environmental issues as also about care for the animals. It is in the interests of the country and the society. Keeping this in view, laws should be enacted for the welfare of children. These laws should be implemented effectively too. We need to be aware for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention the media. A Government is divided into a number of Ministries. The television or movies ought not to air or screen excessive violence. It will reduce the violent mind set among children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the year 1997-98, Rs. 10 lakh were provided for research and development activities relating to children out of which only Rs. 4.5. lakh were spent. For the year 1999-2000, Rs. five lakh were provided which was not used at all and returned to exchequer. Does it mean that the department is not interested in research activities which is not desirable. Each department should be interested in research and development activities. It appears that funds provided for the nutrition, development and research relating to children are inadequate. More funds should be provided for this purpose so that more information can be collected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention the issue of adopted children. Some of them are taken away to other countries while some are adopted within the country. For this purpose, the number of authorised agencies within the country is 20 and 6 are located in other countries. I would like to know, whether there is any mechanism to find out the condition of adopted children who are taken away abroad - whether they are being brought up properly or not, whether they are being used as domestic help? Are they dissatisfied with the behaviour of their guardians? My suggestion is that the Government should monitor the condition of such children and keep an eye on these aspects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this year in February, the newspaper 'Jansatta' had published an opinion of the Indian Bar Council that there should be a commission on the lines of Juvenile Court, which work under the overall control of the Supreme Court. A commission should be set up in each district so that the programmes are implemented effectively and children could get justice.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I am here to support this very well-intentioned Bill. The hon. Minister has earned a very good name in this country for showing genuine concern for animals and I think only a person like her could have brought a Bill like this.

The basic issue is, how do we mould the future of our children because juvenile delinquency is the gateway for adult crime.

In our country, the justice system as available for the adults now is not considered suitable for being applied to the juvenile or the child. I will give you a very good example.

Everybody in this House knows that the Christian missionary Mr. Graham Steins along with his two sons was burnt alive about two years back in Orissa in Manoharpur. The main accused, Dara Singh, was arrested after more than one year. He is now in jail. The trial of the main accused, Dara Singh, has not yet commenced. It was supposed to start on the 1st of last December itself but it did not start. In the meantime, in the case of a boy, whose name is Chenchu, who is only fourteen years old, who probably accompanied Dara Singh, his trial is over and he has been sentenced to fourteen years of jail imprisonment. I do not deny that Chenchu might have

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

accompanied and he might have participated in it. I do not deny it. But he is not the main accused. Because he is a child, because nobody came forward to speak for him and there was no lawyer for him, he could not arrange a lawyer for him, he is the first person who has been sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen years. Will he not cherish a grouse against the society? Will he not cherish a grouse against the country and against the judicial system? So, this is how it happens in India.

I am very happy that Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has brought forward this Bill. She has brought it forward because juvenile justice will be accessible to the juvenile and it will create an infrastructure for the juvenile justice system just like this Board. It will be a child-friendly law. I do not want to narrate all the things which have already been in this Bill because they have already been narrated by the other hon. Members. So I do not want to go into them because there is not much time available to deliberate upon them. So, I will come to some other points.

I am very happy that Shrimati Saroja has said that there are so many lacunae. I agree with her that there is no lady police. There is no provision for a doctor. There is no provision for health-care. I agree with her in this regard. But there must be a beginning made in this direction. If there is any lacuna, it could be addressed later on. Amendment could be brought about later on. In the initial stage, everything cannot be thought, of. So, it is good that she has brought forward this Bill.

Everywhere there is a talk about the introduction of the National Commission for Children. But I am asking one question. We might be having a National Commission for Children. But will it be a toothless institution like the National Commission for Women? It might be like that. I say so because you may see that there is a National Policy on Child Labour introduced in 1987. It envisages stringent and rigorous enforcement of the relevant laws preventing and regulating child labour. But let it be any Government for that matter, they have not yet kept children out of the hazardous industries. If there should be a National Commission for Children, it should have teeth. It should have a development strategy. It should have a preventive strategy. It should also have long-term strategies like the policy for the street children for whom Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has also shown concern. She has already taken steps to looks after the street children.

I will quickly make two or three points. I will conclude my speech within two or three minutes. There should be access to education for the street children. It should improve the quality of teacher training. It should improve the school environment. The quality of non-formal education schemes should be monitored and guaranteed. The Children who participated in such schemes should be integrated into the mainstream education. She should also look after the status of the girl child. Of course, it has also been mentioned.

There are 20 lakh destitute children in India. Fifteen thousand adoptions take place every year. But, there is no proper adoption law. In India, as per the adoption law, only a Hindu can adopt a child. No Christian, no Muslim and no Parsi can adopt a child. If you have a boy, you cannot adopt another boy. Same is the case with the girl, If you are having a girl, you cannot adopt another girl.

Finally, at any time, a child can be taken away or the parents can rejects the child. After any length of time, say, after 20 years, there shall be no relationship between the adopter and adopted child. So, there shall be good adoption law if we do not want the children to become delinquent.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has introduced a Bill relating to Juvenile justice. High sounding claims have been made in it. The Bill has been moved after expanding the amendments made in the Act of 1986 UNO had laid down the rules in Beijing in 1985 and it was reaffirmed in 1990 which helped to enhance their knowledge and excite their comparison. It is a common saying in my region-

"Kshama baran ko chahiye, chhotan ko utpaat.'

It is quite an old philosophy. Through the Bill they are claiming that human rights and child welfare will be encouraged. It reminds me of a story which was often related to me by Daroga babu.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Please tell us, who is Daroga babu.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Everybody knows that he was a Chief Minister. Those who do not have good general knowledge can get it augmented. There was a sorcerer in a village who was chanting - "Uttar bandhun, Dakshina bandhun, Purab bandhun, Paschim bandhun, Aakash bandhun, Pataal bandhun, Ganga bandhun, Jamuna bandhun, Sabko bandhun." His wife was hearing it patiently. She started beafting her husband with a black earthen vessel. Getting beaten with a black vessel is very humiliating. A Panchayat was called and the Panchas asked her why did she humiliate her husband in front of everybody. The woman replied that she had a thatched hut with dilapidated roof. Her husband was not capable of mending even that and on the other hand he was chanting about controlling mighty rivers like Ganga and Jamuna.

Sir, when we go out in our cars and when it stops at a red light it is common to see children selling newspapers, begging with a baby in their lap, selling toys or cleaning cars with a piece of cloth. They are scolded away be the people. And here they are talking about justice to all, social justice and human rights. It is a great sham.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is doing the same thing as the sorcerer did - he could not even repair the roof of his own house and he was talking about controlling 'Aakash' and 'Pataal'. I say to the hon. Minister that children of the country are starving to death and are begging to avoid it but they have no law to protect them. I am saying about what I have seen with my own eyes and he is telling us what is written on papers, which is not necessarily true.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, no provision has been made in the law to punish the person who forces the children to begging. There is no mention regarding the arrangements made by the Government for providing primary education to 7 crore children deprived of education in this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, IPC and Cr. P.C. is not applicable on the children upto 16 years of age. It is applicable on the children above the age of 18 years. It means that if a child of 16 years is compelled to commit a crime or murder by some anti-social element, both of them will go scot free. That's why, I am saying that the bill should be sent to the Standing Committee so that an in-depth and serious consideration could be given to it and a comprehensive bill could be presented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, children below the age of 16 years are not self-impelled to commit a crime but they are forced by anti-social elements to commit such crimes. There is no provision for life imprisonment or capital punishment to any anti-social element who forces a child below the age of 16 years to commit a crime or murder. There is no provision in the law against such anti-social elements.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this nation has produced many young talented children. A 5 years old son of queen Madalasa was a ' Brahamgyani'. The 'Ashram' set up at 'Nachiketa' for such children was of world fame. Lord Krishna had done so many miracles at a very tender age which were beyond the potential of the common man. You are aware that the claims made by the Government are hollow.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to set aside the whole nation and to first take care of the beggers on the roads and crossings of Delhi itself. Why the Government are not taking the steps to improve their condition. It is being said that these children would be taken to the 'juvenile homes' which itself are becoming a curse. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion cannot be influenced by the sycophants and prisoners of ignorance having little knowledge of the subject. Crores of children in this country are deprived of primary education. Once Dr. Lohia had remarked that the Government is wavering. The Central Government will meet the same fate on the pretext of not providing protection, employment and education to children. Whereas the Government claims that they will check the practice of 'Bhikhamangani' (begging). . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is this Bhikhmangani. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are a Professor and you can express your views in the given time. Please wind up now and take your seat.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am using the words from Bhojpuri language and I feel proud that I am speaking in local language. It will make the Bhojpuri speaking people feel proud. Some of the English speaking hon. Members are deceiving the country and we should remain cautious of them. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not completed my speech. Ruchika rape case involving DGP Hariyana became the matter of discussion in the entire country.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please ask Shri Raghuvansh ji to learn Bhojpuri and not to insult the Bhojpuri language. He does not know how to speak Bhojpuri. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The accent of his Bhojpuri will affect our real Bhojpuri language.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are watching his behaviour. When he was concerned, he started speaking in Bhojpuri. The accent of the naturally spoken language and the artificially spoken language differs. Difference is always visible when a person speaks his language wrongly mixed with English or when a real Bhojpuri person speaks his native language. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech has concluded now.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Therefore, the facts should come to the fore. . . .*(Interruptions)* Now Karia

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Munda ji has left his seat. He has neither been given importance here nor in the Jharkhand. Even then he has stood up from his seat. . . .*(Interruptions)* who gives importance to you? . . .*(Interruptions)* Ministers are here to serve the people and these people try to emulate them. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech has concluded now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing of your speech will go on record, therefore, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, this piece of legislation under the title 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill' has been introduced with an explicit aim of repealing the earlier defined Act, 1986. However fundamental aspects of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 have been more or less reflected in this Bill therefore it would have evoked my affirmative nod, provided the amendments mooted by our party are incorporated therein.

This Bill consists of two separate segments, namely, one, the child in need of care and protection; and the other, Juvenile in conflict with law. By resorting to some terminological alterations along with some euphemistic expressions of earlier defined Act, this Bill has sought to impress upon us 'child friendly', 'stigma free,' if not holistic.

According to Rabindra Nath Tagore, civilisation must be judged and prized not by the amount of power it has developed but by how much it has evolved and given an expression to it by its laws and instituting the love of humanity. Child is our love. Child is a supreme national asset of our country. Child is the picture of our future.

However, it is regrettable to say that India is pathetically lagging behind in achieving the objective for a safer world of our future generation. As morning is the harbinger of a day, so the state of the children is a precursor of our national health. But children belong to the most vulnerable segment of our society. Whatever is in blossom is in jeopardy. According to Mayall, the children are regarded as an under-valued entities in the contemporary society. They are treated 'not yet knowing', 'not yet person', 'not yet responsible', etc. They are viewed not as 'human beings' but as 'human becoming'. They are understood as in completely vulnerable beings. They are not accorded full respect for which they are intrinsically entitled to as human beings. They are treated as marginal community of our society whose activities and experiences matter less than that of an adult.

Therefore, if we look around us, it may come out that in our country, more than 73 per cent of children under the age of three are anaemic. Fifty-five percent of our children under the age to five are malnourished . Fifty-three per cent of children under the age of five are under-weight. Fifty-two percent of our children under the age of five are moderately or severely stunted. India has the highest mortality rate of 49 percent under the age of five in the world

17.10 hours

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya *in the Chair*]

Therefore, mere legislation would not serve the purpose. This Bill has emphasised the need of undertaking reform measures vis-a-vis juvenile in conflict with law through informal institutions rather than strict application of rules and punishment. But, I would like to propose to this Government to ponder over the alarming ascendancy of delinquent juvenile in the world. At present, three lakh children across the world are engaged in war. Therefore, if a child is engaged in war he should not be provided of the child rights and human rights. We should be circumspect enough so that nobody can exploit the palliative measures that the Bill has intended to the children.

Sir, as far as the child labour is concerned, it is the most nauseating aspect. India has the highest concentration of child labour. Now, in India, we are having 55 million bonded labour. If you go to Tamil Nadu, if you go to lock factories in Aligarh, if you go to carpet manufacturing units in Varanasi and Kashmir, if you go to bidi factory in Nizamabad, you will observe the sordid plight of our future assets.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now. Please cooperate with the Chair, we do not have much time to discuss this.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, to achieve the twin objectives, this Bill has proposed rehabilitation and social reintegration. To achieve this purpose the Bill has resorted to aftercare organisation, sponsorship, faster care adoption and other programmes. May I ask the hon. Minister whether any foreign national would be debarred from taking adoption or not?

Sir, as far as restoration of a child to his parents is concerned, I would like to suggest to this Government to make a deep insight into the problems which are being faced by those hapless mothers in our society. We are living in a male dominated society and male chauvinism is ruling the roost.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now. We have to conclude this before 5.30 p.m.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, flirtation and deception are in galore in India. . . .*(Interruptions)* which often gave birth to illegitimate child.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called the name of Shri Murthi. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I think those hapless mothers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing should go on record, except Shri Murthi's submission.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I am concluding please.

Those children often develop demoralisation and inferiority complexes, which often manifest in rebellion against the society. Therefore, juvenile delinquency is growing up. Those hapless mothers who have been deprived of their own legitimate right should be accorded such constitutional guarantee so that they can hold heads high in our society. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record, except Shri Murthi's submission.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I am opposing this Bill.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, because of the time constraint, I do not want to take more time. I would make only one to two points because many speakers have already spoken on this subject.

This is a very welcome Bill. In the name of the Bill itself, the words ' Care and Protection' are there. So, it is not to punish any child. Why are the children, suffering today? There are two extremities in our country. One is poverty because of which the children are committing small crimes. So, they have been put under juvenile criminality in this jails.

The second extremity is the urban affluency. Because of the urban affluency they are committing crimes and many of the time they escape.

They go scot-free. But in these cases, treatment is required for abnormality. Social justice empowerment is required. Juvenile is in conflict with law because of poverty mainly in our country. So, when they are put in these juvenile homes, they should be treated properly and they should also be allowed to earn while learning. Let them earn while learning. So, let them also be put into the mainstream. So, the purpose of this Bill is to put these juvenile criminals to come into the mainstream. It is the beginning of the first step towards that direction. Once you take care, give them proper care, affection and love, many of these crimes would have been avoided. So, I sincerely hope that they should be put into the mainstream as gentlemen again. This is a first step towards that direction. I welcome this Bill. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Athawale, I have called the hon. Minister. Please resume your seat. Please co-operate. The allotted time is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Injustice is always done to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow. I am not allowing you.

[Translation]

You may speak on some other bill, now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before the Minister replies, the Minister may also answer these clarifications because they have defined. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, we have to dispose it of before 5.30 p.m.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank everybody for participating. I would take up most of the points and I will tell you why we have put them in. In the beginning, I would like to tell you that when I took over as Minister, The first programme we did was for street children, for looking after street children as to what was happening to them. We established something which is now appreciated internationally. In fact, we got international award last year. This is the first time this award is ever given to a country outside Britain from the Lottery Board

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*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

there for appreciating this programme, called, 'child line' where we pick up children who have been in trouble on the road, who want to come into the system and we rescue them. So far, we have picked up a couple of lakh children. So, we realised the need for an Act that was less punitive and more compassionate. Some of you have been intuitive enough to realise the compassion intended in the Bill.

When we started making this Bill, we handed it to a number of people known for their expertise in both law and children. Dr. Saroja has talked about Justice Krishna Iyer. Justice Krishna Iyer was very actively involved in this Bill as well, along with a large number of other judges, namely, Justice Bhattacharya, Justice Jeevan Reddy, Justice Leela Seth and Professor Madhav Menon. We have taken people from all over and finally, after all these discussions, we gave it to the Bangalore Law Institute to make it into a Bill. After that it was again sent on rounds. We entered into consultation with the Law Ministry. It has taken almost two year for me to bring this here. I have only brought this and I have been convinced myself that we have done the best job that we possibly could. I have no doubt that people who will come after me will do even a better job. But at this point of time, this is possibly the best that could have been done.

I am going to take the points one by one. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has talked about the adult who has caused the child to commit crime. Now, this, as you may realise, is a Bill for children and for the punishment of offences not committed by the child. Regarding the adult, they will be punished under the IPC after due inquiry. There, we do not need to provide for this in this Bill. Regarding the point Dr. Saroja made, as I said, Justice Krishna Iyer was consulted in the Bill.

Also, she has mentioned that psychologists were not involved and that nurses were not involved. They will be involved in the running of the homes. They will be involved in what comes later. If they are not involved in the Board, they will be at various places. We cannot make this Act work unless we have the kind of the people that she has mentioned who are needed to be there.

I am happy that Shri Kharabela Swain has realised that this is a child-friendly Bill. Children are powerless. The previous statute or Act treated all the children as criminals. It is given as a basis of a reform-protection system from which we have learnt.

I am coming to Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal in the last because he has given most of the details.

Yogi Aditya Nath has talked about penalty for giving alcohol and drugs and said that the punishment is too little. Punishment has been provided for, after due consultation with experts. However, it is for the first time that all offences against children have been made cognizable. So, this in itself is a step forward.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has talked about the need for the two Ministries to come together. That, as I explained, has been done. We have consulted lawyers, legal experts and the Ministry of Law on other points.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava talked about a proposal for the Commission for Children at the national and the State level. I could have considered this. However, the Department of Women and Child Development is already in the process of setting up a National Commission for Children. Once such a Commission is set up, obviously they will be looking into this Act as well.

Shri Chauhan has talked about universal education up to 14 years. Unfortunately, the Department of Elementary Education is under the HRD Ministry. It does not relate to this Act which is more in the nature of an offence committed rather than education.

And regarding Children's literacy again, that is separate. The Interests of children which have been administered come under the Ministry of Labour.

Shri Trilochan Kanungo has talked about 1959 or 1989 Declaration. The Declaration of 1959 is a different one. The 1989 Declaration is the right one. It is the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Child for which we have committed to change our laws to be in conformity with them.

Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh has asked how this Act is going to be implemented. Clause 68 Provides for implementation through the State Governments and by making the rules.

Regarding the role of the Police, as many people have pointed out and quite rightly and what may be the law in the world, unless the Police become more sensitised, it will be difficult to make any difference.

For the first time in this law it makes us as if to read it like this that as if a provision has been made for a Special Juvenile Police Unit, which will be sensitised under Clause 63.

Shri Adhir Chowdhary has asked. I could not understand what he said but the only thing I could make out was- whether children could be adopted by foreigners. Already they are being adopted.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : I wanted to know whether foreign nationals will be debarred from adopting children or not because India is under population explosion.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I will certainly not debar them from adopting children. We encourage adoption because, children whether foreign or Indian, belong to the world. It is spelt out very clearly. I have a special adoption unit called CARA. This year we have had more children being adopted than last year. In a quicker, shorter and safer time we have got very strong safeguards for children..I am very happy when every time a child finds a home foreign, or Indian. . . . .*(Interruptions)*

Shri Bansal has made a number of amendments and changes. I just want to discuss a few of them. I must start with the smallest one regarding honorarium to the members of the Board. This, for instance, could be provided in the rules. We do not necessarily have to have it in the Act. So, that will depend on the kind of Board we make and the honorarium gets decided in the rules.

Regarding vocational training for children in various Homes, of course, they would have to have vocational training, and as Shri Bansal pointed out, this vocational training should be something that they want to do other than something that we feel that they should do, which is the most menial of all.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : In one case I found the person being forced to work as a barber. I asked him a particular question, he said, this was being forced upon him.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Yes, it is true. This is the reason why we brought these Homes. This Act actually provided for foster-homing, adoption and 50 other reasons why children should go into various Homes other than Juvenile Detention Centres.

There are a large number of amendments which, I am afraid, I will not be able to accept. In my Ministry when the amendments came, we studied them deeply and instead of just allowing the bureaucrats or me to make it a political issue and say that because we brought them in, therefore, we would not accept the amendments. I believe that this is for our children – yours, ours, India's- and therefore, we had it studied not only by the Law Ministry but by the same people who had drafted these initial amendments, to see whether we could make it any better. They have advised us to stay with the same and, therefore, I regret, I cannot accept any of them.

I would urge the Members now to pass the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Only half a minute I shall take, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute, Shri Bansal.

[Translation]

Passing of this bill can take 10-15 minutes. As half-an-hour dis-cussion is to be taken place at 5.30 PM, therefore, the ongoing subject can be discussed after 10-15 minutes.

[English]

Does the House agree to this ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the question is :

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 *Definition*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, before I move my amendments, I would like to make only two small observations. I shall make the points only once and not on every amendment. One is that the hon. Minister was pleased to point out that the provision for honorarium etc. payable to the members of the Juvenile Justice Board, as also the Children Welfare Committees, would be or could be provided under the rules. If she were to kindly see the rules can not really provide for it. They have to take a power by law that under the rules they can provide for such and such a thing. Only thereafter they can make rules under the Act, to cover all the aspects which are enumerated therein. That has not been done. That is one point, Sir.

My second point is about the amendments. None of my amendments is in the nature of a political amendment. I am not saying that this is the policy of our party and, therefore, you please incorporate it. I concede that to the ruling party. In my opinion, my amendments, I thought, could help overcome, at times a stalemate and I took time to explain one very small amendment in detail because

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

if ever the matter were to come to the court, in my opinion, that could lead to problems. The hon. Minister has not said that my argument was fallacious. She only says that this cannot be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, the hon. Minister has already said that she has not accepted any of the amendments. If you want to move your amendments, kindly move them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 44, –

omit "grossly" (5)

Page 3, line 4, –

after "conflict",

insert "terrorism", (6)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendments No.5 and 6 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

The amendment nos 5 and 6 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala - not present.

The question is

" That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

Juvenile Justice Board

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 4, line 41, –

for " less than",

substitute "at least", (7)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment No. 7 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 7 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala- not present.

The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Procedure to be followed by a Magistrate not empowered under the Act

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 5, line 18, –

after "this Act",

insert "or any other law for the time being inforce", (8)

Page 5, line 18, –

for "the child",

substitute "child", (9)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment Nos. 8 and 9 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendments Nos. 8 and 9 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Observation homes

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala – not present.

The question is :

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9

Special homes

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 5, lines 44 and 45, –

omit "either by itself or under an agreement with voluntary organisations," (10)

Page 5, line 46, –

for "juvenile"

substitute "juveniles" (11)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment Nos. 10 and 11 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

"The amendment Nos. 10 and 11 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Control of Custodian over Juvenile.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala - not present.

The question is :

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 13

Information to parent, guardian or probation officer.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 6, line 41, –

after "appear"

insert "failing which departmental action shall be taken against the concerned officer" (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clause 14

Inquiring by Board regarding Juvenile

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 7, line 2, –

for "four months"

substitute "three months" (12)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment No. 12 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 12 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15

Order that may be passed regarding Juvenile

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 7, line 9, –

omit "inquiry against and" (13)

Page 7, line 24, –

for "seventeen years"

substitute "sixteen years" (14)

Page 7, line 25, –

for "two years"

substitute "three years" (15)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment Nos. 13,14 and 15 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to clause 15 to the vote of the House.

The amendment Nos. 13 to 15 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16

Order that may not be passed against Juvenile

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 8, line 9, –

for "sixteen years"

substitute "fourteen years" (16)

Page 8, line 12, –

for "other Juvenile"

substitute "any other juvenile" (17)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment Nos. 16 and 17 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to clause 16 to the vote of the House.

The amendments Nos. 16 and 17 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 to 21 were added to the Bill.

Clause 22

Provision in respect of escaped Juvenile

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this amendment is actually intended to overcome a shortcoming in the Bill.

Sir, I beg to Move :

Page 9, line 12, –

after "special home"

insert or from protective custody" (18)

Page 9, line 18, –

after "Clause 22", insert –

"Chapter II-A
Offences Against The Child" (19)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment Nos. 18 and 19 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to clause 22 to the vote of the House.

The amendments Nos. 18 and 19 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 22 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

Clause 23

Punishment for cruelty to Juvenile or child.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 9, line 23, –

for "six months"

substitute "two years" (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala is not present.

I shall put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale to clause 23 to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 2 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 23 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clause 24

Employment of Juvenile or child for begging

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir I beg to move :

Page 9, line 24, –

for "purpose"

substitute "purpose of" (20)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment No. 20 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to clause 24 to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 20 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 24 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24 was added to the Bill.

Clause 25

Penalty for giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to juvenile or child

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 9, line 31, –

for "the child"

substitute "child" (21)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment No. 21 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to clause 25 to the vote of the House.

The amendment No. 21 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN :The question is :

"That clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25 was added to the Bill.

Clause 26

Exploitation of Juvenile or child employee

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are you moving amendment No. 22 to clause 26 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am not moving the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 26 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 and 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29

Child Welfare Committee.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10, lines 8 and 9, –

for "woman and another, an expert on matters concerning children"

substitute "woman, one an expert on matters concerning children and one from SC or ST community" (3)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I urge once again the Minister to consider this. This will lead to difficulties otherwise.

Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10, line 19, –

for "less than"

substitute "at least" (23)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment No. 3 moved by Ramdas Athawale and amendment No. 23 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

The amendments No. 3 and 23 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Clause 31

Powers of Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment to Clause 31 to be moved by Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

Shri Chennithala is not present.

The question is :

"That clause 31 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted .

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clause 32

Production before Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10, lines 49 and 50, –

for "authorised by the State Government"

substitute "permitted by the Committees" (24)

Page 11, lines 2, –

omit "to the police and" (25)

Page 11, line 3, –

after "children's home"

insert "or shelter home" (26)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment nos. 24, 25 and 26 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to vote of the House.

The amendments nos. 24 to 26 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 32 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32 was added to the Bill

Clause 33

Inquiry

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 11, lines 4-7, –

omit "or any police officer or special juvenile police unit or the designated police officer shall hold an inquiry in the prescribed manner and the Committee, on its own or on the report from any person or agency as mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 32" (27)

Page 11, line 8, –

after "children's home"

insert "or shelter home" (28)

Page 11, line 9, –

for "four months"

substitute "three months" (29)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment nos. 27,28 and 29 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to vote of the House.

The amendments nos. 27 to 29 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 33 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 34 to 36 were added to the Bill.

Clause 37

Shelter homes

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is amendment no. 60 to Clause 37 be moved by Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

Shri Chennithala is not present.

The question is :

"That clause 37 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 38 to 40 were added to the Bill.

Clause 41

Adoption

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chennithala is not present in the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 12, line 21, –

for "children"

substitute "a child or an infant" (30)

Page 12, line 27, –

for "Board"

substitute "Committee" (31)

Page 12, line 32, –

omit "an" (32)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment nos. 30,31 and 32 to the vote of the House.

The amendments nos. 30 to 32 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :,

"That clause 41 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 41 was added to the Bill.

Clause 42

Faster Care

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 13, line 3, –

after "another family" *insert* –
"or a recognised public spirited institution" (33)

Page 13, lines 4 to 6,--

for "circumstances where the child's own parent usually visit regularly and eventually after the rehabilitation, where the children may return to their own homes."

substitute "circumstances of the case" (34)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the amendment nos. 33 and 34 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 42 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 42 was added to the Bill.

Clause 43 was also added to the Bill.

Clause 44

After Care Organisation

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment no. 63 to clause 44.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala – not present

The question is :

"That clause 44 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 44 was added to the Bill.

Clause 45

Linkages and Co-ordinations

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 13, line 40, –

add at the end –

"after his discharge from the special home or children's home." (35)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala – not present.

I shall now put Amendment No. 35, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 35 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 45 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 45 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 46 and 47 were added to the Bill.

Clause 48

Committee to approved place of Juvenile or child suffering from dangerous diseases and his future disposal.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 14, line 10.-

add at the end-

"and proper medical facilities shall be provided to them" (4)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 14, line 14,-

omit "or under the relevant laws as such" (36)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendments No. 4 and 36, moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal respectively, to the vote of the House.

The amendment nos. 4 and 36 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 48 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48 was added to the Bill.

Clause 49

Presumption and determination of age

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are you moving your Amendments No. 37,38 and 39 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 49 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 49 was added to the Bill

Clauses 50 and 51 were added to the Bill

Clause 52

Appeals

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 14, –

omit lines 49 and 50. (40)

Page 14, line 51,-

omit "(b)" (41)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendments No. 40 and 41, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

The amendments no. 40 and 41 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 52 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 53 to 55 were added to the Bill.

Clause 56

Power of Competent Authority to discharge and transfer juvenile or child.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are you moving your Amendment No. 42 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 56 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 56 was added to the Bill.

Clause 57

Transfer between children's homes, under the Act and juvenile homes, of like nature in different parts of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan kumar Bansal, are you moving your Amendment No. 43 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : No. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 57 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 57 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 58 was added to the Bill.

Clause 59

Release and absence of juvenile or child on placement.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this is only to correct a mistake in the Bill. Even then they are not agreeing to it. I beg to move :

page 16, line 14, –

omit "or juvenile" (44)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 44, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 44 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 59 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 60 to 62 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Amendment Nos. 48 and 49 – Shri Ramesh Chennithala-not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 63 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 63 was added to the Bill.

Clause 64

Juvenile in conflict with law undergoing sentence at commencement of this Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Amendment Nos. 45 and 46 – Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Are you moving them ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am not moving them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Good.

The question is :

"That clause 64 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 64 was added to the Bill.

Clause 65 to 70 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala – not present.

The question is :

"That clause I stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause I was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed ."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

17.52 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Electrification During Ninth Plan

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House shall take up item No. Item No. 28 - Half An Hour Discussion.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House was very much agitated on the 4th December, 2000 regarding a question on rural electrification during the Ninth Plan. This is a very important subject. I think, all the hon. Members of this House, who are interested in the welfare of the people of rural areas, will indulge themselves here because mostly all the people living in the rural areas are poor.

The hon. Minister is a very energetic Minister. That is why he is having this Energy portfolio.

Sir, in the Ninth Plan Period, it was expected that 40,245 mw would be created. But so far, it is not even 50 per cent which has been created and now only two more years are left. How will the Minister keep up the Ninth Plan target of creation of Energy? This is my first question.

Sir, this is a very poor state of affairs in the country. My dear friend and colleague, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will not be angry on me if I mention the figures quoted by the Dainik jagran of 20th November. They have said that if this present situation continues, another 700 years will be taken to electrify all the villages of Bihar. Similarly it will take 66 years to electrify the whole of West Bengal. It will take 33 years to electrify Uttar Pradesh. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is somewhat better.

Sir, these views have been expressed by no less than an expert Parliamentary Committee dealing with the subject.

So, if this is the state of affairs, where are we heading for in the energy sector ?

Mr. Minister, Sir, I seek your indulgence. It is stated that it would take 700 years for the completion of rural electrification. This is not possible. The total requirement of the country today is approximately one lakh megawatts. If this is the position, by the time you complete the Ninth Plan, your requirements will again increase.

Energy is the source of wealth. Energy is only to move the wheels of progress. Thus, there is no scope for progress without energy. We are feeling that it is not a commodity to sell but a free commodity. It could be used by anybody free of cost. The Government should provide free energy to everybody; it is not a commodity. But, actually, electricity is a commodity. It is a manufacturing activity. Many processes are involved in it. Unless you create energy you cannot achieve your objectives. So, how can you say that it should be given free everywhere? The house is divided on this point. This is also a point to be pondered.

Many of us live in urban areas and we do not bother about rural electrification. Our Internet will work on electricity available in the urban areas and so we can get to know the world around us. If we are all interested in rural electrification and if that is the commitment, the whole House should go with that commitment. We should resolve today how to achieve our objective to create one lakh megawatts of power and how we should treat electricity as a commodity. If only you take into consideration these two issues into consideration, the problem will be solved. Otherwise, it will be much more complicated.

The hon. Minister has said in his reply that this is a State subject and the States have to look after this. They have to create energy and it is in their purview. He has said that the Centre is giving whatever assistance is sought by the States. It should not be the case. India is one country; India lives in the villages.

We should think as one; we should not segregate Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu as different entities. If we follow a united process the bondage will further improve.

This is an important subject and I hope everybody would hear my views and ideas. The per capita consumption in India is ridiculously low at 338 units per head per year. We should compare ourselves with China, which is one of the developing countries. They are also progressing and doing lot of work for the rural areas. Their per capita consumption is 800 units. Sometimes, we feel so depressed that we can never reach the consumption level a developed country, not only in our lifetime but even after fifty years.

18.00 hour

The per capita consumption in US is 13,000 units and in India, it is 338 units. It is a very bad state of affairs. I do agree. May I know whether the hon. Minister has taken any concrete steps in this direction? He owes an answer to this nation. Otherwise, this problem will be further complicated.

There has to be an energy audit. He has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill in this House on 24.02.2000. This is a very good Bill. He should strictly pass all the clauses that are existent in that Bill. It talks about Bureau of Energy Efficiency. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has to

[Shri M.V.V.S Murthi]

be created and that has to monitor all those aspects. The Government of India has to lay down the energy conservation standards and mention that energy has to be used in certain ways and how it has to be saved. Every one should follow the energy conservation standards and mention that energy has to be used in certain ways and how it has to be saved. Every one should follow the energy conservation standards scrupulously.

I have seen it in some countries. In a progressive country like Japan, people put off air-conditioners when the temperature is between 42-24 degrees. During such weather conditions, they open the small doors and they shut down air-conditioners and other things. They save energy like that. If we also save energy like this, we can use it for rural electrification. If we waste energy, how can we use it for rural electrification? So, it is our primary duty to think- the country as a whole- uniformly and not differently. But some of the States boost that they have already electrified all the villages. It is a misnomer. Only the revenue villages have been electrified. That will have half-a-dozen hamlets and not all hamlets. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthi, you know the rules; we have to dispose to this item.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I am directly asking the question. . . .*(Interruptions)* Only one clarification I want to ask.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already sought the approval of the House that whatever time is consumed in the discussion of this Bill, we will provide another half-an-hour for half-an-hour discussion. Thus, the time of the House is extended upto 6.20 p.m.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, people were already in trouble because of Shri Suresh Prabhu and now, he became the Minister of power, more and more people are in trouble. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : So, I appeal to the hon. Members to think about this. I would also like to directly ask the hon. Minister whether the energy audit will be introduced. Energy should be metered in this country. It has to be treated as a commodity. When a commodity is sold, it cannot be freely enjoyed. If these things are put in place, we will achieve rural electrification programme at least by the end of the Tenth Plan. Otherwise, we will never achieve.

I would request the hon. Minister to answer to all these points. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the year 1999-2000 the Government have earmarked Rs. 3,000 crore for rural electrification through out the country but out of this not a single penny was provided to Bihar. Similarly, during the year 1998-99 Rs. 2000 crore were earmarked but out of this amount Bihar was. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji, kindly take your seat. Let me call the names of the Members on first come first serve basis. Here is the name of Dr. Shyama Singh.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, she is not present here that's why I am speaking on her place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I will give you time to speak but first we have to see the serial in which the notices have came. Let me call the names in serial. When the name of Dr. Shyama Singh will be called then I will allow you to speak in her place.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, rural electrification is a very important subject. What is our experience even after 53 years of our Independence? We have not been able to achieve the target. The definition of rural electrification has been changed. Now, the village will be considered to have been electrified even if it has one pole and one bulb. As per that definition, eighty thousand villages remain to be electrified in our country according to the figure given by the Minister in reply to the Question. But our experience shows that that figure would be much more.

The Minister, in his reply, has stated that the Government has set up a Group of Ministers to review all the existing schemes relating to the electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis, and areas where weaker sections of the population live and suggest modification for accelerating the pace of electrification. For electrification of dalit bastis, and areas where weaker sections of the population live, a scheme called *Kutir Jyoti Scheme* has been introduced and cent per cent fund has been provided for this.

In regard to electrification of dalit bastis and areas where weaker sections of the people live, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Group of Ministers have reviewed this, whether they have submitted any

report, and whether the Government is proposing to modify the programme as the progress is very slow.

Today, there was a Question in my name. But that could not be asked because the House was adjourned. That Question was about the private sector participation in the rural electrification. To a Question asked earlier, the Minister replied that no proposal is under consideration of the Government to privatise rural electrification in the country. But today in reply to my Question, he has stated that in the State of Orissa where distribution has been privastised, maintenance of rural electrification is under the responsibility of private sector distributing company.

My another Question was whether private sector companies are extremely reluctant to continue with the power supply to the rural areas and his reply was that the Ministry has no information in regard to that. In Orissa, after cyclone, a private sector company was given the responsibility to restore electrification in eight hundred villages.

Even after one year, that has not been done. They are asking for more tariff. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the private company, which has been handed over restoration and maintenance of rural electrification, is asking for more tariff. When the Bill for delinking generation, distribution and transmission was brought, our hunch was if it is privatised, the private companies will ask for more tariff. That is the experience of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. There are wide variations among the States. Some States have achieved the target and some States are lagging behind. I would like to know whether the Government of India will have a plan and programme to provide adequate funds to the States who are lagging behind so that rural electrification can be accelerated in those States also.

The experience in my State is, we have a separate organisation for rural electrification. So, a separate organisation for rural electrification, not like that was there earlier, can be had so that rural electrification can be accelerated in those States also.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : I will also refer to the reply given by the hon. Minister today that in the State of Orissa, where distribution companies have been privatised, the maintenance of rural electrification is now the responsibility of the private sector distribution companies. I agree that distribution has been privastised. In my State there is a company called NESCO which is distributing power but it is not true that now the responsibility of that company alone is to look after the rural electrification. I will just give you an example. I wanted to get a very remote village near the sea coast electrified and I wanted to pay the expenses from the MP LAD. I was told that they have not taken over that village. I was told that it still existed with either the State Electricity Board or with the State Government and it is not with them.

Secondly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that if we want to get a village electrified, the estimate is being prepared by them. In Orissa, they not only prepare the estimate for poles and wire but also include the high cost of transformer on our head. If one wishes to provide electricity to a village, he has also to pay for the cost of the transformer. Why should we pay for the transformer? It is the company who should pay for it. The hon. Minister may look into this also.

Finally, questions are being asked as to which village is considered as electrified. The hon. Minister has already told in his reply that even if there is one light in a village, that village is considered to be electrified.

But there are hundreds of villages. The Minister should also keep this point in mind. Specifically in the Tribal and Scheduled Castes area electricity line has been taken right up to the village, but nobody has taken electricity from there. If there are some other people, they are stealing it by putting loops. There is no metering of the consumption. Therefore, my final question is why any honest user should pay more because many others are stealing power.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As a special case I am permitting Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, it is clear in rules, two speakers are not present today and my name is in second place in the lottery.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I have given the notice at 9 a.m. lottery and two speakers are not present. Now-a-days private secretaries put the notices for lotteries and speakers remain absent from the House. The people like us give notice personally at 9 a.m. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rudy ji, he had asked for permission and he has been given special permission.

[English]

He had asked for special permission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My number was in lottery, two speakers are not present what kind of rule is

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

this. . . .*(Interruptions)* four Members have to speak, out of them only two Members are present and my name is in the list. The Member who was nowhere in the lottery is given chance. How it can be possible ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that, as a special case I have permitted Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

Please don't waste time and take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He is telling a lie. I have given the name before him.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is given permission as a special case.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : What are you doing. This decision will be taken by the Chair and not by you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker has allowed him. He has given him special permission. Please hear me.

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker has given him special permission and he has sought special permission from the Hon. Speaker.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this is not fair. I came here in the morning and put my name in the lottery. The two Members above me are not present in the House and my name is in the lottery. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker has given him special permission. Rudy ji, I am not permitting you.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the rules should be obeyed. This matter is related to my State. If they will raise this issue then you kindly also allow me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have told you. In this regard Hon. Speaker has the power and he has given permission by using his powers.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, you have also got that power. How justified it is kindly explain? Had the Hon. Speaker, present here then he would have also given me permission. I think you are in the Chair then you should give me permission. This is a wrong tradition. If it will be happened like this then the Members like us who give notices at 9 a.m. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, if he is called then I should also be called. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly cooperate in this matter. This is not right. This is an half an hour discussion and it will end in half an hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to challenge the Speaker's ruling?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I would have made a request to the hon. Speaker. The Rules Book is here.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker, has given a special permission. You cannot challenge the word of Hon'ble Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to be brief so that the reply could be given.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has expressed his concern and called all of us. A meeting was held in this regard. The calculations are that during three years Rs. 6200 crore have been provided to all the States of the country for rural electrification out of which Rs. 3000 crore were provided in the year 1999-2000, Rs. 2000 crore were provided in 1998-1999 and Rs. 1100 crore were provided in 1997-98. The amount was distributed among all the States of the country except Bihar. Not a single penny was received by Bihar in 1999-2000 and 1998-99. Rs. 1 crore 47 lakh were received in the year 1997-98. Thus, the calculation of Hon. Minister is correct that the electrification of Bihar will take the time span of 800 years. When the total amount of Rs. 6200 crore were provided to all States of the country and Bihar is treated with partiality then the electrification of Bihar is going to take two thousand years. IEC have sanctioned Rs. 40 crores but it is not provided due to enimity upto 1989, Rs. 79 crore was provided to Bihar. The compound interest of which has now become Rs. 421 crore. Now, IEC says that first you refund this amount otherwise you won't be further provided any fund. This is the reason why today only 67,000 villages of Bihar are electrified in comparison to the 10,000 villages which were yet to be electrified. A total of 77,000 villages are there and out of which some 25,000 villages are such where the electrification was done on papers only. In 14,000 villages only cables were layed whereas in 3300 villages

only poles have been installed but no wiring is done. Therefore, a massive electricity crisis persists there. I would like to know that in view to this situation that an attitude of injustice and neglect had taken towards Bihar now and in 1997-98, whether the government will keep that amount in abeyance and start giving loan's afresh and by waiving the balance amount of Rs. 421 crore request the REC to provide fresh loans, and will consider the completion of the cent percent work of rural electrification in seven years. Otherwise, the work of rural electrification in Bihar will not be completed in eight thousand years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I seek the permission of the House that the time of the House is about to end and the reply of the hon'ble Minister is yet to come. Akhilesh ji please conclude with asking the question and the House will sit by the time the reply of the Hon'ble Minister concludes. Whether the House agrees with this.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of India. The work of rural electrification is undergoing there with slow pace. Uttar Pradesh is lagging behind from the other States of the country except Bihar in the context of electrification standards. During the last three years, the fund allocated by the government of India for rural electrifications and pump set energisation is decreasing continuously. The situation of electrification in the villages of Uttar Pradesh is very strange. If a single tola or a majara of a village is electrified then the entire village is treated electrified. A huge area of population is still lacks rural electrification and whatever electrification is shown in the papers is not correct. The toal area of our State which is still backward in the field of electrification is almost 1/4 of the other States of the country. The electrification is a far away dream for the 60 per cent part of rural area. To achieve the target of rural electrification standard set by other States, except Bihar, whether the Minister of Power will make the provision of additional central fund for Uttar Pradesh? Till date, we have been undertaking the work of electrification through M.P. Development Fund.

Recently, UP State Electricity Board has issued fresh guidelines according to which it is not practically possible to carry out rural electrification through M.P. Local Area Development Fund or MLA Local Area Development Fund. The board has said that the work of rural electrification is not possible in the villages from which 60 per cent recovery can not be made by the board. Will the Hon. Minister provide a special package from the Central Fund to the MP's for achieving the targets of rural electrification ?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from a province where once Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji holding the portfolio of the Minister of Power, therefore, he is equipped with more knowledge on this subject. I have studied and learnt a lot about the terminology of power but I would like the hon. Minister to make me understand something about the fact that whereas on the one hand electrification work is going on throughout the country and he gets the reports from various States about the progress made in the fields of electrification work undertaken there, but on the other hand, there is a State from where the report has come about the number of villages got de-electrified. I fail to understand this new kind of terminology involving on the one hand a chain of electrification work and on the other reversing the process through de-electrification.

Therefore, my request to hon. Minister is that he may kindly try to explain to me and to this august House as to why according to the rules and procedure of the Government of India de-electrification is taking place in the villages of Bihar and along with that I would also like to say that Bihar is the only State of the country where a high level enquiry was ordered in the matter of rural electrification by late Shri Kumar Mangalam ji. No enquiry has ever been instituted for rural electrification in any other part of our country but in Bihar this task has been entrusted to the CBI to ascertain the magnitude of scam involving the work of rural electrification. Therefore, we would like to know in detail from the State Government about these two matters - first about the terminology of de-electrification and secondly, about the orders of enquiry in Bihar because at the departmental level the hon. Minister himself assigned this work to the CBI. We want to know the facts about these because we also came from rural areas and we witness such bunglings in thousands of villages in the country where huge poles are erected but there are no cables, no electricity and no transformers are installed there and they are shown de-electrified in the papers for years. A sum of Rs. 1400 crore is needed for carrying out the work of electrification in Bihar. The hon. Minister may kindly provide a special package from Union Government for electrification purpose to the part of divided Bihar where people like me and Raghuvansh Babu live. The hon. Minister may kindly tell as to how he is going to justify it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, I would like to make just one point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This should not go on the record.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the hon. Minister, Kindly take your seat.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE : The hon. Minister is yielding to give a chance to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper way. It is not under the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on the record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on the record. Why are you speaking ?

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you as well as the hon. Speaker, along with Mr. Murthi for allowing the House to utilise its precious time to express concern over this subject and also for giving me this opportunity to inform the House about the Government's role and stand in this regard. It is a fact that the scenario of electrification has worsened during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Upto Seventh Five Year Plan, during a five year period, the work of electrification was carried out in more than 1,10,000 villages. But, in comparison to the period of Seventh Plan lessor work of electrification was completed during Eighth Plan and it further decreased during the Ninth Plan. All the points put forth here are also factually correct that during. Seventh Five Year plan we were possibly able to meet the power generation targets set for the plan period but during the period of Eighth and Ninth Plan which is not over yet, we have not been able to reach somewhere near the set targets. Along with rural electrification the problems we are facing. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Are the data received by you based on facts?. . .*(Interruptions)*

18.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, the problem of electrification is the biggest challenge and matter of concern for us. Last time, when we were discussing the issue in Lok Sabha, I had said that if this situation will continue then a State like Bihar will take more than 800 years to complete rural electrification. We are worried and it is not a matter of pride for us. The situation in West Bengal is also bad and you have just said about the situation of Uttar Pradesh. I agree that if this situation continues then we would not be able to even reach somewhere near the targets we had set. Therefore, the Government have decided and we are going to chalk out a policy in near future with the help of which we will be able to complete the work of rural electrification in a fixed time frame - Hon. Finance Minister has entered the House and in true sense it cannot be achieved without his personal interest. I would like to thank hon. Murthi ji for inviting the attention of the Government through the House.

Sir, electricity is one such commodity which can not be provided free of cost. Capital investment is needed for generation of electricity. If we are not able to repay that money to the electricity boards, then, in future the State Governments will fail to generate electricity any further. We have passed the electricity Act in this very House and at the time of amending this Act in 1983 it is said in the Parliament that at least 3 percent of the capital employed should go to the State electricity boards. The tariff should be fixed according to the profit reckoned after deducting the above sum. And if we work out the average after the whole exercise even then the State electricity boards are bearing 18 per cent losses. It is a matter of grave concern. The matter of rural electrification is also associated with this. Rural electrification is the prime responsibility of the State electricity board. By keeping in view the problems which arise while fulfilling this responsibility, the Union Government have tried to get this work done through Rural Electrification corporation after the release of outlay. As I said earlier that we have been quite successful upto the period of Seventh Five Year Plan. Whereas during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans the States where the work of electrification is going on failed to acquire funds according to the laid down procedure because these are interest bearing funds. The Rural Electrification Corporation is also an organisation. Whenever they need money they borrow it from the market. After borrowing from the market the money is provided to the State electricity boards. If the repayment of that money is not done, then, in future, no money could be lended to the Rural Electrification Corporation and ultimately they will default. I know that the States are overburdened. Therefore, we are in touch with the States who have not made payments. We are also trying to be in touch with Bihar and we have invited the State Chief Minister to Delhi. I have also requested you that we will certainly take care if the rescheduling is needed it should be done at the earliest. Bihar's problem is a matter of concern for us and we would like to solve it as early as possible. The situation is no different in West

*Not recorded.

Bengal as well as I was quite sure that Shri Basudeb Acharia will raise a question, therefore, I have sought the figures from West Bengal Rural Electrification Corporation and Rural Energy Development Corporation. We have asked them to furnish their strategy on the basis of which they will be able to accomplish the entire electrification work. I would like to assure you that necessary funds will be provided to West Bengal as well, as per their requirement. The Minister of Energy of West Bengal met me. I have requested him that, the State Government of West Bengal should sign a MOU with the Union government, in order to facilitate the release of funds.

I fully agree with what Shri Murthiji has asked. It is true that our definition of village electrification is totally misleading. On the basis of that definition we cannot say with certainty that the electrification of the entire village has been done. The elecrtification of only 31 per cent rural households has been accomplished so far. Hence I totally agree with your views on Uttar Pradesh. In the coming days, we will have to fix a target for village electrification and after that we will have to think in terms of fixing the target of other settlements. Today, as per the report of Planning Commission, there are more then four lakh such settlements. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Sir, I have a question to ask as to what action will be taken against those erring State Electricity Board, who have accepted the misappropriation the funds. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, as I was saying the entire funds allocated by the Centre for the electrification of more than 4 lakh Harijan and Dalit colonies should be spent for that very purpose alone. The rural electrification Corporation will keep on providing more funds. Now-a-days, the funds are being given in excess of the planned funding. As you were mentioning we have evolved a new procedure from this year itself as problems were being faced to return the money back to State Electricity Board once it is borrowed from Rural Electrification Corporation. Hence we decided to allocate these funds directly from the plan budget.

Sir, as per the new provision made by the Finance Minister in the Budget, the funds are directly being given to the States so that these may be utilised for the purpose of electrification. I associate myself with your concern that unless that fund is not utilised for the same work. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : What action will be taken against those State Electricity Boards which have accepted that they have misappropriated funds. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you seek clarification during the 'Half and Hour discussion?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Sir, the Government had fixed the target of electrification of 18 thousand villages but so far no electrification has been done. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you seek clarification in Half an Hour discussion ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Akhileshji has asked as to how the funds provided under MPLAD Scheme can be used for the development of the constituency. I would myself resolve the matter after talking to U.P. State. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : We are not getting the capital we have fixed and the State Electricity Boards are replying that the work cannot be accomplished by them. Where shall we go in such a situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I said that I am trying to properly look into the policy in this regard. I have also talked to the Chairman of the Standing Committee in this regard as also how the rural electrification policy can be changed and what changes can be made in and it and its loan component. We are pondering over all the aspects regarding the component of interest and whether there is a need to provide interest subsidy. I am sure that we will find its solution quickly in the coming days. My friend Rudiji has asked about de-electrification. I would like to say that it is really unfortunate that in many rural areas no rural electrification is going on though the electrification process had started their earlier. I would once again like to have a look into the investigation done in this regard during the regime of Shri Kumaramangalamji, State Electricity Board is also concerned about it. I will also look into what Shri V.P. Singhji had said.

Sir, I want to assure that the entire House is concerned about the issue and perhaps we will have to bring a new legislation to improve the situation. We can improve our performance of rural electrification only by associating it with power reforms. The new legislation will also provide support in this direction. The House will provide its full assistance to pass the legislation. Our government will certainly work towards doing away the concerns you have expressed.

[English]

18.39 hours

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION TO AMEND SECOND SCHEDULE TO CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up item No. 23. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 132/2000- Customs dated 17th October, 2000 (G.S.R. 793 (E) dated 17th October, 2000) which seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act so as to increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers falling under Heading No. 14 of the said Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1795 from "25%" to "60%"."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 132/2000- Customs dated 17th October, 2000 [G.S.R. 793 (E) dated 17th October, 2000] which seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act so as increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers under Heading No. 14 of the said Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 from "25%" to "60%"."

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Yes, Sir; I beg to move :

1. That in the resolution,-

   for "60%"

   substitute "100%".

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I think, today, we have to work for two or three hours extra. I am also asking the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to arrange dinner. I hope the House would agree.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : For how long are we to sit ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : It depends upon you. We have to complete the agenda listed for today.

MR. SPEAKER : We will sit till completion of the business.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Do you want to complete the entire agenda?

MR. SPEAKER : It would be for at least three hours, that is, till completion of the business.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, with your permission, I would like to seek the indulgence of the House that these are three mandatory Ordinances which we have to clear. Then only, these can be passed in the other House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

We have no other option but to sit today. So, I would request the hon. Members that if they can speak a little less, we can pass it early. It is in their hands. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All the Leaders had also agreed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : All right.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the Ministry of Finance for this Statutory Resolution. Perhaps they felt it very important to increase the export duty on these items. I would like to apprise, through you, the hon. Minister of Finance that the amendment of the Notification relates to increase in export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers falling under Heading No. 14.

I quite understand that if our raw materials, which are basic, are exported and encouraged to be exported, the value-added products, which you want to put into the export market, would suffer and the country will lose a lot of revenue.

It is a fact that a lot of our hides and skins are not only exported but these are also smuggled. When I was handling the Ministry of Commerce, I found once that the hides and skins, that we have in our country, were actually under 'hides and skins'. I will not mention the names of countries because of our diplomatic relations. But a few neighbouring nations put more than their actual production of hides and skins of their country into the export basket. Therefore, at that time, I felt that smuggling should be

resisted and we should have more value-added products than straightaway exporting the raw materials. Here is a latch and a catch to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

He has said : 'tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers'. Tanning is done through a manufacturing process. Tanning is not done in an ordinary process. These days, it is always done in a manufacturing process, especially, the leather which are immediately going into the factory for manufacturing garments and other articles. They pass through the stage of tanning. Tanning was also done in the primitive days. Even 15 years back, tanning was done in a very orthodox manner. But I know how it has been done for the last about 10 years. I had personally visited a tanning unit in Chennai. Tanning is done through the process of manufacturing in the unit itself. Therefore, we say that the manufactures of leather shall not be included under Heading No. 14. He also says about 'tanned' and 'untanned'. I could not follow the interpretation. Does he mean that by tanned thing, he would be getting more levy on export duty ? Is it so while not including 'manufactures of leather' ? I am not clear about these two points. Would the hon. Minister clarify ?

My other point is that you have mentioned 'skins and leather'. What is meant by 'leather'? It is very clear that we do not call hides and skins as leather. We call them leather only when these are tanned or manufactured in a process by heating or colouring. Then, you call lit leather. On the one hand, you say 'skins and leather'.

On the other hand you say 'including manufacturers' of leather. I can understand what is untanned leather. We do not declare untanned leather straightaway as leather, but tanned leather as a leather. Leather has only two definitions. Leather after the process of tanning and leather straightaway as finished products, which goes to the manufacturer. If this is not clarified, then I think a lot of confusion will come even before the Customs Department while they try to charge or impose export duty.

Sir, I do appreciate this pattern, but I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has information from the Ministry of Commerce as to whether he has taken industry into confidence in this matter. For the last ten years, three heads of our export were dominating the world market, that is, diamond, marine products, and leather. I would like to know whether this matter will give a quantum jump of the value added export and whether the Ministry has taken the leather industry or the Leather Export Promotion Council into confidence. This point also needs to be clarified.

With these few queries, I support the Resolution and I would request the hon. Minister to reply in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have not given any notice to speak on this Resolution. You have given notice for your amendments only.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER : But for that you have to give a notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That I will give.

MR. SPEAKER : When?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I thought when my amendment is moved, I will be given permission to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, two minutes only.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, two hon. Members may be allowed to speak without any notice in this House. One is Shri Ramdas Athawale and another Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I moved this amendment on certain principles.

I applaud the sentiments of the hon. Finance Minister in coming forward to protect the interests of home products. This is a good measure because he wanted to encourage production of raw materials production in India, which are being smuggled and exported on a very nominal export duty. I would like to suggest that the export duty should be increased so that there must be complete stoppage of export materials like this. This adversely affects the home industry, especially leather industry in India. So, this is a good measure to protect that.

Sir, this policy should be made applicable to other industries also. I would like to mention here that coconut oil, copra and rubber are all home made products, but there is no restriction on them and the import duty is more or less withdrawn. Without any restriction, the coconut oil, copra, and rubber are beings imported. Recently, they have ordered an increase in the import duty, but that is not sufficient. If this principle is made applicable in the case of agricultural products, especially, in the matter of import of copra, coconut oil and rubber, it will definitely help our home industry.

Sir, the hon. Minister has come forward to protect the home made leather industry, which is a welcome step. While doing this, the same sentiments must be expected here also because this is a tariff policy. So, the import duty for all these materials should be enhanced to 300 per cent

or 200 per cent, at least, to save the coconut growing farmers of South India and also the rubber producers of Kerala, who are producing about 90 per cent of rubber produced in India. In order to help them, the same policy should be made applicable in their case also.

With these words, I support his move.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the very brief background of this is that since 1972-73, India had imposed restriction on the export of raw hides and skins.

What happened was when the WTO regime came into operation and your trade both ways was made free of all restrictions, this was regarded as a restriction which was not compatible with the provisions of the WTO. Therefore, the European Union has taken us to the WTO and they have been protesting against the restrictions that we had imposed on the export of hides and skins. The Ministry of Commerce has felt that there was a possibility that they might win and we may lose. In the case of losing our case in the WTO, imposition of additional export duty at that point of time may become problematic. So, the Ministry of Commerce suggested that we could remove the restriction that existed on one hand. At the same time, we could raise the export duty to such a level that automatically this will become a powerful disincentive for export of raw hides and skins. Therefore, they suggested to the Ministry of Finance that we raise the duties from the present 25 per cent to 60 percent. Exercising the powers which have been vested in us through the Customs Act, we did that in October. Now, I have come before the House for the approval of this Resolution.

Now I would like to clarify the point made about raw hides and skins by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I have got the list of all the items on which this is going to be imposed. Raw hides and skins and all types, excluding lamb, of skins are the one where it is going up from 25 per cent to 60 per cent. Then there are categories of semi-processed hides and skins, wet and blue skins. Having held the charge of the Ministry of Commerce, he is aware of it. We are covering this also with 60 per cent duty because that is just semi-processed.

Then crust leather is another leather which we are covering with 60 percent duty. Then we have two other lining leathers, namely, lining suede from cow and buffalo hides and calf skins; and lining suede from goat, kid, lamb and sheep skin. These are also being covered. Now, therefore, when I say in my Resolution, they will be leviable on hides, skins and leather tanned and untanned of all sorts but not including manufactures of leathers, I think, these definitions are very clearly understood by the Ministry of Commerce and there will be absolutely no confusion in this regard even amongst the customs officials.

As far as the question of consultation with the trade is concerned, I would also like to mention to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan because he has suggested that it should be raised to 100 percent instead of the 60 per cent that we have imposed. The Ministry of Commerce assures me that they have had detailed discussions with the trade. Only after that, they have jointly come to the conclusion that 60 per cent duty is good enough to act as a powerful disincentive for the export of hides and skins and tanned and semi-tanned leathers. Therefore, they will feel that enough protection has been provided and it is not necessary to raise it to 100 percent. We will, of course, keep a watch over the situation. Whenever we feel that the export duties need to undergo any changes, we will be free to do that.

In regard to the other issue which has been raised both by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan about the general principle being followed, I would like to say that the general principles are followed. By and large, this country has been following the general principle that we should encourage the export of value-added products rather than raw materials.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Our hides and raw skins are 60 per cent cheaper than the European Union. That is why, I was afraid even if you do increase the export duty and do not make a study of European skin and others, we may suffer at the end of the day because our basic raw skin price is much cheaper than the European Union basic skin.

I have been assured, as I said, by the Ministry of Commerce that this is sufficient protection for the domestic leather industry.

The other point which I was making was that we generally follow this principle. It is not merely true of this Government, it has been true of all Government, that we generally follow the principle that our exports should be of value-added products, that we should add as much value as possible. Take the case of cashew, for instance. We are short of raw cashew. We are importing raw cashew from other countries and processing it here and exporting to other countries because we want to maintain our markets.

Similarly in the case of tea there has been progress. From bulk we have moved to package and branded tea.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I was talking of a separate issue.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, he was talking of a separate issue. That is another issue in regard to imports and that is not covered by the present Resolution and we will talk about it whenever I get an opportunity in this House.

I am grateful to the Members for the support that they have shown for this step that the Government has taken and I plead that the Resolution be adopted by the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment to the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of this said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 132/2000 -Customs dated 17th October, 2000 [G.S.R.793(E) dated 17th October, 2000] which seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs tariff Act so as to increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers, tanned and untanned, all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers falling under Heading No. 14 of the said Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 from "25%" to "60%"

The motion was adopted.

18.58 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up Item Nos. 24 and 25 together. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 4 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 26 September, 2000."

Sir, I am not against this National Bank for Agriculture and rural Development (Amendment) Bill. But I find no urgency for the promulgation of an Ordinance. There was no urgency. It was promulgated when the notification for summoning the House was to be issued, only one week or two before.

A number of Ordinances, about five in number, have been promulgated during this inter-Session period. Although, we wanted one particular Ordinance to be promulgated, it was not done. It was recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission, with regard to the setting up of a National Natural Calamity Contingency Fund. Ultimately a Bill was circulated and subsequently it has been introduced. We do not know when this Bill would be brought before this House for consideration and passing

18.59 hours

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

That Ordinance, which was urgently needed, was not promulgated but this Ordinance which was not necessary, had been promulgated. The government should have brought a Bill in this Session to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act which was enacted in 1982. .

In the statement of Objects and Reasons, the hon. Minister has mentioned the reasons why this Amendment was being brought because we had the experience of 18 years since the NABARD was set up.

19.00 hrs.

There are a number of bottlenecks. Have we been able to achieve the purpose for which NABARD was set up? The main function which NABARD has been discharging up-till now is refinancing to the State Co-operative Banks, the Rural Banks, etc. for development of rural people, for assisting small-scale industries, cottage and village industries and allied activities in the rural areas with a view to promoting integrated rural development and securing prosperity of the rural areas. We would like to know what has been the achievement of NABARD during these 18 years of its existence and what are the bottlenecks. It has not been explained here what are the difficulties which NABARD is facing to achieve its objects. The reason for bringing this amendment is to have capital adequacy. From Rs. 500 crore, the Minister is now proposing to raise it to Rs. 5,000 crore.

Another purpose which has been stated here is to give functional autonomy to NABARD. I doubt whether after the adoption of this legislation, the object of functional autonomy which the Minister proposes to give to NABARD, can be achieved or not. How does the Minister want to have the functional autonomy and to what extent? Is the functional autonomy required in order to remove the control of RBI or is it to enable NABARD to take decisions independently ?

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

There is a proposal to amend Section 19 so that the activities of NABARD can be increased to empower the State Bank to issue bonds, debentures and other financial instruments with or without Government guarantee. At present, Government guarantee is required. Now the proposal is to empower NABARD to issue bonds and debentures even without Government guarantee and allowing it to borrow long-terms loans from the Reserve Bank of India and from any other organisation or institution approved by the Board, without the permission of the Central Government. That is being done. At present, the Central Government's permission is required. After the Act is amended, will that permission be required or not? By amending the Act, does the Government want to achieve that functional autonomy for NABARD ?

Sir, there is another problem which, I think, NABARD will have to face, which today almost all the nationalised banks are facing and that is in regard to NPA. Today NABARD is re-financing the State cooperative banks and rural banks. But, in addition to that, there is a proposal to increase its activity to other areas. I want to know whether, as a result of that, NABARD will face the same problem in regard to Non-performing Assets or not. The hon. Minister should clarify that. I also want to know whether there is any safeguard in the Bill or not. I do not find anywhere that a safeguard has been provided.

When the Government is bringing this amendment, it is based on the experience that we have during the past 18 years. The point is that the problems that we are facing, and whether there is any proposal to overcome those problems, have not been stated in the Bill. Personally I am not against this Bill. But I am against promulgation of an Ordinance which was not necessary. There was no urgency to promulgate an Ordinance. The Government should have brought in the Bill during this Session without promulgation of Ordinance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move :*

> "That the Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am grateful to hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia for having supported this Bill despite the reservation that he has on the promulgation of the Ordinance. This Bill seeks to amend the NABARD Act fairly comprehensively in order to strengthen NABARD both financially and as an institution, in order to enable it to perform the responsibilities which are being caused upon NABARD for the development of agriculture, rural industries, small-scale industries, handicrafts, in fact the entire rural economy, distribution of Kisan credit cards, support to the self-help groups and all that.

Now, the Bill very clearly spells out the provisions which are being amended and the reasons as to why they are being amended. I will not like to take the time of the House in regard to that. I will just mention that despite the fact that we had this fairly comprehensive amendment in mind and under our consideration, when we took the Ordinance route very very reluctantly, we confined ourselves only to just one provision of the NABARD Act. It was open to the government-if our intentions were not very honourable- and, perhaps, we could have covered the whole Bill which I am bringing before the House through that Ordinance. But we have not done it . What is it that we have done is that we have merely covered by the Ordinance route, the amendment of article 19 and that too, as the House will recall, that I had, in my Budget speech this year clearly mentioned that I propose to restrict the plethora of exemptions which were available from capital gains tax to a very large number of activities and units only for two purposes- to just two organisations or agencies of the Government. One was NABARD, and the other was the National Highway Authority of India. I said that their bonds alone will qualify for exemption from the capital gains tax. The Finance Act was amended to incorporate it.

From 1st April, 2000 there was a period of only six months and suppose I had indulged in a transaction which enjoined upon me to pay a capital gains tax, I had to find an instrument in which I could invest in order to secure that exemption from capital gains.

It is because this provision was coming in the way of NABARD issuing such a bond which did not carry any Government guarantee. Therefore, willy-nilly or perforce, we had to take the Ordinance route on the 26th of September because on the 30th of September, the six months period was coming to an end so that the bonds could be floated by NABARD and those who were desirous could take advantage of those bonds and invest in them in order to secure exemption from capital gains. This was the compulsion on the Government to promulgate the ordinance. Our intentions were entirely honourable and, therefore, we had to do it.

Now, I am very happy to inform the hon. House that within this very short period, from 26th of September when we enabled NABARD to issue the bonds, so far, until last Saturday, NABARD has already collected an amount or Rs. 465 crore. The Chairman and Managing Director of NABARD informs me that he is hoping that before the end

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

of this fiscal year, it will be possible for NABARD to collect an amount of something like Rs. 1,500 crore. Now, this is how we are trying to direct the savings of the people so that they are used for such worthwhile purposes as agriculture and rural development and the national highway development programme. So, that was the compulsion.

While we had to move the amendment, the other amendments are all in order. I would suggest that the Bill be taken up for consideration of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 4 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 26th September, 2000"

"That the Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Act, 1981, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to inform the hon. Minister, through you, that though he gave his version for bringing the Ordinance, the reasons for that and the compulsion, I think, the Government functions in toto. We from the Opposition, especially from our Party, feel that the National Agriculture Policy is yet to be implemented-even after being debated in the House, it is pending with the Government-but the Government is very seriously thinking of changing the equity ratio in the public sector banks. They brought a legislation, which we oppose. The Government further feels that much more emphasis needs to be give, if not already given in their earlier Budget, maybe in the next Budget. So, this piece of legislation should not be looked at in isolation.

Sir, the Minister has admitted that it is a comprehensive legislation. I remember, in 1969, when Indiraji nationalised the banks, at a public rally in Calcutta, she said, "It is not enough to fulfil our dream of garibi hatao; maybe, some areas are left where selectively we will have to look into." In 1972, in the Congress Session in Calcutta, there was a memorandum prepared by 200 to 300 delegates saying, 'that the present structure of the nationalised banks is not appropriate to meet the aspirations of the rural development programme relating to agriculture, handicrafts, artisans and other activities. There are a lot of delays in getting the loans, and time has come when a new approach has to be developed for the rural development programme, especially for agriculture.' Somehow, it could not be looked into. In 1977, the Congress Party went out of power; Shrimati Gandhi was not in power. In 1980, when Shrimati Gandhi came back to power, the same memorandum was repeated, and the then Government headed by, Shrimati Gandhi brought this piece of legislation concerning the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. In 1982, it was finally given a shape in terms of a Board.

I am very grateful to the hon. Finance Minister who made it very clear, without any ambiguity, that keeping in view the present economic reforms, liberalisation, competitiveness and viability of this Bank, certain amendments were thought of like advising the bank to float and sell debentures and, therefore, the Ordinance was necessary.

Sir, how many achievements to this Act have been proposed? Let just go through them. Amendments have been proposed to Sections 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 47, 52 and 60. So many amendements to the main Act has been proposed in this Bill. Now, when the Ministry is considering such a comprehensive legislation- whether we agree or disagree is a different matter- and is considering amending so many provisions of the statute, was it not proper to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee where the Members could have applied their minds more objectively over the functioning of the present NABARD and also to the proposals contained in this legislation and given their suggestions on it? I agree that at the fag end of the day this Bill would be debated for, say, some two hours and some Members would say 'ayes' and some Member would say 'noes' and a Bill, as important as this, with whom are linked the fate of the rural economy, socially of the agriculturists, artisans and others, would get passed.

Sir, there are not one or two or three amendments to this Bill. I have been reading this Bill for the last one week now. There is a contradiction here. The hon. Minister in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill has tended to give a feeling to this House that this Bill is being brought forward in order to give more autonomy to NABARD so that they could function more smoothly, free from the bureaucratic tangle. This is what is apparently the reason for amending Section 5 of the Bill.

Sir, now, what autonomy would this bank get after amending this Bill? It would be something like what the Prasar Bharati is getting. The Prasar Bharati is under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It has no real autonomy. I would like to give an example of that here. Shri Paranjpe, who is very much concerned about banking matters, would appreciate what I am trying to say here.

Sir, section V says that there should be a Chairman. Now, who is this Chairman? We all know that the Chairman is a nominee of the Government. Technically one can say that his appointment is cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments and such other things. But he is a nominee of the Government. Then it says that there

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

would be three Directors from amongst experts in rural economics, rural development, village and cottage industries, small-scale industries or persons having experience in the working of co-operative banks, regional rural banks or commercial banks or any other matter the special knowledge or professional experience in which is considered by the Central Government as useful to the National Bank. So, there are three more nominees of the Government. Then there would be three Directors from out of the Directors of the Reserve Bank. So, the total number comes to seven. Again, there would be three more Directors from amongst the officials of the Central Government. So, it comes to ten in all. Again, there would be four Directors from amongst the officials of the State Government and that takes the figure to 14 persons.

Now, what is being proposed in the Bill? It say :

"such number of directors elected in the prescribed manner, by shareholders other than Reserve Bank, the Central Government and other institution. . . ."

But the question is, in what capacity? There would be two Directors where the issued equity share capital is less than ten per cent; there would be three Directors where the issued equity share capital is less than 25 per cent and four Directors where the total equity share capital is more than 25 per cent. So, in all there would be ten non-Government Directors.

So, what is the game plan of the Government? The Section further says :

". . .provided that until the assumption of charge by the elected Directors under this clause, the Central Government may at any time nominate such number of directors not exceeding four from amongst persons having special knowledge of and professional experience in. . ."

Now, they could be retired Chairman of Banks or retired Joint Secretaries of the Government. So, it is a game of ten persons against 14 persons. Now, can a Board consisting of 14 Government nominees and 10 non-Government nominees function smoothly and dispose of matters as per the aspirations of the people? Mr. Finance Minister, yourself being a public representative- affairs of the NABARD relate mostly to rural field activities- could you not have included one more paragraph in the Bill saying that there would be two Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and two Members of Parliament from the Rajya Sabha on the Board who could have guided the destiny of the people in terms of the people's aspirations ?

It seems the officers advise the Minister to keep Members of Parliament and other people's representatives as far away as impossible from such things as they would spoil the whole thing for them. This system of 17 Directors versus Nine Directors on the Board would not make it an autonomous Board. I am sorry to disagree with the hon. Finance Minister's claim that it would reflect the aspirations of the people. I feel that this Bill should have been referred to the Standing Committee. Or else, the Minister could have brought an amendment suo motu to this effect.

[Translation]

When so many Directors have been taken, it would have been better, it two-four members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha had been nominated by the speaker.

[English]

There could have been better monitoring of the schemes. Most of the Members of Parliament coming from rural areas know that there is a scheme called Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

[Translation]

The member from rural areas should know.

[English]

It is very powerful scheme where the large stake is of NABARD. However, no Member of Parliament has any role in it. No Member of Parliament can say a single word in the consideration of projects. Members of Zilla Parishad, Panchayats and even MLAs have a role in it.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : In the last meeting of Committee of Finance we had asked NABARD to circulate all their schemes to all Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament are not aware as to which are the schemes under which people can avail of loans, what are the eligibility conditions for those loans, etc. However, we have not received any such information from them so far.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The objects of the Government in terms of present economic reforms, etc., have been explained. what does NABARD do ? I will tell you what NABARD does. When I was in the Ministry of Commerce, we took a long-term view of tea situation in the country. Production of tea then, was 430 million kilograms. We felt that a cup of hot tea was the only beverage the poor man could think of after the end of a hard day. This is the only beverage that a poor man can afford. We decided that production should be increased by resorting to more plantations, and other methods; and that NABARD should play a major role. NABARD gave an idea that NABARD's capacity was limited and that they

could not do it. If tea plantation is done aggressively today by involving NABARD, after five years we are likely to be importing tea into the country. Our export surplus is nil. Moreover, Kenyan tea and Sri Lankan tea is being dumped. Therefore, the contribution of NABARD in this vital sector has not been there to the extent it should have been.

I was referring to RIDF. There are several districts in Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where rural artisans are doing good work. The Minister comes from Bihar and he knows about Madhubani paintings being exported. The artisans of Haryana, Rajasthan and other States carry their artefacts to melas every year to sell them. NABARD has a greater responsibility towards them. Does anybody believe sincerely that a Board consisting of all those people consider favourably even one application made by those artisans?

I come to the new agricultural policy. I am sorry to say- I am not accusing anybody or casting aspersions on any individual-that this Government's National Agriculture Policy would encourage big farming groups, who have not paid taxed for the last so many years, to grab the benefits of NABARD. How can the so called artisans and small farmers benefit from NABARD? Those people in the village do not have a spokesman to talk about their plight. Their projects will get the lowest priority, if the system is so much bureaucratised. There is still time. If the Minister does not get the Bill passed tonight, heavens would not fall. He could consider referring it to the Standing Committee for a comprehensive discussion, and he should respond to recommendations of the Committee. However, if the Minister is in a hurry to have this Bill passed, he could bring an amendment to this in the Budget Session to provide representation on the Board to people's representatives. At least four or five legislators of the Assemblies could be nominated to the State Board.

In the National Board, at least, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha nominees should be there because it is we, the MP's who understand the pulse in the village and it is we, who have to compete and combat the pressure of the bureaucracy vis-a-vis the aspirations of the people.

With these words, I once again request the hon. Minister to accept the suggestions made by me.

SHRI A.K.S VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this Bill. On behalf of the DMK party, I support this Bill.

This is a good Bill to help the Entire poor agriculturists who are very much in need of support from the Government. It is my suggestion that the Government should make the rules simplified so that the illiterate agriculturists do not face any hardships in getting the loan.

Sir, about the recovery of loan, I would suggest that the banks should not consider the same yardstick for all the loanees. If the agriculturists' crops have been damaged due to flood or drought, the banks should consider the condition of those farmers and defer the instalments at least for a year. The banks' motto should be 'service to the farmers', and they should not be mere profit-making organisations.

India is an agricultural country. More than half of the people are involved in farming activities. But the capital of the banks is not at all sufficient. So, I would request the Government of India to kindly increase the capital so that it may be of great help to the farmers.

Sir, in 1994, NABARD and the Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank had entered into an agreement for not allowing any waiving of interest or deferments of any loan. So, even, the present Tamil Nadu Government wants to help the farmers but NABARD stands in the way.

The hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Kalainger has agreed to repay the interest of the defaulting farmers. But NABARD refuses to accept it from the State Government because of the agreement signed earlier. NABARD wants to realise the amount from the farmers only.

Sir, in the meantime, the Tamil Nadu Government has released Rs. 13 crore for waiving the penal interest. The State Government of Tamil Nadu under the eminent leader Dr. Kalainger also gave incentives amounting to Rs. 20 crore to the farmers. So, the present Government of Tamil Nadu is doing everything possible to safeguard the interest of the farmers.

Sir, I have another suggestion to make. From the farmers side, one Director may be appointed there.

With these words, I once again support this Bill

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support the Bill with some reservations. Here, I recall my memory. During the time of its establishments 1982, it was said that NABARD will provide undivided attention, forceful direction and pointed focus towards the problems of agriculture credit. It was the main objective of NABARD when it was established during 1982 under the Act passed by this august House in 1981.

Sir, here also, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the hon. Finance Minister has said :

> "The Act is being amended with a view to giving more powers to the Board of the Bank in place of the Central Government so that its work may be transacted more smoothly and quickly."

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

Sir, I am very much in favour of these works" work may be transacted more smoothly and quickly."

But I suppose, there is a contradiction.

I would like to read out clause 5(2). It says :

"The Chairman and other Directors excluding the Directors referred to in clause(f) shall be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank."

I suppose, it is not correct. Already Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has dealt with at length on what type of autonomy the Government wants. Out of 23 Directors, ten are elected by the shareholders in different categories. I suppose it is contradictory. Most of the people on the Board are nominated by the government. It is very much possible to convey the government's own decisions through the Board. It would not be in the interests of the common people, farmers and agriculturists who are very much connected with NABARD.

In the original Act, there was a provision for a Managing Director on the Board. Section 6(2) says :

"Provided that the Central Government shall also consult the Board with regard to any appointment except appointment to the first Board, to the office of the Managing Director."

But we have seen in this Act that the earlier provision has been deleted. In this Act, both the Chairman and the Managing Director are inserted into the Board in consultation with the Reserve Bank. So, for the appointment of the Managing Director, there is no provision to consult the Board at all. The Government is trying to squeeze the power of the Board that they have formed. This is a very important matter.

Section 1 (b) deals with the provision so far as the vacancy of the office of the Chairman is concerned. It says :

"In the case of vacancy in the office of the Chairman, the Managing Director shall perform the function and duties of the Chairman. . ."

Why this provision been inserted? It is not understandable to me. There are two Posts-Chairman and Managing Director. If there is no Chairman, the Government has to provide a Chairman as early as possible. In the earlier Act there was no provision like this. In the last couple of years, there has been no Chairman of the NABARD. I get an impression that recently the Managing Director became the Chairman and the post of Managing Director is vacant till now. I think, this type of an attitude towards an august institution like NABARD is not befitting. I cannot understand why this provision has been brought in by the Government.

In section 17, that is section 30 of the original Act, it has been mentioned 'in exceptional circumstances' NABARD will provide finance to any person and body corporate, but 'exceptional circumstances' has not been defined. It seems that NABARD is trying to go in for direct investments like SIDBI.

I have a great reservation on this point. We know that NABARD is an institution to refinance, to improve facilities of working class, the agriculturists everywhere. It has also to improve the financial situation of the State Cooperative Banks, the commercial banks and others. But we are not in a position to see NABARD as a direct financial organisation like SIDBI. I suppose the Government will take care of it.

Another point that I would like to say is this. Shri Dasmunsi has already touched that point. The Government has reduced the representation of Cooperative banks in this Act. Earlier, their representation was two, and it was specific but now that Clause is removed. The Government has told many times recently that so far cooperative representation is concern, it is under process and it will do. But, in this so-called comprehensive Bill, it has done one thing, that is, to reduce the representation of Cooperative banks in the Board. I request the hon. Finance Minister to consider this. I suppose they would pull c . from the NABARD arena. I request the hon. Minister to consider this.

I will take another two or three more minutes only. I would like to say something about the NABARD activity. NABARD should, with immediate effect, withdraw the upward revision of its refinance rate to SCBs and DCCBs by 1.5 per cent per annum, which has been made effective from 1.10.1999. Secondly, NABARD should do away with the policy and concept of Minimum Involvement based on internal lendable resources as the concept is not in tune with the role of SCBs and DCCBs as refinancing agencies. Thirdly, NABARD should waive the condition of Government guarantee for availing refinance. Fourthly, the Government of India should consider the suggestion to waive off the Guarantee Fee being levied from the State Cooperative Banks in Union Territories.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to finish this Bill in five minutes and we have to complete all the items today itself.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Finally I am on General Lending of credit. I would say that this was raised to Rs. 5700 crore only from Rs. 1200 crore over a period of 18 years. I would request our hon. Finance Minister and NABARD to do something in this respect since the Government of India has already announced that their

expectation is 25 per cent growth in lending for agricultural purposes. If they do not do anything, then, this growth may not take place, It is my apprehension.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister may answer now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Sir, how can you do like this? Are we coming here for fun? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : We are sitting in Parliament from morning to evening. But you are not allowing us and you are allowing the Minister to answer now. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have seen the other Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : What for are we being elected as MPs? What is the purpose? I want to get an answer from you. Are we just coming here to sit here since morning till evening, seeing others speaking and go away? We hear only shouts from morning to evening here. But I have prepared everything. You can leave it as it is and you can get nothing for Parliament at all. What is this?. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister may now answer. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, . . .**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Actually, there was a list given by the BJP, of the Members who wanted to speak. But I have not given chances to anybody. A list has been given by that Party. From the Ruling party itself, nobody was allowed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : What for are we here? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Sir, nobody can cast aspersions on the Chair. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many names have been given, but I have not called anybody. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : My name has been given. You are not calling me. I am walking out. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is a very sad situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

19.39 hrs.

At this stage, shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan left the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister may answer.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINGH) : I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion. I am also grateful to them for the support that they have extended to this Bill during the course of their intervention.

As I said in the beginning, we must remember that NABARD is only a refinancing Bank. Its basic purpose is to refinance cooperative banks, rural banks and even the commercial banks wherever they lend for agriculture or rural development. Though this amendment, for the first time, we are enabling NABARD to indulge in direct lending wherever they feel that such a situation or such lending is worthwhile. They can lend directly to State Government, Non-Governmental Organisations, and commercial organisations.

A question was raised about the autonomy of the Bank. There is a concern as to how the Government will ensure autonomy of the Bank when it is nominating the Board of Directors of the Bank. The Government's intention is to ensure that NABARD becomes more autonomous. Therefore, through these amendments, we are transferring a number of responsibilities. According to the existing Act, NABARD has to come to the Government in order to be able to take a decision. This is the first time that we are empowering NABARD to take decisions in these matter. Let me also say that the concept of autonomy is not merely the letter or law. The concept of autonomy is also the state of mind and the Government is committed to ensure that not only NABARD and RBI but also other financial institutions function with as much autonomy as possible.

I can say without fear of contradiction that from the Ministry of Finance, we are not interfering in the day-to-day functioning of these institutions. It is only when certain policy issues arise that we sit down with them and give them whatever advice we are capable of giving them.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was making a number of points about how the Board of Directors will be constituted. We are not making any change in the constitution of Board of Directors except one. That also arises out of the recommendation that the Inter-State Council made. When the Chief Ministers met in the Inter-State Council, they said that the present representation of the State Governments on the Board of NABARD is very inadequate. The previous Act provided for only two

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Yashwant Singh]

representatives from the State. They suggested that there should at least be four. We are accepting that recommendation from the State Governments through Inter State Council and we are increasing the number of representatives of the State Governments to four. But we do not want to extend the number in the Board. We are keeping it confined to fifteen. Therefore, we are reducing the number of experts from five to three. In the previous Act, there were three Directors from the Reserve Bank of India. That provision is being retained. In the previous Act, there were three Directors from the Government. That is being retained. So, we are not interfering with any of the other provision as far as Board of Directors are concerned.

Let me assure the House that we will be very watchful of the autonomous functioning of NABARD and ensure through the provisions of this Bill that NABARD does act as an autonomous organisation. I am grateful to Shri Vijayan for having supported this. This will ensure NABARD to go into rural areas in a much bigger way because after all we are increasing the capital from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 5000 crore. This is a major increase and that I am sure will help NABARD to pay a more effective role.

There are other things. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, referred to RIDF, You are aware, Sir, that through successive Budgets, I have now raised the RIDF to Rs. 4,500 crore annually and the performance is extremely encouraging.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia has left the House. He had raised the issue of the performance of NABARD generally. I have here all the figures and I find from these figures that whether it is a short-term finance, investment tri finance, medium term loan, long-term or RIDF, everywhere there has been a very significant increase in the lending or refinancing by NABARD.

It is not our intention to choke the re-financing of NABARD to any sector, whether it is a cooperative sector or rural banks. In fact, only the other day we had a meeting in Delhi where my colleague, Shri B.K. Patil and I both were present. There were Ministers of Cooperative from the State Governments. We are looking at the entire cooperative banking structure. We have appointed a Committee under the Deputy Governor of RBI who has submitted the report. The report was considered in that meeting where the State Government officials, Ministers and others had participated. The Government has clearly and forthrightly shown its commitment to strengthening of the cooperative institutions and NABARD will be at the back of the cooperative institutions giving them all the support that is needed.

So, Sir, we are trying to make, through this amendment, NABARD a more powerful tool of intervention through its credit facilities in the rural areas and I am quite sure that this role will be performed very well by the NABARD in the years to come. With these few words, I would like to commend this Bill to the House and I hope that it will be passed unanimously by acclaim.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 4 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 26 September, 2000".

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, be taken into consideration.

The motion wad adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 31 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move that :

" That the Bill be passed.'

MR.CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

19.49 hours

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS ORDINANCE

AND

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item Nos 26 and 27 together.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this House disapproves of the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000 (No.3 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 1st September, 2000"

Sir, this Ordinatnce is quite unwarranted and unjustified. Everybody knows that there would be Winter Session of Parliament. Now, the Ordinance was issued in September. I want to ask what was the necessity of issuing an Ordinance. The Indian Council of World Affairs was in chaos and was having irregularities from 1981 onwards. It was established in 1943 and was worsening since then. The reports allege that irregularities were noticed in 1981. Afterwards, 19 years have passed but no attempt has been made to bring in a legislation to make things correct. There was ample time for the Executive to bring in legislation. What was the necessity of bringing an Ordinance? What was the urgency? They could have brought a normal Bill before the House and this could have been discussed properly. Now, at the fag end of the day, we are discussing a very important Bill. The House is deprived of an opportunity of having proper discussion. Members are not given a judicious mind with regard to the Bill which is before the House.

Sir, more so, the Members on the Ruling side are also committed. They cannot make any amendment beyond the Ordinance that is being replaced by a statute. An Ordinance is always a committed legislation. The role of the House is only to put a rubber stamp. Would it be justified that an institution is being established and that too by an Ordinance?

Moreover, this was functioning under the Registration Act. This Council was registered as early as 1943 under the Central Cooperative Registration Act. It was functioning as an autonomous body. There were elections and there was some autonomy to that extent. This has become an international institution and it has earned international reputation. It is managing an internationally reputed library. Moreover, men of international eminence are given audience by this Council of World Affairs. It was more or less a forum for explaining India's foreign policy and India's part in World affairs. So, it was doing a very good service. This institution is functioning with an autonomous nature.

Now, this Government thought it fit to saffronize it. That is why, they have promulgated this Ordinance. What is the gist of the Ordinance? The President the executive members, and the Governing body members, all are nominated by the Central Government. Now, parties may come and parties may go. The Government of India will be controlled by the democratic parties. This time a saffron party is in power, and next time some other party will be in power. But this is an autonomous and internationally reputed institution. So, politics should not come in the way. Now, there is a very serious effort to bring in persons of the ruling alliance and RSS into the institution. Now, this is the order of the day. I would refer to some other examples. This BJP Government is systematically saffronizing the institutions like Indian Council of Scientific Research by putting RSS men.

They have the Indian Council of Historical Research filled up with RSS people. They are even contemplating to change the course of Indian history. The men who had participated in the national freedom movement are being disfigured. They even questioned the credibility of the proven Indian history. That is the present stage by changing people this Indian Council of Historical Research. My dear friend whom I respect very much, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, is behind it. This is being done as a concerted move throughout India.

Now another institution, the Indian Council of Archaeological Societies of India is also being made a tool in the hands of the ruling party. This is the fourth attempt to saffronise the Indian Council of World Affairs which was doing a yeoman's service. It was an institution with people from reputed services, an institution which is beyond politics, and filled with men of eminence throughout the world. They were the people who were controlling it; they were the people who were speaking on behalf of this Council. Foregin policies were being discussed here. It was a forum for discussing India's policy decisions. It was purely an academic institution. But, now they are trying to make it a tool in the hands of the ruling party. Ruling parties come and go. You will also feel the very same difficulty next time when you are out of power, when Congress people or some other people get filled into this institution. So, it is always dangerous to bring in people like this in an internationally-reputed institution. People with political affiliations and people with political thinking are becoming the backbone of the institution.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

This is one of the ways, my dear friends you must realise, of indirectly implementing the children agenda. This is not the policy of the NDA. This is a part of the hidden agenda for capturing the Indian Council of World Affairs.

To strengthen my argument I would like to go through one or two Sections. I shall refer to these Sections which will make my point more clear. The office bearers of the Council shall consist of the following members. The Union Minister of External Affairs shall be the Chairman. Then the Vice-President shall be elected from among the Council. Who are the members of the Council? Four Members to be nominated by the Central Government among experts in history, economics, political science and social studies. Two Members are nominated by the Central Government from among the Vice Chancellors of universities. Four Members are to be nominated by the Council. So, it is filled with people who are backing the Government.

I simply put a question, whether it would function as an independent body. What was the necessity of bringing an Ordinance for this purpose? Could they not wait for some more time to have a full-fledged discussion in the House and decide the modalities? Without doing that, in their anxiety to bring in RSS people into the Indian Council of World Affairs, they have issued an Ordinance by-passing the legislative powers of this august House. It is unheard of, and this cannot be justified. Therefore, I have to oppose it tooth and nail on democratic principles.

If at all there is any irregularity in the Council, it could have been rectified. Moreover, we must realise that it was functioning under the Indian Cooperative Societies Act wherein there was some autonomy. By the present statute the entire autonomous powers of the body are taken away. A new Council is formed under this statute and this is a part of the overall attempt to saffronise even the Indian Council of World Affairs which was a reputed platform for internationally reputed persons to express their ideas regarding the Indian policy decisions.

20.00 hrs.

As you know better than, me the farmers of the Constitution never contemplated such a procedure. If at all there is any real urgency, there must be an ordinance. But what was the urgency of bringing in this ordinance except the fact that they wanted to bring in RSS people into the Council? By not bypassing the House, they could have done it. It was not an urgency. No emergency situation had arisen. . . .*(Interruptions)* They could have very well brought out a normal Bill. We could have discussed it. But that was not done. So, once again, I vehemently oppose the present attempt of the Government to bring in an ordinance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may move the Bill for consideration and make a speech, if he wants.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : I beg to move :

> "That the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

> "That this House disapproves of the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000 (No. 3 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 1st September, 2000."

> "That the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

20.02 hours

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar) : Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. The Indian Council of World Affairs was created by great men like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Zakir Hussain who become the President of India, Dr. Radhakrishnan who became the President of India and Prof. Hridayanath Kunzroo who are all famous people of India.

This was an organisation which was created for the study of foreign affairs and research of international affairs, to apprise the people, to educate the people about foreign policy and foreign affairs of the Government of India. This institution is a very famous one. They have been publishing books. They were having seminars, discussions and workshops to educate the people of India. This was the lofty ideal for creating this institution. The objectives are to augment knowledge and awareness in international affairs and provide them to the people. It gave opportunities to the analysis, experts on foreign affairs, Journalists and researchers to get into it and write books and papers.

But the Government has decided to take it over. I agree with what Shri Radhakrishnan has told. What was the necessity to issue an ordinance? This institution was created long ago. Land was purchased by this Council. They paid the money to the Government. This Council was built in 1956 and in 1976, a huge library of this Council was taken over by the Government of India and handed over to the Jawaharlal Nehru University. About 60,000 books of this institution were taken to the JNU. And when the Council demanded compensation for this, the Government of India decided to pay them. Shri Chagla was

the Union Education Minister at that time. They gave them Rs. 2 lakhs every year and later on, a Committee was set up which decided that three institutions should feed this importants Council.

They are the ICCR, the Department of Culture, and the Indian Council of World Affairs. But that continued for some years. Later on, again, the ICCR said that it did not want to feed this Council and hence the crisis arose. In 1990, Mr. Minister, your Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs, wanted to take over this institution. I do not know what was the reason. But they tried to take over the institution. The Council went to the court. The High Court gave the judgement against the Government. The Council was restored the position of a Council again. The Council went on very well. But I do not know why all the time the Ministry of External Affairs was trying to get hold of this Institute.

Mr. Minister, you have so many institutions. You have created analysis and studies, the Pacific Studies and the Asian Studies. The MEA is feeding so many Councils. They are giving you reports and doing good job. I must say that. But why have you got a particular eye on this institution? Right from 1990, you are trying to take over this institute.

Sir, what happens is very strange. The President of this Institution, Mr. Josh, was approached to have two RSS people in the body. He said that it is an autonomous body; membership is open to everybody and let them become Members; let them fight out the elections; hold the office and they have no objection. But his plea was put down. . . .*(Interruptions)* All of a sudden, some Estate Officer gave them a notice saying that the police is being misused. What has the Government to do with the private body? What is the misuse that this body was doing? I fail to understand it. This is a lame excuse. You wanted to take over and said that there is a misuse of the place. The Council went to the court and got a Stay Order. But the Government did not bother about it. In spite of the Stay Order, the Government brought forward an Ordinance when Parliament is on. Shri Radhakrishnan is absolutely right in saying that when Parliament is on, how come the Government has brought forward the Ordinance? What is the hurry in it? That created some doubt in our minds that the Government has some ulterior motives and some designs to, somehow or the other, occupy this place.

Then, the Council again went to the High Court. The case is in the court. That being so, Mr. Minister, you have brought forward this Bill. What is the hurry in it? You do not want to wait for the verdict of the court. You want to take it over. All these things create problems for us. I do not know what is in the mind of the Government. I definitely support Shri Radhakrishnan when he said that that the Government is taking over so many institutions like the ICCR and other ones and trying to capture all these bodies.

It is not only that. I have a piece of personal information. All the Trusts and Mandirs are being taken over by hook or by crook. In my own town of Amritsar, there is a great temple called the Durgyana Temple. That has been forcibly taken over with the help of the police. The body has been disbanded and it has been taken over by the BJP people. Is this the way that the Government is to function? I am sorry to say this. Mr. Foreign Minister, you are not a part of their ideology. I know you are a very nationalist person. I know you for a long time in Parliament. We have been together. But you have been forced to bring forward this Bill. In spite of the fact that the case is in the court and in spite of the fact that Parliament is on, you have brought forward this Ordinance. What is the hurry in it? I want to know from the Government what is its objective. What is the intention behind it? What will it gain by taking over a private institution which is an autonomous body, an elected body having elected people? You have not bothered to know one thing.

Even the Deputy Speaker is the Vice-President of that organisation. That you do not know. I think, your people have not told you. There was a recent election and Shri P.M. Sayeed was elected as the Vice-President of the organisation. Is it the policy of this Government? Though she is the Congress President and the Vice-President is also a Congressman, you want to take over and hand it over to RSS people. That is your objective. That is why you were in a hurry to bring in an Ordinance. You do not know as to whether the Parliament is in Session or not. Yet, you want to do this. You are not paying anything to this institution. For a long, the MEA is not supporting it. They are collecting the donations and running this institution and doing a good job. They have organised many seminars. I have attended and addressed three or four seminars. Foreigners have attended it; so many ambassadors have been addressing these seminars. This institution has started giving Indira Gandhi International Awards for Justice. Do you know who are the awardees? Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat. This institution is doing such a good job and you want to finish it just to accommodate some people. So, I say, the Government's objective is malicious. I hope that the Government would withdraw this Bill for the fair name of this NDA, in which you are a member. It is absolutely wrong to bring an Ordinance while the Parliament is on.

Therefore, I strongly object to this Bill. Better you withdraw this Bill to save the name of NDA, of which you are a Member. Do not bother about the RSS and the BJP.

20.12 hours

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, on the very first day of the introduction of this Bill, I opposed it. Today, with all emphasis at my command, I would like to oppose this draconian legislation. It is against the spirits of the Indian Constitution and its Fundamental Right guaranteed under article 19(1). You may carry it in this House as you like because you have the majority but the fate will lie in the other House, where I can say, on behalf of my party, very categorically that we are opposing it and this legislation will not be passed. We have taken a very firm decision this morning to the effect that our cooperation to the Government does not mean anything that you desire, we have to accept.

First of all, there was no urgency to bring this Ordinance. If the Minister of External Affairs is so keen to take interest in the institution - they have no financial commitment - he should have entered into a dialogue. If the Ministry have bigger desire to have another institution, they could float a new institution. In the name of according a status of an institution of national importance, if you try to grab any institution under the Societies of Registration Act, an institution which enjoys its prerogative, powers and privileges under article 19(1) to form association and trade union, and if that is the attitude of this Government, I must say that the evil design of the Government to saffronise institutions one after another like this, shall not be permitted and shall be throttled, if not in this House, in the other House. They have to face the music. This is terrible. When they have to face music, they take the shelter under the umbrella that sub-judice matters cannot be discussed in the House.

Right from the Law Minister, everybody says that we cannot discuss the subjects here which are sub judice. The hon. Minister is an eminent member of the Bar of the Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court. I always salute him for his knowledge of law and the Constitution.

Sir, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was out of power, the Government headed by Shri V.P. Singh wanted to interfere under the plea that the then External Affairs Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral was considering to give a grant of Rs. One lakh to this institution. They brought an ordinance. But what was the fate of that ordinance? It was declared ultra vires by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The Government went in appeal against it to the Division Bench and the Division Bench dismissed the appeal. Thereafter, the Government did not approach the Supreme Court, because they came to know that they had done the worng thing.

Then, a Writ Petition CMP No. 1182/99 is still pending before the Delhi High Court since January, 1999 and a hearing was listed for today, in which the union of India is also a party. There is a case against the Union of India pending in the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court since December, 1999. In this case, the Solicitor-General, Shri Harish Salve has appeared and the next date of hearing is 12.1.2001. The court has stayed the proceedings against the Government of India in the case of eviction of ICWA, Sapru House. There is another Writ Petition challenging the ordinance of the Government of India which is pending before the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court and the next date of hearing in that case is fixed for 12.1.2001. Then, there is another Writ Petition pending in the Chandigarh High Court challenging the ordinance which has been admitted by the High Court and later on stayed by the hon. Supreme Court; further hearing in this case was held on 11.12.2000 and transferred the case to Delhi High Court.

There is a contempt application lying before Delhi High Court and a notice was issued in this case on 24th May, 2000 to Shri Jag Mohan and others. Then, there is another contempt application pending against Shri Jag Mohan and others for occupation of Sapru House and in this case also a notice was issued to Shri Jag Mohan and others on 7th September, 2000. The hearing in both the cases has been fixed for today and till now I do not know the result of the hearing.

This is the situation in the matter as on today. The matter is under the scrutiny of the Judiciary. But the Government thought that the Heavens would fall if they do not take over this institution forcibly and do whatever they like to. Is it the way to function? There is a provision under article 19(4) of the Constitution whereby they can interfere, Provided the sovereignty and integrity of the country are questioned. This is the power that the Government enjoys. If they have a reasonable apprehension that the sovereignty and integrity of the country are questioned in any institution, then they can very well interfere under article 19(4) of the Constitution.

In an institution of this kind where seminars and symposiums are held to highlight India's aspirations in the light of our foreign policy, be it in favour of Palestine, be it in favour of South Africa, be it in favour of Arabs, be it in favour of Angola, be it in favour of Mozambique, be it in favour of Vietnam, be it in favour of the larger context of world peace, does the Government feel any threat to the country's sovereignty and integrity?

Sir, the Punjab High Court, When it gave the judgement, had categorically stated that Parliament has no legislative competence and when the Government went in for an appeal against that judgement, it was dismissed. At that time, the Punjab High Court took the plea that under article 19(1) of the constitution, every member has a right

to form an association. It can be an association in the name of late Shri C.N. Annadurai or in the name of Sardar Vallabhai Patel or it can be an association among a few intellectuals coming together to study certain things. How can the Government interfere with it? How can they grab it?

Today, the party in power felt that Sapru House has been led by whom? It was the contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru whose concept about politics, international relations and foreign understanding could not be questioned by the present Prime Minister of India though an attempt has been made by RSS to make some aberrations between Palestine-Israel issue. It was led by whom? There were great stalwarts, like Pandit Hariday Nath Kunzru, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan but you want to take over that institution by whims.

The Association has a right to elect its officials. It is the General Body of that Association which has a right to question the bona fides of an individual or an official and not this Parliament. Yes, if the Budgetary support is granted to any quarter, the Parliament has a right to scrutiny even through the Comptroller and Audit General of India and not beyond that. They have started hitting one institution after another because their party, BJP, is in power and it does not want that there should be any shadow anywhere which is not inclined to ' saffron' - the RSS and the VHP. We would not support this method. We would oppose it. If you feel that there is mismanagement, bring forward that issue. You could ask the Registrar of Societies of the concerned State. It is always a matter of Centre-State relations. They could have asked the State Government of Delhi that they have received complaints from the public and something is going wrong in that Association. The Registrar of Societies has every power and right to inquire into the documents under the Societies Registration Act but not the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh' nor the Minister of Urban Development, Shri Jagmohan. What does Shri Jagmohan feel? Is he a ruler of Delhi? Does he feel that he can do anything he likes under the sun and this Parliament would be a mute witness to this draconian attempt? It cannot be so.

We oppose this legislation lock, stock and barrel because it lacks Parliamentary legislative competence. It lacks vision. It lacks a better understanding for the future. It is a deliberate attempt to encroach upon the rights of an Association under article 19(1). If you try to carry it forward by a voice vote, be happy. But it would be stopped in the Rajya Sabha. Not only our Party but the entire Opposition has also taken a decision. If you do not stop it now, many more institutions will be taken over by this Government to supplement their hidden agenda outside the House at the dictates of the RSS. Therefore, I strongly oppose it. I appeal to the hon. Minister, who hailed from the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who understands the contribution of the former stalwarts, who is very intimate to understand the meticulous provisions of the Registration of Societies Act and article 19(1), not to insist on getting it passed and very humbly withdraw it and reconsider the matter later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister will speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, there are many things which the hon. Minister will not be able to say but I will be able to say. Kindly allow me.

MR.CHAIRMAN : Take two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will complete it. Shri P.R. Dasmunsi is very intelligent speaker. He said that the institution belonged to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sir, Tej Bahadur Sapru. . .

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I did not say that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Sardar Swaran Singh. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : First, let me correct him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not said like that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : For the last 20 years, who was the President of this Organisation till this date? He was Shri Harcharan Singh Josh, a Councillor belonging to the Congress Party and a non-entity. Nobody knew him.

It was a great seat of learning. Now, you go through all the newspapers. You will find that he was giving Sapru House on hire for marriage ceremonies. This was the main reason for which the Government has been compelled to take it over. Do you mean to say that anybody could do anything?

When the Congress Party was in power, they did the same thing. There was a great seat of learning to which the Government had given 16 acres of prime land. What did the Congress Party do? They made Shrimati Sonia Gandhi President of that organisation for life. . . . *(Interruptions)* What did the Government do today? You know they are imposing this sort of intellectuals upon this country.

I do not want to say any other thing, the hon. Minister would reply to it, but this is the only reason for which the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Congress has been shown its door and the people of this country and the Government of this country are going to really bring its pristine glory and the right people will be installed there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to inform once again that on 30th November 1999, Shri Manmohan Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, after receiving a complaint from the employees of the ICW with regard to their salaries and all that, wrote : " Please refer to your letter dated 22nd November addressed to the hon. Minister of External Affairs regarding the grievances, etc. . . You are aware, the matter is sub judice and therefore, MEA is not in a position for the time being to take any action in this regard, but the Government is in a position to grab it."

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : And they found financial irregularities there.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Sir, I have heard the hon. Members with rapt attention. The history is known and the agreement in this House is that this is an institute of national repute.

This has a long history since 1943, before Independence hallowed with the memories of Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru, under whom the name is made 'Sapru House'. This has a long history of association of very famous people of our country. When this is the agreement, then this institute of national importance shall have to be saved. It is not what Shri Radhakrishnan the hon'ble M.P. stated that no application of mind was there.

Sir, the attempt was made in 1990 to put it in order after giving various warnings that it is not being managed properly; that the money and funds were being misappropriated.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Whose money or fund? Is it the money sanction by the Parliament ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : The Sapru House was used for various purposes not commensurate with the object of this national institute. This is being used for various other purposes, which are not given as the purpose for carrying out the object of this institute. Thereafter, it was found that salaries of the employees not being paid.

There is a very important library, which was mentioned by one of the hon. Members. The book not being inventerised for long ten years and book of national importance are reported to be lost with no FIR to the police. This library is world famous, where research work goes on. Looking into this, in 1985-86, although the Government used to give grants, the grant was stopped because public fund was being misused. No audit, whatsoever, of this institute was done for long years. Therefore, it became necessary to issue an Ordinance and in 1990 that Ordinance was passed. Immediately, the court was approached by the last President.

I know Shri Dasmunsi is quite intelligent, but probably factual input was not given to him. After the High Court of Punjab and Haryana passed an order, an appeal was preferred. It is not correct that appeal was dismissed. The order of the court of appeal was, "no obstacle for the consideration of the Bill in the Lok Sabha.' The Bill so listed for consideration in the Lok Sabha on 5th October 1990 could not be taken up, because this Lok Sabha was dissolved.

Therefore, as it stood at that time, in Rajya Sabha it was considered and passed. But I am very sorry to find that Shri Dasmunsi, being a Member of the Lok Sabha, threatens the entire Lok Sabha that "if you pass it here, I will defeat you in Rajya Sabha."

I have not heard this in the 45 years of political career.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I was saying it of the Government, not the Lok Sabha. Your Treasury Bench, the Government is making draconian laws. We are asking that Government and not Lok Sabha. You must realise that. Do not try to put jugglery of words. I was not talking of Lok Sabha but of the Government.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I never put jugglery of words. You will find from the record. "This Lok Sabha can pass this Bill. I will see Rajya Sabha does not pass this". What is all this?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I said, this House, in which you have a majority, can pass this Bill. Your Government can pass it but we will stop it here. I said that.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I am not yielding. Three times repetition does not make something true. I can tell you that we are representatives of the people directly elected by the people. What is this threat? 'If Lok Sabha passes this Bill, we shall stop it there'. This very Rajya Sabha passed the other Bill. The entire Bill was passed without any amendment on 5th of September, 1990. He does not know. Just because the Lok Sabha was dissolved, then it became something which could not be made operative in Lok Sabha. We have to bring in a new Bill taking into consideration only two sections and the long tenures lapsed in the meantime to make it up-to-date.

Therefore, I am sure the Members of Rajya Sabha will understand despite all arguments being made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, and threatening that it will be annihilated when it goes to Rajya Sabha. We shall see it there.

After that, the case came up again on 1st September. Why did we come in? The question was very rightly placed by all the senior Members of this House. Why do we need an Ordinance? I also feel that why an Ordinance should come. There must be functioning of Parliament to bring a Bill. On 1st September, there was no House at that time. Ordinance has to be passed. Why? There are cogent reasons for passing the Ordinance. The entire international prestige of this Institute was at stake. Article 19 does not give power that anybody can from an Association and damage the entire country's image by giving an Institute of world repute for performing a marriage celebration of friends relative. That does not save the image. All the fundamental rights are always circumscribed by reasonable restrictions. The reasonable restriction is always there. We are free not to disturb the freedom of others. We are free to talk but not to defame others. We are free to do something which we feel very right as an Indian citizen but not at the cost of the country's image, country's sovereignty and country's integrity. Freedom does not mean that the library books will go somewhere else? Does it mean that no accounts would be kept? Does it mean that the employees will not be paid? Why? The main thing is this very Committee declared and the election will be held on 5th of September 2000. Now, we thought that there would be an election. The house will be surprised to know that the result was declared on 12th of August making their own men at places. The election was to be held on 5th of September but the result was declared in August. Kindly see, Sir. When we got the papers after taking possession, we found out that this is what has happened. In advance of one month before the poll, the results were declared. Who were elected? The same person was elected a President for 20 years. Under the circumstances, can we not save the prestige of this Institute ?

President complaint had been received from the staff for their pay. No payment was regularly made in spite of our telling them that you please see that it goes on properly and well, because if the staff members were not paid, symposium was not being held. The houses were not being made ready. Not a single toilet was operating. Electricity was in such a bad condition that any day a fire would take place. The whole building was not repaired for 20 years although money was taken for repairs. The accounts show that staff salary has been paid so much.

It was found that some were all ghost staff, no salaries were disbursed because no staff members were present. Is this the nature to function? The very structure was crumbling down, the entire I.C.W.A. had become a bubble and in that respect, this Ordinance had to be issued. The Auditorium and the stages used for holding of dramas had to be maintained commensurate to the ideas and the philosophy of India, our Mother India.

There was a continuous neglect of the extremely valuable library property and the books. We had to bring in one of the very good experts form the National Library to make a total inventory of all the books lying there. The main book, The Asian Relations Conference, 1947" which will be found nowhere in the world was preserved there; but it was reported lost. No FIR was lodged and nothing happened. These books will not be available any more. Reports were coming that it was sold to a purchaser of old papers as waste and that account also is not there.

This, as you know, is one of the most important documents - we only preserve -- which are preserved in the Sapru House only. Under these circumstances this Ordinance had to be brought in.

As regards the points that have been raised by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, that there was no necessity for the promulgation of Ordinance, I would say there was ample necessity for an Ordinance. The word used by the hon'ble M.P. was 'heinous effort.' This is not so.

It has also been stated by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and also by our senior member Shri R.L. Bhatia that they knew that I was not with the philosophy of the present Government and, therefore, they need justice. They said that I know law, and, therefore, I must do justice. Having confirmed that this Government, under our able Prime Minister, is taking out steps towards secularism, I was fully convinced that this Bill was necessary for the purpose of achieving its objective.

I have practised law, I did not want tc say it myself. In law, every section I have examined and I found that this is justified under our Constitution and necessary in order to make it a real Act of House.

An institute of national importance which comes under the Societies' Registration Act, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi asked me why do we not leave it and make a complaint under the Societies Registration Act. With my long experience I have seen that when a complaint is made, what happens to such a complaint. It has come out from the more question of a 'society'. It has transformed itself, with the blessings of the founders and the great men I named, as an institute of a national importance. With the passing of this Bill in this House, I will feel glad that such an institute will be recognised by the highest body in India as an institute of national importance. This is the leadership

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

of our hon. Prime Minister. Therefore, there is no question of any politics.

One or two persons have been brought or somebody had become the Chairman. I am not concerned with it. The point is, it has to done in a methodical manner. It is stated that it was an autonomous body and, therefore, we should do not touch it. Ordinarily, we do not touch it, unless we find that the action is such that the entire control will have to remain with Parliament with day to day autonomous function with the Committee.

Section 19 is about the powers of the President, controlled under the rules. What rule it is, it has to be laid before Parliament of both Houses, passed and then made effective.

Powers of the Vice-President come under the Rules governed by Section 10.

Section 12 is about the first meeting that it should be under the rules and regulations adopted by Parliament and passed by Parliament. The Government Body is a functioning body. I can understand that the President and the Vice-President may not be there every time. The Governing Body must function under the Regulations, Section 14 Sub-Clauses (1) to (6).

The Executive Committee must function under the regulation adopted and passed by both houses of Parliament.

The DG – the Director General – will be an active person, also functioning as the Secretary. He will also have to function under the regulation specifically made - Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may check up - Section 15, sub-section (3), Section 15, Sub-section (5).

Then, Sir, Kindly see the details from the President up to the Council. Section 17 says that Parliament is to appropriate funds. Therefore, this institute will never suffer for want of funds so long as great men donate. Of course, great men donated and it was functioning, but these days, certain institutions cannot depend all the time on donations and, therefore, certainty of the funds must be ensured. There are people who come forward but the Government is to make the funds available through appropriation by this House. That means, the budget must be passed under the rules. If you see Section 19, there will be no problem so far as accounting is concerned. The accounts must be examined by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Annual Report and the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General have to be placed in the House for the purpose of examination. The Annual Report under Section 29 has to be passed in the Parliament every year. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : These are the provisions which are there in every statute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishanan, you can speak when you get your chance, not now.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Then, Sir rules 26 and 27 talk about changes in the regulations. Any change in any rule shall have to be approved by the Parliament and any change in the regulations shall have to be approved.

Shri Radhakrishnan says that these provisions are there in every statute. If that is so, then this is an innocuous statute and, therefore, there should be no objection to passing it.

So far as the allegations or 'saffronising' the entire thing is concerned, I think that word is probably being used without understanding it in a colourful manner because saffron is a splendid colour. There is no question of 'saffronising' it. I have convinced myself that saffron, white and green are there and that is why I am talking the responsibility of meeting every point. It becomes the property of the Parliament, whoever may be in power. Today we are here, tomorrow they might be here. Parliament is the supreme authority taking charge of this national institute.

Shri Radhakrishnan has also talked about 'hidden agenda'. Anything good being done by the Government is always termed as hidden agenda. We are nothing our sleeves and there is no hidden agenda. If there was any hidden agenda, it would not have been placed here for debating. We would have said that the Ordinance was passed and we would make the Ordinance in such a manner that six months' time would have made it over. But we did not do so. We have come before the House at the earliest possible opportunity.

Again, Shri Bhatia talked about appeal in the High Court. Shri Dasmunsi also said that the Stay is granted. No. The entire matter has been transferred to the Supreme Court by a transfer application. Stay has been repeatedly asked for but the same has not been granted. The present President asked for four weeks' time to file the written statement. We have also asked for four weeks, time for reply. The Supreme Court will fix up the date whenever it finds convenient.

I do not want to comment on who have been elected there because election was done one month before the

date of poll and the results were declared. Your long experience will show what are the things to be done.

The name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has been taken and I also take the same name. He was a great man. I found from his personal account in those days that he contributed a sum of Rs. 500 to this institute. Dr. Rajendra Prasad also, I found, had contributed a sum of Rs. 1,000 during that period, that is, 1943-49.

Therefore, under these circumstances, each of the things has been considered. This is a fit case in this century, to take a bold step to preserve this institute so that in the first year of this century, people and the generations will know that we have at least attempted to do something for them in preserving this institution of national importance.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is now referring to certain provisions of the Bill. Those are the provisions which are available in almost all the statutes. Every rule framed under a statute will have to be placed before the House and the House will have to discuss and approve it. That is the usual procedure. Then, such a provision will not take away the basic nature of the statute.

Here, the simple basic question is this : Almost all the members of the governing body are nominated. There is no provision for election . All are nominated and it is prima facie clear that the body will be a Government-controlled body. The autonomy of the institution is fully taken away. Merely by placing the rules before the House will not give the ordinance the power of autonomy. Autonomy is a provision which is inherent in the statute. That provision is basically absent in this statute. That is my argument. What was the necessity of filling up all these posts by nomination ?

MR.CHAIRMAN Shri Radhakrishnan, you have already said it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, that is why I doubt the sincerity of the Government in bringing such a legislation in such a haste. Moreover, I strongly oppose it on democratic principles. There was no need. The hon. Minister has not convinced me about the urgency. There was no urgency at all. After all, if there is any misappropriation or any other such thing, we feel that action should be taken and why should there be an ordinance. Suppose, there is some default or breach of trust or some defalcation of money - all those things can be there. That could be prevented by the common law of the land. For that purpose, should we go in for an ordinance? There is no justification for the urgency.

So, I strongly oppose the ordinance and I again strongly stick on to my Resolution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to say anything but I want to only convince the hon. Minister, through you, and I feel that a very noble soul is defending a bad case. I feel pity for him. He only said that I was not given enough inputs to understand the inside things. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, I am not interested in his 'pity'. I do not know why he should feel pity for me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am talking about the election. Elections are held according to the constitution of the society. The voting of the ICWA has to take place on 5th September, 2000. The hon. Minister is very correct on it. But the nominations of the candidates for the said elections are to be filed by 5th August as per the statute of the society, two months before the date. For the post of its President and eight Vice-Presidents – of which two are the distinguished Members of the House – and one Treasurer and eight Members, the last date for the withdrawal of the nomination was 12th August when the Returning Officer found that the number of candidates and the posts for the elections are the same. As no other contest was there, he declared the result on 12th August as per the election schedule and rules. There was no need for voting as the result has been declared unanimously.

In the case of elections to the Lok Sabha also, if the nomination is declared and there is no other candidate, the declaration of the result is done; but the oathtaking takes place only later. Therefore, the hon. Minister is misled by his officials, the bureaucracy of the Ministry not to disclose those things. That is what I want to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to vote.

The question is

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000 (No. 3 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 1st September, 2000."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

.The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we oppose this antidemocratic legislation and we walk out in protest.

20.48 hours

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Shri Dasmunsi, you have done a hat-trick of walk-outs today. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Sir, in opposition we walk out.

20.48½ hours

. At this stage, Dr. V. Saroja and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR.CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That clauses 2 to 30 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 30 were added to the Bill.

Clauses 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I beg to move :

" That the Bill be Passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

" That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 19th December, 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

20.50 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 19, 2000/ Agrahayana 28, 1922 (Saka)

PLS. 40. XIII. 21/2001
570

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