

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



Gazetted by the Lok Sabha Unit  
Parliament Library Building  
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*(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 22, 2001/Phalgun 3, 1922  
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Q No. 21- - Shri Mallikarjunappa

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now farmers are dying. Their potatoes are rotting. . . .*(Interruptions)* Paddy has been procured in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, but farmers are not getting proper price. . . .*(Interruptions)* The actions of the present Government can be termed as attempts to mortgage the country. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can take it up after the Question Hour is over. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali)  
Farmers are in distress. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs. I will hear you. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, I will hear you. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of farmers has been discussed by the Members so extensively in this House, but the point is why is the Government not taking it seriously. . . .*(Interruptions)* Today farmers growing potato, paddy, cotton and maize are ruined. . . .*(Interruptions)* They are being looted. They are being forced to commit suicide.

. . .*(Interruptions)* Please suspend the Question Hour and allow a discussion on this subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever issue you want to raise, please raise it after the Question Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, . . .*(Interruptions)* Farmers of Uttar Pradesh are dying. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I will give you the floor during Zero Hour. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As far as your notice for Adjournment Motion is concerned, it is under consideration of the Speaker.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I am on my legs. This is Question Hour. Please do not interrupt.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, I told you I will give you the floor during Zero Hour, not now. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you most humbly that please allow a serious discussion on this issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you the floor during Zero Hour, not now. Please do not interrupt the Question Hour.

\*Not recorded.

Shri Mallikarjunappa

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you that your notice for Adjournment Motion is under consideration of the Speaker.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I may be permitted to make a submission for a minute. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, at this rate you are forfeiting your right to speak even during Zero Hour. I told you I will give you the floor during Zero Hour, not now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the first Question Hour of the Budget Session. This is not the way to behave. I take serious note of your behaviour.

Now, Shri Mallikarjunappa.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask your Members to go to their seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

11.06 hrs.

*At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*[English]*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told you that I would give you the floor after the Question Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall allow you to Speak during Zero Hour. Now, please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are deliberately interrupting the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

11.07 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Security Lapse in Red Fort

+

\*21. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attack by terrorists in Red Fort Complex on 24th December, 2000 has proved the security lapse on the part of Defence forces;

(b) if so, the details of casualties and the arrests made in this regard so far, along with the quantum of arms/ammunition recovered;

(c) whether lack of coordination between Delhi Police and the Army on this issue has been exposed;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted and responsibility fixed; and

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

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

### Statement

Two personnel of 7 Rajputana Rifles and one civilian chowkidar of the Army Service Corps (ASC) were killed due to indiscriminate firing by two intruders in the Red Fort complex on 22.12.2000. The police arrested one Pakistani national on 26.12.2000. Another person who was

\*Not recorded.

reportedly a member of the Lashkar-e-toiba was killed in an encounter with Delhi Police on 26.12.2000. The interrogation of the arrested person in Delhi led to some valuable information as a result of which another terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Srinagar on 27.12.2000. According to information furnished by Delhi Police, two more persons were arrested during the course of investigations. Among the arms and ammunition recovered by Delhi Police are three AK-56 assault rifles, one pistol 0.304 along with six cartridges, nine hand-grenades, eight magazines, 100 live cartridges of AK-56 rifles, 105 blank cartridges of AK-56 rifles, one knife and two bandoleers.

2. Quite a large portion of the Red Fort is under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). This area is open to visitors. ASI has contracted a civil security agency to look after the area under its jurisdiction. Different army units and sub-units located within the Red Fort arrange their own local security within the perimeters of their own area.

Not withstanding the above, Army and Delhi Police have been holding co-ordination meetings at the working level

3. A number of factors like the large tourist inflow into the Red Fort, location of a bazaar inside, holding of light and sound shows, distribution of tickets from a location beyond the bazaar towards the monuments inside the Red Fort complex made it possible for the terrorists to enter the Fort. The Army has ordered a court of inquiry to investigate the circumstances under which the said intrusions took place. The inquiry report is in the process of being finalised. In the mean time, certain measures, both immediate and long-term, have been/are being taken with a view to ensure that no recurrence of such incident takes place in future.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri G. Mallikarjunappa may ask the supplementary question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would request Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to ask his members to go to their seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are crossing the limit.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a limit for everybody to raise it. Please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will take serious action against you.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. I have told you that I will give you a chance during the Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance to speak during the Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh Ji, Please call back your Members. I gave you a chance to speak. You are allowing such seemes to be created on the very first day.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today is the first day of the Budget Session. I gave you the floor. I have already told you that I will give you a chance during Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow the Question Hour to Continue and Control your Members.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I will not give you a chance during the Zero Hour if you continue to behave like this.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told you that I will give you a chance during Zero Hour. Do not interrupt like this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjunappa, do you not have any supplementary to ask ?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Sir, I would like to know whether these are differences between the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and Archaeological Survey of India about the protection of Red Fort. If so what are the differences ? *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Some Members have held up the entire House. I have requested you to go back to your seats. You will get a chance.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Stop the live tele cast from Doordarshan.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You go on Speaking nothing will be on record and nothing will be there on the camera.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjunappa, please continue.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Sir, I would also like to know what is the reason for delay in finalising this decision. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Selvaganpathi, you can ask your supplementary.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Statement laid on the Table is evasive and not pertaining to the main question which has been posed before the hon. Minister on two counts. *(Interruptions)* One is with regard to the security lapse at Red Fort. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ask your supplementary, Shri Selvaganpathi

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : I am asking my supplementary.

\*Not recorded.

Second is with regard to the lack of coordination between various Intelligence Units of Ministry of Defence and Police forces in Delhi.

Sir, the Statement is attributing the reasons for the attack to the location of a Bazar inside the Red Fort. The place of occurrence is different from the Bazar and the Archaeological Survey of India. It occurred in the Defence Establishment. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Military Intelligence Interrogation Unit is located at the Red Fort, the nation's honour and pride where the prestigious Tricolour is being unfurled every year on the Independence Day, which they were not able to protect.

The hon. Minister has not answered the main question which we have posed. Sir, two months have lapsed since the inception of an inquiry. I would like to know when are they going to submit the Report and whether the Government have learnt any lesson from the Kargil Conflict because the Subramaniam Committee which was set up after the Conflict have attributed everything to the Intelligence lapse.

I would like to know whether the Government is going to take long-term measures to contain such type of menace especially in the Capital, where there are various sensitive installations.

The statement suggests long-term and short-term measures. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what are the measures, which were contemplated; secondly, whether he will spell out the measures with regard to other sensitive installations in the Capital. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Doordarshan tele cast is stopped. You will not get any benefit out of what you are doing.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, insofar as the Report of the Subramaniam Committee is concerned, as has been stated in this statement, the entire Report is in the process of being completed. Once that Report becomes available, I will be able to make a comprehensive statement on it.

The hon. Member wanted to know what kind of long-term measures are being thought of. There are, as has been brought out in the statement, a number of agencies, which are operating within the Red Fort and it is in co-

ordination with all these agencies, one will have to work out the overall security at that place. For instance, we have the sound and light programme there. This programme attracts several thousands of visitors every day. There is an English programme and there is a Hindi programme. Now, one will have to, by one kind of security arrangement, to see that nobody comes as a visitor, as a person who would like to witness the sound and light programme with intentions that are not tolerable. At the same token, Sir, this place has shops, which are under the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Anybody can walk into those shops and buy whatever he wants and bring whatever he wants. Those are the issues, which will have to be taken into account when we finalise the long-term security arrangement.

In the short-term, we have taken adequate measures both at the level of the Army and at the level of the Police to see that it is not possible for anyone to do what he was aiming to do on the 22nd of last month. . . .  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, please speak to the mike in full volume.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek an answer from the hon. Minister. He is a capable Minister. My problem is . . . "You react but you do not act." The hon. Minister knows how important the Red Fort is not only from the point of view of the country but also from the point of international concern. Someone from London has said : "How is that your Government cannot protect even the Red Fort?" Now, my point is that whether it is the Police or the Army, under any circumstances, any doubtful person must not be allowed to enter the Red Fort and all necessary steps must be taken. If you can check up the passengers four times before boarding the flight, why can you not check up the people before entering the Red Fort? That is my question.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is still possible for us to have, at the end of the day, the security system that takes care of all the concerns expressed by the hon. Member. . . .  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, please speak to the mike loudly. You ask your supplementary.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am deeply perturbed to see the situation. It is an important issue. But they are creating fresh problems for the country now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, apparently, the incident at the Red Fort indicates that the terrorists wanted to create a sensation by making the attack look like breaking into a major protected area while in reality, it was not so. However, the intruders succeeded in making news both within and outside the country. The terrorists could have applauded themselves of a major achievement.

However, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Defence has identified such military establishments which may look like major military establishments but have a lot of civilian intrusions or activities, which may be attacked in future.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : How can they ask supplementary questions ? Please allow me for a minute. I have a request to make to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Please allow me just one minute. . . .  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told them that I would give them the opportunity during 'Zero Hour'. They do not want to listen. They want to interrupt the Question Hour. Therefore, I have also decided I will go on with the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I sought co-operation from him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, I sought co-operation from him. He does not want to listen. How many Members are there? There are only 12 Members who are disrupting the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : After the Question Hour, you allow them to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told them that after the Question Hour, I would give them the opportunity. But they do not want to listen. They want to interrupt the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, you please put your supplementary question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Can I repeat ? Can you hear me ?

Apparently, the incident indicates that the terrorists wanted to create a sensation by making the attack look like breaking into a major Defence protected area, while in reality, it was not so. However, the intruders succeeded in making news both within and outside the country. The

terrorists could have applauded themselves of a major achievement. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I appeal to all the leaders of the Parties to maintain the decorum.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told him I would give the floor after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not adjourn the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER He has asked the supplementary. Now, the hon. Minister, Shri George Fernandes may give the reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the hon. Member wants to know whether the Ministry of Defence has identified the Defence establishments which have a lot of civilian interventions . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, there are some installations which I would choose not to name them here. . . (Interruptions) However, I would certainly agree with the hon. Member that the efforts are made to internationalise those installations through some of their activities and nothing beyond that. . . (Interruptions) Such of those installations or what shall I call them monuments which would fall into this category have always been identified by us and we have taken measures to protect them and also to directed the concerned authorities to make arrangement for their protection. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

### Gas Supply to RCF by GAIL

\*23 SHRI RAJO SINGH Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the new agreement under which the Gas Authority of India Limited is supplying less quantity of gas to the Fertilizers India Limited as a result of which the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers is facing closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the violation of the agreement reached by the Gas Authority of India Limited ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) Natural gas is being supplied to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) since the early eighties for their plant at Thal and since late seventies for their plant at Trombay. However, the formal gas supply contract between Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and RCF was entered into in September 1996. There has been no new agreement between GAIL and RCF since then. GAIL is not supplying any gas to any entity called "Fertilizers India Limited"

(b) In view of the overall shortfall in availability of natural gas ex-Uran from the Mumbai High fields, the gas supplies to all the consumers ex-Uran, including RCF, are lower than their allocations.

(c) The gas supply contract between GAIL and RCF specifically states that the gas supplies are subject to overall availability of gas. Therefore there is no violation of contractual conditions by GAIL.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the R.C.F has regularly raised its complaints with the Ministry regarding shortage of gas supply. But the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken no steps whatsoever to check the loss being incurred by such an important industry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister very specifically as to how much quantity of gas was decided to be supplied daily as per the agreement between 'GAIL' and 'R.C.F.' and what is the quantity of gas being actually supplied to 'R.C.F.'. What are the reasons for the shortfall in supply ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir as per the agreement 16.6 million standard cubic metre C.M.M.S.C.M.D. of gas was estimated to be produced from Mumbai High per day, but this much quantum of gas was never produced and gradually the production is coming down. . . (Interruptions) In the first fortnight beginning from 1st February 9.34 M.M.S.C.M.D. of gas was produced. This production has been falling during the last 25 years. R.C.F. has been provided more quantity of gas because the gas provided to it is utilised in fertilizer production. The production of gas has been low and so the supply has also fallen proportionately.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : The hon. Minister has said that the production of gas has fallen. Here I would like to know whether the Government has formulated any scheme to meet the shortfall and the time by which the shortfall is likely to be made up ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Government has formulated a scheme of redevelopment to increase the production of



gas at Mumbai High field which has witnessed shortfall of production. A new project at a cost of Rs. 7500 crore has been set up and work on that project has started. I am happy to inform you that the redevelopment work has started and a good amount of oil has been struck following the drilling conducted on 12th January, 2001. The redevelopment work of production will be completed in the coming two years. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH This Government is anti farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to say something. The whole House is disturbed by ten Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH This Government is anti democracy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Parliament to function. What sort of protest is it ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the sentiments of the Members on the issue of procurement of crops from farmers-whether it is in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar or any other part of the country. There are problems in this regard and there are no two opinions about it. I would like to request the hon. Members that a date for discussion on it-be it today or tomorrow, can be fixed by the hon. Speaker. Whenever the discussion on it is held, the Government will spell out its plan and the Members can give their suggestions and a way out can be evolved with common efforts. Therefore, I would like to request you all to allow the Question Hour to continue and whenever the discussion on it is held you can participate in it. This is my submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have my self told Shri Mulayam Singh ji that he can raise this issue during the Zero Hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is concerning the entire country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Everybody knows that this issue concerns the entire country. Mulayam Singh ji, said you will get a chance to speak, but this is not the way of functioning of the House. I said. You will get a chance, but you do not want to avail of this chance. Why are you doing like this? This is the first Question Hour of the Budget Session. You are a national leader and they are the members of your party. I said that you would get a chance during the Zero Hour. I gave you a chance during the Question Hour. I have said that you will get a chance after the Question Hour, yet you are behaving like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are ready to accept what you say. . . .(Interruptions). We also agree to the proposal of hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, everybody has been talking about this in the House every now and then. Whenever issues are raised, assurances are given, but nothing is implemented in the field. The Minister of Food and Civil Supplies should be grilled by the entire House for the way he has handled the whole thing.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that the hon. Speaker will decide the form of the discussion on this issue. But the point is that this issue has been discussed several times over, and the Government has not taken it seriously. The ruination of farmers means ruination of the country. The Samajwadi Party or the Rashtriya Janata Dal are not fighting for themselves, they are fighting for this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are yourself not serious.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested for a discussion, then Raghuvansh Prasad ji, Akhilesh Singh ji, and Ramji Lal Suman ji, who are my colleagues will participate in that discussion. If you agree to this. My colleagues will return to their seats.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I am telling. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have to say something. Will you now ask your Members to go to their seats ?

11.36 hrs.

*At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now let me tell you that any matter to be discussed on the floor of this House is subject to rules and procedures, as you know it as a senior Member.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs, hon. Members.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I have said that there is a proper stage to raise any matter. The Question Hour has to be a Question Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will not allow me to speak. You do not want even the Presiding Officer to say something. This is the whole difficulty.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After the Question Hour, Zero Hour will be there. I will give you chance. I told you also.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I said it to you in the very beginning. Did I not give you a chance before the Question Hour. I said that you would get a chance during the Question Hour. Still you paraded your Members here. Do you want to test my stamina ?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri A. C. Jos, you ask your Supplementary.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Initially the Government was sitting demb. Now it has opened its mouth. Now it is allright . . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Supplementary.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, the hon. Minister, in the Statement, has said that the shortage of gas is one of the reasons for the shortfall of the fertilisers. There are very big fertiliser companies in this country, including FACT in Kerala. They are now producing fertiliser with naphtha. But naphtha is very expensive. With the result, they are incurring heavy losses. Once upon a time, the Government had agreed to import naphtha themselves for the manufacture of fertilise. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the present scenario, when there is shortage of naphtha and gas, he will permit fertiliser companies like FACT to import naphtha or gas directly, without going through the GAIL or Indian Oil or other public sector companies. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the import of Naphtha is already free. There is no restriction and Naphtha is also available in abundant quantity in India. Now, the difficulty is that RCF wants gas. They do not want Naphtha and the supply of gas has been reduced. That is the main question. So, Naphtha is available in abundant quantity to whomsoever wants it. Since the gas which is available in Mumbai High has come down in the last ten years, I cannot immediately do anything. But we have taken the re-development programme of the Mumbai High, and we are investing Rs. 7,500 crore to improve the production of gas at Mumbai High.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, my question is this : in the present scenario, will the Government permit companies to directly import Naphtha? Your reply is that Naphtha is available in the country. But the price is very high. At the same time, if the companies directly bargain with the companies which are outside India and get it at a cheaper price, will you allow the FACT to import Naphtha directly in a cheaper way?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the hon. Member's question Pertains altogether to a different company. But one must understand why imported Naphtha is cheaper. We are ready to supply at the same rate at which Naphtha is available internationally. But what happens is that when

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\*Not recorded.

it is imported there is no Sales Tax. That is why it becomes cheaper. Now, we have requested the State Governments that if they reduce Sales Tax on Naphtha which is used for fertilisers and for generation of electricity, the Indian companies can also supply it at the same imported rate. So, you should persuade the State Governments to reduce their Sales Tax.

#### **Reduction in Crude Production by OPEC**

\*24. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether the OPEC has decided to reduce crude production;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the OPEC will have any impact on the production and prices of crude oil in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve self sufficiency in the production of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir. Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at their meeting held in Vienna on 17.1.2001, decided to implement a cut in their crude oil production by 15 lakh barrels per day with effect from 1.2.2001.

(b) and (c) The decision of OPEC will have no impact on the production of crude oil in the country. However, the cut in crude oil production by OPEC has resulted in upward movement of crude oil prices in the international market. An upward movement of crude oil prices in the international market leads to increase in the import bill and the cost of sourcing of petroleum products by the oil marketing companies.

(d) Given the increasing demand for petroleum products and the current level of import dependence of around 70%, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country, which include :

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)

schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), under the first round of NELP, 24 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed and 25 blocks have been offered under the second round of NELP, with bid closing date of 31.3.2001.

(iii) To attract technology and investment, PSCs for 11 discovered fields, 10 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, are being signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

(iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic survey, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

Supplementing the above efforts for increasing oil production in the country, measures are being taken to acquire equity oil from abroad. The gas from Lan Tay/Lan Do fields of Vietnam, where ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) hold 45% share, is likely to come on stream by the end of 2002. Recently, on 10.2.2001, OVL has signed a major Agreement for acquisition of 20% share in Sakhalin-I offshore in Russia, with an estimated investment of Rs. 8,000 crore. OVL has also signed a contract for Exploration Block No. 8 in Iraq on 28.11.2000. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have also been signed by OVL with National Oil Companies of Algeria, Indonesia, Vietnam and Venezuela for co-operation in hydrocarbons exploration and production.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, I have gone through the answers of the hon. Minister. I have just one pointed question. I want to know whether the Government is going to link the domestic price of petroleum products to the international price and give up the administered pricing mechanism.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, in 1997 it was decided by the Government that the administered pricing mechanism will go by 1st April, 2002. The Government proposes to stick to this original schedule by which the administered pricing mechanism is to go and that schedule is 1st April, 2002. We will stick to that date.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, considering that 70 per cent of our oil is imported, and 30 per cent of oil only is generated for our domestic production, we would like to know what would be the alternative when there is difference in the Balance of Payments, when the international price goes up and our price remains static? It is because, four years ago, in the era of a war between Iraq and Kuwait, we had oil reserves for just two days and after two days we were in a crisis. So, to ensure that this crisis does not occur again and in case it occurs, what are the steps that the Government would take to see that the oil reserve is sufficient?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the only method by which we can make countries secure of oil and gas is to increase the indigenous production. Now, it is another matter that in the last ten years, we have not made successful efforts. But presently, as I said in reply to the earlier question, we are re-developing Mumbai High and other fields at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crore. That is being done. Secondly, to increase the indigenous production, we have streamlined the system and brought out what is called New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Under NELP first round, we have given and already signed 24 contracts for exploration in deep seas, shallow waters and on land. In another round of 25 blocks, we have again given the last date for submitting their bids as 31st March. So, another 25 blocks are being offered. And the third and the most important thing is that technically, it is not indigenous production but for all practical purposes, it is increasing our oil security. Very recently, we have contracted for a very big oil field, Sakhalin, in Russia. Out of that field, 20 per cent production will be given to us. We have made a major investment of Rs. 8,000 crore for Sakhalin Project. This would be important.

Like that, we are trying to have additional contracts in other countries like Iraq, Iran, Vietnam and Algeria where we will go, explore and produce. A contract with Iraq has already been signed. There was no progress on the contract with Vietnam which was made some ten years back, but now everything has been streamlined. By the end of the next year, gas from Vietnam will also be available. So, we are trying to acquire security outside the country where our ONGC Videsh will be doing that. These are the methods by which we are trying to increase our production.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question was as to what would be the difference in production and pricing after the cut down by "OPEC".

*[English]*

These are the two points of the question.

*[Translation]*

The hon. Minister has given reply in two part. The first part is that. . .

*[English]*

there will be no impact on the production of crude oil in the country.

*[Translation]*

The second part is that. . .

*[English]*

various steps were taken by the Petroleum Ministry.

*[Translation]*

But the reply given is.

*[English]*

I think, it is a half answer.

*[Translation]*

The Question was in two parts concerning production and pricing. There is no mention about pricing in the reply. The hon. Minister spoke about the measures to be taken. In that reference he informed that no progress has been made there during the last ten years. We are hungry today, but we are talking of tomorrow. What are the Government's short and medium term policies.

*[English]*

just to meet out the requirement of the petroleum products?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member says that we are hungry today. Right, we are hungry today but it takes six months to reap the harvest after seeds are sown.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : This is going on for the last ten years.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If this is going on for the last ten years, we are making efforts to improve the situation. Even if, you have to dig a well in the field, it takes six months in doing so. If efforts are made today for exploration of oil, making commercial production will take at least three to

four years. In this regard the Government is clearing the backlog whatsoever, otherwise the backlog will increase.

I could not tell you one thing while replying to the earlier question and that is there are 12 such discovered fields. Their contract work was pending since 1994. Such blocks were pending which the Government has cleared. I am pleased to inform the House that the Government is going to sign a production sharing contract in Delhi in regard to these blocks. The Government is making all out efforts to boost the production. Whatever short comings are there in this way, the Government will try to overcome them. As on date we are doing 70 per cent import so it is not possible to achieve self-sufficiency in ten years. The Government is making efforts and we hope that with the well wishes of the members of the House, we will succeed in our endeavour.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, I think, self-reliance is an important basic foundation of our economy. To make our country self-sufficient in oil and gas, I would like to know whether the Government has adopted any comprehensive scheme. If so, in how many years will our country be really self-sufficient in gas, crude oil and in other allied petroleum products?

Another thing that I want to put before you is that in the Eastern Region, particularly in West Bengal, that is, in Bengal Basin, we have been told that there is a huge reserve of oil and gas. I would like to know whether the Government has decided to award any contract for exploration. This is my question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : So far as the long-term policy is concerned, the Government has formulated the Indo Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 which elucidates our policy in the hydrocarbon sector for the next 25 years.

Now, coming to the specific question pertaining to Bengal, in this NELP Second Round, we are giving two blocks of Bengal on land.

One more important thing which we are doing will benefit those States which are having coal. We are developing a gas, what is called 'coal-bed methane (CBM)'. From coal also this gas can be produced. So, the first project of 'coal-Bed methane' is coming up in West Bengal in the Raniganj area. ONGC has successfully done it, and that another contract with the Great Eastern Company would be signed in the days to come. So, the CBM Project also will come up in the State of Bengal.

I may appeal to other States also because it is a policy matter that those States should also agree. Gujarat has

already agreed; now, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have to agree. As soon as they agree, we will bring out other CBM blocks, as we have been doing in the NELP blocks.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that these was a meeting of the 'OPEC' Countries.

[English]

"It had been decided to curtail crude oil production by 15 lakh barrels per day."

[Translation]

It means they want to increase prices by slashing down production. I had mentioned it earlier also that the decision of 'OPEC' countries is not binding on us. Iraq had stated in the past that it would provide oil on lower prices. We have a contract with Iraq and with reference to that I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what would be that lower prices at which crude oil will be supplied to us.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What is your question ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question is whether we are likely to get oil at lower prices from any other country ?

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Iraq is also a part of OPEC.

[Translation]

But Iraq is facing a different situation today. U.N.O. has imposed some sanctions against Iraq, so if oil has to be purchased from Iraq then.

[English]

it has to be done through the U.N. sanctioned committee.

[Translation]

After the sanctions imposed by the UNO Committee. We have purchased some oil from Iraq.

[English]

that is, under the 'Food for Oil Programme'. Now, we will continue to take as much oil as would be possible from Iraq.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied as to what is the price of oil

from Iraq as compared to the market price. I had said that after the sanctions imposed by the U.N.O. committee. . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the hon. Minister has to give any information to you, he will do so in writing.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : How many blocks have been discovered in the Krishna-Godavari Basin? So far, how many blocks have been awarded to the parties, and have they started the exploration or not? This is the first part of my supplementary.

The second part of my supplementary question is, to save foreign exchange, is the Government of India planning to produce ethanol from sugarcane which we can mix in the petrol? We can save a lot of petrol by this. Does the Government have any plan on this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not related to this question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I will reply to it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, though it is not directly connected to this question, yet the hon. Minister has the information with him and he is giving it to you.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, there are two aspects to this question. The first one is, how many blocks are there in the Krishna and Godavari region? The second one is, since the hon. Member comes from the State of Andhra Pradesh, how many are near the State of Andhra Pradesh?

There are 25 blocks under the first NELP and there are 25 blocks under the second NELP. I will give the entire list of 50 blocks to the hon. Member and from the list he can identify how many blocks are there in which region. It is because often I do not remember the numbers. But I will give the entire list to the hon. Member.

The second part of his question was whether we could produce ethanol from sugarcane or not. The point is that if that is mixed in petrol in a blending way, then there would be proper price even for the sugarcane producing farmers. The Government now has decided to have three pilot projects for doing that. Two projects are in the State of Maharashtra, which is the first major sugarcane producing State. The other project is in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The first project in Maharashtra will start producing that by the end of March.

Sir, I hope that the hon. Members would be happy to know that when other States learnt that three projects have been sanctioned, there have been requests from many other States as well. As soon as the results of the pilot

projects are available within the next six months, this would be available to all States that are producing sugarcane.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended for inclusion of one pilot project for the State of Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know whether it has been included or not. The hon. Minister has mentioned about two projects. What about the other project?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the hon Minister has the information, he will give you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri Yerrannaidu, if you put that as a condition to support the Government, then they will approve it!

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have given CBM blocks to the State of West Bengal without your support.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, being a Gujarati I would first of all like to thank the Government for extending relief and assistance to the quake victims. Assistance has also come from abroad. Following this earthquake, it has been observed that certain chemical or gas are gushing out in certain parts the State. Through you I would like to inform that in Khckh and in some other parts including Junagarh, my constituency which is a coastal area, there has been a possibility of finding such chemicals or gas. I would like to know the thinking of the Government in this regard. As has been asked in part (d) of the question. I would like to know the efforts being made by the Government to make our country self-reliant in the production of crude oil?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier the Government is going to sign a contract tomorrow in regard to certain blocks/fields regarding which agreements could not be signed in 1994. 10 of these 12 blocks are in Gujarat. That is why the Government is going to sign production sharing contract of Gujarat. This will benefit Gujarat to some extent. Similarly, we have allotted some more blocks to N. E.L.P. in the second round which are in coastal area of Gujarat. I am glad to inform you that in the bay of Khambhat which is known as the cambag field oil and gas reserves have been found in four places over there during the last two months. They have been quickly developed by ken Energy Company. This will also benefit Gujarat a lot.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the hon. Minister help me to know whether there is availability of sufficient

gas in the State of Tripura? How much is available but has not been lifted? I would also like to know whether the fertilizer ban would be settled or not. What is the actual position?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is true that gas is available in Tripura but unfortunately there are no customers available for it in the sense that more industrial units, that are gas-based, would have to come there. As and when the State of Tripura and others bring there more industrial units, gas can be made available in Tripura. Gas is available there but it cannot be brought out because there are no sufficient consumers for it in Tripura.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : There is demand for it from Bangladesh.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have said that gas was available.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : What steps have been taken to invite the consumers to set up one industry?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, this question does not come in my domain. I can supply gas. The users of gas will naturally be some undertakings. They can be in private sector, in joint sector, or they can be undertakings of the State Governments or the Central Government. As the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, I am trying to supply gas.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What about the Comprehensive Package for the North-East for industrial infrastructure? Is this not linked with that? The Minister should talk in totality and not in isolation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question was put by Shri Samar Choudhury.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If the question was on Tripura and if the hon. Member had taken the chance of asking it before 12 o' clock, I would have replied to it.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Reservation for Women

\*22. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts made during the last three months to bring about a consensus among the different political parties in Parliament to ensure smooth passage of the Bill providing for due representation of Women in the Legislatures;

(b) the out-come of these efforts, indicating the details of amendments and the modifications, if any, to be made in the Bill; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) In consonance with its commitment to empower the women and as agreed to in principle, by most of the political parties in the meeting of leaders of parties/Groups in Parliament on 22.12.99 chaired by the Prime Minister, the Government introduced on 23.12.1999 the Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide that as nearly as one-third of the seats shall be reserved for women in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of State.

Though the notices for consideration and passing were given in the Budget Session, 2000 and Monsoon session, 2000, the Bill did not come up for consideration and passing in that House due to absence of consensus on the issue. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India in an all party meeting called on 29.4.2000, among other proposals for electoral reforms, discussed the subject of 'Representation of Women in Parliament and State Legislatures'. The proposal mooted by the Commission, which envisaged that the parties will put up the minimum agreed percentage of women candidates in order to continue to retain their recognition with the Election Commission, was also not able to generate the consensus. In order to hold discussion on the provisions of the aforesaid Bill, the bill was listed for consideration and passing in that House on 21.12.2000 and 22.12.2000 during the Winter Session, 2000, but could not be considered. Thus the Government made sincere efforts to debate and discuss the bill in the House of Parliament and to evolve consensus among all the Political Parties. However, consensus has continued to elude. The Government has done its duty by introducing the necessary legislation and it has an open mind on any suggestions which may come from the Hon'ble Members.

[Translation]

### Bungling in Coal used in Power Plants

\*25. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry regarding bungling in coal being used by Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details and the present status of the enquiry thereof; and

(c) the number of officials against whom action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power have not conducted any enquiry regarding bungling in coal being used by Power Plants. However, the Government of Punjab had ordered an enquiry into the alleged shortages of coal at Ropar, Bhatinda and Lehra Mohabat Thermal Power Stations of Punjab State Electricity Board and the enquiry is in advanced stage.

#### Adulteration in Petrol

\*26. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem Captioned 'Adulteration of petrol on the rise'; appearing in the *The Hindustan Times* dated January 18, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken cognizance of the seriousness of the matter and has since taken any action;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints in this regard from other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the action taken to curb the menace of adulteration in petrol ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (e) In view of the seriousness of the matter, Government have already made provisions in the various control orders issued, for inspection, seizure and action against violators. The oil companies as per Government instructions carry out periodical inspections and surprise checks at the Retail Outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, the State Governments have also been empowered to take action and they have been suitably advised from time to time by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in this regard.

The checking of oil adulteration is a continuous activity of oil companies. To prevent adulteration enroute from

supply points to the retail outlets, the marketing companies have taken various steps like improvement in seals, sealing under the direct supervision of an officer at the supply locations, introduction of pilfer proof locking device etc.

[English]

#### Accidents of Defence Planes

\*27. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN :  
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of IAF aircraft crashed since 16th November, 2000 date-wise and place-wise, alongwith the causes of accidents and the type of aircraft, separately;

(b) the details of crew members and civilians killed therein, accident-wise and the amount of compensation paid to them;

(c) the quantum of losses sustained due to damage of planes and other properties, separately; and

(d) the outcome of each of the enquiry conducted, and the follow-up action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A statement, regarding details of IAF aircrafts, which crashed since 16th November, 2000, date-wise, place-wise, aircraft-wise, details of crew members and civilians killed therein is enclosed. The Court of Inquiry (COI) in each of these accidents is in progress. The cause factor and the quantum of loss of service properties and other properties and the compensation to civilian properties is under investigation. The compensation to the crew members is paid as per the service rules.

Remedial measures are instituted to prevent the recurrence of an accident, after finalisation of the Court of Inquiry, which is a continuous process.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Date	Place	Type of Aircraft	Pilots Killed	Civilians Killed
1.	18th December 2000	Uttarlai	MiG-21 Bis	01	Nil
2.	17th January, 2001	Hasimara	MiG-27	Nil	Nil
3.	10th February, 2001	Naliya	MiG-21 Bis	01	Nil



**IAF Aircraft/Defence Base Damaged  
during Earthquake in Bhuj**

\*28. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of IAF aircraft and the Defence base damaged due to the recent earthquake in Bhuj, Gujarat;

(b) the details of crew members and their families killed therein and the amount of compensation paid to them;

(c) the quantum of other losses sustained in Defence sector therein and the relief package sent by his Ministry for the earthquake victims; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect air-base and aircraft in the country from such earthquakes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft was damaged at Airforce Station, Bhuj during the recent earthquake on 26th January, 2001 in Gujarat and no crew members or their families were killed and no compensation has been paid. However, details of persons killed/missing as on 14.2.2001 at Air Force Station, Bhuj are given below :

(i) No. of persons killed	29
(ii) Dependants	56
(iii) Ex-Service personnel	01
(iv) Civilians	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>

**No. of persons missing**

(i) Missing personnel	01
(ii) Missing Dependants	02
<b>Total</b>	<b>03</b>

**No. of Unidentified Bodies**

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>96</b>
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by the three Services of the Defence. Extensive damage to Navy's buildings at INS Valsura, Jamnagar and Okha have been reported. One son of a Sailor also died in Valsura, Jamnagar. The assistance provided for relief operations by the Ministry of Defence is as follows :-

**Army**

The Army provided extensive help for evacuation and relief to the people. Approximately 21,500 troops were detailed in Gujarat for relief operations. The Army deployed heavy equipment like bull-dozers, generators and heavy vehicles in the relief operations. The relief operations covered evacuation of people buried under buildings and in all 478 persons were rescued and 2309 dead bodies recovered. Army relief teams visited 603 villages in all. 484 serious patients were evacuated for medical aid. The Army also distributed 2835 tents, 6600 blankets, 2000 tarpaulins and 5000 gloves and masks.

**Navy**

Naval relief operations consisted of deployment of 7 ships and 41 air sorties for providing relief material. Naval Surgical Teams treated 538 patients, and 2 ships were converted into hospitals. 7 Naval ships were deployed for transportation between Mumbai and Kandla. Over 250 tons of rations were transported to Kandla.

**Air Force**

Inspite of extensive damage to Air Force Station, Bhuj, the Air Force started relief operations within 6 hours of the earthquake in Bhuj. Till date the Air Force has provided 969 air sorties to evacuate and bring relief supplies to the affected people. A total of 4944 tons of relief material which consists of medical supplies, surgical equipment, food, equipment for relief operations, blankets, tentage, tarpaulins, vehicles, evacuation equipment etc. were air lifted. The Air lift was carried out from about 20 destinations from all over the country. 3 Air Force surgical teams operated on patients at Bhuj.

**Armed Forces Medical Services**

Armed Forces Medical Services provided major relief to injured persons by setting up field hospitals and bringing in Surgical Teams from outside. A total of 11332 operations were performed on seriously injured persons. 4 surgical teams were brought in from outside and approximately 700 units of blood was supplied by the Medical Services of the Armed forces. 10 Mobile Medical Teams were sent to remote areas.

2. Though, no loss has been sustained due to damage to planes yet, the preliminary studies reveal loss of about Rs. 52.18 crores to building and other assets at Aircraft Station, Bhuj. Besides this, Army installations, damaged at Bhuj due to earthquake would require about Rs. 40.40 crores for reconstruction/repairs, as per preliminary assessment. The relief work was immediately undertaken

**National Cadet Corps**

2500 cadets of the NCC were deployed in retrieving injured people from debris. NCC Cadets also acted as Nurses in Hospitals, provided help in Relief Camps set up, and were also deployed in security and traffic related duties.

**Coast Guard**

14 air sorties were provided by Coast Guard aircraft to Gujarat from Bombay. In addition 1 ship surveyed the coastal areas and provided relief to injured people. 2 medical teams were also deployed who attended to about 300 patients.

**Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**

The DRDO supplied 1 ton of pre-cooked packaged food every alternate day for a period of 2 weeks. It also supplied infra-red cameras and ultra-sound detectors for detecting people buried under debris. It also supplied communication equipment like INMARSAT phones.

3. For the Airbases, additional safety reinforcements are being provided by the IAF, while designing the buildings, depending on the seismic zone of the Airbase. Besides this, the super structure of operating/storage hangar of aircraft is made of pre-fabricated steel sections. These structures are light in weight and can withstand stresses developed due to seismic activities. Further, in the design of blast pen "dynamic Values" of bomb blast are taken into account, and these structures can withstand the effect of earthquakes.

**Development of Gas Field in Krishna Godavari Basin**

\*29. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited propose to make investments in the development of gas fields in Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the total investments proposed to be made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in the K G basin;

(c) whether the ONGC propose to have joint venture with any foreign firm or private sector company in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) For exploration and development of oil/gas fields in the Krishna Godavari Basin, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) provided in their budget Rs. 352 crores in 2000-01 and Rs. 548 crores in 2001-02.

(c) and (d) ONGC has plans to form strategic alliances with foreign companies having experience in deep water exploration and production for undertaking exploration and development activities in three deep water Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) areas, viz. KG-OS-DW, KG-OS-DW-Extension and KG-OS-DW III, in the Krishna Godavari Basin.

[Translation]

**Discontinuation of Contract System**

\*30. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway stations where contract system in parcels has been discontinued;

(b) the number of railway stations where unlicensed coolies are being engaged by the contractors instead of licensed coolies for loading and unloading of parcels;

(c) whether the Government have decided to discontinue the contract system in loading and unloading of parcels;

(d) whether the decision in this regard has not been implemented at all the railway stations; and

(e) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken to engage the licensed coolies instead of unlicensed coolies in loading and unloading of parcels at all the railway stations ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) The number of railway stations where contract system in parcels has been discontinued primarily due to closure of parcel work or on the basis of court orders, is as under :

Railway	Number of Stations
Eastern Railway	6 (Six)
Northern Railway	84 (eighty-four)
North Eastern Railway	3 (three)
Northeast Frontier Railway	24 (twenty-four)
South Eastern Railway	9 (nine)

(b) It is not the policy of railways to permit the contractor to engage licensed coolies for loading and unloading of parcels.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

### **Ban on Import of Cloth**

\*31. SHRI D. V. G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to stop import of cloth to bail out weavers whose plight is pitiable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) With the liberalisation of the Indian economy, international trade in textiles is bound to increase. The miniscule increase in the import of cloth is not likely to affect the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers. As such, there is no proposal to stop the import of cloth.

[Translation]

### **Train Accidents**

\*32. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

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

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

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

(d) the findings of the Inquiry Committees and the action taken thereon;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANARJEE) : (a) to (e) The number of consequential train accidents including goods trains during the last three years and during the current year upto 31.01.2001 is given below :-

Type of Accident	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01* up 31.01.2001
Collision	35	24	20	15
Derailments	289	300	329	304
Level Crossing Gate Accidents	66	67	93	73
Fire in Train	6	6	21	13
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	3
Total	396	397	463	408

Each and every accident is inquired either by a Committee of Railway Officers or in case of serious accidents by Commissioner/Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. In case of very serious accidents, Judicial Commissions are also set up.

The broad causes as per the findings of the inquiries into the above accidents yearwise are given as under :

Causes	Years			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01*
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Failure of Railway staff	262	268	287	278
(ii) Failure of persons other than Railway staff	67	63	105	76
(iii) Material/Equipment failure	38	33	28	03
(iv) Sabotage	13	11	21	20
(v) Combination of factor	3	1	—	1
(vi) Incidental	9	14	15	25

	1	2	3	4	5
(vii) Not Established		4	7	7	4
(viii) Under investigation		—	—	—	1
(ix) Total		396	397	463	408

\*Upto 31.01.2001 (provisional)

The staff held responsible according to the findings of the inquiry committee have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules and the accepted recommendations are implemented.

Yearwise details of the casualties, value of Government property damaged and compensation paid are as under :

	Years			
	1997-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-01*
Number of persons killed	332	489	616	182
Number of persons Injured	999	852	1121	398
Value of Government property damaged (Rs. in Crores)	56.50	64.32	81.94	44.48
Compensation Paid (Rs. in Crores)	3.78	10.41	2.60	8.31

\*Upto 31.01.2001 – (provisional)

(f) The important steps taken by the Government to check accidents in future are listed below :

- (i) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections of Mumbai.
- (iv) A pilot project of AWS on trial basis for Tughlakabad-Mathura section of Central Railway is being launched on trial basis. The tender for the same has been invited.

- (v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (vi) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- (vii) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (viii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- (ix) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- (x) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (xi) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (xii) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (xiii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.
- (xiv) Funds being received from the diesel cess will be used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.
- (xv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

- (xvi) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xvii) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xviii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xix) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- (xx) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xxi) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.
- (xxii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xxiii) A pilot project of Anti Collision Device (ACD) has been sanctioned for Northeast Frontier Railway. Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been started. After successful completion of this pilot project, a decision would be taken for its application on other routes of Indian Railways.
- (xxiv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

**Agreement with Enron for Purchase  
of Electricity**

\*33. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have entered into an agreement with the Enron for purchase of electricity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the exorbitant rates, at which the Enron supplies electricity to the concerned State Governments

are having an adverse effect on their budget and the economic condition of the public as well; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring improvement in the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Dabhol Power Company (DPC) promoted by Enron has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) in regard to its 2184 MW Dabhol Power Project. DPC has not signed a PPA with any other State Government/State Electricity Board. Phase-I of the project of 740 MW has been commissioned and has been supplying power to MSEB since 13th May, 1999. The State Government has indicated that in view of the high tariff of power supplied by DPC to MSEB, it has become exceedingly difficult to absorb the power produced by DPC from its Phase-I project. According to the State Government, the Monthly collection of MSEB at the moment is to the tune of Rs. 850 crores and their expenditure, even without purchase of DPC power, is Rs. 950 crores. Therefore, it is beyond the financial capacity of MSEB to take the liability of Phase-II of the DPC project.

(d) Government of India (GOI) has advised Chief Secretary of Maharashtra to convene a meeting with the officials of DPC to resolve the issue. GOM, vide their resolution dated 9.2.2001, have constituted an Energy Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Madhav Godbole, ex-Home Secretary, GOI, which will, inter-alia, examine the case of power supplied by DPC, distribution of power losses and its implications on the finances/tariff of MSEB and review the PPA signed with DPC after holding discussions with the said Company and MSEB etc. The Committee will also suggest appropriate measures to facilitate purchase of power by other agencies from DPC.

[English]

**Infrastructure for Shipping Industry**

\*34. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to accord infrastructure status to the ship building and ship repair industry for attracting investment for modernisation and capacity augmentation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the subsidy scheme for the ship building industry; and

(e) if so, the progress made by the ship building industry since the inception of this scheme"

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Apex Committee on Shipbuilding constituted by this Ministry, had recommended grant of infrastructure status to the Shipbuilding and Ship repair industry. Action to consider the recommendation of the Committee has already been initiated.

(c) Dose not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Hindustan Shipyard Limited obtained two orders for the construction of (i) one Bulk Carrier and (ii) one Passenger-cum-Cargo Vessel and Cochin Shipyard Limited also obtained order for the construction of one Crude Oil Tanker since the inception of the scheme.

#### **Demand and Import of Oil**

\*35. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the demand of oil is likely to increase three fold in the next 20 years and will touch 300 million tonnes in the country;

(b) if so, whether domestic production of oil is unable to meet the requirement resulting in an increase in imports year-by-year;

(c) if so, the extent to which import burden is likely to increase; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per the India Hydrocarbon Vision 2025, the demand of oil is likely to increase to 368 million tonnes per annum by the year 2024-25 as against the consumption of around 97 million tonnes during the year 1999-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The import burden in the next 4-5 years is likely to increase by 5-7 million tonnes per annum. Thereafter the import requirement would depend on the results of the

efforts underway to increase indigenous production of crude oil.

(d) Given the increasing demand for petroleum products and the current level of import dependence of around 70%, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country, which include :

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), under the first round of NELP, 24 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed and 25 blocks have been offered under the second round of NELP, with bid closing date of 31.3.2001.
- (iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 11 discovered fields, 10 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, are being signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.
- (iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

Supplementing the above efforts for increasing oil production in the country, measures are being taken to acquire equity oil from abroad. The gas from Lan Tay/Lan Do fields of Vietnam, where ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) holds 45% share, is likely to come on stream by the end of 2002. Recently, on 10.2.2001, OVL has signed a major Agreement for acquisition of 20% share in Sakhalin-I offshore in Russia, with an estimated investment of Rs. 8,000 crore. OVL has also signed a contract for Exploration Block No. 8 in Iraq on 28.11.2000. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have also been signed by OVL with National Oil Companies of Algeria, Indonesia, Vietnam and Venezuela for co-operation in hydrocarbons exploration and production.

*[Translation]*

**Generation of Electricity in Public and Private Sector**

\*36. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power generated in public as well as in private sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan vis-a-vis Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of power generated against the target during the year 2000; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) The statewide/sectorwise figures of generation target vis-a-vis actual generation during the Ninth Five Year Plan (upto January, 2001) and Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997) are given in Statement-I and II, respectively. The actual generation during the period April 2000-January 2001 has been 415 billion units as against the programme of 415.6 billion units i.e. almost as per programme. The target of generation for the full year (2000-2001) is 500.7 billion units.

**Statement-I**

*Energy Generation during Ninth Plan (MUs)*

Sector	Target (MUs)	Actual (MUs)	% of Target
1	2	3	4
Central	620705.0	679546.0	109.5
STATE			
DEV	10454.0	9449.0	90.4
J and K	3304.0	2747.0	83.1
HPGC	15218.0	15799.0	103.8
HPSEB	5331.0	5049.0	94.7
RSEB	33827.0	33420.0	98.8
PSEB	61785.0	59371.0	96.1
UPSEB	102095.0	93975.0	92.0
GEB	98553.0	90739.0	92.1
GSECL	4610.0	4479.0	97.2
MSEB	177263.0	168980.0	95.3
MPEB	81610.0	82317.0	100.9

1	2	3	4
APGENCO	110471.0	108980.0	98.7
AP GAS PC	4732.0	6480.0	136.9
TNEB	91624.0	89433.0	97.6
Pondicherry	384.0	324.0	84.4
KPC	65270.0	66697.0	102.2
KEB	4504.0	2425.0	53.8
KER.SEB	30206.0	26240.0	86.9
BSEB	10046.0	9220.0	91.8
Tenughat	5300.0	5253.0	99.1
OSEB	17600.0	15277.0	0.0
Orissa P	9590.0	10841.0	113.0
Sikkim	319.0	124.0	38.9
WBSEB	14641.0	14490.0	99.0
WB.P.DEV.C.	24040.0	24793.0	103.1
DPL	3265.0	2778.0	85.1
ASEB	5208.0	3700.0	71.0
Meghalaya	1851.0	2343.0	126.6
Andhra Pradesh	62.0	53.0	85.5
Tripura	1424.0	1222.0	85.8
Total SEB	994587.0	958570.0	96.4
Total PVT	144135.0	127681.0	88.6
Grand Total	2754014.0	2722795.0	98.9

**Statement-II**

*Energy Generation during Eighth Plan 1992-97 (MUs)*

Sector	Target (MUs)	Actual (MUs)	% of Target
1	2	3	4
CENTRAL	626054.0	647448.0	103.4
STATE			
DEV	14872.0	12560.0	84.5
J and K	4508.0	4055.0	90.0
HSEB	19210.0	17331.0	90.2
HPSEB	6136.0	5592.0	91.1

1	2	3	4
RSEB	29775.0	30727.0	103.2
PSEB	58215.0	57066.0	98.0
UPSEB	112609.0	106211.0	94.3
GEB	111020.0	109485.0	98.6
MSEB	186875.0	183202.0	98.0
MPEB	83930.0	82771.0	98.6
AP	105226.0	10632.0	101.0
TNEB	91179.0	99251.0	108.9
Karnataka	70730.0	70513.0	99.7
Kerala	30320.0	30708.0	101.3
BSEB	21123.0	13694.0	64.8
Orissa	23241.0	23699.0	102.0
Sikkim	280.0	232.0	82.9
WBSEB	19647.0	17225.0	87.7
WB.P.DEV.C.	31185.0	27906.0	89.5
DPL	4850.0	4708.0	97.1
ASEB	8158.0	6029.0	73.9
Meghalaya	2388.0	2416.0	101.2
Andhra Pradesh	69.0	52.0	75.4
Tripura	1057.0	914.0	86.5
Total SEB	1662657.0	1660107.0	99.8

1	2	3	4
Total PVT	80769.0	84260.0	104.3
Grand Total	1743426.0	1744367.0	100.1

[English]

#### Counter Guarantees in Power Sector

\*37. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of counter guarantees in power sector signed by the Government since March, 2000 till date;

(b) the terms of these counter guarantees;

(c) whether any more requests for counter guarantees are pending with the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Counter Guarantee of the Government of India has not been extended to any private power project from March, 2000 till date.

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

(c) and (d) Government of India had decided to provide counter guarantee to eight projects in 1994. Details of the private power projects which have already been extended counter guarantee of Government of India are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of counter guarantee
1.	Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Phase-I, M/s. Dabhol Power Co. Maharashtra	740	September 15, 1994
2.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, M/s GVK Industries Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	216	September 4, 1996
3.	Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, M/s Central India Power Co. Ltd., Maharashtra	1082	August 1, 1998
4.	Neyveli (Single Unit Lignite Based) Thermal Power Project, M/s ST-CMS Electric Co., Tamil Nadu	250	August 14, 1998
5.	Visakhapatnam thermal Power Project, M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	1040	August 19, 1998

M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited, the promoters of the 208 MW Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh withdrew their request for counter guarantee.

In the case of the remaining two projects on December 22, 1999, Government of India approved extension of counter guarantee, through the revised procedure, for the



500 MW Ib Valley Thermal Power Project in Orissa of M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation and the 1013.2 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project in Karnataka of M/s. Mangalore Power Company Ltd. The draft counter guarantee and tripartite agreement documents in respect of these two projects have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for comments/necessary action. Further action for extending counter guarantee for these two projects will be taken after necessary action is taken by the concerned State Governments for adherence to the terms and conditions for extension of the counter guarantee of the Government of India.

### **Upgradation of Major Ports**

\*38. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a detailed plan to decongest the major Indian ports and to make them more functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for the technological upgradation of some of these ports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) As a result of severe capacity constraints on account of non-availability of adequate berths, accumulation of uncleared cargo in the back up area and bunch arrival of vessels, most of the Major Ports were congested until the beginning of 9th Five Year Plan. Various steps were taken by the Government to create additional capacity and simplify procedures relating to disposal of uncleared/ unclaimed cargo, which have now yielded results and at present there is generally no congestion in the Indian Major Ports.

(c) and (d) The development and modernization of Major Ports is an ongoing continuous process. The development programmes being undertaken at present lay emphasis on enhancing standards of Major Ports and their productivity through construction and equipping new berths; acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment to match the emerging cargo mix, establishment of Electronic Data interchange; setting up of vessel Traffic Management System; labour training and welfare; etc.

### **Implementation of Recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee**

\*39. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are facing funds crunch to implement the recommendations made by the Railway Safety Review Committee;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the railways to mobilise additional funds and seeks Central assistance in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to renew obsolete railways assets and running stock, to avert railway accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Railway finances are presently passing through a difficult phase, primarily due to the impact of implementation of the Vth Central Pay Commission recommendations. Despite financial constraints, safety has been accorded the highest priority within the available resources, which is indicated in the figures of expenditure on safety given below :-

(Rs. in crore)

1998-99	2313
1999-2000	2656
2000-01 (RE)	2902

However, much more is needed. Separately, a pilot project for development and testing of an anti-collision device has been taken up on HIF Railway at a cost of Rs. 50 crore. Various other steps have also been taken to strengthen safety, including provision of walkie-talkie sets to Drivers and Guards.

The Railway Safety Review Committee has, in its interim Report, recommended that the Central Government should provide a one-time grant of Rs. 15000 crore to the Railways for rehabilitation of their over-aged assets. Government's attention has been drawn to this recommendation. But in view of the overall fiscal constraints, Government has not extended this specific assistance so far. However, the Government has separately transferred Rs. 200 crore during 1999-2000 and Rs. 300 crore during the current year to the Railways from the Central Road Fund to facilitate the execution of specific safety works such as manning of unmanned level crossings and construction of Rail over/under bridges.

### **Setting up of Yarn Banks**

\*40. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of yarn banks for handloom weavers presently working in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to set up new Yarn Banks to help the handloom weavers in the country, particularly those in and around Solapur in Maharashtra, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government to ensure regular and full requirements of yarn to the weavers through the network of such Banks indicating the broad structure of the Yarn Bank network?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Government of India is not running any yarn bank for the handloom weavers. However, the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) supplies yarn to handloom organizations at a reasonable price under the Mill Gate Price Scheme. There is a provision in the scheme to open yarn depots by the handloom organizations to supply yarn to the individual weavers by utilising the existing infrastructure like godown, staff etc. At present there are 69 such depots in the country. The location-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Under the scheme there is no restriction for opening of yarn depot by the handloom weavers' organizations, which have sufficient working capital and infrastructure facilities. Proposals for opening of yarn depots are considered by the Government of India/NHDC on merit-based on the recommendations of the Director-in-charge of Handlooms of the respective States, including Maharashtra.

#### Statement

##### State-wise details of Yarn Depots under Mill Gate Price Scheme

Sl.No.	State	Places of Depot
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam Vijaynagaram Rajahmundry Palacole Machilipatnam Mangalagiri Chirala (2 Nos.) Puttur Cuddapah Kurnool Karim Nagar

1	2	3
		Kothakota Warangal Secundrabad Choutuppal Bhimavarm Velpur Angara K.J. Puram Hasanabad Koyallagudam
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Doimukh
3.	Assam	Sualkuchi
4.	Bihar	Manpur Bhagalpur
5.	Gujarat	Palanpur Bhuj
6.	Karnataka	Ramdurga Banhatti Ranebennur Gulbarga Ilkal
7.	Kerala	Kannor Thiruvananthapuram Kozhikode
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Sarangpur Raipur Sausar Mandsaur Durg
9.	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram Vellore Cuddalore Karur Jayankondam Trichy Dharmapuri Salem

1	2	3
		Tiruchiengode
		Erode
		Chennimalai
		Gobi
		Coimbatore
		Gudiyatham
		Nagercoil
		Tirunelveli
		Arupukkotai
		Srivilliputhur
		Madurai
		Arakkonam
		Chennimalai
10.	Tripura	Agartala (2 Nos.)
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur
		Sitapur
		Moradabad
		Meerut
		Sujawalpur

[Translation]

#### Electrification of Villages

180. SHRI TARUN GOGOI Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in rural areas of Assam which are yet to be electrified, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) 5666 villages out of 24685 inhabited villages have been reported to be un-electrified in Assam by the Assam State Electricity Board. The district-wise details of number of villages in rural areas of Assam which are yet to be electrified are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The priorities for carrying out rural electrification programme in the States are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities concerned. The time frame for complete electrification of villages would depend upon the availability of financial

resources for creating infrastructure for strengthening the distribution system, availability of power in the State and demand from the consumers.

#### Statement

Statement showing districtwise Unelectrified Villages in Assam

S. No.	Name of the District	Total populated village	No. of village to be electrified
1.	Barpea	1046	98
2.	Bongaigaon	858	42
3.	Cachar	1024	101
4.	Darrang	1328	110
5.	Dhemaji	1110	768
6.	Dhubri	1284	227
7.	Dibrugarh	1306	170
8.	Goalpara	745	39
9.	Golaghat	1059	401
10.	Hailakundi	327	37
11.	Jorhat	798	184
12.	Kamrup	1300	66
13.	Karbi Anglong	2520	1481
14.	Karimganj	893	358
15.	Kokrajhar	923	84
16.	Lakhimpur	1140	286
17.	Morigaon	569	137
18.	N.C. Hills	577	316
19.	Nagaon	1375	126
20.	Nalbari	803	3
21.	Sibsagar	873	56
22.	Sonitpur	1691	265
23.	Tinsukhia	1136	311
Total		24685	5666

#### Introduction of New Train between Nanded and Mumbai

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

(a) whether the Railways had announced that a new train will be started between Nanded and Mumbai (Kurla) from August, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the said train has started plying;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in starting the said train; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

### **Generation of Renewable Energy in Karnataka**

182. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether Karnataka is the highest renewable energy generating State in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has drawn any plans to increase its installed capacity of renewable energy from 4 to 15 per cent of the total power generated by 2010 as against the Central target of only 10%; and

(c) if so, the details of projects likely to be taken up by the government of Karnataka to tap the renewable energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) No, Sir. Karnataka is not the highest renewable energy generating State in India.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka has set up 40 renewable energy projects with an aggregate capacity of 262 MW which is 6.09% of the total installed capacity of the State. The State Government has also offered 185 renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 1920 MW for being installed through the private sector route.

### **Construction of Road Over-Bridges**

183. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unmanned level crossing existed in the country;

(b) the number of road over-bridges at the level crossing need to be constructed to ameliorate the difficulties of the people;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to construct road over-bridges at level crossings; and

(d) the estimated fund is earmarked for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) 22346.

(b) Presently 1108 level crossings qualify for replacement by Road over/under bridges.

(c) and (d) Railways consider construction of Road over/under bridges in replacement of existing busy level crossings having traffic density of 1 lac or more TVUs (Train Vehicle Units) proposals for which are sponsored by State Govt./Local authority concerned on cost sharing basis, as per extant rules. Bridge portion is constructed by Railways and the approaches by the State Govt. During 2000-2001 Rs. 250 crore were earmarked for construction of Road over/under bridges.

### **Probe into Dredging Contract**

184. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rs. 4.5 crore dredging contract given by the Kandla Port Trust to Dharti Dredger Company of Hyderabad in 1998 is being probed;

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

(c) the number of officials involved therein; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port Trust awarded the work of capital dredging at 8th cargo berth of Kandla Port to M/s. Dharti Dredging and Construction Limited, Hyderabad on a contract value of Rs. 4,31,35,200/- and the matter is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(c) and (d) Does not arise, as the matter is under investigation at present.

### **Merger of BRPL with IOC**

185. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North Eastern Region Oil Workers' Coordination Committee (Noonmati) has represented for

the merger of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited and not to make BRPL a subsidiary of the IOC;

(b) if so, the grounds adduced by them in support of the demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the representations it was stated that merger of the two would integrate the business of the two organisations since Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) undertake the marketing of finished products of BRPL.

(c) Government have taken a conscious decision in the overall interest of oil sector to integrate stand alone refineries with Public Sector Oil marketing companies to face the challenges of future in a better way. Under this arrangement it has been decided that BRPL would be made subsidiary of IOC.

#### **Earning through Commercial Publicity**

186. SHRI B. V. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total earnings made by the Railways from commercial publicity during 2000-2001; and

(b) the steps taken to earn more through commercial publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Rs. 25.50 crores approximately from April 2000 to December 2000.

(b) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the Zonal Railways for greater attention and thrust in generating revenues through commercial publicity by utilising the various assets of Railways.

#### **Solar Power System in Andhra Pradesh**

187. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has encouraging entrepreneurs for manufacturing of energy fuel cells and solar power systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has decided to encourage industrialists for manufacturing of the state of

the art equipment to tap the vast resources of non-conventional renewable energy;

(d) if so, whether foreign based companies are offering fuel cells and its products to India.

(e) if so, whether this is a new technology and indicate its usages;

(f) if so, whether the Government are considering to provide assistance and encouragement of the industry for 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) and (b) Fuel cell technology is still at the research and development stage. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is encouraging entrepreneurs for manufacturing of solar photovoltaic systems.

(c) The State Government provides a capital subsidy to the extent of Rs. 25.00 lakhs to the wind farm developers and solar equipment manufacturers. Also, sales tax exemption is provided on all equipment for tapping non-conventional energy sources.

(d) and (e) Fuel cell is a new technology. Fuel cells can be used for power generation and transport applications. There is no offer from foreign based companies for fuel cells and its products.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is providing financial support to industries and research institutions for the development and testing of fuel cells.

#### **Subsidy to Rural SC/ST**

188. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to give subsidy to the States for development of Non-Conventional Energy facilities to the rural SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the details of subsidy to be given per unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is providing subsidies for development of non-conventional energy programmes implemented in the States to all categories of people including rural SC/ST people. Higher rates of subsidies are provided to rural SC/ST people for biogas, improved chulha and biomass gasifier programmes only. The details of subsidies provided under major non-conventional energy programmes are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***The details of subsidies given under major non-conventional energy programmes*

S.No.	Name of Programme	Details of subsidies
1.	Family type biogas plants*	Rs. 1800 to Rs. 11,700 per plant Rs. 2300 per plant for SC/ST
2.	Improved Chulha*	Rs. 40 to Rs. 250 per chulla Rs. 50 per chulha for SC/ST
3.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme*	
	• Solar Lanterns	Rs. 1500 per system
	• Solar home lighting systems	Rs. 6000 per system
	• Solar street lighting systems	Rs. 12000 per system
	• Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants	Rs. 2.00 lakhs/kWp of PV array capacity
4.	Biomass Gasifier*	30% to 60% for general States 10% of higher rate of subsidy for SC/ST and weaker sections.

\*90% subsidy is provided for North East States

MW = Megawatt. KWP = Kilo watt peak. KW = Kilowatt. PV = Photovaltaic

**Entrance Fee for Monuments**

189. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tour operators have expressed apprehensions about the loss of business because of levy of entry fee for the Indian and foreign tourists visiting the national monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) the revenue earned from each monument since revision of entry fee;

(e) the guidelines prescribed to distinguish between the Indian and the foreign tourists;

(f) whether the Government propose to keep a free entry day once a week for the tourists; and

(g) if so, the details thereof along with the other facilities/concessions proposed to be provided to the tourists in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received representations from some sections of the travel trade.

(c) Government has recently enhanced the entry fees after careful consideration of all relevant factors and do not propose to make any change in the single monument entry fee to monuments under the Archeological Survey of India at this stage. However, the possibilities of introducing package tickets are under consideration.

(d) Revenue earned from Circles is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) No specific guidelines have been fixed.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Details of Revenue collected through entry tickets for the period from April 98 to March 99, April 99 to March 2000 and April 2000 to Dec. 2000*

S. No.	Name of the Circle	April 1998- March 1999	April 1999- March 2000	April to Dec. 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agra	18630272	20359945	115151552
2.	Aurangabad	8524582	8401223	24971750

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bangalore	2077155	1654138	3602557
4.	Bhopal	1905422	1919015	7431146
5.	Bhubaneshwar	2286446	2550119	6409830
6.	Calcutta	268114	618244	825378
7.	Chandigarh			335221
8.	Chennai	3242287	3552103	11800630
9.	Delhi	14927356	15869764	52264530
10.	Dharwad	185327	2170571	2830858
11.	Guwahati	36000	28000	126000
12.	Goa (Mini Circle)			111850
13.	Hyderabad	1059307	1015684	2117846-5
14.	Jaipur	102390	122786	747632
15.	Lucknow	339885	370006	324181
16.	Patna	1119644	1112998	7740655
17.	Srinagar	4476	6472	6521
18.	Thrissur	215035	310128	429862
19.	Vadodara	425732	446472	1199008
Total		3266469	3384546	12565705.5

**Gas Based Power Projects in  
Karnataka by NTPC**

190. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that national Thermal Power Corporation has decided against going ahead with its plan to set up a 2000 MW gas-based power project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to help the Karnataka Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The feasibility of setting up a 2000 MW gas based power project at Mangalore in Karnataka has been examined in the Ministry of Power, Government of India. The recent hike in international crude oil price has caused steep increase in the LNG prices as LNG price is generally indexed to crude oil prices. At the current LNG price, the cost of generation is expected to be over Rs. 4 per unit,

which will make the power unaffordable from such power plants.

(c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been advised to discuss the rate of LNG which is likely to be obtained over a period of 20-25 years based on the long term LNG price with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and M/s. Petronet LNG. Thereafter, NTPC would work out the revised tariff and discuss Power Purchase Agreement with the beneficiary States. Depending on the Techno-economic feasibility of the project, NTPC will initiate further action.

**Inter-Action between Armed  
Forces and DRDO**

191. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :  
SHRI B. K. PARTHASARATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which inter action is made between the Armed Forces and the Defence Research and Development Organisation in the matter of undertaking need based defence research to modernise the sophisticated equipments required by the army; and

(b) the details of the major projects of DRDO currently in hand in view of the above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There is close interaction at every stage between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Armed Forces and the production agencies during design, development, testing and productionisation of the state-of-the-art weapon systems, equipment, sensors and platforms as per requirements projected by the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

(b) State-of-the-art LCA has entered flight test phase with its maiden flight on 4th January 2001. Kaveri, the aero engine of LCA and its core engine are undergoing testing on multiple test beds. Remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) Nishant is ready for user trial. Samyukta and Sangraha, the Electronic Warfare (EW) programmes for the Army and the Navy respectively, are in advanced stage of development. Pinaka, multi barrel rocket system has completed user-cum-trials. Under IGMDF, the surface-to-surface missile Prithvi has been developed and inducted into the Army. Prithvi for the Air Force is ready for user trials. Akash medium range surface-to-air missile, Trishul short range surface-to-air missile and anti tank guided missile Nag are the other missiles in advance stages of development and trials. The operational configuration of long range surface-to-surface missile AGNI-II has been successfully developed and flight tested.

**Funds for Rural Energy Programme**

192. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of works undertaken/proposed to be undertaken under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) the funds earmarked under the programme during the said period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is under implementation in 724 against 860 Blocks sanctioned. In addition, 19 State level Technical Backup Units, 171 District Level Technical Backup Units, 22 National Pilot Projects and 5 Regional IREP Training and R and D Centres have also been sanctioned by Govt. of India under Central component of IREP. It has also been decided to take up 100 cluster of villages in selected IREP Blocks for extensive implementation of the programme during 2000-2001.

(b) During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till 15.2.2001) an amount of Rs. 631.02 lakh and Rs. 431.92 lakh was released under IREP respectively to the various States and Union Territories as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*State/UT-wise funds released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 15.2.2001)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)			
S. No.	States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001 (till 15.2.2001)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	34.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.35	6.20
3.	Assam	11.50	13.95
4.	Goa	4.10	—
5.	Haryana	15.80	12.85
6.	Himachal Pradesh	57.30	56.95
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.96	12.11
8.	Karnataka	20.10	40.21

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	18.26	18.26
10.	Madhya Pradesh	106.63	53.31
11.	Maharashtra	23.79	—
12.	Manipur	25.45	12.73
13.	Meghalaya	16.33	10.27
14.	Mizoram	16.64	7.80
15.	Nagaland	5.35	4.73
16.	Orissa	92.06	28.71
17.	Punjab	25.64	14.48
18.	Rajasthan	19.12	11.16
19.	Sikkim	3.50	3.50
20.	Tamil Nadu	13.95	—
21.	Tripura	4.73	2.24
22.	Uttar Pradesh	118.10	74.02
23.	Andaman and Nicobar	7.20	3.60
24.	Chandigarh	2.29	1.15
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.15	1.15
26.	Daman and Diu	1.15	—
27.	Delhi	3.60	3.61
28.	Lakshadweep	1.15	—
29.	Pondicherry	4.82	4.22
Total		631.02	431.92

**Review of Handloom Development Schemes**

193. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to retain Market Development Assistance Scheme and Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme for weavers; and

(b) if so, the date on which the request was made and the reasons for not taking quick decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Government of India has not received any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh to retain Market Development Assistance Scheme after its discontinuation



w.e.f. 1.4.2000. Regarding Handloom Development Centres/ Quality Dyeing Units (HDCs/QDUs), the Central Government had received a request for the continuation of the Scheme from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in December 1998.

(b) Although the MDA has been discontinued, it has been incorporated as Marketing Incentive in the new Scheme called Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, which has been launched in the current financial year. The Scheme for setting up of HDCs/QDUs has been discontinued from 1.4.1998. However, the request of the AP Government was examined and not found feasible. The closure of the Scheme was reiterated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in March 1999. However, all the commitments made under this scheme during its currency are being honoured including financial releases for second instalment.

[Translation]

#### **Repairing of Adjoining Roads**

194. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the roads adjoining to Javed Road, Jaora, Mandasaur and Malharganj Railway stations in Ratlam division of Western railways are extremely in deplorable condition;

(b) if so, the number of accidents took place in that division;

(c) the reasons for delay in repairing those adjoining roads; and

(d) the time by which those roads are likely to be repaired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Condition of roads within Railway limits at these stations is satisfactory. Repairing of roads outside Railway limits is responsibility of the local authority concerned.

(b) There is only one incident on record where a special type of road vehicle with heavy consignment got stuck.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. Regular repairs are, however taken up for all the roads within Railway limits including those in question.

[English]

#### **Pak Attacks on LOC**

195. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pakistani forces attacked Indian positions, time and again across the line of control during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of all border violations committed by Pakistani army on Indo-pak borders since October last, date-wise and place-wise;

(c) the details of casualties and other losses suffered on both the sides, incident-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (c) A total number of seven raids across the LC have been carried out by Pakistan since October 2000. However, there has been no such raid since 16th November 2000. It is estimated that Pakistani troops suffered 33 casualties during these raids. We suffered six fatal casualties.

(d) All violations were appropriately countered by our troops. High level of vigilance continues to be maintained.

[Translation]

#### **Reservation of seats for SC/ST in Maharashtra Assembly**

196. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 823 on November 23, 2000 and state

(a) the progress made regarding introduction of the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000; and

(b) the time by which the said Bill is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) and (b) The Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27.11.2000 and is pending for consideration and passing in that House.

[English]

#### **Pending dues of Indian Peace Keepers towards UNO**

197. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UNO owes 40 million US\$ on account of deployment of Indian Peace Keeping Force in

Various countries as per the reported statement of the Army Chief;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the time by which the settlement is pending; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The UNO owes around US\$ 42.59 million to India as on 31-1-2001, on account of contributions to various UN Peace-Keeping Missions abroad. The exact amount of dues receivable is under negotiation.

(b) An amount of US\$ 20.02 million is due from the UNO on account of contributions to old missions viz. UNOSOM (Somalia), UNTAC (Cambodia) and UNAMIR (Rwanda). These dues stand acknowledged by the UN on various dates between February 1997 and December 1999, but payments are awaited. The balance of the dues relate to contributions to current UN mission viz. UNIFIL (Lebanon) and UNAMSIL (Sierra Leone) on account of troops cost and reimbursements for major/minor equipments, of which US\$ 20.18 million is on account of troops cost for UNAMSIL contributions, pending since September 2000.

(c) Government have been constantly pursuing the UN through the Permanent Mission as well as Ministry level delegations, for the release of the dues. While Government have been receiving reimbursement of troops cost regularly, the reimbursement on account of contingent owned equipment deployed in past missions (including those liquidated) as well as current missions have been held up due to the UN not receiving contributions from certain Member States and on account of delay in finalising the applicable reimbursement rates.

#### **Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri**

198. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 728 dated July 27, 2000 regarding Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and Siligudi and state :

(a) whether views of the Calcutta High Court have been received in the context of the setting up of the Circuit Bench;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN

JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court have recommended for establishing a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

#### **Smoking in Trains**

199. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have banned the selling and smoking of bidis and cigarettes in the trains and on platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Sale of cigarette/bidis on Railway platforms and in passenger trains have been banned w.e.f. 5th June 1999.

As regards smoking it has been prohibited in all suburban trains and AC compartments.

#### **Fire Accident in Palace on Wheels**

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

(a) whether a fire accident took place in a compartment of Palace on Wheels during January, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of passengers including foreign tourists injured due to fire accident; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such type of incidents in future ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Effect of Earthquake on Textile Mills in Gujarat**

201. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of textile mills affected by the recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) the extent of damage caused to each of these textile mills;

(c) the number of workers affected due to this; and

(d) the steps taken to rehabilitate these textile mills, mill-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The exact information on the extent of damage caused to the textile mills, and the number of workers affected due to the recent earthquake in Gujarat, is being estimated. Rehabilitation of such mills will be taken up as soon as the information is received.

#### **Decline in Hydro-Power Production**

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

(a) whether there is sharp decline in the production of hydro-power in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

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

(c) the reasons for the decline in the generation of hydro-power particularly in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During 2000-2001, hydel generation up to December, 2000 was 59817 MU against the target of 67262 MU (up to December, 2000) i.e. achievement of 88.9%. During 1999-2000, the actual hydel generation was 80637 MU as against target of 81000 MU i.e. achievement of 99.6%. The SEB/Utility wise details of hydel generation are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The main reasons for decline in hydel generation this year in the country as well as in Orissa was on account of poor inflows and low reservoir level.

#### **Statement**

*Generation from Hydro Power Stations during  
1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01  
(upto December, 2000)*

Sector/Oranisation	1999-2000 (MU)	2000-01 (upto Dec. MU)
1	2	3
<b>1. Central Sector</b>		
BBMB	12067	8908
NHPC	8693	7971
DVC	441	248
NEEPCO	753	762
Sub Total	21954	17889

1	2	3
<b>2. Private Sector</b>		
TATAs	1615	830
Shivpur	61	72
Shahapur		3
Maniyar	33	25
Sub Total	1709	930

#### **3. Electricity Boards/Undertakings**

Jammu and Kashmir	608	494
HPSEB	1197	1073
HPGC	242	208
RSEB	1003	362
PSEB	3220	2784
UPHPC	5272	4350
GEB	1039	386
MSEB	3807	2677
MPEB	2462	1655
APGENCO	8668	5933
KPCL	11692	7065
KEB	398	200
KSEB	7033	4681
TNEB	4467	4359
BSEB	207	121
OHPC	4543	3676
WBSEB	396	375
Sikkim	11	15
Meghalaya	634	518
Tripura	61	57
Arunachal Pradesh	14	9
Sub-Total	56974	40998

[Translation]

#### **Transmission and Distribution System**

203. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any step to reach an agreement with State Governments for streamlining the power distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide funds to State Governments for streamlining transmission and distribution of power; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) In order to accelerate the reform process, the Ministry of Power has signed MOU/MOA with the Governments of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana. In these MOUs it is also envisaged to provide support for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution and R and M of old thermal/Hydro generating Units. In addition the Govt. of India would also provide support by way of provision of inter-state-transmission lines.

(c) and (d) Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), funds will be provided to the State Governments for implementing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribution system including installation of state of the art electronic metering system. In addition Rs. 52 crores has been provided to the States of the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim, out of the Non-lapsable pool of funds for completion of specific on going schemes for improvement in the sub-transmission and distribution system.

[English]

### **Bifurcation of Railways**

204. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CII suggests division of railways into two separate arms appearing in the Financial Express dated December 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the freight rate during the off season;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the efforts being made for efficient transport services through Railways by increasing the share of freight traffic;

(f) the reasons for failure of Own Your Wagon Scheme; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the customers satisfaction by making the railways commercially viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Certain suggestions were made by the Confederation of Indian Industries for Railway Budget 2001-02 in a Seminar held in December 2000. These suggestions are part of the consultation process with Chambers of the Industry to get the Industry's feedback.

(e) and (g) Railways are making all-out efforts to sustain the existing traffic as well as to attract new traffic, in both bulk and non-bulk segments, by adopting the following strategies:

- (i) Simplification of rules/regulations relating to construction and maintenance of sidings to make them more liberal and customer-friendly.
- (ii) Classification of Railways premier customers as Platinum, Gold and Silver categories in order to give them focused attention through specially nominated "Nodal Officers".
- (iii) Providing incentives like Volume Discount Scheme for incremental traffic.
- (iv) Setting up of Railway Terminals by private entrepreneurs, freight forwarders etc. to achieve a wider reach of freight booking/handling facilities.
- (v) Development of special wagons for steel traffic and automobile loading.
- (vi) Marketing measures to attract automobile traffic.
- (vii) Recovering non-bulk high value traffic through appropriate marketing efforts.
- (viii) Facilitating warehousing at existing railway terminals as also privately operated freight terminals as a marketing tool to attract traffic.
- (ix) Extending the new concept of Roll-On-Off (RO-RO), freight movement in trucks rolled on the flat wagons to provide door to door collection and delivery. This has been successfully launched on the Konkan Railway.
- (x) Running of fixed schedule freight trains and terminal operations.
- (xi) Launching the 'Freight Operations Information System' (FOIS) to provide real-time information to customers in regard to the booking, movement

and delivery of freight consignments through Customer Service Cells to be set up on all Zonal Railways.

(xii) Revival of parcel business through leasing out front SLR and VP.

(xiii) Containerisation of cargo and providing door-to-door service

(f) The 'Own Your Wagon Scheme' has had a fair response from the Industry. 17755 FW Wagons have been ordered costing Rs. 1109.49 Crores under this Scheme.

#### **Construction of Fishing Port for Displaced People of Sea Bird Naval Project**

205. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to construct a fishing port at a cost of Rs. 10 crore at Amadahalli for the benefit of the displaced people of "Sea Bird", Naval Base near Karwar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the project so approved and the action plan chalked out in this regard;

(c) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been approached for loan of Rs. 20 crore for construction of link roads to harbours and ports; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The rehabilitation and re-settlement package for the families affected by Project Seabird, inter alia, includes construction of a Fishing Harbour at Amadahalli at an estimated approx. cost of Rs. 10.32 crores. This sum is included within the amount sanctioned by the Government of India for the implementation of the Package. The State Government has already sanctioned the scheme, which is to be implemented by it.

(c) and (d) The Government of India or the Project 'Seabird' Authorities have not approached the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for any loan for construction of link roads to Harbours and Ports.

#### **Development of Railway Station as Model Stations**

206. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of railway stations in the South Eastern Railway that have been developed as model stations last year;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to develop Balasore railway station of Kharagpur Division as a model station in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Out of 26 stations selected as model stations over South Eastern Railway, 16 stations were selected as model stations during the last year i.e. 2000. The names of these 16 stations are Balasore, Berhampur, Byree, Badakhandita, Dhenkanal, Durg, Golanthra, Kapilas Road, Khurda Road, Rahama, Surla Road, Chakradharpur, Sambalpur, Adra, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and Bilaspur.

(b) and (c) Balasore Railway station of Kharagpur Division has already been included in the list of model stations selected on South Eastern Railway and the railway has been instructed to provide upgraded amenities at this station which include provision of interactive Voice Response System, standard Signages, Self Printing Ticket machines, improved toilets etc.

#### **Setting up of Solar Energy Plant**

207. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Solar Energy Plant at Panchangpur in Gaya District has been set up;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for the delay in setting up;

(c) whether there is any proposal to expedite the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Feasibility Reports for two 30 MW solar thermal power projects at Gaya and Chakai were received from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in 1989. It was then suggested to BSEB to modify the Feasibility Reports based on the meteorological data for the sites. No further proposals have since been received from the State Government.

### **Entry of GAIL in Telecom Sector**

208. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether GAIL has decided to enter the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the compulsions and technical inputs that have promoted GAIL to enter the Telecom Sector;

(c) whether telecom services would not be part of the core competency of GAIL;

(d) if so, whether the Government have approved of this diversion of GAIL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has an Optical Fibre Cable network of about 1800 K.M. along its pipeline systems for monitoring and controlling the pipeline operations. The capacity of this network can be put to optimum utilisation by leasing out the spare capacity to various telecom operators, which would generate additional revenue for the company.

(c) Captive telecom network from integral part of its pipeline operations and, therefore, GAIL has in-built competence in operating large communication network.

(d) and (e) In its new telecom policy 1999 (NTP, 1999), Government has identified GAIL as a Telecom Infrastructure provider and granted Category-II Infrastructure Provider Licence to the company.

### **Conversion of Vacant Railway Land into Parks**

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert vacant Railway land into parks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation recently for conversion of some vacant railway land into parks in Vijayawada Division in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Railways have examined this request; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Railway land wherever vacant is required by Railways for its operational and future developmental works. As an intermediate measure, however, plantation is undertaken to protect vacant railway land. Parks are also developed on such lands if needed for Railway staff.

### **Inland Waterways Authority**

210. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be brought out alongwith its impact on the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed amendment to Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985 inter-alia envisage authorising the raising of tax free bonds by Inland Waterways Authority of India for Infrastructure development and permitting IWAI to enter into commercial/joint venture with limited equity participation.

(c) The Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during the current Budget session. The impact of the measures would be in the form of supplementing plan support enabling IWAI to enlarge the coverage of National Waterways. Besides, limited equity participation would generate higher investor confidence and risk coverage. Consequently Private investment in IWT Sector would increase.

*[Translation]*

### **Departmental Action against Certain Officers In Defence**

211. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of group "A" and "B" Ministerial employees/officers of his Ministry against whom departmental action for major and minor penalties was imposed during the last three years;

(b) the criterion for taking the said action;

(c) whether departmental action for imposing major penalties can be taken against the officers/employees involved in increasing the number of vacancies from 24 to 114 in the Assistant cadre for the selection year 1993 and for misleading the House;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to identify the officers involved in covering up this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total number of Ministerial employees/officers against whom disciplinary proceedings for imposing major/minor penalties has been initiated during the last three years is as under:

Group 'A' - NIL

Group 'B' - 3

The proceedings are not yet finalised.

(b) Departmental action for imposition of penalties is taken in accordance with the provisions of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 and Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(c) to (e) Action to impose major/minor penalty can be taken by the Competent Authority after considering all facts and circumstances of the case and gravity of the charges. There has been no attempt to mislead the House or to cover up the matter with regard to the reporting of vacancies of Assistants for the year 1993.

#### Special Trains for Mahakumbh

212. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of additional special trains plied by the Government from various States to Allahabad on the occasion of Mahakumbh;

(b) the number of people benefited therefrom; and

(c) the details of additional revenue earned by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Mahakumbh 2001 started with Paush Poornima on 9th January 2001 and ends on 21st February with Mahashivratri. As rush of pilgrims to attend Mahakumbh is continuing, the required information cannot be furnished at this stage.

[English]

#### Violation of Army Act in Awarding Court Martials

213. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sena Kanon Ka Ulanghan Kiya Abhiyojan paksh ne Bhatnagar" appearing in *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 23, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the issues raised in the news item;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that no injustice is done to any service personnel and to streamline the Court Martial proceedings;

(d) the number of court martial proceedings pending and the time by when it is pending; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the finalization thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Court Martial is a judicial process, which does not warrant any outside interference. While ordering Court Martials in relation to alleged acts of indiscipline on the part of service personnel, provisions of the Army Act and Rules made thereunder, are followed meticulously.

There are four cases of Court Martials relating to operation Vijay, in two cases out of which, trial has already commenced, and in the other two cases, the process has begun though, the trial is yet to begin.

#### Court Buildings in Tamil Nadu

214. SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu for providing funds to meet repairing cost and to reconstruct the dilapidated buildings of Subordinate Courts;

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

(c) the time by which the Government propose to release the funds?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored

Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary provides funds only for new construction of court buildings. The Central Government, so far, has provided Rs. 27.44 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu under the above scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

**Fresh Agreement with Enron regarding  
Dabhol Power Projects**

215. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :  
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has defaulted the payment of bills to Enron from October, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Enron has approached the Union Government asking to clear the dues as per the counter guarantee signed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details and Government's decision thereon;

(e) whether the Government have entered into a fresh agreement with Enron regarding Dabhol Power Project; and

(f) if so, the details along with the power purchase agreement and the counter guarantee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) M/s. Dabhol Power Company (DPC) promoted by Enron, had on 25.1.2001, invoked the Guarantee given by the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) for recovery of an outstanding sum of around Rs. 89 Crores towards the bill raised by DPC on Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) pertaining to November, 2000. It has subsequently been informed by MSEB that they have since paid the entire outstanding dues to DPC towards the bill for November, 2000. GOM have also informed that an outstanding sum of Rs. 152 crores is now to be paid by MSEB to DPC on account of the bill for December, 2000 for which DPC have made a demand from GOM under the GOM Guarantee.

(c) and (d) DPC had invoked the guarantee given by Government of India (GOI) by placing a demand under the

provisions of the said GOI guarantee for recovery of the outstanding dues from MSEB pertaining to the bill for November, 2000 due to failure by GOM as the primary guarantor to make the said payments to them under the GOM guarantee. As stated above, MSEB have since paid the entire outstanding dues to DPC towards the bill for November, 2000.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Talks between Naval Officers of  
India and Pakistan**

216. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Track-II talks between retired naval officers of India and Pakistan held in Kuala Lumpur on maritime issues recently; and

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per the available information, a Workshop was organized by the Malasiyan Institute of Maritime Affairs, Kuala Lumpur in which some former Indian and Pakistani Naval officers had participated. The details of the proceedings of the Workshop are not available with the Government.

**Joint Defence Intelligence Agency**

217. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :  
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of Ministers have since examined the reports submitted by the four Task Forces and formulated suitable proposals on various issues including the creation of a Defence Intelligence Agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the proposals are to be formulated and implemented in each of the four areas of intelligence apparatus, internal security, border management and defence management ?



THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Government on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation had set up four Task Forces one each in the area of Intelligence Apparatus, Internal Security, Border Management and Defence Management. The recommendations of the GoM have since been finalised after taking into account the Report of the Kargil Review Committee, the Reports submitted by the four Task Forces and other relevant materials. Detailed recommendations for reforming the National Security System have been made in the Report of the GoM.

[Translation]

#### Power Generation Cost in the Country

218. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is much variation in cost for generation of power in the country;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum power generation cost in the country; and

(c) the norms provided in the power generating projects along with the reasons for such variation in cost ?

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

(c) The cost of generation is a function of capital cost including interest during construction, return on equity, operation and maintenance cost, depreciation rate depending upon the life of the project, fuel cost etc. The main reasons for variation in the cost of power generation inter alia are differences in the cost of the construction of the plant, cost of capital employed and also variation in the cost of the fuel, differences in transportation costs depending upon the location of the source of fuel etc.

#### Rural Electrification

219. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :  
SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the demand of electricity in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of villages in the country which are not-electrified so far, State-wise;

(c) the time by which these villages are likely to be electrified;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to electrify all the villages located in the remote and border areas of our country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) 5,07,451 villages have been reported to be electrified by the end of December, 2000 as against 5,87,258 inhabited villages in the country as per 1991 census. The details of the unelectrified villages in the country by the end of December, 2000 in various States and UTs are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The priorities for carrying out rural electrification programme in the States are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities concerned. The time frame for complete electrification of villages would depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating infrastructure for strengthening the distribution system, availability of power in the State and demand from the consumers.

(d) and (e) The villages located in the remote and inaccessible areas have to be electrified using non-conventional sources. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides fiscal and financial incentives for implementation of various programmes to States for electrification of remote and difficult areas. Financial assistance is also made available by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on relatively soft terms for tapping of non-conventional energy sources. Various feasible non-conventional energy sources including mini and micro-hydel, bio-mass, solar and wind etc. would need to be considered as per the suitability for a particular remote village individually or in cluster on decentralized basis.

**Statement****Status of Village Electrification in India as on December 31, 2000**

Sl. No.	States	Total Inhabited Villages as per 1991 census	Villages electrified by the end of December, 2000 (Provisional)	Balance Villages to be Electrified
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	21(*)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2171	1478(d)
3.	Assam	24685	19019	5666(d)
4.	Bihar	67513	47912	1960(\$\$)(e)
5.	Goa	360	360	— (@)
6.	Gujarat	18028	17940	88(*)
7.	Haryana	6759	6759	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16881	116(+)
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6477	6315	162(\$)(a)
10.	Karnataka	27066	26694	372(%)(f)
11.	Kerala	1384	1384	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	68357	3169
13.	Maharashtra	40412	40412	— (@)
14.	Manipur	2182	2001	181
15.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	2974
16.	Mizoram	698	691	7
17.	Nagaland	1216	1196	20(e)
18.	Orissa	46989	35232	11757
19.	Punjab	12428	12428	—
20.	Rajasthan	37889	35571	2318
21.	Sikkim	447	405	42(#)
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	—
23.	Tripura	855	810	45
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89353	23450
25.	West Bengal	37910	29573	8337(g)
Sub Total		586165	506361	79366+438(*#%)

1	2	3	4	5
UTs		1093	1090	3(*)
Grand Total		587258	507451	79366+441(*,%)

(\*) Fully electrified. Balance not feasible for electrification.

(#) Provisional. 42 Nos. forest villages not electrified.

(@) Provisional to be confirmed as per 1991 census.

(+) 100% electrified as per 1981 census. (%) Balance 329 villages declared non-feasible for clarification

(\$\$) Achievements as per 1981 census.

(\$ ) Achievements as per 1971 census. 1991 census not held.

(a) As on 31.3.1998 (b) As on 30.11.1999 (d) As on 31.07.2000 (e) As on 30.09.2000.

(f) As on 31.10.2000 (g) As on 30.11.2000

Source : CEA's report on village electrification (December, 2000)

**CNG Filling Stations in Delhi**

220. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) the present number of CNG filling stations in Delhi, location-wise;

(b) whether only CNG run buses are to ply in Delhi w.e.f. April 1,2001 as per the instructions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) whether the present number of CNG filling stations in Delhi is considered adequate in view of the pressure on them after April 1,2001;

(d) if not, whether any efforts have been made or are being made to increase the number of CNG filling stations in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Presently there are 60 CNG stations operating in Delhi Location-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The existing number of CNG outlets are more than adequate for the present and for any likely additional requirement from 1.4.2001, steps have already been taken

to increase the number of outlets by 1st March, 2001 and further outlets are also planned for meeting the likely demand of CNG.

### Statement

#### *CNG Outlets Operational on Oil Marketing Company RO's*

Sl.No.	Name and Location of Outlet	OMC	Type
1.	Savita Filling Station, Sarai Kale Khan	IBP	On-Line
2.	Super Auto Service, Station Srinivaspuri	IOC	On-Line
3.	Bhatia Service Station, Near Safdarjung Hospital	IOC	On-Line
4.	Bedi Motors, Race Course Road	HPCL	Daughter
5.	Gymkhana Service Station, Race Course Road	BPCL	Dtr- Booster
6.	Car Care, Sector- XII, R K Puram	IBP	Daughter
7.	Syall Service Station, Kirti Nagar	BPCL	Daughter
8.	R S Bholaram, Sham Nath Marg	BPCL	Dtr-Booster
9.	Vinod Service Station, IGI Airport	BPCL	Daughter
10.	Veejay Service Station, Shastri Nagar	BPCL	Daughter
11.	Deepak Automobiles, Shahdra	BPCL	Daughter
12.	Rajeev SS, Mathura Road	HPCL	On-Line
13.	Pragati SS, Ajmeri Gate	IOC	Daughter
14.	Vaibhav SS, Vikaspuri	BPCL	Daughter
15.	Bagga Link, Link Road	BPCL	Daughter
16.	Evergreen SS, Green Park	HPCL	Daughter
17.	Buddh Singh Gulab Singh, Quatub Road	BPCL	Daughter
18.	Shivan, NH-24	IOC	Daughter
19.	Kingsway Camp, Mall Road	IOC	Daughter
20.	Swivsh SS, Swami Nagar	IOC	Daughter
21.	Surya SS, CGO	IOC	On-Line
22.	Mukul Diesel, Loni Road	BPCL	Daughter
23.	IP Station, IP Estate, Desu Terminal	IOC	On-Line
24.	Shankar SS, Gole Market	IOC	Daughter

#### *CNG Outlets Operational on IGL Land*

Sl.No.	Name/Location of Station	Type
1	2	3
1.	CNG Mother Station, Sarai Kale Khan	Mother
2.	OFC Pocket, Dilshad Garden	Daughter

1	2	3
3.	Sarojini Nagar, Ring Road	On-Line
4.	Lado Sarai, Near Quatub Minar	Daughter
5.	Sarita Vihar, Road No. 13	Daughter
6.	Madanpur Khader, Frieght Complex	Daughter

1	2	3
7. Chhatrasal Stadium, Ring Road		Daughter
8. Rohini Sector XIX		Daughter
9. Rama Road, Janakpuri		Daughter
10. Dwarka Sector IX		Daughter
11. Nelson Mandela Road, Pushpanjali PP		Daughter
12. Loni Road, Jyoti Nagar West		Daughter
13. San Martin Marg. Near Maitri College		Daughter
14. Mayur Vihar District Centre		Daughter
15. CGO Complex		On-Line
16. Sarita Vihar (Jasola)		Daughter
17. Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1		Daughter
18. Facility Center, Pitampura, Ring Road		Daughter
19. Mehrauli Mahilpalpur Road		Daughter
20. Punjabi Bagh, Ring Road		Daughter
21. CBD Shahdra		Daughter
22. R K Puram, Sector - XII		Mother
23. Okhla More		Mother
24. Pushpa Bhawan		Daughter
25. Nand Nagri		Daughter
26. Nehru Place		Daughter
27. Mangolpuri		Daughter
28. Mayapuri		Daughter
29. Metcalf House		Mother
30. R. K. Puram, Sector -III		Daughter
31. Kapashera		Daughter
32. Udyan Marg		Daughter
33. Paschim Vihar		Daughter
34. Maruti Land		Daughter
35. DTC Depot, Sarojini Nagar		Mother
36. DTC Depot, Okhla Phase - II		Mother

[English]

**Domino's Pizza Outlets at IOC  
Petrol Pumps**

221. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allowed IOC to set up Domino's Pizza outlet at their petrol pumps across the country;

(b) if so, whether such a step is likely to cause hazardous problems at petrol pump; and

(c) the total revenue likely to be earned by IOC on account of this contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The IOC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Domino's Pizza India Limited for the setting up of their Pizza Stores at selected retail outlets towards providing value added services to the customers patronizing those retail outlets. As per the MOU, no naked flame will be allowed and only electrical ovens are proposed to be used with adequate safety and fire fighting arrangements. Moreover, as required under the Petroleum Rules, 1976, necessary approval will be sought in advance from the concerned Department of Explosives for putting up the Pizza Store within the licensed premises of a retail outlet.

(c) The revenue which will be generated from allowing the Pizza Store at the IOC's retail outlets, will depend upon the location and turnover of the Store. As per the MOU, the revenue will be generated through market rental for the area occupied, return on the IOC's investment made in constructing the superstructure and a percentage of the sales turnover of the Pizza store.

**Power Grid**

222. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to set up a National Grid to solve the problem of power in the country;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred for setting up of the National Power Grid;

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation has since failed to meet the requirement of power in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) or other financial institutions have agreed to provide loans to the Government for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) Development of transmission system to form National Power Grid is a continuous process. At present, Indian power system is divided into five Regional grids and within each region strong inter-connection and well-developed Regional grids are in position. In order to extend the benefits of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power in one region to a power deficit region, interconnections of regions have been planned.

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, as Central Transmission Utility 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.

POWERGRID, has exhibited excellent performance and have received 'Prime Minister's MOU Award' second time in a row by ranking amongst top ten PSUs.

POWERGRID, has already chalked out its plan to integrate all the regions through HVDC stations/bi-pole and 765 KV AC rings to facilitate the transfer of power between the regions without any constraint. The HVDC inter regional links between Western and Northern, Western and Southern and Eastern and Southern regions are already existing and HVDC link between Eastern and Northern region is under construction.

Presently, the inter-regional power transfer capacity has been raised to 4350 MW from a mere 500 MW in 1992-93. For further strengthening of the national Grid, high capacity long HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with Mega Projects. With these interconnections, the total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 14,000 MW by 2004-05. In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generating resources. This would involve development of high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines interconnecting Eastern, Western and Northern regions. Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed ultimate National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW.

POWERGRID has planned to invest about Rs. 80,000 crores for implementation of projects including those required for development of strong and vibrant National Grid capable of transferring 30,000 MW power by the year 2012. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the domestic market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan of US \$ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grids strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January, 2001.

POWERGRID is also negotiating a loan of US \$ 450 million from World Bank for implementation of its various transmission schemes.

[Translation]

### Fire in Goods Train

223. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several wagons of a goods train were reduced to ashes at Manikpur station in Allahabad-Satna section recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of the Government property lost therein;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there was a derailment of a Goods train between Madaraha and Jasra railway stations in the Allahabad Satna section of Central Railway at Km No. 1328 on 27.11.2000. Consequent to the derailment, 18 wagons caught fire. The value of government property lost is being assessed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, Chief Mechanical Engineer and the Chief Traffic Manager of the West Central Railway conducted an enquiry. The report is awaited.

[English]

### Selling/Leasing of I.T.D.C. Hotels

224. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :  
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No.

91 dated July 28, 2000 regarding selling of I.T.D.C. Hotels and state :

- (a) the terms and conditions laid down for selling and leasing of ITDC hotels;
- (b) the names of ITDC hotels which have been sold and given on lease, location-wise;
- (c) the names of more I.T.D.C. Hotels propose to be given on lease and sold, location-wise; and
- (d) the income likely to be earned by ITDC therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha.

[Translation]

#### **Proposal from Private Sector for Development of Kandla Port**

225. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the private sector in regard to the development of Kandla Port;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the amount likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which it is likely to be completed;
- (d) whether the Government have received some other proposals about other ports in Gujarat; and
- (e) if so, the details of each such ports in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal for development of container terminal at Berth no. 7 of Kandla Port Trust on BOT basis for a period of 30 years through private sector. P and O Ports, Australia have been selected to develop the project, Licence Agreement is yet to be signed. Investment on the project is to be made by the private developer.

(d) and (e) Kandla Port is the only Major Port in the State of Gujarat. The Minor Ports in the States do not come under the purview of the Ministry. As per the Indian Ports Act, 1908, development of these minor ports is the concern of the State Governments.

[English]

#### **Construction of Oil Refinery Project in Orissa**

226. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the construction of Oil Refinery Project at Paradeep in Orissa has since been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to review the work?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **New Power Projects in Tamil Nadu**

227. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to start new power projects in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the existing power projects with their performance during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have allowed generation of power in both public and private sectors in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of power projects in the country commissioned by the public and private sector with/without foreign assistance and the total expenditure incurred thereon by each State during the last three years; and
- (e) the details of the progress of such projects ?

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

#### **Central Act to Introduce Compulsory Energy Audit above 11 KV**

228. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a central act to introduce compulsory energy audit for all transmissions above eleven KV;

- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) the time frame for introducing such legislation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Government has introduced the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on the 24th February, 2000. The Standing Committee on Energy has examined the Bill and presented its report to the Lok Sabha on the 28th November, 2000. The Bill is yet to be passed by the Parliament.

The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 when enacted will, inter alia, vest Central Government with powers to direct the energy intensive industries specified in the Schedule thereto to get energy audit conducted by an accredited energy auditor. The schedule covers electricity transmission and distribution companies as one of the energy intensive industries.

[Translation]

#### Railway Projects in Bihar

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

- (a) the number of Railway Projects pending in Bihar till date alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Seven Railway projects in Bihar are pending. These projects are pending for want of necessary clearances.

(b) Steps have been initiated by the Railways to obtain the necessary clearances.

#### Amenities to Passengers

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

- (a) the amount spent by the Railways for providing facilities to the passengers during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase the facilities for passengers of second class; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Rs. 115.25 crores were spent during 1999-2000 and Rs. 75.14 crores during 2000-2001 (Appx. Upto Dec. 2000) under plan head passenger amenities.

(b) and (c) Upgradation of facilities at stations for all classes of passengers is a continuous process. Required works in this regard are sanctioned through works machinery and rolling stock program of Railways, which is presented to Parliament each year.

The design of second class coaches has been improved over the year by providing the following features for improved passenger comfort :

- (i) Provision of UIC type vestibules in reserved coaches for better and safer inter-connection between coaches,
- (ii) Fitment of pilferproof fibre reinforced plastic windows and shutters
- (iii) Improved PVC flooring and stainless steel inlays in toilets.
- (iv) Change over to 110 Volt electrical system in place of 24 Volt system for better lighting.

[English]

#### Mobile Police in Running Trains

231. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways are considering to post mobile police to check dacoities in trains;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been worked out in this regard;
- (c) if so whether the mobile police will be made accountable for ensuring safety of passengers from crimes in running trains; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Mobile Police Posts are already in existence in some trains. Maintenance of law and order over the Railways including in running trains is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Railway administration provides accommodation in trains while the GRP provides the required manpower and other equipment for the Mobile Posts. The GRP selects the trains taking the vulnerability of the trains to crime into account for provision of such mobile Police posts.

(c) and (d) GRP functions under the control and supervision of the State Governments concerned. Hence, they are not directly accountable to the Ministry of Railways for ensuring safety of passengers.

[Translation]

**Installed Capacity of Power  
Generation in the Country**

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

(a) the installed capacity of power generation in the country at present, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the average plant load factor (PLF) capacity of power plants in each State;

(c) the additional power is likely to be generated after the clearance of new pending projects against the estimated demand of power in each State; and

(d) the per capita availability of power in each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State/UT-wise installed capacity in the country as on 31.01.2001 is given in Statement-I

(b) State-wise average Plant Load Factor of power plants during the period April, 2000- January, 2001 is given in Statement-II

(c) Additional power likely to be generated after the clearance of new pending projects and cleared by CEA/ State Governments would be around 70653 MW, and the estimated demand of power in each State is given in Statement-III

(d) The per capita availability of power in various States of the country during 1999-2000 is given in Statement-IV

**Statement-I**

*Category-wise Installed Capacity of Utilities  
in MW as 31.1.2001*

Region/State/U.Ts	(Fig. in MW)
†	2
<b>STATE SECTOR</b>	
<b>Northern Region</b>	
Chandigarh	2.00
Delhi	617.00
Haryana	1780.32
Himachal Pradesh	322.00
Jammu and Kashmir	409.13

1	2
Punjab	4528.94
Rajasthan	2488.83
U.P. and Uttaranchal	6052.75
<b>Western Region</b>	
Gujarat	7230.39
Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh	4373.00
Maharashtra	12843.20
Goa	48.05
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.0
Daman and Diu	0.00
<b>Southern Region</b>	
Andhra Pradesh	6605.88
Karnataka	4456.49
Kerala	2156.52
Tamil Nadu	6078.22
Pondicherry	32.50
<b>Eastern Region</b>	
Bihar and Jharkhand	2108.40
D.V.C.	2871.50
NHPC	60.00
NTPC	3910.00
Orissa	2143.02
West Bengal	4582.89
Sikkim	37.89
<b>North-Eastern Region</b>	
Arunachal Pradesh	45.43
Assam	621.69
Manipur	12.01
Meghalaya	188.76
Mizoram	36.85
Nagaland	5.50
Tripura	85.36
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	34.05
Lakshadweep	9.97
<b>CENTRAL SECTOR</b>	<b>30440.51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100377.55</b>



**Statement-II**

*Plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Plants in each of the following States for the period of April 2000 to January 2001*

Sr. No.	State	Average Plant Load Factor (%)
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	50.70
2.	Haryana	49.20
3.	Rajasthan	82.80
4.	Punjab	77.50
5.	Uttar Pradesh	56.70
6.	Gujarat	71.40
7.	Maharashtra	71.70

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	65.20
9.	Andhra Pradesh	84.70
10.	Tamil Nadu	72.20
11.	Karnataka	80.80
12.	Bihar	27.25
13.	Orissa	79.20
14.	West Bengal	35.73
15.	Assam	18.20
	State Sector	64.8
	Central Sector	72.9
	Private Sector	74.8
	All India	68.1

**Statement-III**

**NORTHERN REGION**  
(Public Utilities)

States	Energy Requirement Mkwh				Peak Load (MW)			
	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17
Haryana	17460	25750	37801	55234	3322	4899	7192	10509
Himachal Pradesh	3656	5113	7118	9863	708	973	1354	1876
Jammu and Kashmir	6796	9099	12125	16081	1437	1923	2563	3399
Punjab	29824	41922	58661	81700	5483	7719	10801	15043
Rajasthan	28852	40341	56133	77741	4844	6772	9423	13051
Uttar Pradesh	50087	70803	99631	139542	8018	11384	16019	22436
Chandigarh	1337	2120	3347	5259	254	403	637	1001
Delhi	19454	25672	33712	44060	3266	4310	5659	7397
NORTHERN REGION	157466	220820	308528	429480	25307	35540	49674	69178

**WESTERN REGION**  
(Public Utilities)

States	Energy Requirement Mkwh				Peak Load (MW)			
	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	1740	2207	2786	3501	280	355	448	563
Gujarat	46393	61683	81615	107479	8074	10605	14031	18478

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	39167	51952	68578	90096	6480	8595	11346	14906
Maharashtra	79593	106892	142911	190167	12472	16716	22348	29738
Daman & Nagar Haveli	923	1284	1779	2452	159	216	299	412
Daman and Diu	585	909	1406	2164	97	146	226	348
WESTERN REGION	168401	224927	299075	395859	26501	35223	46825	61966

SOUTHERN REGION  
(Public Utilities)

States	Energy Requirement Mkwh				Peak Load (MW)			
	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17
Andhra Pradesh	50493	68797	93289	125905	8234	11219	15213	20532
Karnataka	32950	44748	60478	81354	5699	7740	10460	14071
Kerala	15378	22998	34231	50718	2855	4304	6406	9491
Tamil Nadu	42341	54872	70769	90838	6825	8847	11411	14646
Pondicherry	1818	2687	3951	5784	310	458	673	985
SOUTHERN REGION	142980	194102	262718	354599	22784	31017	42061	56883

EASTERN REGION  
(Public Utilities)

States	Energy Requirement Mkwh				Peak Load (MW)			
	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17
Bihar (excl. DVC)	9303	12256	15814	20308	1770	2332	3072	4047
DVC	9213	11129	13365	15974	1696	2049	2461	2941
Orissa	14002	17997	23376	30220	2317	2977	3867	5000
Sikkim	183	239	312	405	47	62	81	105
West Bengal (excl. DVC.)	20885	27846	37529	50341	3859	5169	6966	9344
EASTERN REGION	53586	69467	90396	117248	9229	11990	15664	20416

NORTH-EASTERN REGION  
(Public Utilities)

States	Energy Requirement Mkwh				Peak Load (MW)			
	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17	2001-02	2006-07	2011-12	2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	216	303	423	588	73	97	136	189
Assam	3669	5294	7604	10870	687	991	1423	2034

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Manipur	643	1039	1762	2679	156	252	406	651
Meghalaya	644	955	1410	2071	134	198	293	430
Mizoram	327	525	838	1331	93	136	217	345
Nagaland	270	388	555	790	70	98	141	200
Tripura	635	997	1559	2427	161	253	396	616
NORTH-EASTERN REGION	6404	9501	14061	20756	1272	1875	2789	4134

**Statement-IV**

*Annual Per Capita Availability of Power during the year 1999-2000 State-wise*

Name of the State	Per Capita Availability (kWH)
1	2

**Northern Region**

Chandigarh	1172.73
Delhi	1247.53
Haryana	789.96
Himachal Pradesh	469.13
Jammu and Kashmir	497.77
Punjab	1116.69
Rajasthan	451.83
Uttar Pradesh	230.14

**Western Region**

Gujarat	979.86
Madhya Pradesh	436.31
Maharashtra	760.77
Goa	900.64

**Southern Region**

Andhra Pradesh	570.26
Karnataka	498.86
Kerala	370.50
Tamil Nadu	581.50

1	2
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**Eastern Region**

Bihar	84.17
Orissa	311.95
West Bengal	232.89

**North-Eastern Region**

Arunachal Pradesh	102.29
Manipur	111.99
Meghalaya	181.20
Mizoram	238.19
Nagaland	125.18
Tripura	158.20

All India	454.96
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[English]

**Samba Spying Case**

233. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken in the light of Delhi High Courts ruling on the so-called Samba Spying case, exonerating all the 9 officers, to compensate them for the ordeals including prolonged jail terms suffered by them and their families and to give justice to them; and

(b) the action taken against the officers found responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]***Building on Rent by NHPC**

234. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred question number 24 dated November 21, 2000 and state :

(a) the dates on which the nine buildings stated to be taken on rent in the said reply by NHPC; and

(b) the details of offices being run therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of buildings taken on rent by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) are given in enclosed statement.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of Building and Location	Date from which taken On rent (A)	Offices being run
1. (a)	Hotel Silver Face Complex, Near New Bridge, Bhuntar – 175125	01/02/98	Transit Camp-I and field hostel for executives.
(b)	One room and open area in the same building	01/01/99	-do-
2. (a)	Hotel Silver Face Residential Complex, Near New Bridge, Bhuntar – 175125.	01/12/98	Offices of the General Manager (Parbati), Chief Engineer (Stage-I and III), F and A, P and A, Civil Contracts, Procurement, Project Medical hospital, Library, Planning and Co-ordination Wing.
(b)	2 rooms (Temporary) in the same building	01/03/99	-do-
(c)	Godown Etc. in the same building	01/01/99	-do-
(d)	Additional 2 rooms at 1st Floor in the same building	24/07/2000	-do-
(e)	Rooms at 2nd Floor in the same building	21/09/99	-do-
3.	Hotel Kullu Palace, Bhuntar – 175125	16/12/98	Transit camp-II, (For non-executive).
4.	Building of Shri Devi Singh Salah.	26/06/99	Power House Stage-II Complex.
5.	Building of Shri. Fateh Singh, Sainj.	01/03/2000	Office of Senior Manager (Stage-III).
6.	Green Valley Garden paying G/house, Shri. Moti Ram, Garsa.	26/06/99	Field hostel/Transit Camp.
7.	Nobel Guest house, Near New bridge, Bhuntar-175125	01/04/2000	P and A, F and A, Land Acquisition Wing, Geology, electrical and Telecommunication, Resarch, Planning and Co-ordination.
8.	Hotel Horizon, Manikaran Road, Bhuntar.	10/03/2000	Transit Camp-II/Field Hostel.
9.	Building of Shri. Uttam Singh, Thella Garsa.	01/06/2000	Transit Camp, Office of T and S-II Complex.

**Completion of Surveys in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh**

235. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 137 dtd. February 24, 2000 &

regarding on going Railway projects in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and to state :

(a) whether the proposed surveys in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which these surveys are likely to be completed?

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

**Proposal to Increase the Power Generation Capacity**

236. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity;

(b) whether any project of power generation in Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the projects;

(d) whether any proposal for financial assistance to complete these projects is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A list of thermal and hydro power projects, which are under examination in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project (2x400 MW), proposed to be set up by M/s. Jawaharpur Power India Ltd. in the private sector is presently under examination in CEA. It is a coal based project proposed in the district of Etah.

(d) and (e) For the Jawaharpur Thermal Power Station, the investment is being arranged by the private power producer.

**Statement**

*Details of Thermal and Hydro Schemes under examination*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP (Himachal Pradesh)	2x35

1	2	3
2.	Uhl HEP St.III (Himachal Pradesh)	2x50
3.	Kolodyne HEP St. I (Mizoram)	120
4.	Matnar HEP (Madhya Pradesh)	60
5.	Ramgarh CCGT St.II (Rajasthan)	71
6.	Jawaharpur TPP (Uttar Pradesh)	2x400
7.	Sipat STPP St.II (M.P.)	6x60
8.	Vindhyachal STPP St. III (M.P.)	2x500
9.	Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn. St.II (Madhya Pradesh)	1500
10.	Dhuvaran Gas PP (Gujarat)	100.0
11.	Kutch Lignite TPP Extn. Unit 4 (Gujarat)	75
12.	Rajgarh CCPP (Madhya Pradesh)	343.48
13.	Jhabua CCPP (Madhya Pradesh)	360
14.	Sikka TPS Extn. Unit 3 and 4 (Gujarat)	2x250
15.	Surat Lignite Ph.II (Gujarat)	2x125
16.	Naphtha based CCPP (Karnataka) Hassan	200
17.	Nanjangud CCPP (Karnataka)	96.7
18.	Srimushnam Lignite TPP (Tamil Nadu)	250
19.	Telgi (Bijapur) TPP (Karnataka)	350
20.	Kovilkalappal CCPP (Tamil Nadu)	107.88
21.	Valuthur CCGT (Tamil Nadu)	100
22.	Kahalgaoon STPP St.II (Bihar)	2x660
23.	Barh STPS (Bihar)	3x660
24.	Tripura Gas based CCPP (Tripura)	500
25.	Suratgarh TPS St.III (Rajasthan)	250
26.	New Delhi TPS (New Delhi)	350
27.	Kozhikode Heavy fuel DGPP (Kerala)	128
28.	Konaseema CCGT (A.P.)	445
29.	LNG based CCPP at Shivpur (Karnataka)	483
30.	Mejia TPS Extn. Unit 4 (DVC) (W.B.)	210

**Investments by Oil Companies in Foreign Countries**

237. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

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

(a) whether the capital of the public sector companies have been invested abroad;

(b) if so, the total capital of these companies invested in foreign countries till December, 2000;

(c) the amount of investment made in the foreign countries in March 1998, 1999 and 2000, respectively alongwith the amount of annual profit in the form of foreign exchange earned by these companies on this investment; and

(d) the percentage ratio of earning in each of the said period against the investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Public sector companies engaged in the activities of exploration and production of oil and gas have undertaken ventures abroad as per details given below :

- (i) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) through its wholly owned subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), is developing two gas fields in Vietnam with their partner BP of U.K. Statoil of Norway and Petrovietnam of Vietnam. OVL has 45% stake in this project and its investment so far is about Rs. 190.27 crore. Gas production has not yet started.
- (ii) Oil India Limited (OIL) in partnership with TOTAL FINA of France has taken a participating interest in an exploration block in Oman. The Company has incurred an amount of Rs 27.52 crore so far on exploration work, which is still in progress. No commercial discovery has been made so far.

[English]

#### **Duty cut on Crude Oil**

238. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether OPEC has urged India for duty cut on the crude and other petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No specific request has been received in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Audio-Video Studio**

239. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up the first audio-video studio at the Indian Museum at Kolkata with Japanese assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total worth of electronic equipment supplied by Japan;

(d) the other assistance provided by Japan; and

(e) the steps taken to preserve various Indian art forms and antics ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Indian Museum, Kolkata, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture received the video camera and editing equipment worth 50 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to Rs. 2.05 crores in Indian Rupee) in March, 1999 as aid from Govt. of Japan, to set up the audio-video studio at Indian Museum, Kolkata. The assistance was confined only to the supply of the electronic equipments.

(e) Systematic and classified documentation of different art objects pertaining to the Art, Archaeology and Anthropology are documented for proper and scientific preservation. Further the Central Government institutions, notable being National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural property Lucknow are engaged in (i) developing the conservation capabilities of museums, archives, archaeology departments, etc; (ii) providing services in conservation of cultural property of the country; and (ii) advise various cultural institutions in conservation matter.

#### **National Tourism Award**

240. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) the names of those States given national awards for best performance in tourism during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the details of other awards in regard to tourism given to the States ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) National Tourism Awards are given by the Department of Tourism, in recognition of excellence in performance by the travel industry individuals, organisations and the State Govts. A Special award is also given to the Best Performing State in the North East. The names of the State Governments who received the awards during the last 3 years and the current year are as follows :—

Year	Best Tourism Per- forming State	North Eastern State
1996-97	Rajasthan	—
1997-98	Uttar Pradesh	Nagaland
1998-99	Kerala	Sikkim
1999-2000	Kerala	Sikkim

**Gauge Conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur Rail Line**

241. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur railway line is still in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for slow pace of conversion work; and

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

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

(b) Work has been taken up on the section from Gondia to Balaghat in Phase-I. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress,

(c) Due to acute resource constraints, work on this project is being regulated as per the availability of funds.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed.

**Consumption of Petrol and Diesel**

242. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :  
SHRI S.P. LEPCHA :

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

(a) the total consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during the last three years;

(b) the annual consumption of these items in the Government sector;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curtail the consumption of these items in the Government sector; and

(d) the demand and supply position of petrol and diesel sector-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during the last three years is as under :

(TMT)

	97-98	98-99	99-00
MS	5182	5507	5909
HSD	36071	37217	39295

(b) There is no system of assessing consumption of petroleum products by Government/non Government sectors.

(c) Government have issued instructions from time to time to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel as a part of economy drive.

(b) Demand of petrol and diesel in all sectors is being met in full at present.

**Shortage of Power in Kerala**

243. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of power in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kerala has been denied due share in power sector;

(d) if so, the details of new schemes proposed for Kerala for improvement in voltage and its production; and

(e) the present status of the 500 MW project for power generation in Kochi Refineries Ltd. Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of power supply position in Kerala during January,

2001 and the period April, 2000 to January, 2001 are given below :—

<i>Energy (MU)</i>		
	January, 2001	April 2000 – January, 2001
Requirement	1172	11211
Availability	1137	10463
Shortage	35	748
%	3.0	6.7

  

<i>Peak (MW)</i>		
	January, 2001	April 2000 – January, 2001
Peak Demand	2351	2391
Peak met	2304	2304
Shortage	47	87
%	2.0	3.6

(c) Kerala has a firm share of 454 MW in Central generating stations in Southern Region. Kerala has also been allocated 4% power out of unallocated power of Central generating stations in Southern Region.

Besides the above, Kerala has been given an allocation of 11.6% in the power imported from Eastern region over Gazuwaka HVDC link and 15% in the surplus power imported from Western Region over Ramagundam-Chandrapur 400 KV line.

During the period April, 2000 to January, 2001 against entitlement of 2573.6 MU from central generating stations, Kerala have drawn 2656.7 MU thus exceeding their entitlement.

(d) For improvement of voltage profile in Kerala, the following steps are taken:

- (i) A target of installation 579.5 MVAR of shunt capacitors have been fixed for Kerala for the year 2000-01.
- (ii) At present Central Sector power to Kerala is being supplied over Udemalpet-Trichur 400 kV D/C link. Another 400 kV feed Via Madurai-Thiruvanthapuram 400 kV D/C is being executed by POWERGRID and is scheduled to be commissioned by December, 2002.

The following additional generating capacity is expected to be commissioned in Kerala during the 9th and 10th Plan as per the details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule
1.	Vypeen CCGT	679.2	27 months from the date of financial closure.
2.	Kannur CCGT	513	27 months from the date of financial closure.
3.	Malankara HEP	10.5	2002-03
4.	Kuttiadi Extn. HEP	50+ 100	50 MW in 9th Plan and 100 MW in 10th Plan.
5.	Bhothathankettu	16	2001-02
6.	Adirapally HEP	160+3	10th Plan.

(e) The 500 Mw power project promoted by Kochin Refineries Limited was to be implemented as a joint venture company with the following equity pattern.

KRL	—	26%
Consortium of PSEG/L&T	—	26%
KSEB	—	11%
Other	—	37%

M/s KRL has informed KSEB that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Government of India have accorded approval for incurring expenditure of Rs. 10 crores for the preparation of DPR for obtaining TEC from CEA.

[Translation]

#### **Demand of Electricity in Jharkhand**

244. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of demand of electricity in Jharkhand State at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of electricity in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) At present, Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has been entrusted with power supply both in Bihar and Jharkhand States alongwith DVC in the DVC command area (entirely falling in Jharkhand State). As against a total demand of 1200 MW of the erstwhile combined Bihar State, the power demand of Jharkhand State is estimated about 400 MW.

(b) The average availability of power from generating stations in the State sector (geographically located in the Jharkhand State) is about 480 MW. In addition to the above, Jharkhand is also entitled to shares from the central



sector generating stations of Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher STPS and Rangit HEP with a total installed capacity of 3500 MW and Chukha Hydro Project in Bhutan. Thus it is expected that Jharkhand would have no shortage of power and will be able to meet its total requirement fully.

#### **Installation of Pollution Control Devices in Thermal Power Stations**

245. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of thermal power stations in the country which have been directed to install pollution control devices by the Pollution Control Department;
- (b) the total number of thermal power stations/super thermal power stations which have installed the said pollution control devices and the number out of them which have been closed in the absence of such devices;
- (c) whether the Government have evaluated the losses suffered due to closure of thermal power stations because of no pollution control devices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) 79 thermal Power plants have been directed to install necessary pollution control devices.

(b) All power stations have pollution control devices viz., Electro Static Precipitators (ESPs) except Bokaro 'A' and Harduaganj 'A' and 'B'. However, the performance of ESPs is satisfactory only in 48 power stations and in the remaining 31 power stations, the augmentation of ESPs is in progress to improve their efficiency.

(c) and (d) Except 3 units of Bokaro 'A' power station (45 MW each), and Parkhi Unit 2 (32 MW) none of the other plants has been ordered for closure. The loss of generation capacity on account of closure of this power station is 167 (MW). However, directions have been issued to 30 power stations for augmentation/installation of pollution control equipment in a time bound manner.

#### **Requirement and Consumption of Power in the Country**

246. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total requirement and consumption of power in the country;
- (b) the percentage of power required for domestic use, industries and agriculture, and the quantum of electricity generated separately by NTPC, NHPC;

(c) whether the surplus electricity is being generated in the eastern zone of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons of this surplus electricity not being offered to needy States;

(e) the causes of non-availability of electricity to the farmers in the country; and

(f) the action plan of the Government to make the country totally self-reliant in power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The total requirement and consumption of power in the country during the year 1998-99 were 429117 MU and 312401 MU respectively.

(b) The percentage of power required for domestic use was 21%, industries- 34% and Agriculture-31% of the total power. The amount of electricity generated by NTPC was 114368 MU and by NHPC was 9920 MU during the year 1998-99.

(c) The Eastern Region has around 1500 MW to 3000 MW surplus power during peak and off peak periods.

(d) Around 1100 MW of surplus power of Eastern Region is exported to other needy States/Regions within the limit of the capability of available transmission lines.

(e) About 1/3rd of the power produced is being given to the agriculture sector.

(f) The following steps are being taken to improve generation and distribution of power in the country :—

- (i) Expedient implementation of capacity addition programme and doubling the capacity by 2012.
- (ii) Renovation and modernisation (R and M) and life extension of existing old generating units.
- (iii) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power station under accelerated generation programme.
- (iv) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and system improvement and finally development of the National Grid.
- (v) Coordinated operation of Hydro, Thermal, Nuclear and Gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- (vi) Speedy implementation of Reform process in the power sector.
- (vii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.

*[English]***Demand of Petroleum Products**

247. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual demand of petroleum products in the country, State-wise;

(b) the supply of petroleum products against their demand and supply met by the import of such products; and

(c) the time by which our country is likely to be in a position to export petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The information is given in attached Statement.

(b) The demand of petroleum products is fully met either from indigenous production or from import. The demand/production and import during 1999-2000 is given below :

		(Million Metric Tonnes)
Consumption	-	97.09
Indigenous		
Production	-	82.94
Import	-	16.62
Inventory variation	-	(+) 2.47

(c) The country is already exporting surplus petroleum products like Naphtha, Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel and Fuel Oil.

**Statement***State-wise Consumption of Petroleum Products 1999-2000 (PSUs)*

(Figs. in TMT)

State	NAPTHA	LPG	MS	SKO	ATF	HSD	LDO	F.O.	LSHS	ASPHAL	LUBES	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jammu and Kashmir	0	61	62	154	26	209	7	19	5	19	5	1	566
Punjab	13	286	398	369	61	2331	35	209	634	163	31	26	4557
Rajasthan	526	247	248	455	47	2687	65	178	80	138	27	12	4711
Uttar Pradesh	1261	781	493	1420	101	4857	167	339	307	289	68	158	10241
Haryana	0	251	206	182	26	2005	63	165	343	118	23	12	3394
Himachal Pradesh	0	56	40	51	0	254	4	16	16	23	4	1	464
Chandigarh	0	31	63	14	31	77	4	11	19	29	2	1	283
Delhi	0	450	536	206	564	1243	101	9	8	33	32	72	3254
Northern Region	1801	2164	2046	2852	857	13662	445	945	1411	812	192	284	27469
Assam	50	99	59	279	64	366	3	53	7	29	7	119	1133
Manipur	0	12	10	22	3	29	0	0	0	5	0	0	81
Meghalaya	0	8	19	21	0	111	0	0	0	10	1	0	170
Nagaland	0	7	10	15	1	21	0	0	0	4	0	0	59
Tripura	0	11	7	33	2	42	0	1	0	5	1	0	101
Arunachal Pradesh	0	7	15	14	2	57	0	0	0	1	2	0	97
Mizoram	0	10	8	8	0	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	50
North-East Region	50	154	126	393	71	647	4	54	7	54	10	120	1691
Bihar	1	173	169	869	8	1739	88	254	113	99	40	166	3721
Orissa	64	62	96	344	15	723	12	243	1	25	16	9	1610
West Bengal	97	320	173	830	109	1925	166	277	0	138	63	457	4553

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sikkim	0	4	4	12	0	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	36
Andman and Nicobar	0	2	4	7	5	64	0	0	0	5	1	0	88
Eastern Region	161	561	445	2062	138	4463	267	777	114	267	119	633	10008
Goa	294	30	37	28	31	220	5	153	0	10	5	3	815
Gujarat	2614	419	503	838	70	2959	239	650	1353	283	76	260	10265
Madhya Pradesh	79	264	282	668	24	2366	80	516	32	85	41	80	4516
Maharashtra	1015	941	837	1587	604	4256	337	1284	841	368	198	273	12542
Dadar & Nagar Hav.	0	2	5	3	0	100	9	18	0	0	27	0	165
Daman and Diu	0	2	5	5	0	29	4	26	0	3	1	1	75
Western Region	4002	1658	1669	3129	729	9928	673	2647	2226	748	348	619	28377
Andhra Pradesh	439	434	437	682	48	3450	40	486	134	217	52	60	6483
Kerala	632	217	289	307	82	1313	5	262	294	95	30	96	3622
Tamilnadu	759	512	491	742	173	3484	42	1135	428	219	126	170	8282
Karnataka	127	310	382	537	98	2155	29	480	149	93	34	14	4408
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Pondicherry	0	16	20	15	0	148	3	29	1	2	2	5	240
Southern Region	1956	1489	1619	2285	401	10556	119	2392	1006	627	244	348	23041

[Translation]

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**De-reservation of Garment Industry****Earthquake Impact on Oil Refineries**

248. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether in the New Textile Policy 2000, the Government have de-reserved the Garment Industry;

(a) the loss suffered by oil refineries and other organisations as a result of the earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefore;

(b) whether the Government had already taken any, precautionary measures in this regard; and

(c) whether the decision has adversely affected the domestic and cottage industry of the country;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to minimise the loss likely to be caused by natural calamities in future in the oil refineries and gas lines.

(d) if so, the number of workers likely to be affected thereby; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government for their protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The readymade Garment Sector has been de-reserved vide Government Notification No. S.O. 2(E) dated the 1st January, 2001. This has been pursuant to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Reservation and subsequent deliberations.

(c) No Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No damage or loss has been reported by public sector companies to the refineries as a result of earthquake. Some minor damage has been reported by some of the public sector companies at few of their installations in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Public sector oil companies have initiated action to review the facilities themselves and by experts to identify damages, if any, and to suggest ways and means to avoid damages in future.

*[English]***Functioning of Hydro Power Projects**

250. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to delays in project clearance and other issues related with fuel supply, many of the thermal and hydro power projects are running behind schedule ranging upto 20 years incurring heavy cost escalation of over 87%;

(b) if so, whether prospects of sustained industrial growth has adversely affected due to acute power shortage and many multinational companies are hesitant to start their operations in India;

(c) if so, whether the Government have constituted any committee for fixing responsibility for the time and cost over-runs in power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) At present 4 hydro-electric schemes and 14 thermal projects are under examination in CEA. The list of these projects is given in enclosed statement. Approval to projects cannot be given in the absence of adequate inputs and delays in approvals are not the only reason for time and cost overruns. There are other reasons like no-availability of fuel linkage, law and order problems, tie-up with financial institutions, non-availability of escrow cover due to poor financial position of SEBs etc.

(b) The Government is not aware of any such report.

(c) and (d) The Government have set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power with a representative each from Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) as well as Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to examine the reasons for time and cost overruns and for fixation of responsibility of various sanctioned and on-going projects.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP (Himachal Pradesh)	2x35
2.	Uhl HEP St.III (Himachal Pradesh)	2x50
3.	Ramgarh CCGT St.II (Rajasthan)	71

1	2	3
4.	Jawaharpur TPP (Uttar Pradesh)	2x400
5.	Dhuvaran Gas PP (Gujarat)	107.238
6.	Raigarh CCGP (Madhya Pradesh)	343.48
7.	Jhabua CCGT (Madhya Pradesh)	360
8.	Matnar HEP (Madhya Pradesh)	60
9.	Sanjay Gandhi TPS Extn. St.II (Madhya Pradesh)	500
10.	Naniangud CCGP (Karnataka)	96.7
11.	Hassan CCGP (Karnataka)	189
12.	Telgi (Bijapur) TPP (Karnataka)	350
13.	Kozhikode Heavy fuel DGPP (Kerala)	128
14.	Srimushnam Lignite TPP (Tamil Nadu)	250
15.	Kovilkalappal CCGP (Tamil Nadu)	107.88
16.	Kahalgaon STPP St.II (Bihar)	2x660
17.	Mejia TPS Extn. Unit 4 (DVC) (W.B.)	210
18.	Kolodyne HEP St. I (Mizoram)	120

**Gap between Prices of Diesel and Kerosene**

251. DR. ASHOK PATEL :  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

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

(a) whether the kerosene is being mixed in huge quantity in Diesel and Petrol;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to narrow the gap between the prices of diesel and kerosene in order to check the adulteration of kerosene in diesel and petrol;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Instances of Kerosene being used to adulterate MS and HSD have come to the notice. This is owing to the price differential between Kerosene and Diesel and Petrol.

(b) to (d) As per the phased programme of dismantling the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), consumer prices of Diesel and Petrol are to be moved towards import

parity. Kerosene for public distribution will carry a subsidy of 33.3% of the import parity prices. These changes are scheduled to be put in place by March, 2002.

#### **Oil Production to Private Sector**

252. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently invited bids for awarding the production of oil to the private sector from some crude oil producing fields;

(b) if so, the estimated annual production of oil from those oil-fields;

(c) the time by which oil production is likely to start from those field; and

(d) the percentage out of the aforesaid production likely to be consumed in the country ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Etawah District of U.P.**

253. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for allotting LPG agencies and petrol pumps;

(b) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted for Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh from January, 1, 1999 till date;

(c) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps in respect of which the Government have received applications during the said period; and

(d) the number of gas agencies and petrol pumps proposed to be allotted during 2001 and 2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country :

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships are based on Volume-Distance Norms.

The locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Companies and the selection of dealers/distributors is made by the Dealer Selection Boards as per the prescribed procedure. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

(b) One retail dealership was allotted in the Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh from January 1, 1999 till date. No LPG distributorship was allotted in Etawah district during this period.

(c) and (d) Eight (8) LPG distributorships and two (2) retail outlet dealerships are pending for allotment in Etawah district.

[English]

#### **Closure of Power Projects**

254. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down 16 power projects during this financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Crisis Resolution Group, Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Power, in its tenth meeting held on November 15, 2000, had identified 16 power projects for achieving financial closure keeping in view the progress made in obtaining various clearances and tying up of various inputs. Financial closure has been reported in the case of one project, viz. the 156 MW Surat Thermal Power Project of M/s Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation in Gujarat. In the case of the remaining projects, some issues are still to be resolved between the project

promoters and the concerned State Governments, the Indian Financial Institutions/Banks and the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Details of these 16 projects are given in the enclosed statement 8 projects having an aggregate capacity of 2908 MW have achieved financial closure at the intervention of the Crisis Resolution Group in the Ministry of Power since its constitution in January, 1999.

### Statement

*Details of the projects identified for financial closure by March 31, 2001*

S. No.	Name of the Project/Promoters/ State	Capacity (MW)
1.	Surat TPP, M/s. GMDC, Gujarat	156
2.	Kutch TPP, M/s. GMDC, Gujarat	250
3.	Patalganga CCGT, M/s. Reliance Power, Maharashtra	447
4.	Jamnagar TPP, M/s. Reliance Power, Gujarat	500
5.	Bina TPP, M/s. Grasim Industries, Madhya Pradesh	578
6.	Ramagundam TPP, M/s. BPL Power, Andhra Pradesh	520
7.	Konaseema CCGT, M/s. EPS Oakwell, Andhra Pradesh	359
8.	Peddapuram CCGT, M/s UNOCAL, Andhra Pradesh	359
9.	Vemajiri CCGT, M/s. Ispat Power Ltd. Andhra Pradesh	359
1.	NCC CCGT, M/s. NCC Power Corporation Ltd. Andhra Pradesh	227
11.	Jegurupadu CCGT Phase-II, M/s. GVK Power, Andhra Pradesh	359
12.	Maheshwar HEP, M/s. S. Kumars Ltd, Madhya Pradesh	400
13.	Rosa TPP, M/s. Indo-gulf Fertilisers, Uttar Pradesh	567
14.	Vishnuprayag HEP, M/s. Jai Prakash Industries Ltd. Uttar Pradesh	400
15.	Srinagar HEP, M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh	330
16.	Bhadrawati TPP, M/s. Central India Power, Maharashtra	1072

### Adjournments of Cases

255. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are about twenty five million cases pending in Law Courts in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to plan a provision in rules limiting the number of adjournments granted and judgements to be reserved only for short durations;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) There are about 2.34 crore cases pending in various law courts in India.

(b) to (d) Frequent adjournments and delay in delivering of Judgements indeed a cause for concern both for the Government and the Judiciary. Justice Malimath Committee also known as the "Arrears Committee" had also pointed out that granting of unnecessary adjournments is one of the factors which contribute to accumulation of arrears. Pursuant to these recommendations, the High Courts of Punjab and Haryana, Orissa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madras, Patna, Gauhati, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Allahabad and Bombay have informed that they have taken necessary steps to discourage granting of adjournments by courts.

The Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act 2000, inter alia, stipulates that adjournments shall not be granted more than three times to a party during the hearing of the Suit. The relevant amendments are awaiting government notification.

The 'Arrears Committee' also recommended that the reserved Judgement by High Courts should ordinarily be pronounced within a period of six weeks from the date of completion of the arguments. The recommendations have been commended to all High Courts for necessary action.

As a general rule, Judgements are to be pronounced within definite time-frame after a case has been heard. The general rule proposed is that a judgement is to be pronounced at once and where it is not practicable to do so, the Court shall make an endeavour to pronounce judgement within thirty days from the date on which hearing of the case was concluded. Where it is not practicable for the Court to pronounce Judgement within thirty days because of exceptional and extraordinary circumstances of the case, the Court shall fix a day for the

pronouncement of Judgement which shall not ordinarily be beyond sixty days from the date on which the case was heard.

[Translation]

### **Registration of Contractors at Danapur Division**

256. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for new registration of contractors in Civil Engineering department in Danapur Division (Eastern Railway) during 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that some irregularities have been committed in registration of contractors in Danapur division;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received some representations/complaints from the Members of Parliament regarding bungling in registration of contractors in Danapur division; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Nil.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

### **Power Reforms in SEBs**

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

(a) whether the Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Electricity Boards to implement power reforms;

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

(c) the details of financial assistance being granted to the SEBs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Power has not signed any MoU with State Electricity Boards. However, the MoUs have been signed with State Governments of Karnataka, UP, MP, Gujarat and

Haryana. In the MoUs, the concerned States have committed to achieve milestones in reforming power sector. The milestones include setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses etc. The Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from unallocated share of power from Central generating stations, assistance to develop transmission system, financial assistance through Accelerated Power Development Program (APDP) for strengthening of sub transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of old thermal and hydel power plants.

### **Oil/Gas Reserves in Bengal Basin**

258. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any information of oil/gas reserve in the Bengal basin; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken to explore and exploit the same/

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The exploratory efforts in Bengal Basin are yet to establish oil/gas reserves.

(b) Does not arise?

### **Power Projects in SEBs with Private and Foreign Companies**

259. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deals struck by various State Governments with the private and foreign companies to set up power projects in the country during the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether any agreement have been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) the target fixed for completion of these projects; and

(e) the power likely to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a), (b) and (d) As per information available, out of the 57 private sector power projects accorded Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) including those proposed to be set up by foreign companies), Power

Purchase Agreements (PPA) with the concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEB) have been signed in respect of 19 power projects in the last three years since 1.1.1998. The requisite details in regard to these projects are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) Government of India (GOI) is not a signatory to the PPAs and is also not required normally to approve the PPAs. However, the PPAs are expected to adhere to the tariff notification and other guidelines issued by GOI, which lay down factors such as the rate of return on equity, clauses relating to taxation, depreciation, plant load factor/

availability and operational norms, etc. Generally, PPAs prescribe the conditions for purchase of electricity from the projects, and the technical and commercial parameters governing the working of the project.

(e) The total installed capacity of the projects is indicated in the enclosed Annexure. The exact quantum of power to be generated from these projects depends on various factors such as energy and peaking requirements of the SEB concerned, tariff, terms of the PPA, merit dispatch orders, if any, issued by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and plant efficiency etc.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of signing of PPA	Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>				
1.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s Central India Power), Maharashtra	1072	3.8.1998	42-48 months from FC
2.	Patalganga CCGT, M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power	447.1	4.2.2000	24 months from FC
<b>Total</b>		<b>1519.1</b>		
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>				
3.	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen Company Ltd.)	420	10.3.2000	33 months from FC
4.	Gouripore TPP (M/s. Gouripore Power Company), West Bengal	150	15.10.1998	32 months from FC
<b>Total</b>		<b>570</b>		
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>				
5.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilisers), Uttar Pradesh	567	24.9.1998	40 months from FC
6.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.), Uttar Pradesh	330	28.8.1998	62 months from FC
<b>Total</b>		<b>897</b>		
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>				
7.	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL), Andhra Pradesh	1040	15.4.1998	38-44 months from FC
8.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group) Andhra Pradesh (on ICB route)	520	29.1.1999	33-39 months from FC
9.	Krishnapatnam >B = TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Cc.), Andhra Pradesh (on ICB route)	520	9.7.1999	36-42 months from FC
<b>Total</b>		<b>2080</b>		



1	2	3	4	5
KARNATAKA				
10.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.), Karnataka	1015	23.7.1999	38-42 months from FC
11.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power), Karnataka	107.6	22.10.1999	19 months from FC
Total		1122.6		
TAMIL NADU				
12.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power), Tamil Nadu	1050	2.2.1998	42-46 months from FC
13.	Tuticorin TPP St.IV (M/s. SPIC), Tamil Nadu	525	12.2.1998	39 months from FC
14.	North Madras TPP-III (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited), Tamil Nadu	525	19.7.1999	37 months from FC
15.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power), Tamil Nadu	106	21.5.1998	14-17 months from FC
16.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatii Power Co. Ltd.), Tamil Nadu	106	22.5.1998	-do-
17.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5	6.8.1998	27 months from FC
Total		2642.5		
HIMACHAL PRADESH				
18.	Baspa Stage-II (M/s. JPIL)	300	15.4.1998	January, 2003.
RAJASTHAN				
19.	Barsingsar TPP, (M/s. Hindusthan Vidyut Corpn. Ltd.)	500	16.12.1998	42 months from FC

**Abbreviations :**

FC = Financial Closure

**[Translation]****Development of Khambhaliya Railway Station**

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

(a) whether the material meant for development and expansion of platform of the dilapidated Khambhaliya railway station in Jamnagar district (Gujarat) under the Rajkot division of Western Railway was suddenly diverted to Dwarka railway station due to which development of Khambhaliya railway station has not been undertaken;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible for this irregularity; and

(d) the steps taken by the government to develop Khambhaliya railway station ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) At present there is no proposal for any further development of Khambhaliya Railway Station.

**[English]****Submission of Documents by MPB to Power Regulator**

261. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Maharashtra Power Board has submitted all documents to power regulator-writ forces MERC to scrutinize PPAs" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated January 2, 2001;

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

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in regard to the issues raised therein;

(d) whether the Government have received a proposal from Maharashtra for allocation of Naphtha at import price so as to check the rising cost of power in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

(c) Does not arise in view of the position stated in reply to the above.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

#### **Annual General Meeting by Companies**

262. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the companies to hold annual general meeting within 6 months from the date of closing of financial year;

(b) if so, the details of companies which have violated the law; and

(c) the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is mandatory for the companies to hold annual general meeting within 6 months from the

date of closing of financial year in terms of Section 166 read with sub-section (1) and Clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 210 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Penal action is considered against the companies which violate the law. Prosecutions were filed in 71 cases under Section 168 for non holding of annual general meeting during the financial year ended 31.03.2000.

#### **Withdrawal of Forces from Jammu and Kashmir**

263. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided for phased withdrawal of additional forces sent to Jammu and Kashmir during "Operation Vijay" in Kargil two years ago, to shore up peace initiative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a gesture is reciprocated by Pakistan as confidence-building-measures and it has also withdrawn its certain troops from Indo-Pak border like-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether surveillance and collection of intelligence is proposed to be stepped up to keep a vigil on the border; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Some additional forces deployed in Kargil during Operation VIJAY were withdrawn after the termination of the Operation and after a careful evaluation of the prevailing operational situation.

(c) and (d) There are reports to the effect that consequent to Pakistan's announcement of partial withdrawal of troops during the third week of December, 2000, certain reserve formations and some formations undergoing training in Pakistan occupied Kashmir moved to their permanent location. There are, however, no confirmed inputs to suggest reduction/withdrawal of troops physically deployed on the Line Of Control.

(e) and (f) All appropriate steps to maintain full alertness continue to be taken.

#### **Exploration of Oil Reserves**

264. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil reserves estimated to be available in the country at present;

(b) whether any survey or study has been/being conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the locations where oil exploration Project have been started during the last three years and the present position in respect of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The total oil in-place as on 1.4.2000 estimated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Joint Venture/Private companies is about 4163 million metric tonne.

(b) and (c) Reserve estimation is carried out at regular intervals using standard geo-scientific practices and considering the upto date data available from different fields.

(d) During the last three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 ONGC has undertaken exploration leading to drilling of 81 prospects of which 19 are hydrocarbon bearing. Out of the 19 new finds, seven are already on production and remaining are under appraisal/assessment.

As regards OIL they have carried out exploratory drilling in 41 prospects during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 (upto January 2001), out of which 20 prospects were found to be hydrocarbon bearing and have since been put to production.

In so far as Private/Joint Venture operations are concerned, exploration work in terms of seismic surveys and exploratory drilling was carried out in three blocks each in Rajasthan, and Krishna-Godavari offshore, 2 blocks in Cambay offshore and one block each in Gujarat-Kutch offshore and Mumbai offshore during the three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000; 9 wells were drilled during this period out of which 4 were oil/gas bearing.

#### **Specifications for use of Jute Bags**

265. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the discrimination with the Indian consumers in the matter of usage of packaging material;

(b) whether an International Jute Organisation held a workshop in Kolkata in the recent past for establishing

an International Standard specification for jute bags for packaging urea, food grade materials etc.

(c) if so, the salient features of the outcome of this workshop; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) There is no discrimination against the India consumers in the matter of usage of packaging material.

(b) to (d) The International Jute Organisation (IJO) held a workshop in Kolkata on 9th and 10th February, 1998 for establishing an International Standard Specification in respect of jute bags used in the packing of cocoa, coffee and shelled nuts. The workshop recommended adoption of the standard entitled "special criteria for the manufacture of jute bags used in the packing of selected food materials (cocoa beans, coffee beans and shelled nuts)" and to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance of the new standard. India is exporting jute bags conforming to these standards to those buyers who demand the same.

#### **Rural Electrification**

266. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :  
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals relating to rural electrification received from States during the last one year;

(b) the details of loan granted released out of the total sanctioned to each State during the said period; and

(c) the time by which the remaining amount of grant is likely to be released for the said purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) received 1479 project proposals from State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities relating to rural electrification during the financial year 1999-2000, out of which 1403 project proposals were sanctioned by the Corporation. The details of the loan grant released to each State by REC during 1999-2000 are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The priorities for execution of projects relating to rural electrification are determined by the State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities as per policy of the State Governments. REC provides loan assistance to the schemes sponsored by them and funds are released

based on the claims received from the concerned Utilities within the validated period of the sanctioned projects extending normally up to three years.

### Statement

*State-wise Disbursement of Loan and Grant  
during the year 1999-2000*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Loan	Grant	Total (3+4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29435	541	29976
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1481	60	1541
3.	Assam	296	0	296
4.	Bihar	0	283	283
5.	Goa	243	0	243
6.	Gujarat	36160	50	36210
7.	Haryana	3420	0	3420
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2734	38	2772
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1568	0	1568
10.	Karnataka	25949	1596	27545
11.	Kerala	24026	150	24176
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8508	573	9081
13.	Maharashtra	39842	420	40262
14.	Manipur	1761	0	1761
15.	Meghalaya	10000	44	10044
16.	Mizoram	509	115	624
17.	Nagaland	1143	113	1256
18.	Orissa	8610	16	8626
19.	Punjab	33183	50	33233
20.	Rajasthan	34636	92	34728
21.	Sikkim	0	15	15
22.	Tamil Nadu	20727	342	21069
23.	Tripura	1005	124	1129
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15106	3	15109
25.	West Bengal	54	84	138
Total		300396	4709	305105

### Power Reforms in Andhra Pradesh

267. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plans for implementation of reforms in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to make the outstanding dues to power companies; and

(d) if so, there response of the State Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh has undertaken comprehensive power sector reforms by enacting AP Reforms Act, setting up of SERC and unbundling of SEB Substantial progress has been made by the State in implementation of the power sector reforms.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been impressed upon to liquidate the outstanding dues of NTPC and make full payment of the current dues to NTPC. The need to make full payments to the concerned CPSUs for the bills raised based on tariff notifications was also emphasized in the meeting of the Power Ministers of Southern Region held on 10.7.2000.

(d) Government of India has approved a scheme for securitisation of the dues toward CPSUs of the Ministry of Power and Department of Coal through issue of bonds having tax-free status.

[Translation]

### Nomination in Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee

268. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2887 dated December 7, 2000 regarding constitution of Consultative Committees and state :

(a) the details of the persons nominated to the Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committee and Zonal Rail Users Consultative Committee in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) the number of sittings of these Committees held during the previous one year; and

(c) the details in regard to rights and facilities available to the members of these committees ?

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

[English]

#### **Legal Assistance Cell**

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of Supreme Court has given directions to the Gujarat High Court to constitute special cells for free legal assistance to resolve the legal problems faced by the victims of recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such type of legal assistance cells are likely to be opened in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the broad norms or guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat has been requested to formulate a scheme and constitute Special Legal Assistance Cells in the quake affected areas for helping the victims.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **LPG Agencies in Rural Areas**

270. DR. M.P. JAISWAL Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open more LPG agencies in rural areas of the country to save the fuel wood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have identified about 1200 locations for setting up of new LPG distributorships in the country to cater to the requirement of rural areas.

[English]

#### **Production of Bivoltine Raw Silk**

271. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board and the Government of Karnataka have launched a project for production of bivoltine raw silk in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the extent to which the project has achieved its target;

(d) whether the Central Silk Board also plans to launch similar projects in collaboration with other State Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) to (e) The Central Silk Board (CSB) has been implementing a project with the technical assistance of Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to develop and introduce hardier and productive bivoltine silkworm races and appropriate package of practices for mulberry garden and silkworm rearing technology suited to tropical conditions. This project implemented between 1991 and 1997 developed certain technologies and six bivoltine hybrids have been evolved which are authorized for commercial exploitation. The second phase is under implementation from April, 1997 for verification of technologies in appropriate areas in Karnataka on a pilot basis. During 2000-2001, Government of Karnataka extended the pilot project by launching a Thrust Programme with a target of 18 lakh brushings of the bivoltine seed. The Thrust Programme has exceeded its target by reaching 19.265 lakh brushings.

The Central Silk Board has extended the pilot phase of the JICA project to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu successfully.

[Translation]

#### **Power Generation in M.P.**

272. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) the target fixed for power generation from the Tonse Hydel Project in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of total megawatt being generated at present from this project.

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to supply the targeted power; and

(e) the cost of the project and the contribution of the centre and other States therein separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Ban Sagar Tonse HE Project in Madhya Pradesh comprises 3 Power Houses viz. Power House-I (3x105 MW), Power House-II (2x15 MW) and Power House-III (3x20 MW) Power House-I of 315 MW was commissioned in 1991-93. The generation target for Ban Sagar Tonse HE Station (315 MW) for 2000-01 is fixed as 425 MU. The generation from this station during 2000-01 (April 2000 to January 2001) is 675 MU as against the target of 425 MU.

(c) and (d) Power House-II (2x15 MW) is programmed to be commissioned in 2002-03. In Power House-III (3x20 MW), Unit-I has been spun on 26.11.2000 and Unit-II and III are programmed for commissioning during 2001-02.

(e) The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 966.81 crores out of which an expenditure of Rs. 758.69 crores has been incurred on the project upto March, 2000. The Project is being executed in State Sector.

[English]

#### **World Bank Aid to Power Projects in SEB**

273. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank officials which reviewed the progress of power reforms in Karnataka has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the total amount of aid, the World Bank has agreed to provide in power projects in the State;

(c) the latest position of this power project; and

(d) the total aid so far provided by the Word Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The World Bank has submitted its report to the Government of Karnataka through an Aide Memoire.

(b) and (c) The details of the Project as well as the amount of aid to be provided by the World Bank to Karnataka is yet to be decided.

(d) Nil.

#### **Employment Policy of Oil and other PSUs in Assam**

274. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the discomfiture and unrest about the employment policy of Oil India Limited and other public sector undertakings operating in Assam and North-east;

(b) if so, the precise demands of All Assam Students Union and other such organizations in this regard and

(c) the response of the government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Demands are raised from different quarters mainly for providing employment to local persons in the public sector oil companies functioning in Assam and North-east. Oil companies have a system to discuss the matter with the concerned Union/Association for taking appropriate action. All Assam Students Union (AASU) has also raised demand with Oil India Limited (OIL) for recruitment of unskilled workmen at the rate of 200 per year for five years, contract services for drilling and man management, financial assistance for development of the area etc. OIL has accordingly initiated action for recruitment of 300 unskilled work persons in OIL in consultation and coordination with the State Government.

#### **Damage to Fatehpur Sikri Palace**

275. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "ASI damaged palace at Fatehpur Sikri" appearing in the Times of India dated January 4, 2001;

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

(c) whether the purpose for which the excavation undertaken is achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any damage was done to the monument during the excavation;

(f) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The scientific clearance conducted below the bed of the Anup Talao in the Fatehpur Sikri complex, established by the Mughal emperor Akbar, has exposed an underground "cool chamber" at the centre of the Talao. This excavation corroborates contemporary historical sources like Akbarnama of Abul Fazal and accounts of Badauni which have mentioned the existence of such a tank.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

#### **Meeting of Hindi Committee**

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

(a) The number of meetings of the Hindi Committee in Railways held since January, 2000; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Three.

(b) The expenditure incurred on each meeting is as follows :—

Meeting on 05.04.2000	=	Rs. 70,282.00
Meeting on 11.09.2000	=	Rs. 65,790.00
Meeting on 27.12.2000	=	Rs. 1,10,981.00

#### **Clearance to Gulberga-Bidar Rail Line**

277. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Gulberga-Bidar Rail Line;

(b) whether the Railways have obtained necessary clearance;

(c) if so, the time by which the said rail line is likely to be completed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said project is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Final Location for Bidar-Gulbarga new line is presently in

progress which will be followed by land acquisition. Work would commence once the land becomes available.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The target date for completion of the line has not yet been fixed.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Training to Indian Troops by Vietnam in Jungle Warfare**

278. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vietnam is training Indian troops in the Jungle warfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of troops at present going in for training in that country and the number of troops already trained;

(d) the total expenditure being incurred by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which this training programme is likely to continue ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. At present there is no training being imparted by Vietnam to Indian troops in Jungle Warfare. The possibility has been discussed with Vietnam during the year 2000.

[Translation]

#### **Issuing of Photo Identity Cards in Bihar**

279. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voters in Bihar;

(b) the number of voters who have been issued photo identity cards in Bihar;

(c) whether the Union Government have released its share of expenditure to the Government of Bihar for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) 58,438,317.

(b) 21,681,836.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Union Government has since 1994-95 released provisional advance payment of Rs. 35,53,92,000/- as Government of India's share of the expenditure incurred on the issuance of photo identity cards to voters. The said amount was released in two instalments, Rs. 22,76,00,00,000/- released in 1994-95 and Rs. 12,77,92,000/- in 1995-96, based on the projection of the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this account by the State Government.

*[English]*

### **Proposal for Introduction of Tonnage Tax**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tonnage tax in place of existing corporate tax for the shipping companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the existing tax rate for Indian Shipping companies is much higher than that of existing in other countries;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and its impact on the development of shipping industry; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalise the tax structure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (f) This Ministry's proposal for introduction of Tonnage Tax in lieu of existing Corporate Tax for the Shipping Industry is under consideration of the Government of India. In so far as higher tax rate for the Shipping Industry in India vis-a-vis other countries is concerned, although no comparative study has been made to assess the incidence of direct taxation, the Indian Shipping Industry has been representing that the same is not on comparative par with the rest of the Maritime countries. As regards rationalisation of tax structure, it is an ongoing process subject to overall fiscal environment of the Indian Economy.

### **Survey by ONGC for Oil/Gas Deposits in West Bengal**

281. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC is surveying various districts of West Bengal to find oil and gas deposits;

(b) if so, the districts under survey and drilling operation;

(c) whether at Karandighi in the district of Uttar Dinajpur of West Bengal, ONGC has found some oil deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC has been carrying out surveys for hydrocarbons/Coal Bed Methane (CBM) within its PEL areas in various districts of West Bengal State. During the IXth plan period, seismic surveys were carried out by ONGC in Contai area of Midnapur district and Ichapur area of Nadia district. Additionally, slim hole drilling for assessment of CBM has been initiated by ONGC in Raniganj area of Bardhaman district.

(c) and (d) ONGC had drilled a well, Karandighi-1 in the district of Uttar Dinajpur which proved to be dry and was abandoned.

### **Corruption at Ludhiana Railway Station**

282. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware of the fact that traders and others facing difficulties in booking tickets due to mass scale corruption and poor performance of railway employees in Ludhiana railway station;

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

(c) the steps taken by the government against the corrupt railway employees;

(d) whether the Railways propose to open new booking counters in Ludhiana Railway station to facilitate the travellers; and

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of some difficulties being faced due to rush and congestion in Ludhiana.

(c) Regular preventive/surprise checks are



conducted to detect malpractices in reservation/booking offices. Suitable action is regularly taken against persons found responsible during these checks.

(d) and (e) It is planned to install Self Printing Ticket Machines at Ludhiana to facilitate easy booking of passengers. Additional reservation counters are planned to be opened at Ludhiana and reservation counters are also to be opened at Dhandari Kalan, work for which is likely to be completed within the next three months.

*[Translation]*

### **Construction of Road Over Bridge**

283. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a train accident took place at Gondiya-Chandrapur broad gauge line at the Arjuni/Mor Navegaon Bandh road on February 27, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government have studied the causes in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal for construction of road over bridge or manned railway level crossing at the site for minimising the accidents and smooth running of traffic;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(c) The Government have been giving wide publicity through posters, newspapers and electronic media to take caution before crossing an unmanned level crossing.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) As per guidelines, manning of unmanned level crossings is done provided the Train Vehicle Units at the level crossing are beyond certain threshold values, or in cases where visibility is restricted. This unmanned level crossing does not qualify for being manned on the above basis.

*[English]*

### **Construction of Road Over/under Bridge at Gaya Railway Station**

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

(a) whether the only over bridge at Gaya Railway Station is out of use for nearly 4-5 years due to its dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making that over bridge useworthy so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct another over bridge there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Road Over Bridge near west end of Gaya Railway station is closed since June, 1998.

(b) State Govt. has not yet accepted the estimate amounting to Rs. 40 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited**

285. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sale of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation limited in 2000-2001 (third quarter) has increased by 42 per cent;

(b) if so, whether this rise in the sale is due to high oil prices;

(c) whether there has been a corresponding increase in profits;

(d) the details of profits for the said period;

(e) whether there is a proposal to divest HPCL's interest in joint venture refineries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(d) The net profit for the quarter October-December, 2000 was Rs. 338 crores against Rs. 221 crores for the quarter October-December, 1999.

(e) and (f) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has no proposal to divest its stake in the Joint Venture Refinery.

**Defence Land for Indoor Stadium  
in Hyderabad**

286. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had allowed 38 acres of defence land in GLR 708 and 712 on long lease for construction of main stadium, indoor stadium and aquatic complex for conducting National Games, 2002 at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for lease of Defence land in GLR 708 and 712 in Secunderabad for construction of stadium complex for the National Games, 2002. No decision has been taken by the Union Government, so far.

**Explosion during a Missile  
Demonstration**

287. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI K. YERRNAIDU :  
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :  
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the demonstration of a short range surface-to-surface missile 'Milan' at Hyderabad on January 4, 2001, fire broke out with a bang killing a supervisor and injuring several others;

(b) if so, the cause of fire and the explosion;

(c) the reasons for exhibiting a live missile instead of a dummy;

(d) the estimated loss of lives and property therein;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(g) the preventive steps taken to avert such situation in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) On 4th January, 2001 during the explanation of the working and loading of a launcher at Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, the accidental firing of a missile took place. This resulted in outbreak of fire and also the death of a Quality Control Inspector, and injury to three other officers. The missile did not explode but there was slow combustion of the explosive.

2. A Committee was constituted immediately to investigate the causes of the accident; to list out the violations in the security and safety procedures which could have led to the accident and to fix responsibility for the lapses and also to suggest remedial measures to avoid such accidents. The Committee has since submitted its Report. The Committee has concluded that the accident was not as a result of any sabotage but because of human error in wrongly loading a missile and pressing the push button (triggering) on the launcher in the process of explaining its working. The investigation has also concluded that the presence of the launcher in the building used for assembling the missiles was a contributory factor. The Committee has also drawn attention to some other security and safety violations. Estimated cost of repair of buildings, plant and machinery is Rs. 54.70 lakhs. Finished missiles and work in progress amounting to Rs 26.64 crores were stored at the site during the incident. Extent of loss and damage of these missiles and material is subject to test and confirmation.

3. Major penalty proceedings against four officers of BDL have been ordered. It has also been decided to call for the explanation of the CMD, BDL, on the various lapses noticed by the Committee. A Committee consisting of representatives of the BDL OFB, DGQA and DRDO has been set up to prepare a comprehensive Safety Manual for BDL so that stringent safety measures are put in place to avoid such accidents in future.

*[Translation]*

**Hike in Freight for Transportation  
of Petroleum Products**

228. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil companies especially the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have reached an agreement to hike the freight of tankers for transportation of petrol and diesel by road;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date on which the agreement has been signed;

(c) whether the agreement has since been enforced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Tenders for transportation of petrol and diesel are floated by the Industry Co-ordinators for all the States in each Region through Joint Industry Public Tender on behalf of all Oil Marketing Companies viz. BPCL, IOC, HPCL and IBP. The transportation rates are decided subject to the rates quoted by tenderers/negotiated rates.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an agreement with Transporters for transportation of petrol and Diesel for various States in Western/Eastern Regions, effective from 01.09.1999 and 01.03.1999 respectively.

(c) and (d) The agreements have been implemented by BPCL's Western and Eastern Regions.

[English]

#### **Excavation Work in Orissa**

289. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has completed the excavation work at Barabati Fort of Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the total excavation work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Eight seasons of the excavation since 1989-90 at Barabati Fort has revealed remains from circa 13th century to 17th A.D. The remains exposed comprise inter alia pillared platforms and a palace complex. Stone sculptural pieces, architectural fragments, terracotta animal figurines, red-slipped ware, and Chinese porcelain are among the important finds. The expenditure incurred on the excavation at Barabati Fort is Rs. 24.59 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **2600th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Lord Mahavira**

290. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH  
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to celebrate 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira in April, 2001; and

(b) the details of programmes and other activities proposed for the purpose alongwith the amount likely to be spent thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The National Committee, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, in a meeting held on 9th December, 2000, has decided to celebrate 2600th Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavira for one year from 6th April, 2001. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced a sum of Rs. 100 crores for the celebrations. The details of programmes/ activities to be undertaken during the celebrations are in the process of elaboration.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Projects damaged by Earthquake**

291. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of railway stations, lines, bridges and other property damaged by the recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) the details of loss suffered by the railways as a result thereof;

(c) the likely time to be taken in restoring the Ahmedabad Bhuj rail line;

(d) the steps taken by the railways to repair the damaged property; and

(e) the details of tracks renewed by the Railways during each of the last three years, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) Details of

Railway property damaged/collapsed recently due to earthquake in Gujrat are as under :

Station Buildings	124 Nos.
Station Cabins	68 Nos.
Residential Quarters	9820 Nos.
Bridges	107 Nos.
Railway Tracks	10 sections.

(b) The total estimated cost of repairs/rebuilding of damaged property is Rs. 75 crore approximately.

(c) Ahmedabad-Bhuj rail line has already been restored.

(d) Immediate action was taken to restore traffic and all sections of Railway track except Dahinsara-Lavanpur-Navalakhi have been restored. Other repairs/rebuilding are also in hand.

(e) Zone-wise details of the tracks renewed by the Railways during each of the last three years are as under:

(figure in Kilometres of complete  
Track renewal units)

Railway	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Central	506	616	596
Eastern	351	321	236
Northern	467	510	553
North Eastern	185	134	71
Northeast Frontier	83	69	66
Southern	221	222	113
South Central	170	161	263
South Eastern	615	634	703
Western	353	300	405
Total	2951	2967	3007

#### **Power Failure at Delhi Railway Station**

292. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to sudden power failure at the Delhi Railway Station on the night of January 4, 2001 the station

plunged into darkness for quite sometime and many passengers sustained physical injuries and suffered monetary losses;

(b) if so, whether any compensation was paid to the victims;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) the action taken against the erring officials responsible for the same; and

(e) the arrangements being made by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents at Delhi and other metropolitan Railway stations in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Although there was electric supply failure of DVB from 20.30 hrs. to 21.25 hrs. on 4.1.2001 at Delhi Railway Station, DG set provided was immediately started and emergency power supply restored. Starting of DG set and switching operations takes a normal time of about 2 minutes during which there was darkness at the station. However, no incident of physical injury or monetary loss to passengers was reported due to the power failure.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing provision of DG sets at Delhi and other metropolitan Railway stations is adequate to feed the essential load during power supply failures.

[English]

#### **Collapse of Regional Grids**

293. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether grid indiscipline of Electricity Boards are the major reasons responsible for collapse of regional grids;

(b) if so, whether the Government have asked the State Governments to ensure that State Electricity Boards in their respective States maintain grid discipline;

(c) if so, the number of incidents that had occurred during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Grid

collapse can occur on account of many factors such as failure of operation of protective relays, unwanted operation of relays, poor maintenance of equipments in the sub-stations and grid indiscipline. During the last three years, there were three major grid disturbances in Northern Region, one in Eastern Region and eight in North-Eastern Region. There were also some partial system disturbances affecting power supply to parts of the regional systems/states. The incidents of grid disturbance were investigated, the causes of disturbance/interruptions identified and suitable directions given to all concerned to avoid similar grid disturbances. After the recent grid collapse in the Northern Region on 2.1.2001, a Committee headed by Chairman, CEA was constituted to conduct an inquiry, ascertain the causes of major grid disturbance and suggest remedial measures. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, action has been initiated to minimize the incidents of grid failure. Chief Ministers of all States have also been advised to ensure grid discipline by restricting their drawals from the grid in accordance with their allocated quota and grid requirements.

### On-going Projects in Rajasthan

294. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the On-going and proposed Railway projects in Rajasthan alongwith the cost involved therein;

(b) the progress made and the amount spent on each of the project so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Details of ongoing Railway projects in Rajasthan along with their cost, expenditure incurred and the progress made are given in enclosed statement-I. Target dates of completion, wherever fixed, have also been indicated in the status of the projects.

Details of surveys being carried out for projects in Rajasthan is given in enclosed statement-II.

### Statement-I

S. No.	Name of Project	Rly.	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2000 (Rs. in Crores)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>On-going Railway Projects in Rajasthan</i>					
<b>New Lines</b>					
1.	Dausa-Gangapur	WR	217.93	0.21	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for first block section covering 34 hectares for first section Dausa-Bamaniya and second block section between Baniyana-Nangal Rajawat submitted to State Govt. Work will be taken up once the land becomes available.
2.	Ajmer-Pushker	WR	67.00	0.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Final location survey is being taken up. Land acquisition plans and papers are under preparation.
3.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal	WR	425.00	0.00	New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Estimate for Final Location Survey has been sanctioned. Final location survey is being taken up.
<b>Gauge Coverion</b>					
4.	Bhildi-Samdri	NR	185.00	4.35	Works is being progressed as per availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara	NR	45.66	0.85	The work from Phulera-Jodhpur has been completed and commissioned. The rest of section from Paper Road to Bilara has been sanctioned as a Material Modification. Due to low operational priority and very light traffic on Piper Road section, work is temporarily pended and will be progressed as per availability of resources.
6.	Luni-Marwar and Jodhpur-Luni	NR	111.13	110.14	The work has been completed. Financial adjustments are being made. The residual work of block proving with axle counters is in progress and will be completed in 2001-02.
7.	Luni-Barmer-Munabao	NR	240.00	36.41	Earthwork between Luni-Samdari (50 km) has been completed and is in progress between Samdhari and Barmer. 61 minor bridges out of 104 have also been completed and 3 out of 9 major bridges also completed. Ballast collection is in progress. 2.1 lakh cum out of 6.25 lakh cum ballast has been received.
8.	Rewari-Sadulpur	NR	197.76	0.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
9.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	NR	68.71	0.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
10.	Agra-Bandikui	WR	169.30	4.51	Earthwork and bridges are in progress. 42 minor bridges out of 193 nos, substructure of 4 major bridges out of 9 nos. have been completed and 1.3 lacs cum earthwork out of 3.07 lac cum has been completed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
11.	Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh	WR	445.38	9.97	The work is in progress between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh in first phase. 3.65 lac cum. of Earthwork has been completed out of 17.41 lac cum, substructure of 72 minor bridges have been completed and other 15 bridges out of the total 204 minor bridges is in progress. Out of total of 8 major bridges, one has been completed in all respect and substructure of 4 more bridges have been completed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.
12.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad Doubling	WR	668.15	616.15	Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress.
13.	Kota-Gurla Chambal bridge	WR	11.70	11.60	The work has been completed and commissioned.

**Statement-II**

S.No.	Name of the Project	Plan-Head	Railway	Kms.	Status
1.	Jaipur to Merta Rd.	Doubling	Northern	219	Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion is 31.3.2002.
2.	Delhi-Ahmedabad	Doubling	Western	934	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.10.2001
3.	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad	Gauge Conversion	Western	346	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.09.20001
4.	Anupgarh to Bikaner	New Line	Northern	155	Yet to be taken up. Target Date of Completion is 31.5.2002.
5.	Churu to Taranagar	New Line	Northern	42	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.7.2001
6.	Jalore-Falna	New Line	Northern	70	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.3.2001
7.	Jhunjhunu-Pilani	New Line	Northern	20	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.7.2002
8.	Kolayat-Pokaran Barmer	New Line	Northern	260	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.3.2001
9.	Merta City to Beawar	New Line	Northern	65	Yet to be taken. Target Date of Completion is 28.2.2002
10.	Nokha-Sikar via Bedasar and Sujangarh	New Line	Northern	180	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.5.2001
11.	Dungarpur to Ratlam via Banswara	New Line	Western	200	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 30.9.2001.
12.	Jaisalmer to Kandla	New Line	Western	600	In progress. Target Date of Completion is 31.12.2001

**Development of Major Ports**

295. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop the major ports in Andhra Pradesh during 2001:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is only one major port in Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Visakhapatnam. No other proposal is under consideration. So far as development of Visakhapatnam Port is concerned, some development schemes are always going on in the port, which is a regular feature.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 138.40 crores for development of plan schemes of Viskhapatnam Port is proposed during the year 2000-01.

**Manipulation of Accident Statistics**

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

(a) whether the Railways has noted that one factor spoiling the safety performance of the Railways has been the wide spread manipulation of accident statistics;

(b) if so, the facts and figures on the basis of which accident statistics affected the safety performance; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to rectify the system and to bring about a reliable safety environment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no manipulation of Railway accident statistics. Various types of accidents are reported to different levels depending on their seriousness. Yard derailments etc. are reported only upto the level of Divisions. Smaller accidents not having serious repercussions are reported only upto the level of zonal Railways. Only 'Consequential Train Accidents' which include collisions, derailment, level crossing accidents and fire cases having serious repercussions are reported to Railway Board. Thus, it is a matter of reporting at different levels for different accidents depending on their seriousness.

#### **Production and Consumption of LNG**

297. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present production position of LNG in the country and the import from other countries;
- (b) the extent to which the production of LNG in the country is sufficient to the required consumption;
- (c) whether the Government have any plan to utilise LNG in all the vehicles; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) At present, liquefied natural gas (LNG) is neither being produced in the country, nor is it being imported to India.

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

#### **Benefits/Facilities to Hotel Industry**

298. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to extend more benefits and facilities to hotel industry to earn more foreign exchange; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

- (b) On the initiative of the Department of Tourism meeting was held with the representatives of the Tourism Industry Associations to consider their proposals for Pre Budget discussions, out of which, the grant of Infrastructure Status to Tourism Industry, to allow Income Tax benefits under Section 80-HHD for restaurants, Heritage hotels and

other tourism related agencies such as Amusement parks, Convention Centres and Adventure Tour Operators etc. in Tourism Sector and the abolition of Expenditure Tax have been prioritised and recommended for consideration.

#### **Foreign Private Participation in Defence Sector**

- 299. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign and domestic private sector to produce defence equipments in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the action-plan chalked out in this regard, including the extent of foreign equity permissible; and
- (d) the details of defence items proposed to be produced in the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) As per the existing industrial policy, manufacture of arms, ammunition and allied items of defence equipment, defence aircraft and warships is reserved for the public sector. Non-lethal stores required by the Armed Forces and raw materials, semi-finished products, components and sub-systems required by Ordnance Factories and Defence PSUs are being procured from the private sector. In the quest for self-reliance, the private sector shall continue to be associated in defence production with suitable changes in policy and procedures which may include foreign equity if and when required.

#### **Oil and Gas Reserves in Gujarat**

300. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Consortium of the Cairns Energy (India), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Tata Petronide has discovered Oil and Gas reserves in the Gulf of Khambhat off Gujarat Coast;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether ONGC strike in deep sea Krishna-Godavari basin and Shell India in Barmer district of Rajasthan augurs extremely well for future exploration in the country.



(d) if so, whether the Government propose to give greater impetus for exploration in this belt and are considering to establish additional refinery in the area;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Consortium of the Cairns Energy (India) Pvt. Ltd., Tata Petrodyne and ONGC has discovered Oils and Gas in Exploration Block CB-OS-2 in the Gulf of Khambat, the details of these discoveries are as under:

1. Well:CB-A-1 (Prospect A "Lakshmi") The well flowed gas @ of 0.8 Million Standard Cubic Meters of gas Per Day (MMSCMD) through 56/64" choke.
2. Well :CB-B-1 (Prospect B 'Gauri')- The well flowed gas @ 0.53 MMSCMD and 0.48 MMSCMD through 1 " choke from two zones. Another zone in the well also flowed oil and gas @ 1039 barrel per day and 0.02 MMSCMD through 32/64" choke.
3. Well : CB-C-1(Prospect C "Ambe") The well flowed gas at the rate of 0.59 and 0.56 MMSCMD respectively through 96/64" choke from two zones. The well also flowed oil at the rate varying from 110 to 240 barrels per day from another zone.
4. Well : CB-G-1Z (Prospect G "Parvati") : The well flowed oil and water at unstablized rate varying from 1200 to 2200 barrel per day.

The extent of oil and gas reserves of the above discoveries will be known, after further drilling and exploration activities in this Block.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) In Gulf of Khambat, two exploration blocks CB-OS/1 and CB-OS/2 covering all the areas of the Gulf are already under active exploration by the Consortium of private and national companies.

ONGC has intensified exploration plan for the next two years of the 9th Plan and intends to continue exploration in Krishna-Godavari deep water acreage under ONGC and Block awarded to ONGC.

At present there is no proposal to set up a new refinery in Gulf of Khambat, Krishna-Godavari Basin and in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

### **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal**

301. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether complexity of Income Tax Laws in one of the prime reasons for the huge pendency of I.T. cases as per Income Tax Appellate Tribunals;

(b) if so, other reasons responsible for pendency of cases in IT;

(c) the suggestions given by the President of ITAT in this regard; and

(d) the response of the Government there to with the action taken there to ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Reasons for increase in pendency of income tax cases before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal are vacant post of Members, increased institution of appeals, enlargement of income tax base, increase in number of tax payers, etc. However, pendency is now going down. 2,62,652 cases were pending as on 1.4.2000 as against the pendency of 3,00,597 as on 1.4.1999. The pendency has come down further to 2,46,782 as on 1.2.2001. Thus the pendency has come down by 53,815 cases during the above period.

(c) and (d) President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal recommended conferment of Single Member Case (SMC) powers to dispose of cases where the assessed income is upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs on members who have completed 5 years of service, which has been accepted by the Government and appropriate orders have been issued from time to time. In order to speed up disposal of cases, number of benches was also increased from 38 to 53 with effect from 1.4.1997 as suggested by the President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

### **Voluntary Retirement Scheme**

302. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the work force at major ports and also planning to introduce voluntary retirement scheme for port and dock workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of employees likely to be reduced under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Voluntary Retirement Scheme for employees and workers was in existence in 1991 in Ports and Dock Labour Boards. The Government has recently requested all Major Ports and Dock Labour Boards to keep this Scheme open till 31.3.2001. The details of this voluntary Retirement Scheme are as under :-

- I. An employee who has completed 10 years' of service or completed 40 years of age may seek voluntary retirement by a written request.
- II. The Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards will have the right not to grant voluntary retirement for reasons to be recorded in writing.
- III. The terminal payments available to an employee who seeks voluntary retirement would be :-
  - (i) the balance in his Provident Fund Account payable as per the GPF/CPF regulations applicable to him;
  - (ii) Case equivalent of accumulated earned leave as per the rules of the Port Trust/ Dock Labour Board;
  - (iii) gratuity as per Gratuity Act or the gratuity scheme applicable to the employee;
  - (iv) one month's/three months' notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him).
  - (v) Pension as per the rules of the Port Trust/ Dock Labour Board.
- IV. In addition, an employee whose request for Voluntary Retirement is accepted would also be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 1-1/2 months' emoluments (Pay + DA) for each completed year of service or the discounted value of the emoluments (at 12% rate of discount) that would have become payable for the balance months of service left, whichever is less.

(c) It is not possible to provide specific figures for the workers/employees who will take benefit under this Scheme as the same depends on the submission of request by the eligible workers and employees subject to acceptance of the same by the Port/Dock Labour Board.

[Translation]

#### Prices of Crude Oil in International Market

303. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

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

(a) whether the prices of crude oil in the international market had fallen as compared to the prices prevailed in March, 2000;

(b) if not, the average price of the crude oil at present and the rate at which the deals to procure crude oil from the international market have been settled in January, 2001;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring the consumer sale price of the petroleum products in the country at par with the prices prevailed in March, 2000; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the estimated amount of oil pool deficit by the end of March, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The month wise average published prices for Bubai and Brent (dated) crude oil for the period March 2000 to January 2001 are as under :

Month	Brent (\$BBL)	Dubai (\$BBL)
March'2000	27.26	25.06
April'2000	22.65	22.11
May '2000	27.63	25.75
June'2000	29.80	27.24
July'2000	28.49	26.08
August'2000	30.11	27.00
Sept.'2000	32.73	29.97
October'2000	30.91	30.52
Nov.'2000	32.58	30.31
Dec.'2000	25.12	21.65
Jan.'2001	25.66	22.85

(c) and (d) Decrease in the consumer sale prices of petroleum products can be considered after the accumulated outstandings from the Oil Pool Account are liquidated. As per the current estimates, the accumulated outstandings from the Oil Pool Account as on 31-3-2001 are likely to be around Rs. 12,000 crore.

**Losses Suffered by Kandla Port**

304. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
 SHRI C.N. SINGH :  
 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :  
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Kandla Port has suffered immense damage from the recent earthquake in Gujrat;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof;  
 (c) whether the Union Government have started the reconstruction work of the port;  
 (d) if so, the details thereof;  
 (e) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this work: and  
 (f) the time by which its reconstructional work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port has suffered damages to its permanent structure, such as cargo jetties, oil jetties, warehouses, godowns, water supply, oil pipelines, administrative office building at Gandhidham and the Port and Customs building at Kandla, boundary walls of residential and non-residential buildings, roads and storm water drains, electrical installation/equipment, quarters, etc., due to the devastating earthquake.

(c) to (e) Immediate rescue and relief operations were undertaken by the Kandla Port Trust on war-footing and the Port is now back into the operations. The permanent losses are being assessed by the Experts and repairs are to be under taken accordingly. Tentatively, the Kandla Port Trust has suffered a loss of Rs. 50 crores approximately to its property.

(f) It is too early to indicate the time frame for the reconstruction of all the damaged assets of the Port to their original condition.

[English]

**Oil Pool Deficit**

305. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of Oil Pool Deficit as on date; and  
 (b) the details of subsidies on all petroleum Products as on today, product-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The oil pool deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 12,000 crore at the end of the year 2000-01.

(b) The estimated subsidy on controlled petroleum products based on February, 2001 tariff adjusted import parity refinery gate prices is Rs. 3.15 per litre on kerosene for public distribution and Rs. 152.50 per cylinder on domestic LPG.

**Report on Railway Reforms**

306. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee on Railway Reforms has submitted its report;  
 (b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;  
 (c) whether the Government have been considering to review the performance of the Indian Railways as per the recommendations given by the Committee;  
 (d) if so, the details thereof;  
 (e) whether the Committee has suggested to corporatise the Indian Railways; and  
 (f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan has submitted an Interim Executive Summary.

(b) to (f) The Interim Executive Summary is under study.

**Shortage of Power in Northern States**

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have directed Central Electricity Authority to take firm steps to provide additional power to Northern States during peak and off peak hours facing acute shortages;  
 (b) if so, the details of the Northern States which are facing acute power shortages; and  
 (c) the extent to which the State Governments are following the directives of the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI, MEHTA) : (a) and (b)

Keeping in view the relative shortages, seasonal requirements and emergent needs, allocations out of 15% unallocated quota of the central sector stations in Northern

Region as well as special allocations have been made to the constituent States/UTs of Northern Region as per details given below :

State/UT	Allocation from 15% unallocated share (%) w.e.f. 18.11.2000		Energy Shortage (%) in the State/UT during		Special Allocation made
	05 to 12 and 17 to 22 hours	Other hours of the day	April 2000-January 2001	January 2001	
Chandigarh	0	0	0.1	0	
Delhi	11	11	4.7	10.3	65 MW from unallocated quota of Vindhyachal STPS Stage-II during peak hrs. from 0800 hrs. to 1100 hrs. and 1900 hrs. to 2300 hrs. w.e.f. 16.1.2001.
Haryana	22	22	2	6.9	(1) 85 MW from unallocated quota of Vindhyachal STPS Stage-II during off peak hrs of 1100 to 1800 hrs. and 2300 hrs. to 0500 hrs. (w.e.f. 8.2.2001) (2) 50% power from RAPP Unit-4 (220 MW) upto 28.2.2001.
Himachal Pradesh	11	11	1.8	6.6	
Jammu and Kashmir	20	20	12.9	29	(1) 65 MW from unallocated quota of Vindhyachal STPS Stage-II during off peak hrs of 2300 hrs to 05.00 hrs. and 1100 to 1900 hrs. w.e.f. 21.1.2000 from Western Region. (2) 25 MW during peak hrs. from 0700 hrs. to 1000 hrs. and 1900 hrs. to 2200 hrs. w.e.f. 29.1.2001
Punjab	0	0	1.7	3.9	
Rajasthan	22	33	3.3	10.4	(1) 65 MW during morning peak hrs. from 0500 hrs. to 0800 hrs. w.e.f. 25.1.2001 from unallocated quota of Vindhyachal STPS Stage-II. (2) 85% power from RAPP Unit-3 (220 MW) for a period of 3 years which will be reviewed and extended for a further period of 2 years, if required. Allocation of remaining 15% unallocated power also as a special case until further orders. (3) 50% power from RAPP Unit-4 (220 MW) upto 28.2.2001
U.P.	14	14	14	21.3	300 MW out of 460 MW diverted share (due to non payment) of UP has been restored on specific assurance by the State Government to make cash payment to central sector power utilities.

(c) At times, the constituent States/UTs resort to over draws under low frequency/under draws during high frequency due to various reasons. In the event of grid

indiscipline, required measures are taken as per the provisions of the Indian Electricity Grid Code evolved by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

**Power Crisis in Southern States**

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

(a) whether the Southern States are facing power crisis;

(b) if so, whether the Southern Grid is functioning at a very critical level; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove the deficiency and save the Southern Grid from any collapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The States of Southern Region have experienced power shortages of varying degrees during the period April, 2000 to January, 2001 as per details given below :

(All figures in MU net)

	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	Southern Region (Total)
Requirement	39112	24401	11211	34920	109644
Availability	36264	22158	10463	32263	101148
Shortage	2848 (7.3%)	2243 (9.2%)	748 (6.7%)	2657 (7.6%)	8496 (7.7%)

The availability indicated above includes un-allocated power and import of energy from Eastern Region.

(b) The frequency in the Southern Region remained below 48.5 Hz for 82.8% and 60.6% of time during November and December, 2000 respectively and showed considerable improvement during 2001, when it was below 48.5 Hz for only 5.7% of time only.

(c) During the meeting of the constituents of Southern region held on 15.11.2000, the following

decisions have been taken for improvement of grid frequency :

(i) No over draws by any constituents at low frequency,

(ii) All the constituent systems shall implement load shedding as advised by SRLDC in real time.

(iii) All constituent systems shall make under frequency (U/F) relay operational and effective at 47.8 Hz with immediate effect.

(iv) All the constituent system shall reconnect 1st stage U/F relays at 48.2 Hz after 10 days.

As a result of the above measures, frequency regime showed considerable improvement in January, 2001.

**Plan to Increase Power Generation**

309. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has drawn up an ambitious plan to increase power generation by 2000-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of expansion programmes drawn up therefor, plant-wise ?

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

(b) and (c) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has drawn up a corporate plan to add over 20,000 MW generating capacity by 2012 subject to timely linkages/clearances and financing tie-ups. The details of projects (both new and expansion projects) which are envisaged to yield benefits during the period from 2000-01 to 2006-07 (end of X plan) are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

(Figures in MW)

S.No.	Project	Location	Capacity	Capacity likely to be commissioned during 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2007
1	2	3	4	5
I. APPROVED/ONGOING				
1.	Faridabad GPP	Expansion	430	144 @
2.	Simhadri TPP	Greenfield	1000	1000
3.	Talcher STPP-II	Expansion	2000	2000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>II. NEW PROJECTS</b>				
<b>(a) CEA Cleared Projects</b>				
1.	Ramagundam STPP-III Expansion	Andhra Pradesh	500	500
2.	Rihand STPP-II Expansion	Uttar Pradesh	1000	1000
3.	Sipat STPP-I Greenfield	Chattisgarh	1980	1320 #
4.	Kawas CCPP-II Expansion	Gujarat	650	650 *
5.	Gandhar CCPP-II Expansion	Gujarat	650	650 *
6.	Anta CCPP-II Expansion	Rajasthan	650	650 *
7.	Auraiya CCPP-II Expansion	Uttar Pradesh	650	650 *
<b>(b) New Projects – FR Submitted</b>				
8.	Kahalgaon STPP-II Expansion	Bihar	1320	660 #
9.	Barh STPP Green field	Bihar	1980	660 #
10.	Vindhyachal-III Expansion	Madhya Pradesh	1000	500 #
11.	Sipat STPP-II Expansion	Chattisgarh	660	660
<b>Total</b>				<b>11044 MW</b>

CEA Central Electricity Authority

STPP Super Thermal Power Project

CCPP Combined Cycle Power Project

GPP Gas Power Project

TPP Thermal Power Project

@ Commissioned already (balance capacity commissioned prior to 1.4.2000)

# Balance capacity to be commissioned after 31.3.2007

\* Subject to conformation on reasonably firm price/terms for LNG supply and commitment from beneficiary States to purchase power

#### **Cartel of Cement Manufacturers**

310. SHRI Y.S VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has investigated into the alleged formation of a Cartel of Cement Manufacturers in the country and raising prices by cutting production and supplies:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check price rise of cement ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTP Commission), which is a quasi-judicial body, has reported that it has instituted the following three RTP(Restrictive Trade Practices) Enquiries :

(i) RTPE No. 83/2000 : This is based on a complaint filed by M/s Gayatri Agencies against Cement Manufacturers Association, Chennai under section 10 (a)(i) of the MRTP Act, 1969

alleging that the members of the Cement Manufacturers Association :

- (a) do not give free hand to the applicant in the matter of prices, sale and distribution of cement and impose various restrictions;
- (b) quote same prices in response to tenders called for by various Government Departments;
- (c) restrict the dealers to sell cement at prices specified by them; and
- (d) sell cement at different prices to different parties.

The matter was investigated by the Director General of Investigation and Registration who has submitted his Preliminary Investigation Report in January, 2001. The Commission has ordered issuance of Notice/Interim application of injunction under section 12-A of the Act. The matter is sub judice and is listed for hearing before the Commission on 28.2.2001.

- (ii) RTPE No. 174/2000 : This is based on a complaint received from the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Hyderabad against certain leading cement manufacturers alleging that they have formed a cartel thereby creating artificial shortage of cement and pushing up the prices. The Commission has ordered issuance of Notice of Enquiry against ACC Ltd., Gujarat Ambuja Ltd., Larsen and Toubro Ltd., India Cements Ltd. and Grasim Cements Ltd. The matter is sub judice and is listed for 15.3.2001.

- (iii) RTPE No. 21/2001 : This is based on a complaint filed by Shri Sarabjit S. Mokha and Another against the Cement Manufacturers Association and 10 other manufacturers under section 10 (a)(i)/36-B(a) of the MRTP Act, 1969 alleging that these manufacturers have formed a cartel and have increased the prices. The Commission has ordered a Notice of Enquiry to be issued against 11 respondents making it returnable on 8.5.2001. The matter is listed for hearing on 28.2.2001 for consideration of interim application of injunction under section 12-A of the Act.

(c) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and promotion have stated

that the Government is seized of the situation, that the prices are being monitored and that meetings are being held with cement producers.

### **Doubling of Salem-Bangalore Railway Line**

311. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request for the doubling of the Salem Bangalore Railway line through Dharmapuri and Hosur Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the doubling of the same;

(c) whether the Government have received any request for the stoppage of trains at Morappur Railway Station in Dharmapuri district;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also received any request to operate a diesel car between Dharmapuri and Bangalore on Salem-Bangalore broad-gauge line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, gauge conversion of this line has recently been completed which has increased the line capacity on the section substantially.

(b) Does not arise. Traffic on the line has not yet reached a level to justify its doubling.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some representations including from Shri P.D. Elangovan, Hon'ble M.P. have been received in this regard.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Hydro-Electric Plants in Bihar**

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

(a) whether there are several big reservoirs in Purnia district in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether hydo-electricity is being generated from all the reservoirs;

(c) if so, whether the Government have prepared any scheme to set up hydro-electric plant in Purnia;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) According to the Central Water Commission, there is no big reservoir in Purnia District in Bihar.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

#### **Promotion of Jute Industry in Eastern States**

313. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jute growers of Eastern States are facing a lot of difficulties due to the sharp decline in the export of jute products; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to assist the jute growers in the matter and to promote jute industry in the Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir. There has been no decline in the export of jute goods in the last two years and exports have infact increased marginally from Rs. 5822.89 million in 1998-99 to Rs. 6411.84 million in 1999-2000.

(b) The government has taken several steps from time to time to assist the jute growers and to promote jute industry in the eastern states. The important steps in this direction include:

- Enactment of Jute Packaging Material (compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987 providing foodgrains, sugar and urea to be packed in jute bags;
- Fixation of minimum support prices of raw jute/mesta on the basis of recommendations of C.A.C.P.;
- Grant of Export Market Assistance Scheme on selected thrust items of jute products;
- Participation in various trade fairs and exhibitions by JMDC at home and abroad for popularising jute products among buyers;
- Introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.99 for improvement of productivity, quality and achievement of cost competitiveness of jute products;

- Promotion of jute diversification products under schemes of National Centre for Jute Diversification.

[Translation]

#### **Trade Unions in Army Headquarters**

314. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the trade unions recognised by the Army Head Quarters, under C.C.S. (R.S.A) Rules, 1993;

(b) the period for which they have been recognised alongwith the date of their recognition and whether those trade unions have acquired more than 35 per cent of required membership;

(c) whether the Army Head Quarters has returned the authority letter regarding membership produced by some other trade union;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether under the provisions of the above rules the trade union can withdraw/change/submit the authority letter in the month of April; and

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to accept the returned authority letter/membership form?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Under provisions of C.C.S.(R.S.A.) Rules, 1993, the Associations which mustered a minimum of 35% of members along with the date of recognition are as follows:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| (i) AFHQ Civilian Officers Association             | - 01 November, 1995;     |
| (ii) AFHQ Civil Service (DRG) Officers Association | - 01 November, 1995;     |
| (iii) AFHQ Stenographers Association               | - 01 November, 1995;     |
| (iv) AFHQ ACSOs Association                        | - 01 November, 1997;     |
| (v) AFHQ Association                               | - 01 November, 1997;     |
| (vi) AFHQ (EDP) Employees Association              | - 01 November, 1997;     |
| (vii) AFHQ Canteen Employees Association           | - 01 November, 1997; and |
| (viii) AFHQ/ISOs Gp. 'D' Employees Association     | - 01 November, 1997.     |



(c) to (f) Yes Sir, an AFHQ Employees Association (Unrecognised) has submitted an application in 1996 seeking recognition under the Rules. As the applicant Association could not muster the minimum required percentage of membership w.e.f. 1st November, 1997, the date from which the recognition of the Associations became effective, the application given by them was returned.

[English]

### **Investors Education and Protection Fund**

315. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :  
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

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

(a) whether the Government have finalised the procedure regarding Investors protection Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and reference thereof; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to help and safeguard the interest of the investors ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has decided that the Investors Education and Protection Fund referred to in Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 is a statutory fund required to be maintained in Consolidated Fund of India/Public Accounts of India and should be maintained in accordance with the provisions contained in the Constitution and other Laws and Rules made in this behalf. The procedure for receipt/expenditure relating to the Fund is being finalised in consultation with Controller of Accounts/Ministry of Finance (Budget Division)/C and, AG of India.

(d) The Committee which will administer the Investors Education and Protection Fund shall recognise from time to time various associations/chambers of commerce/institutes/organisation/persons engaged in activities relating the investor awareness, education and protection who will be provided the funds for conduction direct education programmes; organising seminars, symposiums; conducting specific projects for Investor protection including research activities and providing legal assistance to genuine Investor litigants.

### **Self Sufficiency in Oil Production**

316. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of country's oil requirement imported annually and the cost involved therein;

(b) the extent of rise of the international oil prices during the last one year and the extent to which the cost of import has relatively increased in foreign exchange;

(c) the extent to which the deficit in the oil pool cess has increased as a result thereof; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government to accelerate the process of oil exploration in the country to reduce dependency on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF, STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During 1999-2000, 57.81 million metric tonnes crude oil was imported (including import by joint venture and private refineries) at a cost of Rs. 40.028 crore, which is over 60% of total requirement of domestic refineries.

(b) The average FOB published prices of crude oil Dubai and Brent (DTD) for the period January, 2000 to January, 2001 is given in attached statement. The extent of increase in the cost of imports of crude oil and petroleum products during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (April-December, 2000) in terms of US Dollar are as follows :

	1999-2000	2000-2001 (April-Dec., 2000)
Value (USD)	9315.840	7242.120

(c) The oil pool deficit which stood at Rs. 6300 Crore on March 31, 2000 is estimated to go up to Rs. 12,000 crore by March 31, 2001.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to increase crude oil production in the country which include:

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.
- (ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.
- (iii) To explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.
- (iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.
- (v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.

(vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

#### Statement

#### Price Trend – Crude Oil

UNIT \$/BBL

Month	Prices of crude oil and % increase over January 2001 price			
	Dubai	% increase over January, 2000 price	Brent (dfd)	% increase over January, 2000 price
January, 2000	23.39	0%	25.55	0%
February, 2000	24.68	6%	27.89	9%
March, 2000	25.06	7%	27.26	7%
April, 2000	22.11	-5%	22.65	-11%
May, 2000	25.75	10%	27.63	8%
June, 2000	27.24	16%	29.80	17%
July, 2000	26.08	11%	28.49	12%
August, 2000	27.00	15%	30.11	18%
September, 2000	29.97	28%	32.73	28%
October, 2000	31.09	33%	31.37	23%
November, 2000	30.31	30%	32.58	28%
December, 2000	21.65	-7%	25.12	-2%
January, 2001	22.85	-2%	25.66	0%

#### Withdrawal of First Class Coaches

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

(a) the name of the trains from which the facility of first class coaches have been withdrawn alongwith the reasons therefor,

(b) whether the Government propose to re-introduce the first class coaches in the long distance trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Name of trains

from which first class coaches have been withdrawn during the last year (01.04.2000 to 15.2.2001)

S.No.	Train Number and Name
1.	4311/4312 Bareilly-Gandhidham Ala Hazrat Express
2.	4313/4314 Dadar-Bareilly Express
3.	5665/5666 Guwahati-Lumding Express
4.	6525/6526 Kannyakumari-Bangalore Express
5.	6339/6340 Mumbai-Nagercoil Express
6.	6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah Express
7.	6331/6332 Mumbai-Trivandrum Express
8.	6349/6350 Trivandrum-Mangalore Express
9.	7045/7046 Hyderabad-Howrah East Coast Express
10.	7429/7430 Hyderabad-Tirupati Rayalaseema Express
11.	7049/7050 Secunderabad-Machilipatnam Express (between Secunderabad-Manuguru slip service)
12.	8439/8440 Puri-Tirupati Express
13.	8449/8450 Puri-Patna Express
14.	8005/8006 Howrah-Sambalpur Express

The Policy and the main reason for withdrawal of first class coaches are to provide more accommodation and better air-conditioned comfort to the upper class passengers by replacing the first class coaches by AC-3 Tier/AC-2 Tier coaches.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Constitution Review Commission

318. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether the National Commission set up to review the functioning of Constitution has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Commission has been given time until 31 October, 2001 to submit its report.

#### **Supply of CNG for Motor Vehicles**

319. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) the States in which CNG is being made available for motor vehicles;

(b) the agency supplying such Compressed Natural Gas fuel;

(c) whether the supply is inadequate to meet the demand;

(d) if so, the bottlenecks involved therein; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of CNG throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) CNG is presently available in the States of Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujrat.

(b) Mumbai	—	Mahanagar Gas Ltd.
Delhi	—	Indraprastha Gas Ltd.
Vadodra	—	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
Surat	—	Gujrat Gas Company
Ankleshwar	—	Gujrat Gas Company

(c) and (d) Presently supply of CNG in Mumbai, Delhi and Vadodara is adequate to meet the demand.

(e) Due to logistic, operational and supply constraints, it is not feasible to make CNG available throughout the country.

#### **Survey for Gadchiroli-Desaiganj Rail Line**

320. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for Gadchiroli-Desaiganj railway line in Maharashtra has been started;

(b) if so, the present status thereof including its length;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount likely to be involved in completing this line; and

(e) the time by which the work of this line is likely to be completed and opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) A survey for a new broad gauge line between Wadsa (Desaiganj) Gadchiroli (49.50km.) has been conducted. The survey report is now under examination in consultation with the Railway. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey get finalised.

#### **ATF Free from APM**

321. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister to PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to free Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from the Administered Prices Mechanism in accordance with the road map that is already laid out for the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any guidelines to overcome the vacuum of expenditure/ losses in the shape of free ATF; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per the approved programme of phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM), ATF is to be deregulated during the current financial year.

(b) No such proposal has yet been formulated.

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

#### **Development Project by Cochin Refineries Limited**

322. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cochin Refineries Limited has made a proposal for a development project S.B.M. to be erected at Kochi for transshipment of raw material;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, its estimated costs and the benefits thereof;

(c) whether the Government have since given approval to the Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) (formerly Cochin Refineries Limited) has made a proposal of Expansion - cum - Modernisation of their refinery. The project facilities include setting up of a Single Buoy Mooring (S.B.M.) for the receipt of crude oil. The S.B.M. facilities consist of the S.B.M. proper along with the sub sea pipeline. The estimated cost of the facilities in Rs. 258 crore. The estimated benefits are significant reduction in the transportation cost of crude oil.

(c) to (f) Expansion - cum - Modernisation Project of KRL is under consideration of the Government for grant of investment clearance.

*[Translation]*

#### **Loan Scheme for Artisans**

323. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to provide loans at low rate of interest to the artisans to promote handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of artisans benefitted therefrom during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provide loans to artisans at concessional rate of interest on refinance basis for promotion of handicrafts.

(c) As per information furnished by NABARD and SIDBI, data on name-wise artisans benefitted under the

above scheme is not maintained by them. However, during the last three years the number of handicrafts units benefitted is 20598 units.

*[English]*

#### **Bail out of Weavers of Andhra Pradesh**

324. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken to bail out weavers on handloom cloth which is not sold and lying idle in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any scheme to compensate the weavers of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India compensates weavers under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana through State Governments for marketing of handloom products including the accumulated stocks. Financial assistance is extended to State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, to organize District level and State level Expos and Fairs, where weavers participate for the marketing of their goods.

*[Translation]*

#### **Regularisation of Services of Contract Labourers in DVC**

325. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the regularization and promotion policy in respect of contract labourers in the Thermal Power Stations of Damodar Valley Corporation.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for regularizing the services of such contract labourers; and

(d) the number of labourers in each Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation whose services have been regularized so far ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Contract Labourers are being regularized under 15% quota vide the Corporations

Circular No. PL. 28/226 (Con) IV/Pt I (B) Pt. II-57 dated 7.2.1995. 49 persons at Bokaro Thermal Power Station, 39 persons at Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and 14 persons at Durgapur Thermal Power Station have been offered appointment till date.

[English]

**Exploration by ONGC in Bhuj  
and Gujarat**

326. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has conducted exploration work in Bhuj and other areas of Gujrat without any safeguard measures;

(b) whether it is also a fact that underground oil prone zone with a hard soil on the surface level has not protected according to Geo-Physics rule at the time of exploration;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) ONGC carries out exploration works with the prevailing industry standard safety precautions. As per Geophysical/Geoscientific hydrocarbon exploration domain, presence of hard rock above the oil zone is considered to be a favourable criterion for protection of oil.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

**Gas Pipeline from Iran to Jamnagar**

327. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran has put a proposal before India that an international consortium propose to build the pipeline from the Asuliyeh gas fields of Iran via Pakistan to the Jamnagar hud in Gujarat and also to buy the gas from Iran, and in turn sell it to India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (b) The Government of Iran has sent a preliminary proposal to supply natural gas to India through an on-land pipeline route passing through Pakistan. An Indo-Iran Joint Committee on transmission of gas from Iran to India has been constituted to examine various pipeline options including deep water pipeline and their political, technical and financing aspects.

**Attending of Hindi Consultative  
Committee's Meeting at  
Thiruvananthapuram**

328. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Railway Officers including the Railway Board Chairman had attended the Hindi Consultative Committee Meeting held on December, 27th in Thiruvananthapuram;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon by the Railways ?

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

(b) Meeting of the Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti was held on 27.12.2000 at Trivandrum under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Railways, Sh. Digvijay Singh in which the Minister of State for Railways, Sh. O. Rajgopal and 22 officers including the Chairman, Railway Board has participated. In addition to the above, 2 MPs and 6 non-official members of the Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti had also attended the meeting.

The Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Railways. As per its constitution, meetings of this Samiti are generally held in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi but these could be held outside Delhi also. This meeting was held at Trivandrum on demand of the members of the Samiti. Before this, one such meeting of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti was held outside Delhi 6 years back at Bangalore on 26.9.1994. So meetings of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti are held outside Delhi very rarely. The present Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti was constituted on 26.10.1998 and since then total 7 meetings have been held and only one out of 7 meetings has been held outside Delhi.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Railways is Rs. 1,10,981.00.

#### **Establishment of Aerospace Command**

329. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an Aerospace Command for deploying long range ballistic missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposed Command is likely to be established; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken for modernization of Indian Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) It may not be in the interest of National Security, to furnish the information.

(d) Modernization of IAF is a continuous process. Number of steps are taken to enhance the strength and firepower of IAF. Squadron force levels are being augmented by inducting new aircraft, ground equipment and other weapon systems, including Force Multipliers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Spare Parts for Sea King Helicopter from Britain**

330. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :  
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Britain has received approval of the US Government for supplying spare parts of Sea King Helicopter to Indian Navy after taking over the charge by new President in America;

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

(c) the time by which the Indian Navy is likely to receive spare parts of the Sea King Helicopter as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) On 19th January, 2001, a Presidential Determination of Waiver of Sanctions for the transfer of Select US Munitions List US Origin Helicopter spare parts from the United Kingdom to India was issued

by the President of USA. This would pave the way for M/s. GKN WHL, UK to return 33 components by type amounting to 169 items of Sea King Helicopters which are held quarantined by them to India on account of Sanctions. However, this limited Waiver of Sanctions will not enable M/s. GKN WHL, UK to supply spares or provide product support for Seaking Helicopters as these are not covered under the Presidential Determination.

(c) No time frame has yet been intimated by the OEM for return of 33 components by type totalling 169 items.

*[English]*

#### **Manufacturing of Steam Locos**

331. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

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

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

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

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

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on date, 25 steam locomotives are working on Indian Railways on hill sections/tourist trains.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Menace of Human Bombs**

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

(a) whether our defence forces are unable to tackle the menace of human bombs;

(b) if so, whether there is any technology available in the world to check the human bombs;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any proposal to adopt the same;

(d) the number of human bomb attacks recorded so far in Kashmir during the last three years and the number of persons died in those attacks;

(e) whether human bombs are still active in Kashmir and other parts of the country and whether any strategy has been prepared to deal with such menace; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There have been no instances where human bombs attacks have been launched against the Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) The Government is not aware of any technology available in the world to counter such attacks. Presently only physical frisking, combined with gate type and hand held metal detectors, wherever available, are being used to check such attacks.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Special Court In Jails

333. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate courts in the prison complexes for disposing of the minor cases keeping in view the increasing number of prisoners in the prisons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up special cells in the prison complexes to extend legal aid to the prisoners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) Both the Government and Judiciary are concerned with the problem of undertrials languishing in jails Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has suggested to all the Chief Justices of High Courts that in every District the Chief Judicial Magistrates or Chief Metropolitan Magistrates,

as the case may be, should hold their Courts in their respective Jails once or twice in a month to take up the cases of those undertrial prisoners who are petty offenders and may be willing to confess their guilt. Pursuant to the above, about 8083 cases of undertrial prisoners have been disposed of inside the jails under the jurisdiction of eight (8) High Courts alone between 1.1.2000 to 31.3.2000. In the Central Jail, Delhi, about 300 cases were settled in the course of three sittings only.

In some States, 'Legal Air Cells' have already been established in jails which provide legal aid and advice to the inmates.

#### Prices of Petroleum Products

334. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the prices of petrol, diesel, Kerosene, LPG and other petroleum products separately in the year 1995;

(b) the years in which prices of the said petroleum products had been increased since 1995 to till date alongwith the extent of increase;

(c) whether the increase in prices of petroleum products has an adverse affect on prices of consumer products; and

(d) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Union Government to check frequent increase in the prices of petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The ex-storage point prices of controlled petroleum products including petrol, diesel, Kerosene (PDS), LPG (domestic) etc. along with the extent of increase/decrease on each revision from 1.1.1995 to 22.11.2000 is given in statement.

(c) and (d) In November 1997, the Government had decided to dismantle the administered pricing mechanism in phases. Accordingly, suitable adjustment in the prices of domestic LPG and kerosene for public distribution are required to be made to reach the subsidy levels at 15% and 33.33% of import parity, respectively by March, 2002. The consumer prices of other petroleum products would be market determined.

**Statement***Statement showing changes in Ex-Storage Point Price*

	Diesel	Petrol	Kerosene (PDS)	LPG (Packed Domestic)	ATF (Other than inter-national Airlines)
	(Rs./KL)	(Rs./KL)	(Rs./KL)	(Rs./KL)	(Rs./KL.)
01.01.95	5717.28	12844.34	2001.40	5309.19	9852.33
03.07.1996	7432.46	16055.43		6901.95	10837.56
Increase	1715.18	3211.09		1592.76	985.23
07.07.1996	6574.87				
Decrease	-857.59				
02.09.1997	8374.87	17055.43		7958.29	
Increase	1800.00	1000.00		1056.34	
07.11.1997	7918.04				
Decrease	-456.83				
25.12.1997	7996.84				
Increase	78.80				
01.03.1998	7839.24				
Decrease	-157.60				
04.04.1998	7645.47				
Decrease	-193.77				
20.05.1998	7536.89				
Decrease	-108.58				
03.06.98		15495.43			
Decrease		-1560.00			
09.01.1999	6722.37				
Decrease	-814.52				
01.02.99					
Increase				8944.21	
				985.92	
28.02.1999	6621.76	15399.01			
Increase	-100.61	-96.42		8732.87	10759.32
				-211.34	-78.24
20.04.1999	6882.15				
Increase	260.39				
06.10.1999	9634.60				
Increase	2752.45				
23.3.2000					
Increase			4501.40	10845.55	12759.32
			2500.00	2112.68	2000.00
30.09.2000	11934.60	18999.01	7001.40	13028.65	14759.32
Increase	2300.00	3600.00	2500.00	2183.10	2000.00
22.11.2000			6110.00		
Decrease			-891.40	12426.76	
				-601.89	

Note : Ex-Storage Point Prices are Exclusive of Duty, Freight and Local Levies etc.



[English]

### Allotment of Defence Land to Private Parties

335. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of the Defence Estate is empowered to allot land under his jurisdiction for commercial activities to private parties;

(b) if so, the details of Government's policy in this regard;

(c) the details of such cases alongwith the rate at which the land was allotted in each case during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints for misuse of such lands by the allottees during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per the provisions in Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, Defence Estates Officers (DEOs) and Cantt. Boards are empowered to allot land, under their respective management, to private parties on short term licence basis for purposes like stacking of material, travelling circus, exhibitions and melas etc.

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

### Doubling of Moradabad – Delhi Rail Line

336. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the per day volume of rail traffic on Moradabad-Delhi rail route of Northern Railway;

(b) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government to lay dual track on this route to ease congestion;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be stated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) On an average 21 trains each way run on Ghaziabad - Gajraula and 22 trains each way run on Gajraula - Moradabad sections daily.

(b) to (d) Double line exists between Delhi and Sahibabad, and New Delhi and Sahibabad respectively. There are 4 line between Sahibabad and Ghaziabad.

Second line between Ghaziabad and Hapur is in advanced stage of construction. Doubling between Moradabad and Kankather has also been taken in hand. Doubling of the remaining section between Hapur and Garhmukteshwar short of the Ganges Bridge will be considered in coming years subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

### Employees Killed and Injured in Earthquake in Gujarat

337. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway employees and their family members killed and injured in the recent earthquake in Gujrat;

(b) the compensation paid and likely to be paid to each next kith and kin of deceased/injured Railway employees; and

(c) the details of special train deployed for bringing victims from Gujarat and to take their relatives to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

(a) No. of Railway employees killed	3
(b) No. of family members killed	18
(c) No. of Railway employees grievously injured	10
(d) No. of family members grievously injured	35

(b) Financial relief @ Rs. 5 Lakhs each is being given to the families of the Railway employees killed in the Earthquake in Gujrat. An ex. Gratia payment of Rs. 20,000/- has also been made to the widow of one of the employees who was killed while on duty.

Besides, following amount of immediate financial help has also been given/is to be given :

	From General Manager's Relief Fund	By Western Railway Women Social Service Committee
i. To the next of kin of the deceased Railway employee	Rs. 10,000/- each	Rs.5,000/-
ii. For grievous injury to the Railway employees.	Rs. 2,000/- each	—

*(c) Position of Special Trains from Gujarat to Other States*

S.No.	From	To	Dep. Time	Date	Arri. Time	Date
1.	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central	23.10	27.1.2001	10.42	28.1.2001
2.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	23.20	28.1.2001	20.15	29.1.2001
3.	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central	23.10	28.1.2001	07.55	29.1.2001
4.	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central	23.30	29.1.2001	11.25	30.1.2001
5.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central	19.00	29.1.2001	12.15	30.1.2001
6.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	00.45	30.1.2001	21.45	30.1.2001
7.	Ahmedabad	Howrah	17.35	30.1.2001	15.10	1.2.2001
8.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central	14.10	30.1.2001	14.10	31.1.2001
9.	Ahmedabad	Puri	19.20	30.1.2001	24.00	1.2.2001
10.	Ahmedabad	Kanpur	00.25	31.1.2001	17.40	1.2.2001
11.	Ahmedabad	Bangalore	01.55	31.1.2001	18.40	1.2.2001
12.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	01.50	31.1.2001	22.00	31.1.2001
13.	Ahmedabad	Howrah	17.20	31.1.2001	14.40	2.2.2001
14.	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central	23.55	31.1.2001	10.45	1.2.2001
15.	Gandhidham	Trivandrum	18.40	31.1.2001	05.25	3.2.2001
16.	Gandhidham	Howrah	16.20	31.1.2001	03.40	3.2.2001
17.	Ahmedabad	Mumbai Central	23.45	1.2.2001	09.20	2.2.2001
18.	Ahmedabad	Muzaffarpur	22.40	1.2.2001	21.20	3.2.2001
19.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	01.15	2.2.2001	23.10	2.2.2001
20.	Ahmedabad	Howrah	17.50	1.2.2001	17.00	3.2.2001
21.	Gandhidham	Jaipur	18.45	1.2.2001	22.20	2.2.2001
22.	Gandhidham	Ahmedabad	00.10	2.2.2001	16.00	2.2.2001
23.	Gandhidham	Chennai	07.45	2.2.2001	16.35	4.2.2001
24.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central	10.05	2.2.2001	08.25	3.2.2001
25.	Gandhidham	Ahmedabad	22.30	2.2.2001	10.45	3.2.2001
26.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central	22.00	3.2.2001	13.50	4.2.2001
27.	Ahmedabad	Gandhidham	15.30	3.2.2001	11.05	4.2.2001
28.	Gandhidham	Trivandrum	22.15	4.2.2001	06.30	7.2.2001
29.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Central	18.10	8.2.2001	14.15	9.2.2001
30.	Gandhidham	Mumbai Cental	21.50	10.2.2001	19.00	11.2.2001

*Position of Special Trains from Other States to Gujarat*

S.No.	From	To	Dep. Time	Date	Arri. Time	Date
1.	Chennai	Ahmedabad	16.05	27.1.2001	07.00	29.1.2001
2.	Bangalore	Ahmedabad	16.00	27.1.2001	05.25	29.1.2001
3.	Howrah	Ahmedabad	17.00	27.1.2001	15.00	29.1.2001
4.	Mumbai	Dhrangadhra	18.00	27.1.2001	08.55	28.1.2001
5.	Delhi	Ahmedabad	17.15	27.1.2001	16.15	28.1.2001
6.	Delhi	Ahmedabad	17.00	28.1.2001	15.15	29.1.2001
7.	Mumbai Central	Samakhiali	17.00	28.1.2001	15.15	29.1.2001
8.	Howrah	Ahmedabad	17.00	28.1.2001	12.25	30.1.2001
9.	Chennai	Ahmedabad	17.00	28.1.2001	13.35	30.1.2001
10.	Bangalore	Ahmedabad	18.00	28.1.2001	09.10	30.1.2001
11.	Bhopal	Ahmedabad	19.35	28.1.2001	10.00	29.1.2001
12.	Mumbai Central	Gandhidham	17.00	29.1.2001	23.10	30.1.2001
13.	Secunderabad	Rajkot	19.20	30.1.2001	24.00	1.2.2001
14.	Allahabad	Ahmedabad	17.00	31.1.2001	00.30	2.2.2001
15.	Mumbai Central	Gandhidham	23.45	1.2.2001	09.20	2.2.2001
16.	Mumbai Central	Gandhidham	23.15	1.2.2001	05.25	3.2.2001
17.	Jaipur	Ahmedabad	09.15	3.2.2001	03.25	4.2.2001
18.	Vadodara	Gandhidham	02.10	4.2.2001	20.50	4.2.2001
19.	Patna	Ahmedabad	15.40	5.2.2001	17.30	7.2.2001

*[English]***Stagnation in Demand for Petroleum Products**

338. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a stagnation in demand of the petroleum products during the years 2000; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The demand of petroleum products and percent growth during the last two years have been as follows :

	Million Metric Tonnes	%growth
1998-99	90.56	7.4
1999-2000	97.09	7.2

The growth in demand of petroleum products during the current financial year is estimated to be around 2%.

**Handing Over of IPCL to IOC**

339. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to hand over Baroda unit of IPCL to IOC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely status of other two units of IPCL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has, in partial modification of the previous decision in the matter of disinvestment of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), decided that the Vadodara plant of IPCL, which has synergies with Gujarat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, may, after proper valuation, be transferred to the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The rest of IPCL may, as decided earlier, be disinvested through strategic sale of 25% equity.

[Translation]

**Passenger Amenities at Khambhaliya Railway Station**

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

(a) whether the Government have received letters and memorandum from "Press Club of Jam-Khambhaliya" regarding Khambhaliya railway station during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, representations have been received for stoppage of Okha-Dehradoon express (weekly) at Khambhaliya Railway Station.

(b) and (c) Khambhaliya station is presently being served by 5 pairs of trains, which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic offering at this station.

Stoppage of Okha-Dehradoon Express (weekly) at Khambhaliya station has been examined but not found commercially justified due to very meagre sale of tickets for stations beyond Ahmedabad towards Delhi. Besides, multiplicity of stoppage of this train will decelerate them, which will not be in the overall interest of through passengers.

**Doubling of Lucknow-Gorakhpur Rail Line**

341. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of doubling of Lucknow-Gorakhpur Rail Line under North Eastern Railway is in progress;

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

(c) the amount spent thereon so far and the amount estimated to be spent in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Lucknow to Barabanki is already double line. Doubling has been taken up in patches from Burhwal to Jarwal Road and Jarwal Road to Gonda.

(b) Within the 10th Plan subject to availability of resources.

(c) Rs. 26.08 cr. and Rs. 119.91 cr. respectively.

**Requirement of LPG for Ranchi, Jharkhand**

342. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated monthly requirement and supply position of LPG for Ranchi district of Jharkhand State at present;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the said district;

(c) whether the rural areas of the district are being neglected in the supply of LPG; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the remedial measures the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The estimated monthly requirement of the LPG customers registered with Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in Ranchi District of Jharkhand State is about 1700 MT. Oil Marketing Companies have not reported any backlog in the district. The demand of enrolled customers in the district has been met by and large in full.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have the plans to set up 10 new LPG distributorships in the district under various marketing plan.

**Generation of Hydro and Thermal Power**

343. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total generation of hydro power and thermal power in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the shortage of power in comparison to the demand in the States;

(c) the time by which this shortage is likely to be met; and

(d) the funds allocated to the power sector in the Ninth Five Year plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State-wise energy generation from thermal and hydro power stations in the country from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is given at statement-I.

(b) and (c) State-wise power supply position during April, 2000-January, 2001 is given in statement-II. In order to mitigate the power shortage in the country the following steps are being taken to meet the gap between demand and supply of power :

- (i) Facilitating inter-regional transfer of power by establishing the necessary transmission network.
- (ii) Renovation and Modernisation and life extension of existing old units of thermal and hydro power station to maximize generation.

(iii) Implementation of short-gestation power Projects.

(iv) Demand side management and Energy conservation measures.

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

(vi) Promoting private sector participation in Power sector.

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

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

(ix) Reforms and restructuring of the Power sector.

(x) Doubling of the present generating capacity of about one lakh MW by 2012.

(d) For the 9th Plan viz. 1997-2002 an outlay of Rs. 124,526.41 crores in respect of Power sector has been approved by Planning Commission which includes Rs. 53,299.41 crores in the Central sector and Rs. 71,227 crores in the State Sector.

#### Statement-I

#### *Energy Generation during Ninth Plan (MUs) (1997-98 to 1999-2000)*

THERMAL AND NUCLEAR				HYDEL			
Central Sector	Target (MUs)	Actual (MUs)	% of Target	Central Sector	Target (MUs)	Actual (MUs)	% of Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NTPC	313954.0	347922.0	110.8	BBMB	32410.0	36868.0	113.8
NLC	38450.0	39806.0	103.5	NHPC	26200.0	27412.0	104.6
DVC	22315.0	21997.0	98.6	DVC	1070.0	1148.0	107.3
NEEPCO	3350.0	3095.0	92.4	NEEPCO	3579.0	2567.0	71.7
<b>Central Sector</b>				<b>Central Sector</b>			
Total (Thermal)	378069.0	412820.0	109.2	Total (Hydro)	63259.0	67995.0	107.5
NPCIL	29500.0	35324.0	119.7				
<b>State Sector Thermal</b>				<b>State Sector Hydro</b>			
DVB	8130.0	7108.0	87.4	DVB	0.0	0.0	
J&K	175.0	65.0	37.1	J&K	2403.0	2175.0	90.5
HPGC	10972.0	11878.0	108.3	HPGC	679.0	758.0	111.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RSEB	21940.0	21298.0	97.1	HPSEB	4009.0	3943.0	98.4
PSEB	36533.0	35010.0	95.8	PSEB	10260.0	9433.0	91.9
UPSEB	64660.0	56111.0	86.8	RSEB	9176.0	3759.0	41.0
GEB	74757.0	67455.0	90.2	UPHPC	16005.0	16809.0	105.0
GSECL	2400.0	2137.0	89.0	GEB	4270.0	3679.0	86.2
MSEB	126920.0	120301.0	94.8	MSEB	11273.0	11002.0	97.6
MPEB	54750.0	56259.0	102.8	MPEB	6815.0	7500.0	110.1
APGENCO	59080.0	60254.0	102.0	APGENCO	29672.0	23903.0	80.6
AP GAS PC	3030.0	4841.0	159.8	KPCL	28879.0	31842.0	110.3
TNEB	57097.0	54106.0	94.8	KEB	1402.0	1291.0	92.1
Pondicherry	200.0	132.0	66.0	Kerala	21217.0	19392.0	91.4
KPCL	20300.0	19354.0	95.3	TNEB	14198.0	14695.0	103.5
KEB	2090.0	1900.0	90.9	BSEB	950.0	747.0	78.6
KER.SEb	1855.0	1010.0	54.4	Orissa	12685.0	11276.0	88.9
BSEB	7191.0	6639.0	92.3	WBSEB	1043.0	1043.0	100.0
Tenughat	5300.0	5253.0	99.1	Sikkim	280.0	106.0	37.9
Orissa P	7200.0	8398.0	116.6	Meghalaya	1408.0	1776.0	126.1
WBSEB	10250.0	10348.0	101.0	Tripura	150.0	161.0	107.3
WB.P.DEV.C	18900.0	18750.0	99.2	Ar. Pradesh	45.0	43.0	95.6
DPL	2650.0	2312.0	87.2				
ASEB	4170.0	2931.0	70.3				
Tripura	955.0	797.0	83.5				
Total SEB	600004.0	573559.0	95.6	Total SEB	167815.0	165333.0	98.5
Total PVT	100369.0	91229.0	90.9	Total PVT	4770.0	4501.0	94.4

**Statement-II***Actual Power Supply Position*

(All figures in %)

(Period April, 2000 – January, 2001)

Regions/State/System	Energy Shortage	Peak Shortage
1	2	3
<b>NORTHERN :</b>		
Chandigarh	0.1	0.0
Delhi	4.7	13.3

1	2	3
Haryana	2.0	3.3
Himachal Pradesh	1.8	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	12.9	16.8
Punjab	1.7	2.0
Rajasthan	3.3	2.9
Uttar Pradesh	14.0	15.0
N.R.	6.7	8.6
<b>WESTERN :</b>		
Gujarat	10.0	11.5

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	11.2	25.3
Maharashtra	11.5	18.4
Goa	12.5	10.5
W.R.	11.0	19.1
SOUTHERN :		
Andhra Pradesh	7.3	12.0
Karnataka	9.2	6.4
Kerala	6.7	3.6
Tamil Nadu	7.6	8.3
S.R.	7.7	8.6
EASTERN :		
Bihar	5.8	14.1
D.V.C.	-2.1	-1.8
Orissa	-3.7	-2.2
West Bengal	-1.4	10.0
E.R.	-0.7	3.1
NORTH EASTERN :		
Arunachal Pradesh	-2.5	0.0
Assam	-9.3	-2.7
Manipur	0.8	3.3
Meghalaya	-9.0	-5.7
Mizoram	-3.5	1.4
Nagaland	-3.4	0.0
Tripura	-6.4	0.7
N.E.R.	-7.4	-1.6
All India	7.6	11.6

[English]

**Collection of Registration Fee**

344. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have collected registration fee from pre-qualified tenderers and approved contractors;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of tenderers and contractors from whom the non-refundable registration fee and annual fee

has not been collected prior to 1998 and the total amount involved therein;

(d) the steps taken to realise that amount;

(e) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the lapses and to take action against the officials found responsible; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) As per the existing Policy of the Ministry, from the tenderers desiring prequalification, a non-refundable fee is to be charged. From contractors wanting registration as approved contractors in various categories, charging of registration fee is not mandatory.

(c) Nil.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

**Setting up of Powr Plants in M.P.**

345. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be Pleased to state :

(a) the power generation increased and the total number of power plants set up in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh for increasing power generation during the said period; and

(c) the total demand and supply of power in the State at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following power projects have been commissioned in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years :

Name of the Project	Installed Capacity (MW)
Vindhyachal STPP St. II (U-7 and 8)	2x500 MW
Sanjay Gandhi Extension TPP (U-3 and 4)	420 MW
Rajghat HEP (U-1 to 3)	45 MW
(M.P.'s Share 50% i.e. 22.5 MW)	

The energy generation in Million Units in respect of Madhya Pradesh for the last three years is as under :

1997-98	44598 MU
1998-99	46709 MU
1999-2000	48256 MU

(b) Under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG and SP) scheme for which a 4% interest subsidy is provided by the Union Government, the Power Finance Corporation has disbursed Rs. 645.32 crore for Renovation and Modernisation of various power stations of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

(c) The power supply position of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during January, 2001 is given as under :

Energy Requirement	3734 MU
Energy Availability	3216 MU
Shortage	518 MU (13.9%)
Peak Demand	6409 MW
Peak Met	5101 MW
Shortage	1308 MW (20.4%)

#### **Promotion of Muga and Eri Silk Industry**

346. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a programme for promotion and development of muga and eri silk industry in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme, indicating the Central share, the objective and targets fixed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the UNDP has launched a sub-programme of development of non-mulberry silk i.e. tasar, muga and eri in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh under Fibre and Handicrafts Programme (FHAP) of UNDP Country Co-operation Frame-work-I for a period of three years commencing from 1999-2000. The total outlay of the programme is Rs. 11.99 crores (UNDP share Rs. 800.08 lakhs + GOI share Rs. 398.2 lakhs). The objectives of the sub-programmes include generation of employment, reduction in poverty and improvement to the quality of life, in particular, in the rural areas. The sub-programme seeks to increase production of the quality eggs production and their distribution, impart training to farmers particularly women for skill up-gradation, technological support in pre and post cocoons processes

including reeling, spinning and processing of silk, and to provide replicable model of entrepreneur-ship, design upgradation, marketing and HRD.

The targets of the sub-programme are production of 49,000 kilos of tasar raw silk, 24,000 kilos of tasar spun silk, 19,000 kilos of muga raw silk, 15,000 kilos of spun silk and 425,800 kilos of eri spun silk.

#### **Building of Railway Complex at Ernakulam Junction**

347. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct railway building complex at Ernakulam Junction to accommodate all the offices presently functioning at various small insufficient buildings/sheds;

(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 RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Functioning of K-Ride**

348. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Joint Venture Company K-Ride has started functioning in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds mobilized by the K-Ride;

(c) the details of projects identified by the Railways and the State Government in Karnataka; and

(d) the time fixed by the company to complete these projects?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following four projects have been identified for execution by the proposed company initially :

1. Hubli-Ankola New Line.
2. Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion.
3. Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion.
4. Guntakal-Hospet Doubling.



No timeframe has been fixed for completion of these projects.

#### **Far Eastern Command at Port Blair**

349. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given green signal for Tri Service For Eastern Command (FEC) at Port Blair as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 15, 2001 under the caption "For Eastern Command at Port Blair on anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total operational area under this new Command;

(d) the idea behind setting up this Command; and

(e) the total Expenditure likely to be incurred annually thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) At present, the Fortress Commander Andaman and Nicobar (FORTAN), established in 1977, coordinates the operation of the Defence Forces and the Coast Guards in the islands. A proposal to upgrade this to a Far Eastern Naval Command is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### **Renovation of Railway Stations**

350. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the railway stations of Sekhpara, Lakhisarai, Kiul and other districts of Bihar are in deplorable conditions;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been made for renovation of these stations;

(c) if so, the names of the Railway Stations which are likely to renovated; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) Upgradation of passenger amenities is taken up by sanctioning works through Works, machinery and rolling stock program of Railway, which is presented to Parliament, every year.

(c) Danapur, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Nalanda, Mokama, Patna, Chhapra Jn., Motihari, Barauni Jn., Darbhanga, Sonpur, Muzzaffapur Jn. Hajipur Jn., Samastipur, Siwan Jn., Katihar stations have been taken up for providing upgraded amenities under model station scheme in State of Bihar. Similar work of amenities are also being taken up at other stations in the State of Bihar.

(d) State of Bihar is served by three zonal Railways viz. Eastern, Northeastern, and North East Frontier. Funds are allocated zonal Railway wise which in turn are allocated division wise by Zonal Railways. State-wise figures of expenditure are not maintained.

[English]

#### **Power Failure**

351. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) whether collapse of Power Grid affected the entire Northern railway zone on 2nd January, 2001;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the total loss suffered by the Railways as a result thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures proposed to be taken to deal with such a situation in future?

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

(b) It was caused due to collapse of Northern Region Grid on 2.1.2001 which is not within the control of Ministry of Railways.

(c) 118 trains lost punctuality due to this power failure.

(d) Does not arise as this is not within the purview of Ministry of Railways.

#### **Request for Stoppage of Trains and Better Facilities from MPs**

352. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received written requests from the Members of Parliament for stoppage of trains at different places during the last six months;

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

(c) whether Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani does not stop at Gaya while the other two Rajdhani stop there;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to provide stoppage of the said train at Gaya;

(e) whether the Members of Parliament have also complained of poor facilities of beds/unhygienic food etc. on long route trains; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to provide better facilities/amenities and good quality food at reasonable rates in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Receiving of requests for stoppages of trains is an ongoing process. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rajdhani trains are premier services, which are scheduled for through passengers in shortest transit times between the originating and terminating stations. Since speed and time are of essence, only few intermediate stoppages are provided and these are also staggered.

(e) and (f) Railways have taken a number of policy initiatives with a view to improve quality food in long distance trains including supply of pre-cooked wholesome meals at predetermined rates, packed in aluminum casseroles and food is served in trays to maintain hygiene. Inspections are conducted at various levels and stringent action taken in case of complaints.

#### **Development of Majuli Island**

353. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :  
SHRI M. K. SUBBA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Majuli Island as a national heritage/tourist resort in Brahmaputra in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been drawn up in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and released

Rs. 5.00 lakhs to the State Government of Assam during 2000-2001 to carry out feasibility study for development of Majuli Island as a tourist resort in Brahmaputra in Assam.

#### **Railway Projects from Orissa**

354. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state :

(a) the details of Rail Projects received from Orissa during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far;

(b) the steps taken on each project;

(c) the number of foundation stones laid down during the said period; and

(d) the time by which the work on such projects is likely to be started?

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

#### **Rural Electrification in Bihar**

355. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :  
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum for special package for cent per cent rural electrification in Bihar and Jharkhand States was submitted at a meeting held on December 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the details of demands accepted by the Government for implementation by the Rural Electrification Corporation in both the States; and

(d) the details of demands not accepted by the Government along with the reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal contained in the Memorandum submitted by BSEB contemplates freezing of interest and penal interest due to REC and waiving of the same by REC. It also proposed payment of only the principal outstanding in ten yearly installments.

(c) and (d) The total loan outstanding and overdues payable by BSEB to REC currently stands at Rs. 431.79 crores as on 31.12.2000, of which Rs. 132.97 crores is

the principal and Rs. 298.82 crores the interest including Rs. 66.90 crore as penal interest. Rural Electrification Corporation has not been able to disburse any amount to Bihar due to heavy default by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). Despite continuous default in payment of REC's dues, REC in 1996-97 sanctioned 39 new projects for rural electrification for loans outlay of Rs. 40.83 crores to BSEB. They, however, did not execute loan documents and furnish Government guarantee and hence could not draw the loan amount against the sanctioned claims. The Government has also allocated a sum of Rs. 37.67 crores for village electrification during the year 2000-01 under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) being released directly to the State instead of earlier practice of routing it through REC.

In order to resolve the issue of outstanding dues and to start fresh credit flow to Bihar for RE programme, REC on many occasions proposed re-schedulement of REC dues which included part payment of overdues through one time cash payment and re-schedulement of the balance principal and interest over mutually agreed number of years. Despite favourable terms given and repeated offers for rescheduling the amount overdue, BSEB has not responded to this offer and has been continuously defaulting for the past several years. The loans outstanding against Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) carry normal interest rate (weighted average) of only 9.71% per annum whereas Government of India has been providing funds to REC @ 12% p.a. since 1993-94 (with additional penal interest @ 2.75% p.a.). Further, funds from market sources also cost around 11.50% to 12.00% p.a. to REC. Even if penal rate of interest of 2.75% p.a., is included in the weighted average rate of interest of loans to BSEB of 9.71% the total 12.46% per annum interest merely meets the cost of funds of the Corporation.

With regard to the request for freezing and waiving of the interest and penal interest, it may be introduced that REC as a financial institution raises money as loan from various sources including the Government of India for carrying out its lending operations, and has to continuously discharge its liability for payment to Government and other lenders in the market both on account of principal and interest as per the commitments.

The Ministry of Power also convened a meeting with the MPs from Bihar on December 11, 2000 with the objective of consulting and obtaining their suggestions on improving the poor pace of rural electrification and power sector development in Bihar. In this meeting, it was agreed that a workable arrangement needs to be urgently evolved by which the rural electrification programme in Bihar can move forward and at the same time, REC is enable to recover its dues over a period of time to ensure that REC's

ability to access funds from the market is not affected. Subsequent to the meeting, the Minister of Power has also taken up the matter with the Chief Minister, Bihar inviting her for discussions on the pending issues so that these could be resolved. The response of the State Government is awaited.

*[Translation]*

### **Harassment to Passengers**

356. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are being harassed and looted by the security personnel while checking their luggage by opening their suitcases etc. in the name of the security; and

(b) if so, the measure proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure secret checking of the luggage without opening it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. No such complaints have been received regarding harassment to passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

### **Commercial Utilisation of Railway Land**

357. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an action plan for commercial utilisation of vacant railway land and sites;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have identified such land and sites;

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

(d) the criteria fixed for utilisation of such land and sites;

(e) whether General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given discretionary powers to release such land and sites; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Zone-wise details are as under :-

Zone	Locations Identified
Central Railway	Thane, Kalyan, Dadar, Kurla, Carnac Bunder
Eastern Railway	Sealdah (New Building), Sealdah (Old Building), Howrah Station, Salt Gollah (Kolkata), Bidhan Nagar Stn., Old Diamond Harbour, Jadavpur Stn.,
Northern Railway	New Delhi, Chankayapuri, Vidhan Sabha Marg/Lucknow, Nirala Nagar (Kanpur), Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Saharanpur, Khanalampur Yard, (Saharanpur), Ambala Cantt Station, Chandigarh, Kishanganj T.A. Office, PRS Building (Charbagh, Lucknow)
North Eastern Railway	Badshah Nagar (Lucknow)
Northeast Frontier Railway	Siliguri Uzan Bazaar (Guwahati)
Southern Railway	Chennai Central Station, MTP Stns. (Chennai), Bangalore Cantt., Coimbatore Jn., Salem, Sattur, Kovilpati, Oddanchatram, Chennai Beach, Mount Road Booking office (Chennai), Victoria Crescent (Chennai)
South Central Railway	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Begampett Station, Old Godavari Railway Station, land near F.A. and C.A.O. Office (Secunderabad)
South Eastern Railway	Adra, Tatischeilapalem and Chavulamadam (Vishakhapatnam)
Western Railway	Andheri, Borivili, Bandra, Old Jamnagar Stn.
Metro Railway Kolkata	Metro HQ, and stations on the Metro Railway (Kolkata)

(d) and (e) General Managers have been delegated powers to execute small schemes of commercial nature upto the limit of 1000 sq.m. built up area in other than four Metropolitan Cities. They are also authorised to award Studies/Consultancies connected with property development with M/s RITES/ M/s IRCON, the two Railway PSUs, upto limit of Rs. 50 lakhs per case subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 crore in a year.

(f) Utilisation of lands for commercial purposes is decided on the basis of a professional study which projects the likely returns from the property and the benefits which Railways can draw therefrom.

#### **Health of SEBs**

358. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the health of State Electricity Boards is far below the comfort level;

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

(c) the manner in which the Power Finance Corporation is helping SEBs to improve their condition;

(d) the assistance provided by Power Finance Corporation to each SEB during each of the last three years; and

(e) the extent to which the position of the SEBs improved as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most State Electricity Boards are incurring losses. A statement-I showing financial performance of SEBs for the year 1998-99 is enclosed. The primary factors responsible for losses of SEBs are as under :

- (i) Theft of Power
- (ii) High T and D losses
- (iii) Non Commercial tariff structure which does not meet the cost of supply and involves highly subsidized power supply to certain category of consumers.
- (iv) Low efficiency/PLF of thermal power plants of several SEBs.

(c) to (e) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provides financial and technical assistance to SEBs with a view to encouraging reforms/restructuring of the power sector. The technical assistance includes inter alia development of system for strengthening T and D systems for loss reduction, conducting energy audit and accounting through metering, billing and collection, institutional strengthening like distribution management etc. The financial assistance extended by PFC includes counterpart funding based on investment plan of States, concessional lending for selected projects, relaxation of eligibility conditions for State Power Utilities on rate of return etc. and requirement of Operational and Financial Action Plans (OFAPs) etc.

The details of the financial assistance provided by PFC to SEBs during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement-II

The projects financed by PFC are aimed at strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution and

energy audit to eliminate theft of power etc. The assistance of PFC for reforms in the power sector is aimed at achieving rationalisation of tariff, elimination of theft of power, cash flow increase by improved metering, billing and collection efficiency, and improvement in Plant Load Factor

### Statement-I

#### Financial Performance of SEBs during 1998-99

(Rs in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs	Capital Base i.e. Value of fixed assets in service at start of 1998-99	Surplus/Deficit with Subsidy	Subsidy as in Accounts	Surplus/Deficit without Subsidy	ROR (%) with Subsidy	ROR (%) without Subsidy
1.	APSEB (A)	4513.09	112.83	2074.66	-1961.83	2.50	-43.47
2.	ASEB (U)	953.72	-549.76	52.33	-602.09	-57.64	-63.13
3.	BSEB (U)	1326.57	-2522.47	483.07	-3005.54	-190.15	-226.56
4.	GEB (A)	4209.00	126.45	2092.88	-1966.43	3.00	-46.72
5.	HSEB (A)	1487.54	-271.47	96.53	-368.00	-18.25	-24.74
6.	HPSEB (A)	637.76	-6.27	0.00	-6.27	-0.98	-0.98
7.	KEB (A)	2233.07	66.99	914.79	-847.80	3.00	-37.97
8.	KSEB (A)	1291.72	38.75	301.71	-262.96	3.00	-20.36
9.	MPEB (A)	3897.74	116.93	1723.65	-1606.72	3.00	-41.22
10.	MSEB (A)	8358.83	376.15	355.14	21.01	450	0.25
11.	MESEB (A)	196.94	-23.29	9.50	-32.79	-11.83	-16.65
12.	PSEB (A)	2435.22	50.90	927.88	-876.98	2.09	-36.01
13.	RSEB (A)	2193.38	65.80	1196.46	-1130.66	3.00	-51.55
14.	TNEB (A)	5819.44	334.94	1076.22	-741.28	5.76	-12.74
15.	UPSEB (A)	9988.51	410.64	2157.55	-1746.91	4.11	-17.49
16.	WBSEB (A)	703.01	-717.79	186.36	-904.15	-102.09	-128.59
All SEBs		50245.63	-2390.67	13648.73	-16039.40	-4.76	-31.92

A – Audited

U – Un-audited

### Statement-II

#### Loans provided by PFC to Power Utilities

#### I. RUPEE LOANS

##### A. Term Loan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Borrower	During 1997-98	During 1998-99	During 1999-00
1	2	3	4
ASEB			4474

1	2	3	4
APGENCO			16393
APTRANSCO			7642
APSEB	8713	15017	
BSESL		4750	
DPL	377	3050	4284
DVC			1508
GEB	1358	1250	1820

1	2	3	4
Govt. of Goa	9	372	984
Govt. of Haryana	92	215	1210
Govt. of HP	6	13	72
Govt. of Manipur			
Govt. of Mizoram		1171	32
Govt. of Nagaland	2584	1266	1402
Govt. of Rajasthan	40	94	650
GIPCL			1800
GPCL	92	292	
GRIDCO	2723	5477	2108
GSECL	5000	20000	
HPSEB	1593	2909	9614
HPGCL		8339	18552
HSEB	1579		0
HVPNL		176	487
Ja: Prakash Hydro		6000	3000
KEB	8681	16790	
Kondapalli Power		2500	14149
KPCL	18516	14273	8210
KPTCL			15382
KSEB	5129	2482	613
MeSEB	3		
MPEB	22901	22391	25816
MSEB	42025	42916	37390
NJPC			13800
NEEPCO			13558
OHPC	7097	11328	7196
OPGCL	179	165	
PSEB	34133	17060	4378
RSEB	22678	22489	21911
Shree Maheshwar		2000	2463
TNEB	10410	14496	17277
UPJVNL			
UPRVUNL			4022
UPPCL			638
UPSEB		5155	
VVNL			1847
WBPDCCL			
WBSEB	3025	2182	279
Total (A)	198944	246617	264959

1	2	3	4
<b>B. Working Capital Loan</b>			
APGENCO			17000
GEB			10000
GRIDCO			1943
Punjab		5000	24000
RSEB	5000	13000	7000
Total (B)	5000	18000	59943
<b>C. Bills Discounting</b>			
BHEL/APGENCO			5000
BHEL/GEB	3050		
Total (c)	3050		5000
<b>D. Lease Finance</b>			
APSEB	256	9	462
MSEB	322	107	63
Total (D)	578	116	525
<b>II. FOREIGN CURRENCY LOAN</b>			
APSEB	54		
HSEB			
TNEB			
BSES Kerala Power			9993
Total (II)	54		9993
Grand Total (I+II)	207626	264733	340420

#### Import of Different Quality Cotton

359. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of long staple fine quality cotton and other types of cotton imported during each of the last three years so far along with the name of countries, type-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the reasons for importing cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The quantity of cotton (including cotton waste) imported during last three years are as under :

Quantity : In Thousand Ton		Value : In Crore Rupees			
1997-98 (Oct-Sept)		1998-99 (Oct-Sept)		1999-2000 (Oct-Sept)	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
45.8	313.73	101.2	578.72	325.8	1659.07

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India.

Mostly long staple and extra long staple cotton are imported into India. The major countries from which cotton is imported are Australia, Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, USA and West African countries.

(b) Import of cotton, *inter alia*, depends upon quality parameters and price considerations.

**GAIL's Deal with Al-Mahal of  
Abu-Dhabi**

360. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Al-mahal group of Abu-Dhabi held any discussion with GAIL for laying a 1.5 billion natural gas pipeline in Northern and Southern India to transport LNG from Gopalpur, Orissa, to LNG Terminal in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the present status of the deal; and

(c) the proposed stake of Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) In late 1998 and early 1999, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) had held only preliminary discussions with M/s Vavasi Oil and Gas India Limited and M/s Al-Manhal of Abu-Dhabi for development of gas pipeline system from Gopalpur in Orissa to Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The project is in a preliminary stage.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Shell Stake in IBP**

361. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned, "Shell Keen on Buying Stake in IBP" appearing in the Times of India dated January 24, 2001; and

(b) if so, the circumstances which led to the decision to privatise the said IBP Limited ?

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

(b) The Government had in September, 1996 referred IBP Limited alongwith other PSUs to the Public Sector Disinvestmet Commission. The Commission in its Fifth Report presented to the Government in November,

1997 recommended disinvestment of 33.9% of the equity of IBP in favour of a strategic buyer. The Government have accorded approval in-principle in October, 2000 to the disinvestment of 33.6% of the equity through strategic sale and to retain 26% of the equity.

**Status of Agni-II and Lakshya**

362. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BASNAL :  
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Agni-II Missile and the pilotless Lakshya/Nishant were test flown last and the results obtained there from;

(b) whether these are ready for induction into the Indian Air Force;

(c) if so, the time by which these systems are likely to be made fully operational; and

(d) if not, the status of these projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The second flight test of the Agni-II surface-to-surface missile took place on January 17, 2001 from the DRDO Test Range, in Orissa. The trial was in the operational configuration and mission objectives were fully met. No test flights are planned for the Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakhsya, which has been inducted into the Indian Air Force. The Air Force conducted an operational training flight at Balasore on November 11, 2000. Three flights of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for battlefield reconnaissance, Nishant, were performed during the air show organized as part of Aero India 2001 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka during February 7-10, 2001. The flights were successful. The flight envelope and real-time video imagery were seen by the aeronautical experts, both national and international.

(b) to (d) Lakhsya has been inducted into the Indian Air Force. Nishant is being developed for the Indian Army and user trials are expected to begin in February, 2001. The production, induction and operationalisation of the Nishant would be taken up after completion of user trials. Limited production of the Agni-II missile has commenced and its induction is planned during 2001-2002.

**Oil Slick Off Kandla Port**

363. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Earthquake causes major oil slick off Kandla Port" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 27, 2001;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the oil slick is fairly big and deep and spreading fast in the sea water;
- (d) whether the oil slick is from merchant vessels or underground tanks has been ruptured and oil is seeping into the sea;
- (e) if so, the likely major effect on environment in the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat; and
- (f) the steps taken to handle such ecological problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) There was no oil slick in the Kandla Port due to the earthquake as reported in the Hindustan Times;

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

**Fixed Term of Parliament and  
State Legislatures**

364. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to fix terms for Parliament and State Legislatures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also consulted various political parties in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No such proposal has been prepared by the Government as yet.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Collaboration of Union Government  
in Power Projects**

365. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to execute power projects in participation with State Governments;

(b) if so, the number of such projects lying pending for the implementation in regard to which no-objecton certificate has yet to be issued to the Union Government by the State Governments;

(c) the reasons for delay in issuing these certificates to the Centre by the State Governments; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government is likely to get these certificates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following hydro projects are under execution in the country in participation with State Governments :

- (i) Nathpa Jhakri H.E. Project (6x250 MW)-Himachal Pradesh (Joint venture of Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh.)
- (ii) Tehri H.E. Project St. I (4x250 MW)-Uttar Pradesh-(Joint venture of Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh)
- (iii) Indira Sagar H.E. Project (8x125 MW) Madhya Pradesh-(Joint venture of NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh)
- (iv) Omkareshwar (520 MW) Madhya Pradesh-(Joint Venture of NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh).

An MOU was also signed between Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh for execution of the following projects through joint ventures :-

1. Lakhwar Vyasi H.E. Project (420 MW) in Uttar Pradesh (Now Uttaranchal).
2. Maneri Bhali Phase II (304 MW) in Uttar Pradesh (Now Uttaranchal).

These projects are now located in Uttaranchal. The State Govt. of Uttaranchal is yet to take a view on these projects.

(b) to (d) Decisions on development of a project as a joint venture with States are taken in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

[English]

**SC/ST Judges**

366. SHRI MANJAY LAL :  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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



(a) the details of Dalit Judges appointed to the Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three years;

(b) whether the ratio of Dalit Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are not in accordance with the population of SCs/STs; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no information is maintained for caste or class etc.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

#### **Construction of Ankola-Hubli Rail Line**

367. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct a railway line from Ankola to Hubli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof and the funds earmarked therefor;

(c) whether the construction work of that line has been started; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far?

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

(b) The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 991.91 cr. and the outlay provided during 2000-2001 is Rs. 6 cr.

(c) and (d) The Final Location Survey for the work has been completed. Land acquisition is presently in progress. The work would be started once the land becomes available.

In order to expedite the work, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Karnataka Government for taking up the balance work through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be set up jointly by the

Railways and Karnataka Government. The modalities for setting up this SPV are being sorted out.

#### **Outstanding Dues of States to NHPC**

368. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding dues payable by each State Government to the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) during each of the last three years and as on August 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in making the payment;

(c) the total amount recovered by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) from the State Governments during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the outstanding dues of the National Hydro electric Power Corporation from the defaulting States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The statement-I of outstanding dues payable by State Governments to NHPC during last three years and as on August 31, 2000 is enclosed.

(b) The main reasons for delay in payment of dues by the defaulting States is the poor financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

(c) The total amount recovered by NHPC from State Governments during 1999-2000, State wise is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The following steps are being taken to recover the outstanding dues of NHPC from the defaulter States/ Union Territories :

(i) The outstanding dues upto December 31, 1996 are being recovered through Central Plan Assistance (CPA) allocated to States by Ministry of Finance.

(ii) The defaulting beneficiaries are being persuaded for liquidation of their outstandings including surcharge through negotiated settlement by way of issue of Bonds/Securitisation/Cash payment. NHPC waives off a part of surcharge depending upon the terms of settlement.

(iii) For realisation of current dues, the defaulters are being asked to open Letter of Credit.

(iv) Better discounts are being offered against current payments.

## Statement-I

Outstanding dues payable to NHPC during last three years and as on 31.8.2000

Amount in Lakhs

S.No. Beneficiary	As on 31.3.98			As on 31.3.99			As on 31.3.2000			Outstanding as on 31.8.2000		
	Principal	S/Charge	Total	Principal	S/Charge	Total	Principal	S/Charge	Total	Principal	S/Charge	Total
1. PSEB	7091.89	7964.00	15055.89	8448.89	11617.47	20065.72	11484.98	14009.30	25494.28	14124.32	15399.09	28523.41
2. HVPNL	36080.57	22249.00	58329.57	32334.39	36611.71	68946.10	38554.65	44631.49	83186.14	42231.56	49252.10	91483.66
3. HPSEB	1770.36	807.00	2577.36	4122.01	1368.83	5490.84	4641.71	2168.60	6810.31	4120.02	2703.93	6823.95
4. DVB	13409.05	9310.00	22719.05	19142.40	16168.82	35311.22	22699.25	20779.94	43479.19	23749.26	23478.64	47227.90
5. J&K	9529.64	8823.00	18352.64	24918.21	13841.66	38759.87	45047.55	19434.00	64481.55	53956.57	24745.07	78701.64
6. UPPCL	43865.17	11170.00	55035.17	53930.37	29373.66	83304.03	36923.65	42692.04	79615.69	40137.73	47519.03	87656.76
7. RSEB	1777.48	3146.00	4923.48	2045.34	5578.03	7623.37	12235.63	1350.00	13585.63	10838.59	1215.75	12054.34
8. Chandigarh	514.09	124.00	638.09	105.56	323.29	428.85	529.49	411.39	940.88	529.38	466.00	995.39
9. Manipur	259.71	1297.00	1556.71	290.84	43.00	333.84	863.33	431.64	1294.97	1103.56	513.18	1616.75
10. Nagaland	270.64	13.00	283.64	419.13	21.23	440.36	550.71	126.55	677.28	537.93	178.24	716.17
11. Assam	-55.23	3238.00	3182.77	-52.98	-21.11	-74.09	-80.59	-21.11	-101.70	-6.38	-21.11	-27.49
12. NEETCO	92.18	759.00	851.18	92.18	758.72	850.90	92.18	758.72	850.90	92.18	758.72	850.90
13. Tripura	8.63	214.00	222.63	243.12	129.05	372.17	278.42	174.28	452.70	370.41	203.37	573.77
14. Mizoram	44.69	70.00	114.69	242.47	25.40	267.87	200.47	45.15	245.62	266.10	64.10	330.20
15. Arunachal	85.72	1.00	86.72	42.00	-1.40	40.60	156.63	13.59	170.22	208.97	28.87	237.84
16. Meghalaya	78.75	21.00	99.75	171.32	61.05	232.37	232.61	100.08	332.69	164.49	120.59	285.08
17. WBSEB	-0.08	1692.00	1691.92	-0.08	1470.16	1470.08	-0.08	1164.16	1164.08	345.72	1164.16	1509.88
18. DVC	17.82	2098.00	2115.82	17.82	2117.27	2135.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	142.39	0.00	142.39
19. BSEB	24.16	2942.00	2966.16	-0.84	3308.99	3308.15	-0.84	2914.99	2914.15	815.25	2914.99	3730.24
20. OSEB	86.88	1113.00	1199.88	86.88	1150.97	1237.85	89.64	1174.64	1264.28	742.51	1174.64	1917.14
21. Sikkim	-8.85	26.00	17.15	-8.85	25.51	16.66	-8.85	25.51	16.66	480.80	25.51	506.31
Total	114943.27	77077.00	192020.27	146689.54	123972.31	270561.85	174490.54	152384.94	326875.48	194951.35	171904.89	366856.23

**Statement-II***Financial Year 1999-2000**(For Energy Supplied upto February, 2000 and  
Payments Received upto March, 2000)*

Rs. in Lacs		
Sl. No.	Beneficiary	Payment Received during 1999-2000
1.	PSEB	22769.09
2.	HSEB	15800.97
3.	HPSEB	2993.54
4.	DVB	12949.38
5.	J&K	1698.00
6.	UPSEB	36944.39
7.	RSEB	10847.91
8.	Chandigarh	2561.34
9.	Manipur	0.00
10.	Nagaland	88.48
11.	Assam	793.60
12.	NEEPCO	0.00
13.	Tripura	356.09
14.	Mizoram	247.67
15.	Arunachal	55.00
16.	Meghalaya	46.35
17.	WBSEB	306.00
18.	DVC	1115.72
19.	BSEB	394.00
20.	GRIDCO	0.00
21.	Sikkim	0.00
Total		109967.53

Note : Receipt of Rs. 300 crores through issue of bonds by UPPCL has been made.

**Diversion of Train Route**

369. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Tamil Nadu to divert the trains between

Bangalore and Southern Tamil Nadu, vice-versa through Dharmapuri and Hosur BG line instead of the present route of Jolarpettai and Bangarapet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including from Shri P. D. Elangovan, Hon'ble M. P. have been received in this regard.

(c) There is no proposal at present to divert additional trains via Dharmapuri and Hosur.

**Difficulties to Textile Exporters**

370. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made it mandatory for the Textile exporters to replace the letter of undertaking or post dated cheques with Bank Guarantees, demand drafts or fixed deposit receipt;

(b) if so, the reasons for change in their policy;

(c) whether the Apparels and Handloom Exporters Association have requested the Government to review its policy;

(d) if so, the main difficulties expressed by the exporters in agreeing to the revised policy; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Notification dated 20-11-2000 has been issued to streamline provisions governing appeals against the EMD/BG forfeiture orders passed by the appellate bodies. The Notification lays down that the exporter aggrieved by the forfeiture of the EMD/BG by Quota Administering Authority may file an appeal only if he gives Bank Guarantee/Fixed Deposit/Demand Draft to cover the amount of forfeiture. At the same time, the facility of submission of Legal Undertaking (LUT) has been given to the eligible exporters who have paid the penalty of forfeiture imposed on them within the stipulated time. The notification is intended to serve twin purpose of ensuring recovery of the Government revenues and at the same time strives to remove the practical difficulties in availment of LUT facility by the eligible exporters. However, the Apparels and Handloom Exporters Association has challenged the retrospective effect of this provision in the Hon'ble High Court, Chennai and the matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

**Export of Jute**

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

(a) the quantity, types and value of jute exported during each of the last three years and estimated export for the current year along with the names of the countries;

(b) the reasons for decline in its export; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) A statement indicating the quantity, type and value of jute products exported during the last three years is enclosed. Major countries to which Indian jute goods have been exported during the last three years are USA, Belgium, United

Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Australia, Ghana, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

(b) There has been no decline in export of jute goods during the last two years, and the exports have increased marginally during the year 1999-2000 in comparison to exports during 1998-1999. The exports have however not increased substantially due to an overall competition from Bangladesh, which enjoys a low cost of manufacture and subsidy on export in comparison to India.

(c) Government has been taking various steps to increase the export of jute goods. These include the assistance under External Market Assistance Scheme being implemented through the Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC). The Council also organises specialised commodity fairs, buyer seller meets and contact promotion programmes with special focus on potential jute products like yarn, food grade jute products, floor coverings, promotional bags etc.

**Statement***Export of Jute Goods*

Quantity : 000' MT  
Value : Rs./Million

Type/category of Jute product	1997-98 (April-March)		1998-99* (April-March)		1999-2000* (April-March)		2000-2001** (April-Dec' 00)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Hessian	103.5	2942.42	65.3	1993.86	N.A.	2246.27	50.5	1840.34
Sacking	17.9	405.79	8.0	204.49	N.A.	103.91	13.2	423.36
CBC	13.5	406.98	15.3	468.76	N.A.	274.86	4.7	137.79
Yarn	95.4	2319.68	69.5	1854.00	N.A.	2361.16	58.6	1544.99
JDPs	N.A.	641.84	N.A.	933.77	N.A.	775.22		650.00
Others	8.5	229.87	11.6	368.01	N.A.	650.42	9.6	254.20
Total	238.7	6946.58	169.7	5822.89	N.A.	6411.84	136.5	4850.58

\*Provisional

\*\*Estimated

N.A. - Not Available

[English]

**Shortage of CNG**

372. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CNG shortage disrupts life in the Capital" as reported in the Financial Express dated February 1, 2001;

(b) if so, the causes of the CNG pipeline fire in Delhi;

(c) whether adequate safeguards have been installed to prevent fires;

(d) if so, the extent to which the CNG supply has been disrupted due to such accident;

(e) whether any alternative system of CNG supply has been considered; and

(f) if so, the details of plans to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

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

(b) The fire was caused due to the damage on GAIL's pipeline in R. K. Puram on account of horizontal directional drilling carried out by the contractor of the army authorities at the time of laying optical fibre ducts in the area which accidentally punctured the natural gas pipeline.

(c) Yes, Sir. Round the clock monitoring of natural gas pipeline and line patrolling to check unauthorized digging along pipeline are undertaken. Information on digging activities permitted by various public utilities in the vicinity of higher pressure gas pipeline are required to be provided to GAIL to prevent fire. In case of fire, there are many in-built checks to cut off the supply.

(d) CNG supply was disrupted only marginally for 12 hours after the fire accident.

(e) Supply of CNG can also be through use of mobile cascades.

(f) Same as 'c' above.

[Translation]

#### **Oil Refineries of Oil Companies**

373. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :  
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

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

(a) the number of oil refineries owned by various oil companies, company-wise;

(b) the status of each oil refinery as on date;

(c) whether the Government propose to restructure the management of these oil refineries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There are 17 refineries owned by different oil companies as under :-

#### **Public Sector Oil Companies**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	-	7
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)	-	2
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)	-	1
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL)	-	2
Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL)	-	1
Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	-	1
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)	-	1

#### **Joint Sector/Private Oil Companies**

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd. (MRPL)	-	1
Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL)	-	1

(b) All the refineries are operating satisfactorily.

(c) and (d) Government have decided to integrate the public sector stand-alone refineries with the public sector oil marketing companies. Under the said arrangement, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) and Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) would be made subsidiaries of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) would be made subsidiaries of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

[English]

#### **LPG Safety Aspects in Rural Areas**

374. SHRI A BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether LPG companies are not providing adequate training for rural users of LPG on the safety aspects;

(b) if so, the number of explosions caused by LPG cylinders in the country during the last three years;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to make these cylinders more safe;

(d) if so, the new technology to be adopted in the cylinders to made them more safe; and

(e) The extent to which LPG companies compensate the users who met with an accident from the use of LPG cylinders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and their LPG distributors are regularly conducting LPG safety clinics for the benefit of the LPG consumers. During LPG safety clinics and other such allied programmes, the various aspects of safety are explained to the customers. In addition to this, LPG distributors are also under instruction to explain/demonstrate the method of using LPG to the new customers at the time of release of new LPG connections.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies have reported the number of accidents involving LPG cylinders during the last two year and April to December, 2000 as under :-

Year	No. of accidents
1998-99	53
1999-2000	77
April to December, 2000	68

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are procuring cylinders from the approved cylinder manufacturers having the statutory clearances from CCOE and BIS. Oil Industry technical teams also carry out inspection of cylinder manufacturing units periodically to ascertain the quality stipulations.

(e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have taken insurance policies on industry basis called 'No Fault Liability Insurance Scheme' in the interest of the customers/transporters. This policy covers legal liability and personal accident cover for third party covering all domestic consumers, distributors and transporters engaged in transportation of LPG cylinders.

#### **Effects of Earthquake on Monuments**

375. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

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

(a) the particulars of monuments damaged in various parts of Gujarat and other parts of the country due to massive earthquake on January 26, 2001;

(b) whether the Union Government have sent any expert team to the affected States to assess the extent of damage caused to each such monuments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether restoration plan has been chalked out in regard to these damaged monuments;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the amount required for their restoration, monument-wise;

(f) the time by which the restoration plan is likely to be implemented; and

(g) the measures taken/being taken to protect the monuments from earthquake in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The number of centrally protected monuments that have suffered damage of varying magnitude due to the massive earthquake in Gujarat on January 26, 2001 are as below :-

(i) Gujarat	-	50
(ii) Rajasthan	-	1
(iii) Union Territory Diu and Daman	-	2

(b) and (c) Two Directors from the Archaeological Survey of India have inspected the damaged monuments at Ahmedabad, Deimal, Modhera, Patan and Sarkhej in Gujarat.

(d) to (f) The damage to the centrally protected monuments has been assessed and as per present indication an amount of over Rs. 2 crore will be required for their conservation. The time frame required for their restoration would be approximately two years. Measures have been initiated to stabilise the sensitive portions of the affected monuments and to salvage the architectural members.

(g) The centrally protected monuments are conserved and preserved as per archaeological norms. As and when considered necessary, expert opinion is sought for the analytical study of the sensitive monuments and the recommendations implemented, if feasible. The UNESCO has deputed an expert to study the earthquake affected monuments of Gujarat.

#### **Sale of Crude by Iraq**

376. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq has resumed sale of Crude to India;

(b) if so, the quantity likely to be supplied by Iraq; and

(c) the price at which the crude is offered by Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STAET IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The export of Iraqi crude to India is made under the UN approved 'Oil-for-Food' plan, commenced on 10th December, 1996. So far, 8 six monthly, "Oil-for-Food" plans approved by UN have been operated. The following quantities of Basrah Light crude oil from Iraq have been imported.

Year	Qty. (in Million Metric Tonnes)
1996-97	0.17
1997-98	1.50
1998-99	1.50
1999-2000	1.16
2000-2001	1.50

(c) The average FOB price of crude oil imported from Iraq during April to December 2000 was 25.31 dollar per barrel.

#### **Acquisition of Ships by Shipping Corporation of India**

377. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (S.C.I.) has acquired any ship during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any order for acquiring ships has been placed with the Cochin Shipyard or any other Public Sector Undertaking in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) has acquired 24 new and 8 second hand ships during the last ten years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The SCI has already acquired three Crude Oil Tankers from Cochin Shipyard Limited and five bulk carriers from Hindustan Shipyard Limited during the last ten years. In addition, the SCI has also played orders with

Cochin Shipyard Limited for the construction of one Crude Oil Tanker (LR-II Size).

[Translation]

#### **Rehabilitation of Families**

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

(a) the existing provisions for rehabilitation of persons and families living near or on the Railway land for years together;

(b) whether the Government have made a review and evicted Railway land from those persons and families living of doing business on that land; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Removal of unauthorised occupants from railway land is a continuous process. Railways do not have any policy of their own for resettlement and rehabilitation of the unauthorised occupants of its land.

[English]

#### **Repairing of Qutab Minar**

379. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in repairing work of Qutab Minar, the original script is not maintained;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken to maintain the originality of the script; and

(d) the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The script engraved in the Qutab Minar has been maintained as per the original, while undertaking conservation and repairs.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the conservation and repairs of the Qutab Minar Complex in the last three years is as follows :

1997-98	-	Rs. 12,88,037.00
1998-99	-	Rs. 06,32,889.00
1999-2000	-	Rs. 03,01,463.00

[Translation]

**Self-Sufficiency in Defence  
Production**

380. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the reported pitiful condition of Defence Production in India as published in *Dainik Jagran*, New Delhi dated December 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government had made right assessment of the probable sanctions by United States and its friendly countries at any point of time while placing orders of defence items with them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the impact of post Pokhran sanctions on major R and D projects in Defence sector of India noticed so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to become self-reliant in the matter of defence production?

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

(b) The US sanctions have had minor impact, mainly on completion time of some major programmes of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The first flight trial of the first Technology.

Demonstrator (TDI) LCA was undertaken successfully inspite of sanctions. The sanctions had no impact on missiles being developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). Other major projects are also progressing satisfactorily.

(c) and (d) Alternate sources for procurement of some components and sub-systems which are affected or are likely to be affected by sanctions, have been developed.

(e) In order to enhance self-reliance in defence systems and technologies, optimum use is being made of the national expertise and infrastructure available in DRDO laboratories, other R and D institutions, academia and industry in public and private sector.

[English]

**New Lighting System at IAF  
Airfields for Night Flying**

381. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite an investment of Rs. 2.80 crore and a lapse of about 18 years, the airfield lighting system, which is a mandatory requirement for night flying, has not been commissioned in some airfields so far;

(b) if so, the details of the airfields where it has not been commissioned;

(c) whether this has forced the Indian Air Force to use age old method of using kerosene goose neck flares during night flying; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes. It is true that it has not been possible to commission Airfield lighting system at one IAF airfield, so far due to failure of underground cables and isolating transformers.

(b) IAF airfield at Carnicobar.

(c) Use of Kerosene Goose Neck Flares during night flying is a well accepted practice, followed even at IAF airfields, having serviceable Airfield lighting system, as a standby measure, for operational reasons.

(d) At Carnicobar, extension of runway is in progress on both ends, which would change the lighting pattern. Hence, completion of the work of Airfield lighting will follow extension of the runway.

[Translation]

**LPG Dealers in Lohardaga, Jharkhand**

382. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to open LPG distributorship in Lohardaga district in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details -thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open LPG distributorship in the Country during the current financial year; and



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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) At present, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has a plan to set up a LPG distributorship at the district headquarter of Lohardaga under the Marketing Plan 1996-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Apart from the earlier LPG Marketing Plans, Government have approved LPG Marketing Plan 1999-2000 for setting up of LPG distributorships in different parts of the country. Dealer Selection Boards constituted by the Ministry are already in the process of selecting the suitable candidates for the proposed LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans as per guidelines. The process of commissioning of LPG distributorship generally takes about 6 to 12 months from the date of interview.

[English]

#### **Laying of Telephone and Water Lines**

383. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone and water lines have been laid down below rail lines in some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether the said system has been found quite useful and safe;

(d) if so, whether the said system would be introduced in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Railways make and maintain certain way leave facilities and easement rights to accommodate the genuine needs of the owners and occupiers of lands adjoining Rail tracks as well as of various establishments and Govt. Depts. Such facilities include laying of water pipelines and telephone lines. This facility is subject to certain conditions which also take care of the Railways' safety requirements, and is granted by all the Zonal Railways in all the States/Union Territories including the State of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

#### **On-going Railway Projects**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details and the estimated cost of the on-going rail projects funded by foreign financial institutions in the country;

(b) the amount received for each project by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Government have since utilized the said amount;

(d) if not, whether the Government have paid commitment charges to the said foreign institutions; and

(e) if so, the total amount paid by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) External assistance is being utilised for the following on-going railway projects :-

(i) ADB loan (No. 857 IND) is being used to finance procurement of high horse power electric locomotives and transfer of technology for indigenous manufacture of these locomotives. The total amount of ADB loan is US \$ 181.40 million, of which an amount of US \$ 175.50 million has already been disbursed.

(ii) Saudi Fund for Development has extended a loan (Loan No. 3/188) to partly finance the construction of broad gauge railway line between Koraput and Rayagada. The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 475 crore. The total loan amount is SR 103.2 million, of which SR 73.38 million has already been disbursed.

(iii) Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany has extended a loan of DM 185 million for the project of modernisation of signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. This loan has not been drawn so far.

(iv) Besides the above, an export credit facility from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada for US \$ 52 million is being availed through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to

finance the import of High Horse Power Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives from General Motors corporation, USA and the related transfer of technology. An amount of US \$ 42.5 million has been disbursed from this credit. This is a commercial credit not routed through the Union Government.

(d) and (e) ADB loan provides for payment of commitment charge of 0.75% p.a. on the undisbursed loan balance and an amount of US \$ 9.18 million has so far been incurred as commitment charge on this loan. The SFD Loan does not provide for any commitment charge on the undrawn balance. KfW loan provides for payment of commitment charge at the rate of 0.25% per annum on the undrawn loan balances, but no payment has so far been made under this loan. No commitment charges are payable on undrawn balances under the export credit from EDC.

[English]

#### **Fraud in Purchasing of Sleepers**

385. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether frauds of one kind or the other have been going on in the Railways with the connivance of the railway authorities and many of them are under investigation after lapse of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has since enquired into sleeper scam and submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to eradicate all sorts of irregularities from the Railways and to make its working transport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However if there is any complaint the same is investigated by the Railway Vigilance or by the CBI.

CBI can investigate the matter either on suo-motto basis or on the specific references made by the Railways.

(b) Does not arise. However, in one case CBI is currently investigating irregularities in the procurement of wooden sleepers. A reference has also been made in Sep,

2000 to look into the irregularities in the procurement of HTS wire, which is used in concrete sleepers.

(c) and (d) CBI had earlier investigated some irregularities in the procurement of High Tensile Steel wire on the basis of the case registered by them in the year 1997 but the case was closed after investigation and the report was submitted by the CBI in Nov. 2000. However, in the mean time, on the basis of the reports in print media, involving allegation of corruption in the procurement of sleepers, a reference was made to CBI in Sept, 2000 to enquire into the matter.

(e) Regular preventive checks are carried out to detect any irregularity and suitable action is taken to make working transparent.

#### **Appointment of Chairman/Dy. Chairman in Major Port Trusts**

386. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the rules and the procedures followed for selection and appointment of Chairman/Dy. Chairman of different Major Port Trusts from among I.A.S. cadre and Port Officers;

(b) whether the rules for selection and appointment of Chairman/Dy. Chairman from among Port Officers in grade 'A' and grade 'B' Ports are changed frequently;

(c) if so, the reasons and the justification for such changes;

(d) whether in view of corporatisation, privatisation and commercialisation of Ports, the Port Officers are not likely to be considered for these posts; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Central Government has been vested with the powers to make appointments to the posts of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen in Major Port Trusts under Section 3 (I) (a) and (b) of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Central Government, in exercise of these powers had issued guidelines vide letter No. A-12022/1/2000-PE-I dated 11.8.2000 to be followed for selection to posts of Chairman and Dy. Chairman either by appointing officers drawn from the Central Services/ All India Services or from the Port service, depending upon the suitability of such candidates and operational requirements of the ports.

(b) and (c) The guidelines for selection and appointment of Chairman, Dy. Chairman were framed in 1986, which

were subsequently amended on 22.12.1987 and 15.7.1996 after due consideration of suggestions received from the Port Chairmen and Port Officers. The new guidelines have been framed in August, 2000 consequent to the categorization of the top level posts at Major Ports into two categories, equivalent to that of schedule 'A' and schedule 'B' Public Enterprises.

(d) When a Company is formed as a consequence of Corporatisation of any Major Port, the Board level appointments would take place in accordance with the procedure of Public Enterprises Selection Board. However, Port Officers will be free to apply.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Updating of Damaged Railway Bridge in Assam**

387. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government is drawn to the fact that after floods in Assam every year the rail bridges are left in a very badly damaged and shattered condition;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to restore them in good condition; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on repairing of bridges during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Condition of Railway track and Bridges is monitored regularly, more so during floods. Any damage to bridges by floods is attended to immediately for restoring traffic as early as possible. Permanent rehabilitation is planned and taken up thereafter.

(c) Rs. 8.12 crores upto January 2001.

#### **Growth Rate of Lubricants by IBP**

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

(a) whether IBP has been showing an increasing growth rate in respect of annual turnover of lubricants for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total turnover of IBP at present;

(c) whether due to this factor the Government are likely to gain a high amount on 3.58 percent stake in the petroleum marketing company IBP; and

(d) if so, the interest shown by private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of sale of lubricants and the total turnover of IBP in respect of Lube sales during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Sales (KIs)	Growth (%)	Sales Turnover (Rs. In Crore)
1997-98	27091	10.6	116.37
1998-99	31423	16.0	143.87
1999-2000	35198	12.0	160.82

(c) and (d) The Government realisation from IBP disinvestment would depend on IBP's marketability and its overall business strength.

[Translation]

#### **Laying of Optical Fibre Cable in Bihar**

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

(a) the length of optical fibre cable network laid in Bihar;

(b) the details of routes where laying of optical fibre cable network remains to be laid; and

(c) the time by which cable network is likely to be laid in the remaining areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A total of 782 route-km of optical fibre network has been laid in Bihar (undivided).

(b) and (c) The optical fibre cable is being laid on routes based upon the operational need and availability of funds. Presently, besides the 782 route-km on which optical fibre cable is already existing, work is sanctioned and in progress on another 824 route-km in Bihar (undivided).

[English]

#### **New Rail Line Between Gadag and Gulbarga**

390. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made for laying of new railway line between Gadag and Gulbarga via Gajendragad, Kushagi and Lingasur;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the said work during 2000-2001; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No survey has yet been done for this line. Moreover, due to acute constraint of resources it would be difficult to consider this new line project at present.

#### **Appointment of Judges from Weaker Section**

391. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have directed all the State Chief Ministers to recommend persons from weaker sections for appointment of judges in the High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any response from the Chief Ministers of the States and UTs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision for appointment of judges in various high courts from the weaker sections is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (e) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under article 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As per the existing procedure the Chief Justice of a High Court initiates a proposal for appointment of Judges. In view of the provisions of the Constitution, direction cannot be issued for recommending names of persons belonging to any caste or class.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

#### **Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam Rail Line**

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

(a) whether Government are considering to sanction the doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam railway line both via Alleppey and Kottayam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the step taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A survey for doubling between Ernakulam to Kayamkulam has been carried out. The survey report has been received and is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Facilities at Petrol Pumps on National Highways**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Petrol Pumps at National Highway-5 from Balasore to Berhampur are not providing air, water and other facilities to the vehicle owners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take against such petrol pump owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Free water facility is being provided to vehicle owners at all the retail outlets on National highway-5 between Balasore and Berhampur. Air and toilet facilities are not available in some retail outlets owing to various reasons such as space constraints, Court case by lessors, lease problems, and road widening etc.

(c) Letters have already been issued by Oil Marketing Companies to retail outlet dealers where air facility is not available to make the same operative

immediately falling which action would be taken by Oil Marketing Companies under dealership agreement.

### **Restructuring and Privatisation of Electricity Distribution**

394. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to give a major push to the restructuring and privatisation of electricity distribution network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether opinion of State Governments has also been obtained in this matter before taking such decision;

(d) if so, the response of State Governments thereto;

(e) whether any Legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) The poor financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) has necessitated reforms and restructuring of the power sector. It has been recognised that restoration of viability of the distribution sector is the key to improving the health of the power sector. The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in February, 2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reforms strategy are :

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

It was decided that if the above was not unattainable in the existing set up, corporatization/cooperatisation/privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

The State of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, UP and Rajasthan have enacted their reform legislations and unbundled their SEBs. Delhi and Madhya Pradesh have passed their reform laws. Orissa has

privatised distribution. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi have plans to privatise distribution. UP has invited bids for the privatisation of distribution in Kanpur.

Discussions are being held with various stakeholders on a new legislation to replace the existing electricity laws with a view to facilitating the reform process and obviating the need for the States to enact their own reform laws.

[Translation]

### **Construction of Road Over-Bridge at Maihar Nagar**

395. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to construction of road over-bridge at Maihar Nagar in Jabalapur Railway Division;

(b) whether the Railways propose to construct road over bridge at the National Highway No. 7 in the larger public interest;

(c) whether the Railways have considered any other option after the inability expressed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to give its share for the Construction of this road over bridge owing to the resource crunch;

(d) whether the Railways propose to take any steps for construction of road over-bridge under BOT scheme with the help of P. W. D.; and

(e) if so, the time by which this road over-bridge is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Chief Engineer (NH) Division, PWD, Bhopal has accepted estimate for Rs. 2.45 crores for construction of Bridge proper by Railway on 'deposit' terms. Further action to take up work will be taken as soon as money is deposited by CE (NH), PWD, Bhopal with the Railways.

[English]

### **Petrol Pumps in Uttaranchal**

396. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total number of petrol pumps in Uttaranchal is too negligible in comparison to its network of over 25,000 K. M. long roads;

(b) if so, the total number of petrol pumps in the State and the places where these are functioning;

(c) the places for which advertisement has been given for the allotment of petrol pumps;

(d) whether the allotment has been made for those places; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) As per the existing policy, retail outlets are set up based on Volume-Distance norms. At present, 192 retail outlets are in operation in the State of Uttaranchal.

In order to meet the increased demand, 38 more retail outlet dealerships are proposed to be set up in Uttaranchal. The process of selection of dealers is on, as per the prescribed procedure, which includes issue of advertisement, holding of interviews of the applicants by the Dealer Selection Boards and thereafter issue of Letters of Intent by Oil Companies, etc.

#### **Loan by German Bank to NHPC for New Projects**

397. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a leading German Bank has offered a credit of 300 million dollars to the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation for financing new projects without the usual conditionality of the sovereign guarantee;

(b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions of the said loan;

(c) whether the conditions laid down for the credit line are against the norms of the Corporation's imports from United States, Europe and Japan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have accepted this loan;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the Bank is likely to provide such loans to India; ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has received an offer for a credit line of US\$ 300 million or its equivalent in Euro from a German bank for Export Credit for goods originating from all European countries/ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD) countries and the offer is with insurance cover granted by respective Export Credit Agencies (ECA) and additional collateral/bank guarantee, if required by the ECA. Credit line agreement shall be valid for period of two years from the date of signing the agreement. The terms and conditions indicated in the offer are not against the norms of the Corporation.

#### **Production of Power from the Municipal Waste**

398. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given permission to the private firms to produce power from the Municipal solid wastes in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the existing such power projects and their performance during the last two years;

(c) the details of such power projects implemented in the country during the last three years, both by the Government and private sector with/without foreign assistance and the total expenditure incurred on each project during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the power production by Non-Conventional Energy Sources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The projects for production of power from the Municipal solid wastes do not require any prior permission from the Central Government. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu have selected a private firm viz. M/s EDL India Private Limited, New Delhi, a subsidiary of M/s Energy Developments Limited, Australia for setting up a project in Chennai for generation of power from Municipal solid waste.

(b) M/s EDL have proposed to produce 14.85 MW of power from about 600 tonnes per day of segregated Municipal solid waste at an estimated project cost of Rs. 142.30 crore. The plant will be based on Steam Gasification technology. There are no other such power projects operating in the country.

(c) No such power projects have been installed in the country during last three years.

(d) Fiscal and financial incentives and soft loans are being provided for setting up of projects for generation of power from Non-conventional Energy Sources such as Solar, Wind, Biomass, Small Hydro and Urban and

Industrial Wastes. The Ministry has issued guidelines to State Governments to provide promotional and fiscal incentives for generation of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources, and for fixation of purchase price for power generated from Non-conventional Energy Sources.

#### **Energy Transportation**

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

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has a proposal to focus entirely on the energy transportation;

(b) if so, the merits of such a focus on one sector only;

(c) whether the Shipping Corporation of India is gradually reducing the emphasis on the container and shipping sector;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Shipping Corporation of India for the balanced growth of both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The SCI regularly reviews the emerging opportunities in various sectors of the shipping industry including Container shipping sector in order to enhance its presence in the sectors in which it is already providing services. In the container sector SCI has entered into joint services/ vessel sharing arrangements by tying up with suitable reputed partners. SCI also regularly explores opportunities for diversifying its container services in other markets/routes.

As regards energy transportation, SCI has a well diversified fleet comprising shipping tonnage (Vessels) in both traditional areas such as Oil Tankers and Bulk Carriers, as also in specialised areas such as LPG, Ammonia Carriers, Chemical Carriers etc. SCI has been pursuing a strategy of fleet expansion and modernisation so as to cater to the requirements to Indian overseas/ Coastal trades, as also to participate in cross trades. SCI has also successfully followed the Joint Venture route for participating in the LNG transportation business to cater to India's future LNG import requirements.

[Translation]

#### **Demand and Supply of LPG and Petroleum Products in Pandharpur**

400. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated demand of LPG and petroleum products and actual supply thereof made to Pandharpur district during the last three years;

(b) the details of marketing plan formulated by public sector oil companies to meet the demand;

(c) the details of marketing plan of the public sector oil companies for LPG, petrol, kerosene and other petroleum products for Pandharpur district during the current year;

(d) whether Oil Selection Board has been constituted to finalise the selection of new dealership in the States including Maharashtra during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The details of sale of Petroleum Products in Pandharpur, District Solapur, Maharashtra by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement. The demand of MS, HSD and LPG was met by and large in full. The SKO releases were as per the allocation/directives of the Civil Supplies Authorities.

(c) At present, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has planned to set up one SKO/LDO dealership and one LPG distributorship at Pandharpur.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government have constituted 59 Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in the country including 4 DSBs for the State of Maharashtra.

#### **Statement**

*Sale of Petroleum Products by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in Pandharpur, Tehsil of Solapur District, Maharashtra*

	MS	HSD (Fig in KL)	SKO	LPG (Fig. in MT)
1997-98	1634.75	12749.67	4620	1402
1998-99	1853.43	13189.64	6432	1523
1999-2000	2265.27	13950.83	5460	1752

*[English]*

**Proposal to Restructure of Power  
Grid Corporation**

401. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to restructure the capital of the Power Grid Corporation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the manner in which the funds is likely to be made available for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Disinvestment Commission after considering all relevant factors has recommended that no disinvestment in PGCIL be taken up for the present. The Commission has, however, recommended that PGCIL should study the alternatives for restructuring together with managerial restructuring before embarking on the process of disinvestment. M/s ICICI and SBI Capital Markets were earlier engaged to study the financial engineering of Central Power Sector Undertakings in the power sector with a view to enabling them to leverage larger resources for investment. M/s ICICI and SBI Cap have been appointed to undertake a joint study to suggest an appropriate model of restructuring of POWERGRID.

**Re-employment to Retired Persons  
in PSUs**

402. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of public sector undertakings functioning under her Ministry;
- (b) whether a large number of retired persons have been employed in each undertakings;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; undertaking-wise;
- (d) whether these undertakings have some recruitment rules for appointment of staff in Gazetted and Non-Gazetted cadre from open market; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof; undertaking-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are eight Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Railways i.e. RITES Ltd., IRCON International Ltd., Container Corporation of India Ltd., Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd., Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Mumbai

Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd., Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. and Raitel Corporation of India Ltd.

(b) and (c) Only 31 re-employed persons are working in these Undertakings including RITES Ltd.-15, IRCON International Ltd. - 7, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. - 6 and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation-3.

(d) There are no categories of employees defined as Gazetted and Non-Gazetted in Railway Public Sector Undertakings, However, the recruitment from the open market, for Executive and Non-executive posts, is done through the Employment Exchanges and through advertisements in selected newspapers having good circulation in the various regions of the country.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**On-going Railway Projects**

403. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :  
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :  
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail lines laid/converted and doubled during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 till December 31, 2000 zone/State-wise;

(b) the details of on-going projects alongwith their time schedule for completion and the progress made so far in each project; zone/State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far in each of these projects;

(d) the details of rail lines in respect of which survey has been completed for laying of new line/gauge conversion and doubling of rail routes, zone/State-wise;

(e) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started, project-wise;

(f) whether the Union government have received representation for doubling of rail-lines during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

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



*[English]***Cargo Handling in Paradeep Port Trust**

404. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paradeep Port Trust entered into a tripartite settlement for de-casualisation of cargo handling workers and extended all facilities to Port employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cargo handling workers of Paradeep Port Trust are being extended facilities to Port employees belonging to class III class IV categories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the status of cargo handling workers of Paradeep Port Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Paradeep Port Trust had entered into a tripartite settlement for extension of facilities at par with other regular port employees to the Cargo Handling Workers in the Main List.

(b) The main provisions of the settlement are :

(i) Cargo Handling Workers to be treated as Port Employees.

(ii) Cargo Handling Workers to be paid monthly wages.

(iii) Extending all other facilities to Cargo Handling Workers at par with Port Employees.

(c) to (e) In accordance with the above settlement, Paradeep Port Trust has proposed to the Government that Cargo Handling Workers of the Main List be extended with the facilities at par with other port employees such as :-

(i) General Provident Fund

(ii) Pension facilities

(iii) 30 days Earned Leave facilities

(iv) Encashment of Earned Leave.

(v) leave Travel Concession

(vi) Medical Leave

(vii) 16 days closed holidays, 12 days' Casual Leave with 2 days Restricted Holidays.

(viii) Motor cycle advance/House Building advance.

However, the Cargo Handling Workers are not categorised either as class III or class IV employees.

**Fall in International Crude Oil Prices**

405. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent fall in international crude oil prices had any impact on our import bill; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the oil import bill has come down in the remaining period of the current year?

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

(b) The fall in crude oil price by one dollar per barrel is estimated to reduce the net import bill by Rs. 1310 crore (288 million dollar) for the period October, 2000 to March, 2001.

**Trans Shipment Terminal**

406. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded the approval to the Vallarpadam International Container Trans-shipment Terminal at Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the terminal is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**New Railway Link between Talcher and Gopalpur in Orissa**

407. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request to provide new railway link between Talcher and Gopalpur Port in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have asked for a survey report of the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) A survey for provision of a new broad gauge railway link between Talcher and Gopalpur is in progress. The survey report is expected by the middle of this year.

#### **Running of Samjhauta Express**

408. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan have renewed the rail agreement to run the Samjhauta Express for another three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the issue which have been taken care of during the agreement;

(c) whether issues of smuggling and militant activities which causes threat to Indian economy have also been discussed before signing the agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Pakistani Government thereto;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the smuggling and militant activities being organized through this train;

(f) whether any steps were proposed to run goods train between the two countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Agreement relates to the scope of services between Indian Railways and Pakistan Railways and the technical modalities of running of trains. The new agreement envisages continue running freight and passenger services between India and Pakistan.

(c) This agreement pertains to only technical details of rail operation. It does not deal with the matters related with smuggling and militant activities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) (i) Immigration work at Attari Railway Station and Wagha Checkpost has been taken over by Bureau of Immigration.

(ii) In order to eliminate middlemen/go-betweens, the services of coolies at Attari Railway Station have been dispensed with

and trollies provided to the passengers for ferrying their luggage.

(iii) Duty Free Allowance of foreign tourists (including Indian and Pakistanis) coming from Pakistan by land route has been reduced to Rs. 3000.

(iv) It has been decided to limit the baggage to be carried by passengers of Samjhauta Express to the permissible free allowance only i.e. 50 Kgs for Class-I passengers and 35 Kgs for Class-II passengers to facilitate 100% manual checking of the baggage by the security forces.

(v) All the concerned agencies deployed at Attari/Wagha have been advised to strengthen their vigilance mechanism to prevent complicity of their officials in abetting smuggling etc.

(f) and (g) Goods train is already running between the two countries.

#### **Rare collection of Nizam's Jewellery Trust**

409. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had committed to the Supreme Court in November, 1997 that rare collection of gems and jewellery bought by the Government in 1995 from Nizam's Jewellery Trust, would be kept at the National Museum;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in fulfilling the commitment;

(c) the time by which the rare collection is likely to be displayed at the National Museum, Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken at the National Museum for security of the rare exhibits?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) During the course of the hearing of the litigation pertaining to the acquisition of Nizam's Jewellery by the Central Government, the Supreme Court expressed the view that these items will become public property after their acquisition and therefore, the public should have a chance of viewing the heritage that was being acquired. At present, except National Museum, no other museum under the control of the Department of Culture, Government of India is equipped to display these valuable items. Even in National Museum the security has to be scaled up and security

plans are being drawn for bringing the Nizam's Jewellery from RBI vaults. Mumbai where they are currently kept. These security plans are drawn in consultation with the Intelligence Bureau, Central Industrial Security Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jagmohan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon, under section 26 of the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3244/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :-

- (1) The Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2001 (No. 1 of 2001), promulgated by the President on the 5th January, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3245/2001]

- (2) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 2 of 2001), promulgated by the President on the 3rd February, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3246/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, 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 Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3247/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKAMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 514 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000, under section 36 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3248/2001]

12.01-1/2 hrs.

[English]

## ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifth Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and assented to since a report was last made to the House on 15th December, 2000 :

- (1) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
- (2) The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2000; and
- (3) The Appropriation Railways) No. 5 Bill, 2000.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President :

- (1) The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
- (2) The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2000;
- (3) The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
- (4) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000;
- (5) The Central Road Fund Bill, 2000;

- (6) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and
- (7) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000.

12.01-3/4 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

## Study Tour Report

*[English]*

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 in respect of Andrew Yule and Company Limited.

12.02 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

## Tenth to Thirteenth Reports

*[English]*

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy :

- (1) Tenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (2) Eleventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (3) Twelfth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report on the Standing Committee on Energy (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Power.
- (4) Thirteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Coal.

12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

## Unilateral Non-Initiation of Combat Operations in Jammu and Kashmir

*[English]**[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : As hon. Members would recollect, Rashtrapatiiji during his address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together had given voice to the Government's approach to the whole question of Jammu and Kashmir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Speaker, Sir it is totally a wrong thing, 58 thousand Sikh families have migrated from there. It is a very serious matter. Their honour is not safe there, the lives of their children is not safe. It is a very serious matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good, Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He had then, amongst other things, shared with the hon. Members of Parliament that:

"That Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. As part of this, it launched a major peace mission on November 19, 2000, by announcing a unilateral non-initiation of combat operations in the State during the holy month of Ramzan. This bold initiative was extended twice up to February 26, 2001. As anticipated, this was warmly welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are longing for an end to militancy and violence in their beautiful State. The international community has also given overwhelming support, because it sees in it yet another demonstration of India's sincere commitment to a peaceful and permanent solution to the Kashmir issue."

Rashtrapatiiji had also then informed the hon. Members that :

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\*Not recorded.

"Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is now increasingly confined to foreign mercenary groups. This has widened the scope for democratic activity in the State. The people of the State participated enthusiastically in the recent Panchayat elections. I reiterate the Government's readiness to have talk with every group in the State that abjures violence."

The Government has decided to pursue this path by initiating talks with various groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government has seriously addressed the question of continuing with the peace process and further extending the period of non-initiation of combat operation by our security forces. In this regard, the Government has benefited by the detailed briefing of and consultations with all political parties that it had on February 21, 2001.

Having examined all aspects of the question in its totality, the Government has decided to further extend the period up till the end of May. Let this opportunity not be missed by all those that desire peace, for our patience is not infinite.

I wish to make it abundantly clear that the peace process is only for those that wish to benefit from it. We will not let this process be derailed, diluted or misused. For such organisations or elements, as have vowed to disrupt the peace process, or intend to continue with violence and the killing of innocents in Jammu and Kashmir, my message is unequivocal and clear. If you inflict injury on any Indian citizen in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, or elsewhere, or commit any act of violence or terrorism then the security forces have clear instructions to act decisively to defeat such intentions and law and order shall be maintained. Those who think that our security forces are less determined today to put an end to terrorism are only deluding themselves.

It is my hope that Pakistan will act, even now, and abjure violence, give up their continuous hostile propaganda against India, stop promoting and aiding cross-border terrorism, take the path of peace through bilateral talks as enshrined in the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, thus creating a conducive atmosphere so that the comprehensive dialogue process can be resumed resulting in a lasting solution to the problems.

The process of peace is to enable our citizens in Jammu and Kashmir to live peacefully. It is their voice that has to be heard, not of the militants or foreign mercenaries.

Peace is our objective, to peace and dialogue we remain committed because that above all, is what the people of Jammu and Kashmir need most.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 7 -- Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari.

12.08 hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### Action Taken Statement

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter I of 111th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on " Customs Receipts-short levy due to misclassification-Woolen waste or wool."

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sikh Families are migrating leaving their homes. . . . *(Interruptions)* Sikhs are being killed there. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. There is no practice in the House to raise questions after the Statement.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharaj Ganj. U.P.) : The farmers of the country are dying. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have watched you on T.V. also. You are disturbing the House Since morning.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, I would just like to make a demand for a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir matter at a proper time because it is a very important issue and we would like to have a discussion on this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri J.S. Brar, please take your seat. The Government has already replied.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, The Sikhs who are in security forces, they are in danger. No arrangement has been made for their security. There are 140 such villages which are facing danger. What has been done for their security so far ? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

12.10 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER\*

##### Inundation of Bagdigi Colliery of Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, around 12.15 PM on the 2nd February, sudden inrush of water was observed in Bagdigi VII Seam Development District. About 100 Persons deployed for various operations at the time of the accident. The District was being developed with Side Discharge Loader. The District is in VII Seam, which underlies VIII Seam with parting of about 10.6 metres. VII seam is connected with VIII seam through two drifts. The water inrush occurred from an old water logged working of VII Seam in Joyrampur colliery which is on the rise side of Bagdigi colliery. 70 persons were able to escape through the two drifts and 30 persons, including the Manager and Assistant Manager were trapped underground. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Immediately on occurrence of the accident, Director General Mines safety (DGMS) and Mines rescue Station Dhansar of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) were notified. Rescue Team arrived at Joyrampur at 1.10 PM. Director (Technical), BCCL and DGMS officials arrived around 2.30 PM. Director (Technical), Coal India Limited and Chairman cum Managing Director, BCCL rushed by air from Calcutta and reached the site around 6.30 PM. ... (Interruptions)

\*Also laid on the Table

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3250/2001]

\*\*Not Recorded

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Rescue Team completed first inspection around 3.00 PM on 2.2.2001 through the working of Joyrampur and found that the area which was earlier water logged was filled with black damp and was unapproachable. Immediately thereafter the Rescue team resorted to coursing of ventilation to clear the black damp. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is also a very important statement. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Simultaneously, action was taken to procure pumps and accessories from other mines of BCCL and also from the Eastern, Northern and Mahanadi Coalfields and from TISCO mines on emergency basis so as to augment the existing pumping capacity for dewatering the inundated district of Bagdigi on war footing. Subsequently, 4 pumps were commissioned in Joyrampur colliery and 8 pumps were commissioned in Bagdigi colliery. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Brar, this is too much. The Government has also agreed for a discussion in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Round the clock pumping, monitoring and underground inspection from both sides was maintained so that recovery operations of the trapped persons could be expedited. Simultaneously, three drill machines were also deployed to establish air contact and communications with possible survivors trapped in the inundated district. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has agreed to discuss the matter.

(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Services of India Navy divers were requisitioned from Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. The first navy team was air lifted from New Delhi on the 14th February and reached the site around 12.30 PM. This diving team completed its first reconnaissance sortie at 10.00 PM. The first navy team was supplemented by a second navy team from Visakhapatnam. They completed the second sortie immediately after reaching the site. The navy teams, however, could not locate any surviving victim. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Please take your seat. The Government has agreed to discuss the matter in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : One worker, Shri Saleem Ansari was rescued alive on the 8th February. The bodies of the other 29 trapped miners have been recovered and handed over to the next of kin. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down. We are going to discuss the matter in the House. The Government has agreed to it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : I took charge of the Office of Minister of Coal on the 19th February. The very next day, I rushed to Bagdigi. I went down 225 metres and saw the relief operations in progress. As there was a prima-facie case against some officials, I ordered the immediate suspension of 3 executive of BCCL. The Internal Safety Organisation of Coal India has been directed to hold an enquiry immediately. The Labour Ministry are appointing a Court of Inquiry by a High Court Judge under Section 24 of the Mines Act. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the hon. Minister's statement.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : While placing these facts before the House, I would like to assure the Hon. Members that appropriate and exemplary action will be taken against those responsible for this accident. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : We want to have a response from the Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been replied to by the hon. Minister of parliamentary Affairs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : The family members have been provided with ex-gratra of Rs. 2,30,000/- as well as other terminal benefits like Gratuity, Workmen's Compensation Insurance, benevolent Fund and Provident Fund. The next of kin will be provided with employment. For the trauma he suffered, the lone survivor, Shri Saleem Ansari has also been given Rs. 50,000/- I have also issued instructions to the officials of CIL and BCCL to get a fresh survey done of all underground mines. I have met the Union Officials and Officers' Association and have assured them that adequate steps will be taken to ensure proper working conditions in the Mines. They have also been assured that no mining work will be done at the cost of human lives. I am going to review the entire safety operation with the officers of the Coal India and DGMS shortly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 11, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You speak lateron.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir we have given a notice for adjournment motion. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, we want a discussion on the statement made by the Minister, under Rule 193. . . .(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that tomorrow we have the meeting of the BAC. If there are some important issues, you can point out them in that meeting and we can discuss them in the House. . . .(Interruption) There is a procedure to discuss such matters in the House. We have the meeting of the BAC tomorrow.

Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu. . . .(Interruption)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, we want a discussion on the subject. . . .(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : The leader of your party is represented in the BAC. Please ask your leader to raise it in the BAC.

(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

## ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

### (i) Committee on Estimates

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP) : Mr. Speaker, today the condition of farmers in the country is very poor. . . .(Interruption) We have given of notice for adjournment motion. . . .(Interruption) Today paddy is being procured at a very low price. The Union Government has not done anything so far. . . .(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak later.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, the potato producing farmers are in miserable state today. The condition of cotton growing farmers is also similar we have given notice for adjournment motion. . . .(Interruption)

### (ii) Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st of May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st of May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, there is a serious apprehension about the coal mines. Sir, the statement that was made by the Minister just now, . . .(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : We have gone to the next subject. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we cannot brush aside such killings and death of industrial workers in coal mines. . . .(Interruption) Serious lapses have been identified earlier also. . . .(Interruption)

[Translation]

The Government had this information before that buggling was committed in the Coal India Mines but no attention was paid by the Government on this information. . . .(Interruption)

[English]

They did not take note of them. . . .(Interruptions)



SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure of discussion. You will keep on speaking whatever on the procedure.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will be decided tomorrow in the Business Advisory Committee. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

### **(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings**

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public

Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

### **(iv) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti) : Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Twenty Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on 1st, May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Mr. Speaker, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2001 and ending on the 30th April, 2002 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, UP) : Mr. Speaker, this is a serious question. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Deputy Speaker had said that he would give us a chance to speak after the hon. Prime Minister's statement. We pacified all our members and brought them back. Mr. Deputy Speaker had decided this and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also spoke. Therefore, now give me a chance to speak. This is no ordinary issue. You will be surprised to know that these days the farmers growing paddy and potatoes. . . .(Interruptions) listen to me at least. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it in the zero hour. Why are you disturbing everybody. Why did you disturb the House in question hour? You disturbed the House in question hour and doing the same now in zero hour as well.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Cold storage owners asked to take potatoes free of cost. Nobody is prepared to take potatoes free. Cold storages are already full. Where the production of potatoes will go. Hon. Prime Minister is present, entire Government is here. After all how many

times we will discuss. We want the Question Hour to go on. That is why I called my Members back. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : But you disturbed the House for half an hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Where would the farmer growing potatoes will carry his produce. The cold storage owners of Kannauj and Farukhabad asked to take away potatoes free of cost but nobody is ready to take potatoes free. When the cold storage is occupied where the potatoes will be stored. Farmers growing paddy have already been ruined and that of maize and millet has been ruined. We want at least that a subsidy of Rs. Twelve thousand crore be given to farmers of UP otherwise they will be ruined and would commit suicide. The farmer is in debt, cannot marry away his daughter, cannot pay off his debt. Sugarcane farmers have also faced bullets. Hon. Prime Minister you'll be surprised to know that all the farmers have been ruined. We make an earnest appeal and request you to stop all the programmes and discuss this matter urgently. Till the policies in WTO are changed, Mr. Prime Minister kindly get the farmers excluded by giving six months notice. If you will allow import of Ghee, butter, milk from the international market we will not even be able to feed our cattle. These were the only means of farmers. Now the foreigners will even sell milk and ghee. That is why this is our earnest request that you first discuss this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, we have given notice. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will also get a chance. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, it is a very vital and serious matter. In the last session the Congress had demanded a discussion on this subject and a discussion was held. But, thereafter, the Government did not take any concrete steps. The Governments neither reacted thereon nor took any measures to provide relief. Even today, in the entire country there is a call for mercy in the farmers' society. Farmers are the very foundation of our economy. Lakhs of farmers are coming to the capital on Sunday. There is a Congress rally and we are going to raise this matter vociferously. We demand that until some concrete measures are taken to resolve this matter satisfactorily the Congress will continue to fight the cause of farmers and will go on supporting the farmers fully. We want an elaborate discussion on this even in this session and some concrete measures be taken so that the farmers feel themselves secured.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker I am greatly surprised that in regard to farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, this House should discuss it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

You will get a chance. Please take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Promod Mahajanji had said that whenever there will be a discussion in regard to the farmers, the Government is prepared to give its point of view. But it is surprising that the Congress in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, we will call you in this regard. Please take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Yes, I am talking about you only. Leader of the Samajwadi Party and Deputy leader of Congress have demanded discussion on the problem of farmers. Our Government and our party too, want to have an elaborate discussion on the problem of the farmers, but to cover up their sins, the Congress assembles lakhs of farmers, for a problem for which they are themselves responsible, they are the ones who signed WTO, Samajwadi party people have been a party to it and whatever is taking place now is a result of all that, for which the farmers are being assembled and such politics being played is not proper. Whenever the discussion will be held, the Government will keep its point of view before them.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, discussions are held in the House on the question of farmers, but even after discussion the problem of farmers is not being resolved. For example, the farmers of Bihar produced 123 lakh tonnes of grains, but the FCI has only procured five thousand tonnes as yet. Procurement of wheat and maize has not been made in Bihar. Procurement of wheat and maize has been made there and that of paddy has been negligible. That is why the farmers have been compelled to sell their food grains at

half of the price. Today dairy farmers are terrorised farmers growing oil seeds and pulses are being ruined, that is we repeatedly. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice.

[English]

You have not given any notice :

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We have repeatedly demanded the setting up of a committee in the House for solving the problems of the farmers. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is not on this subject.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I demand the setting up of a Cabinet Committee on Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to resolve the problem of the farmers as they need a lot of things. This is my request.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It is not only the question of sufferings. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to you. This is 'Zero Hour'. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Sir, you called my name in the beginning of Zero hour and now you are not calling me. Now what has been started.

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be called

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Why have you diverted from the subject of the farmers ?

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The farmers, the peasantry of this country, are facing a very serious situation. They are not getting the prices of their produce as a result of the wrong policy of the Government. Not only that, even when the Parliament is in Session, the Government is selling profitable undertakings like BALCO. Yesterday only the Government had taken a decision to sell out BALCO. . . .(Interruptions) When Parliament is in Session, the Government is not bringing all these vital issues to the Parliament. We oppose this policy of the Government to sell out profitable organisations like BALCO. Government

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

owes an explanation to the Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)*  
Not only the peasantry. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have also given a notice on BALCO.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Government owes an explanation to the House. Are they following any evaluation method or not? It seems they are only to serve the interest of a particular organisation or a particular business house.

Sir, this Parliament has again and again opposed the wrong policies of the Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government should stop selling out profit making public sector organisations.

MR. SPEAKER : Does the Government want to say anything on the issue of farmers ?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, already in the Question Hour, the Government has showed its readiness to discuss the issue of farmers at any point of time.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, My name is also there, this is a very serious question. We have also given notice. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the statement of Shri Ramanand Singh.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Madhya Pradesh is reeling under serious drought and famine. One-third population of Madhya Pradesh belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and most of them are agriculture labourers. This year the rainfall was much below the average in Madhya Pradesh and two third

districts of the State have been affected with drought. Due to this there has been serious drought in the Satna Rewa, Shahdol Sidhi, Umaria, Chhattarpur, Katani of Rewa in MP and the irrigation capacity is very low. Madhya Pradesh constitutes half of the total average irrigated land of the country. But Rewa constitutes only three per cent irrigated land. That area is hit with drought every second or third year. This year the condition has become very critical owing to sparse rainfall. Thousands of people from Raigaon, Maider, Amarpatan in Satna district are migrating to Surat, Mumbai and other places due to lack of relief operations.

12.32 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

There is drinking water crises in this part. Although the crisis is pervading the entire Madhya Pradesh. But the water level has fallen in the Satna, Rewa, Sidhi, Shahdol districts of Rewa. Approximately, 50-60 per cent hand pumps are either out of order or not having water. The State Government does not have funds to get them repaired. The State Government is spending 91.98 per cent of the entire budget on establishment and does not have funds for construction, development and relief works. The Chief Minister blames only the Prime Minister and the Union Government, while the Centre is providing funds for various schemes which are not being properly used. Thousands of people of the State are dying of hunger due to drought and famine. An old women died of hunger recently in Mehar. Similarly, a woman has died in the Pratappur village of Chitrakut area. This is my request that Union Government should issue guidelines to Madhya Pradesh for immediately starting the relief operations in the drought affected areas particularly in Satna, Rewa, Sidhi, Shahdol and Umaria and should provide financial assistance as far as possible so that migration of people can be checked and the people of that area can get foodgrains, drinking water and adequate relief.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Koshi and Purnia Commissioner in Bihar are the biggest producers of jute. The decision to open several jute mills there was taken by even Devegowda Government. The biggest jute mill of Asia is in katihar which is also closed. One of the units Diyarachand at is functioning. The CMD of that jute mill has transferred several managers since 1991. Scams that have taken place till now should be probed. 105 machines out of 662 machines are in working condition and the remaining are all out of order. Even 105 machines do not function regularly. The CMD in Kolkatta keeps the entire money of RBHM mill of Katihar unit and is bungled. The

inquiry could not be completed as on date. The entire procedure under the Union Government is regulated here and the money is also sent from here but is stopped in Calcutta at CMD's office. The condition is so bad there that 78 labourers who retired and even died, their provident fund dues have not been released. They gave up their lives for want of money and their families are crying in distress. As per rule recruitments should be made before retirement but no recruitments have been made since 1991 till date owing to which only 105 machines are functioning out of 662 machines. The situation is so bad that it can not be explained in words.

My demand from the Government is that action should be taken on all the factories that are closed. Be it Dalmia Nagar factory which is one of the biggest factories, is closed for the last 27 years or Bhagalpur Silk Mill, Gaya Silk Mill, the condition is pretty bad and action should be taken to revive them. I belong to an area where maximum cotton and sugar cane are grown. The Bihar Government have closed down 18 sugar mills out of 28 sugar mills and the remaining 10 are likely to be privatised and the farmers are not paid their dues in time. My request is that all the machines which are not working in the RBHM Jute Mill should be made operative. Inquiry into the bungling by the CMD of that mill should be conducted. Inquiries of all the cases relating to the death of 78 labourers and non payment of their provident fund dues and non recruitment of labourers, alongwith the big scams between CMD and Management should be conducted. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may now take your seat. You have already spoken on your subject.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : My request is that inquiry into the case should be conducted because the biggest Katihar jute mill is lying closed. The small RBHM mill is on the verg of closure. CMD and the management in connivance with the Trade Union arbitrarily closed down the mill threatening the labourers. The Hon. Union Minister is present here I would request him to pay attention on this matter. . . . (Interruptions) Devegowda ji and Rajiv Gandhiji. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I will call you on your turn. Please take your seat. Rajesh Ranjan ji, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of a jute mill in Farbisganj. Despite this jute mill has not been started not even the process has begun.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

You have completely discussed the subject. Please take your seat now. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, the CMD and the Management are involved in bunglings. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Railway Minister to an important issue. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except. What Shri Lakshman Seth is saying.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken. Please take your seat. If the Government likes to give its point of view, it shall. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, I may be permitted to lay these papers on the table. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should have given in writing first. You may speak to the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Hon. Minister is not prepared to listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been given full time to speak. Please do not disturb the proceedings of the House like this. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, hon. Minister is not ready to listen. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, I may be allowed to lay these papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These papers can not be laid. There is a procedure.

You may speak to the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, whom do I speak to? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may speak to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He will tell you.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, a few days back , the South Eastern Railways conducted an interview for appointment to the post of gangmen. Accordingly, about a thousand candidates were selected and empanelled for appointment to the post of gangmen in the Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railways.

Sir, what happened later on is a matter of great concern. Neglecting this panel, the South Eastern Railways have recruited some candidates for the post of gangmen. It is understood and we are told that this recruitment has been made from Calcutta totally violating the norms and procedure of recruitment. Then, the empanelled candidates started an agitation and staged a demonstration in front of the DRM's office. But the rail police started lathi charge due to which some were seriously injured and sent to hospital. We have come to know that the Railway Minister has totally violated the norms and procedure of recruitment in the Railways. There was a Selection Committee consisting of Railway officers. But that Selection Committee has been dismantled and the Railway Minister has taken charge of recruiting candidates for various posts in Railways. It is not only that but, neglecting the panel formed, the Railways have already recruited candidates for the post of gangmen violating the norms and procedure for selection. Now, what will be the fate of those candidates who are in the panel after interview and after maintaining the procedure for selection? They are on agitation and starving.

I seek the intervention of the Railway Minister at the Centre and the Prime Minister so that the empanelled candidates can be recruited for the post of gangmen. This is my humble submission to you, Sir.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. Tremors are a regular feature in the States of Kerala. Regular occurrence of tremors in Kottayam, Ernakulam and Alleppey has created panic among the people.

People are complaining about tremors. The Geological and Meteorological Departments should be asked to conduct serious observations regarding tremors which are occurring in different part of the State. Earlier, the State Government reported this matter to the Central Government. Central agencies have not taken any cognisance of the matter. Even in the internal parts of the State, people are suffering from tremors every night. Panic has already started spreading throughout the State.

I urge upon the Central Government, through you, Sir, to take this matter very seriously. The Geological and Meteorological Departments should be asked to conduct various surveys. They should take this matter very seriously. An assurance should be given to the people to the effect that there is no sign of any earthquakes. If it is felt, precautionary measures should be taken urgently.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Sir, for the last few months in Jabalpur, MP all the political parties, social organisations, business organisation, public and students of schools and colleges have been observing bandhs, chakka jams, rail roko, dharnas, hunger strikes and march etc. demanding conversion of Jabalpur-Nainpur-Godia route in broadgauge. Everybody is demanding that the work should be started immediately by sanctioning Rs. 515 crores so that Mahakaushal area can be developed. . . . (Interruptions)

Nothing has been done so far in regard to broadgauge. The Government should take immediate decision.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether this Government have any respect for the parliamentary tradition, procedure and conventions. It has become a routine that even whether Parliament is in Session the Hon'ble members get information about the Govt. decisions from the newspapers rather than from the Parliament even when it is in Session. This is unfortunate. Today, we got the information regarding this decision from the newspapers that a cash rich company like BALCO, is being sold at very low prices. We were stunned to see this. It is a blot.

Sir, the Congress party has repeatedly demanded the Government to issue a white paper on the disinvestment policy so that at least we get to know the basis on which this decision has been taken as to which public sector units are to be sold and which not. And the process likely to be adopted for selling the units thereafter. Besides, we had suggested that while commissioning the disinvestment process the Government should keep itself at a distance

so that it does not put a question mark on the Government's intentions, but the Government is showing so much interest in selling those rich companies at such low price that we have every reason to doubt its intentions. We fully doubt your intentions. Earlier it was said that only the chronic loss making units will be disinvested which are a burden on the economy. But it is being seen that the units earning profits are being sold. It has been reported in the newspaper as under :—

[English]

"Government makes cutrate sale of BALCO. Sterlite grabs 51 per cent stake in BALCO for Rs. 551 crore."

Sir, it is a very serious issue. So, I will have to bring some points on record.

[Translation]

It is being sold for Rs. 551 crore, 51 per cent stake are being given to Sterlite.

[English]

The reserves of this company are Rs. 460 crore. Who has done this valuation? The nation must know about this.

[Translation]

This information has also been given as to who has done the valuation.

It has been reported that initially the Disinvestment commission had started that 40 per cent of shares will be sold but now it's entire management has been transformed to a private sector company by selling 51 per cent shares. Who was appointed for doing it's valuation.

[English]

Shri P.V. Rao, a retired Civil Engineer, licensed only to assess land and building and with no previous experience was made the valuer. After that, he went to BALCO's main plant in Korba.

[Translation]

He spent four days in Korba, two days in Asansol and presented the valuation report within five days. What sort of valuation is this?

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman Sir, please call the members by turn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling them by turn.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please let me speak. I respect the norms of Parliament.

Korba Plants were valuated in four days.

[English]

Shri Rao says :

"The methodology of the valuation of the Kobra plant in four days was to pick up 10 per cent of the fixed assets as a representative of 90 per cent of the company's worth."

[Translation]

What is this system ?

[English]

I do not understand this system.

[Translation]

Thereafter they were asked

[English]

"How do you account for the company's surpluses and reserves of Rs. 460 crore?" He says: "These are extraneous matters. We only fixed assets."

[Translation]

You have not incorporated the reserves and surpluses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have elaborated your issue.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious issue.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : After that Shri Rao was asked about the company's market share. To this Shri Rao countered: "What is it? What is the market share? That is not relevant."

[Translation]

What sort of person has been appointed for valuation. It has been written in his bio-data that

[English]

The biggest job he has done so far was to assess five star hotels and out of 22 accomplishments listed in his bio-data, 15 relate to property assessments and two to bycycle factories. But he has been asked to assess BALCO and he is giving this sort of answers.

[Translation]

We are viewing it suspiciously. We want the Government to give full explanation. They claim trans-

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

parency. What sort of transparency is being adopted full explanation should be given and the Government should explain. When it will issue a white paper on disinvestment policy.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sale of BALCO is an anti-national act. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anadi Sahu.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 22 out of 30 districts of Orissa are reeling under severe drought conditions. There have been difficulties among the farmers in getting loan or assistance wherever required. The Central Government funds or the State assistance have not reached the farmers. As a result of it, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, a lot of corruption has taken place on this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Anadi Sahu now. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : In the past, an easy loan was being given to the farmers and the loan amount used to be recovered in easy instalment. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, you know the procedure. This is not the proper way. You have not given your name. Kindly take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, there are 7,000 workers and the Minister has assured that there would be no disturbance for one year. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, the labourers will be given retirement in an year. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, this was an easy process to help the farmers who are suffering from natural calamities like flood, cyclone or severe drought conditions etc. But that has been discontinued in the year 1970

because of the Reserve Bank of India's guideline. It is high time that the Government came forward to help the people who have been suffering from drought conditions. They are facing a lot of difficulties in getting the loan

[English]

assistance particularly in the districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, in my district of Ganjam and other Districts. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, Please take your seat.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Parliament is in session. What right has the Government got to sell it out ? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know the procedure. It is not a proper way.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not even given your name.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no; it is not a proper way. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name will be added.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Let the Government respond. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : The people who have been suffering from drought conditions and facing hardships, particularly in Bolangir, Kalahandi, Berhampur and other parts of Orissa, are facing difficulties in getting loan. It is a cumbersome process to get loan. May I suggest to the Government that the guidelines of the Reserve Bank be Modified, as it was done in 1970, so that the farmers can get 'taqavi' loan and it could be recovered as a part of the land revenue ?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the hon'ble members are expressing their concern about the farmers since morning. In Madhya Pradesh the farmers have agitated for water. The demands they have put during the agitation have been acceded to.



When the farmers were returning to their respective places from the place where they have agitated, a farmer Shri Rajesh Rai was shot dead by police at Pallari, four kilometre away from the place of agitation. A case of murder under section 302 has not been registered against the police. The place where this incident took place is under the constituency of the Minister of Forest of the State whose role is also doubtful has also made some efforts in this regard. Despite it being a case of murder action has also been taken under the section 320 the guilty police officers and officers of the State Government have not been arrested. All the members of Parliament have given a memorandum to the Union Home Minister to arrest them after initiating action against them under section 302. Today we are expressing our concern about the farmers. After acceding to their demands only water was to be released. After acceding to their demands those leaders said that they are going to open the gate and that youth was killed by deceit. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is under clouds. Therefore, the Union Government should get this case investigated through its agency. The Parliamentary constituency where this murder has taken place belongs to Shri Tripathiji. He has also given notice on this subject. You should direct the Union Government so that this matter could be investigated and the guilty officers could be arrested immediately.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with this.

SHRI RAMNARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on first of February the farmers demonstrated at Pallari demanding electricity and water for irrigation. Talks were held with the concerned officers and their demands were acceded to. The said demonstration was lead by Dr. Pramod Rai a leader of the Bhartiya Janta Party who is also the member of district Panchayat. After the agitation was over the police hatched a conspiracy and opened fire on the retreating farmers at Pallari which is four kilometre away from the place of agitation and Shri Rajesh Rai brother of Shri Pramod Rai was hit on the chest and he died on the spot. Kewadi Assembly Constituency under which this incident took place is the constituency of an influential Minister of Madhya Pradesh. His family is being threatened for the last two years and he is being warned to desist from indulging in politics otherwise he will be eliminated. This incident is the culmination of the threat. An FIR in this case was registered.\* The Government of Madhya Pradesh is trying to hush up this matter. Since lodging the FIR none has been arrested till date in connection of this case. This case should be referred to an investigation agency . . . .  
(Interruptions)

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prahlad Singhji has dealt with this subject in detail. You have also expressed your views. Now please sit down.

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE : You should direct the Union Government in this regard. The State Government is continuously harassing the workers of the Bhartiya Janta Party. It is a very serious matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has listened to you. He can do it if he desire so.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : Sir, with a heavy heart, I beg to raise an important issue. On 20th February, 2001, a congress MLA, Shri Madhusudan Saha, was murdered by some miscreants in Agartala in the verandah of a mosque which falls within a radius of about 200-250 metres of East Agartala Police Station.

13.00 hrs.

This is not a simple murder but it is a well planned political assassination. In fact, this is not the first case of murder in the State but during the last few months several such incidents have taken place in the State.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, these people does not belonged to CPM. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I have not said that they belonged to CPM. I have said that they were miscreants.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Choudhury, please do not interrupt.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, in all such cases the State Police has failed to take action against any of the culprits. These types of murders are on the increase in the State of Tripura, particularly during the period when any election activity is on in the State. The failure of the Police Authorities to arrest the culprits has made the law and order situation uncontrollable in Tripura. The helplessness of the Police authorities in arresting the culprits has left the general public living under the shadow of fear.

Sir, under these circumstances, I would like to request the Government and this House to kindly make a CBI enquiry in all such cases to clear various doubts which the people of the State are having in their minds, particularly the death of Shri Madhusudan Saha.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Sir, the CBI enquiry has already been ordered by the State Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : When ?

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Yesterday itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the law and order situation in Assam is fast deteriorating. Many of us have been raising this issue on the floor of the House. We asked the Central Government to assist the State machinery and if necessary, launch joint efforts to get the situation improved. But it appears that both the Central Government and the State Government have failed. People still are being killed secretly and both the Government, the Central and the State, have no clue to this spate of killings.

Sir, there are armed gangs moving about freely in society and they are law unto themselves. I understand that if any group or any citizen is threatened by the terrorists, the Government must give full protection and Government have long been deploying Army and Para-military forces for this purpose. But, is the Government that inefficient that they now allow and encourage these armed groups armed with licensed as well as unlicensed weapons, particularly most sophisticated guns to protect themselves and thus making the civil administration irrelevant? At the top of it, these groups are now responsible for secret killings of peaceful citizens, extortion and intimidation.

I would like to know whether we are selling a civilised society to the forces of violence and bloodshed. Why I raise such an issue is because there is rampant violation of human rights at the hands of these groups, terrorists and the law keeping forces.

Sir, in two months time, Assam is going to Polls and in such a scenario if violence continues at this rate, I am afraid, this election will be one of the bloodiest.

I want to know whether the Central Government has no responsibility. Has the Election Commission no role to play? I understand, why the Central Government is silent on this because they want to shield the failings of the State Government.

So, once more I demand that the Central Government must intervene and see that these killings are stopped and elections are held peacefully in the State.

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli) : Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to raise an important matter and bring to the notice of this august House that there was a very serious but preventable accident in BDL, Hyderabad recently wherein 1200 MILAN missiles were

destroyed. There was a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees and thousands of lives were put to risk.

Sir, it appears that over enthusiastic officers put live missiles instead of dummy missiles on display.

They should keep each missile under safety lock in locked position but it was kept unlocked. One officer accidentally pressed the safety lock resulting in activation of missiles. Almost all the spare parts used in assembling missiles were of substandard quality, useless and harmful spares. This is a tip of the iceberg of the problem in the Defence establishments. This needs a thorough investigation. If an important agency is having such sordid State of affairs, it will be very difficult to defend the country.

I would request the hon. Minister of Defence, through you, Sir, that this accident should be investigated thoroughly and those persons who are responsible for this accident should be identified and booked under the relevant laws. The causes should be identified and preventive measures should be taken immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have a number of notices under rule 377. The hon. Speaker desired that they may be laid on the Table and we can go to the legislative business.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If we drop one, we will have to drop all.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then I will have to allow all of them to come with their notices. The hon. Speaker decided that they may be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Then what is the necessity having such statement? They are all very important statements.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : They are all important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will form part of the record.

14.08 hrs.

**MATTER UNDER RULE 377\***

**(I) Need for doubling of the existing bridge on river Rapti at Bansaon in U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansaon) : The life span of the bridge constructed across the river Rapti in the heart of Gorakhpur under my parliamentary constituency has expired five years back. This bridge is located on the National Highway No. 28 and 89 and it connects the important and major cities like Lucknow, Gorkhpur, Banaras, Kusinagar and Sonauli. A large number of vehicles passes through this bridge resulting in traffic jam for eight hours together. This bridge is also important from the strategic point because it connects Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to Guwahati. This bridge is located near the borders of Nepal and China. The airbase of the Indian Air Force and the headquarters of the North Eastern Railways are also located near this bridge.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take effective steps to construct a double bridge without any delay.

**(II) Need to provide computerised reservation facility at Jaunpur city railway station in UP.**

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur) : It has been the long standing demand of the local people to provide computerised reservation facility at the Jaunpur city railway station on the Jaferabad-Lucknow rail route under the Northern Railway and this matter has also been raised in the house several times.

This is the largest district of Uttar Pradesh and most of the people of this region go to major cities like Mumbai and Kolkata in search of livelihood but they have to go Varanasi and Allahabad for railway reservation.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly provide for computerised reservation centre at the Jaunpur city station in the current budget itself.

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

**(iii) Need to provide way-side halt at Arabagatta on Bangalore-Hubli railway route in Holakere Taluk, Karnataka**

*[English]*

SHRI. G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA (Davangere) : I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways to the representation forwarded to her regarding provision of way-side halt at Arabagatta in Holalkare Taluk, signed by various groups and people of the 12 villages which are lying alongside Bangalore Hubli route villages, Arabagatta is centrally located and very close to railway track at KM No. 253. The people of all these villages face hardship in going to markets, offices, courts, hospitals, schools and colleges which are in distant places. The people of these villages are demanding way-side halt at Arabagatta in Holalkere Taluk. This halt at Arabagatta will be useful to 12 villages.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railway to kindly give instructions to the Railways authorities for taking decisions on way-side halt at Arabagatta in Holalkere Taluk, Karnataka.

**(iv) Need to protect interests of contract labourers of Thermal Power Stations under Damodar Valley Corporation.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Different sets of rules are in force for the contractual labourers of different Thermal Power Stations of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Similarly cases of providing employment on compassionate ground and compensation to the dependents of the deceased employees of Chandrapura and Bokaro Thermal Power Stations are still pending. I have drawn the attention of the Government and the management of Damodar Valley Corporation on all these points but no positive action has been taken till date.

In West Bengal 207 contractual labourers of the Durgapur Steel Plant have been regularised on the group 'C' posts upto 1994 whereas only 235 labourers out of a total number of 685 labourers working in the Chandrapura Thermal Power Station have been regularised on group 'C' posts and remaining approximately 450 labourers have not been regularised. In Bokaro Thermal Power Station out of total 700 labourers only 45 labourers have been regularised few months ago.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take necessary steps by constituting an enquiry team to dispense justice to the contractual labourers and dependents of the deceased employees.

**(v) Need to look into the activities of unscrupulous builders in Delhi**

*[English]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Unauthorized buildings constructed by the unscrupulous builders in Gujarat were the first to crumble down during the recent earthquake causing heavy loss of life and property.

A number of unauthorized high-rise buildings and other have also been built by these unscrupulous builders in Delhi which can cause the same kinds of havoc if Delhi is ever affected by the earthquake. The Government should immediately swing into action and book all these builders for remedial action to avoid any kind of catastrophe in Delhi at a later stage.

**(vi) Need to set up an Institute of Information Technology in Bihar**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : In view of the increasing role of the Information Technology in the field of economic development and potential of generating of employment opportunities in this sector there is a need to set up an institute of Information Technology of national level in Bihar. At present there are few such institutes in private sector in Bihar. There is no organised system for imparting education of Information Technology at large scale in the State.

Through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards opening of a National Institute of Information Technology immediately in Bihar.

**(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for solving drinking water problem in the State**

*[English]*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Even after 53 years of Independence, most of the villages in the country are facing the problem of potable water. This problem is of a highest magnitude in six districts of Karnataka, i.e. (1) four taluks in Hassan (2) Kolar District (3) Tumkur (4) Southern parts of Bangalore (5) Chitradurga and (6) Mysore. Bellary and Hindupur districts also face this problem of drinking water. Surprisingly, neither the Centre nor the State could do anything about this.

There are some important rivers like Kumaradhara, Kempuhole Netravti in Karnataka. A substantial quantity of water of these rivers particularly during monsoon season go waste to the sea. There is urgent need to divert the

water of these rivers, store and make available to the rural masses for drinking and for agriculture purposes.

I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Water Resources to allocate sufficient funds to divert the water of the above mentioned rivers and to help the rural masses of the State of Karnataka.

**(viii) Need to declare earthquake in Gujarat as a "National Calamity"**

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : The earthquake in Gujarat State on 26.1.2001 has effected 8792 villages and nearly 2 crore people in the State. Correct figure of dead is still not known. Thousands are injured. Lakhs of houses have been destroyed or damaged. It has not been declared as 'National Calamity' on technical grounds. Gujarat calamity should be treated as 'National Calamity' and all help and assistance should be rendered to the needy people of Gujarat.

**(ix) Need to make laws to protect domestic industry particularly agriculture sector in the country**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : We are facing hard days in our economical life. Our farmers are committing suicide for having no market of their agricultural products because of the agreement with W.T.O. The rice and other commodities are coming from foreign countries without any import tax; as a result the rice and other commodities are cheaper than domestic products. The subsidy in fertilizer has already been withdrawn. So, the cost of production is high than that of imported rice and other commodities. The developed countries have made laws for the protection of their domestic markets. The American Govt. has laws for their protection. Our Govt. is not making laws for the protection of domestic market - not only for the agricultural products but also for steel and others.

So, I urge upon the union Government to make laws to protect the domestic industry so that the people of India could stand on their own feet.

**(x) Need to accord clearance to the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for development of a Nature Park at Vishakhapatnam**

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, Visakhapatnam city in Andhra Pradesh is a prominent and picturesque urban area located on the shores of Bay of Bengal and surrounded by the hills. It is a fast growing industrial city and has gained importance as the second capital of the State. A place for environment education and recreation within the city is quite essential. The Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a detailed project report for the creation and development of a nature

park. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 15.82 crores. The nature park is proposed to be developed in an area of 6832 hectares in Kambalakonda forest area block. This request of Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Union Government. I, therefore, request the Union Government to accord clearance and provide necessary funds for the projects so as to meet the environmental, educational, recreational and aesthetic needs of the Visakhapatnam city.

**(xi) Need for electrification of Mughalsarai Lucknow-Moradabad railway track in UP.**

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh despite being the most important State of the country the implementation of the electrification projects sanctioned for the State are being delayed. Though Uttar Pradesh is the leading State in respect of rail lines and length of railway tracks it is lagging behind in respect of electrification of rail routes. Only one main rail route i.e. Mughalsarai Ghaziabad via Allahabad-Kanpur-Aligarh has been electrified. There is heavy rail traffic on this route which is not good from the safety point of view. Therefore, it is necessary to electrify the Mughalsarai-Lucknow-Moradabad rail route in Uttar Pradesh. If electrification of this route is done then stations in the east i.e. Kolkota, Patna and Varansi etc. and the stations in the west i.e. Ambala, Chandigarh and Ludhiyana etc. can be linked by the superfast trains without changing the engines. Besides commutation facility to the people of nearby areas can be provided by starting intercity trains.

I request the Government to electrify the Mughalsarai-Lucknow-Moradabad rail route in Uttar Pradesh at the earliest.

**(xii) Need to provide adequate funds to Government of Gujarat for providing relief to the people affected by earthquake in the State.**

[Translation]

KUMARI BHAVANA PUDLIKRAO GAWALI (Washim) : What steps are being taken by the Government for providing assistance to families of the persons killed in earthquake in Gujarat ? When will the work of construction of houses for the surviving family members of the persons killed in the earthquake would be completed? Besides employment should be provided to the surviving family members of the earthquake victims and adequate compensation should also be given to them. For this purpose adequate financial assistance should be given to the State Government.

**(xiii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Uttar Pradesh for implementation of free borewell scheme in Bundelkhand region.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : The Southern part of Uttar Pradesh and Northern part of Madhya Pradesh is known as Bundelkhand. Bundelkhand comprises of seven districts of Uttar Pradesh and several districts of Madhya Pradesh. This area of several crore population is rocky and uneven and is affected due to less rainfall and untimely rainfall this year. The Kharif crops like Paddy, Millet and Arhar as well Rabi crops like wheat, gram and peas etc. have been affected adversely. This year dry farming could not be saved due to non-availability of electricity and non-expansion of means of irrigation. Funds were not allocated for the free bore scheme which is quite popular amongst farmers for irrigation as a result this scheme has come to a standstill. There is an urgent need of providing irrigation facilities for the farmers of the drought affected areas and to expedite the implementation of free bore scheme in the drought prone areas. Adequate financial assistance should be given to the State Government for this purpose.

**(xiv) Need to extend reservation benefits to Dalit Christians**

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : In our country the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lived as an oppressed class down the ages. It is only after our country won freedom that they could get Constitutionally guaranteed reservation in educational institution and job opportunities as part of social justice. But people of the same castes if they embrace Christianity are denied these rights. Dalits who lived as the downtrodden for thousands of years do not become upper class or socially and educationally forward the moment they become Dalit Christians. They are still looked down upon in society. As witnessed in some parts of the country untouchability and caste-discrimination hit hard the Dalits more particularly the Dalit Christians. Hence, all the Dalits irrespective of their religion must be ensured of Constitutionally guaranteed rights and human rights.

In Tamil Nadu as early as in 1974, Government enlisted the Dalit Christians also in the Backward Class list.

Hence, I request the Union Government to take steps to suitably amend the Constitution to ensure an equitable social justice to all the Dalits without discrimination on communal lines.

**(xv) Need to start census of Indian citizens residing in Indian Enclaves within Bangladesh Territory**

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : I draw the attention of the Government towards the poor living conditions of around two lakh Indian citizens residing in Indian Enclaves surrounded by Bangladesh Territory. Their living condition is beyond description without any basic facilities/amenities till date. These Indians are completely at the mercy of people of Bangladesh, even more than 50 years after the Independence of India.

Now the work of census is going on everywhere in India, no Census work is going on in these Enclaves.

The Government of India have done nothing for the Census of these Indians residing in Indian Enclaves within the Bangladesh Territory for the last more than 50 years, and on the other hand our Government always extend full cooperation for Bangladesh Enclaves within the Indian Territory, where the work of census is being carried out by the Bangladesh Government regularly.

I, therefore, urge upon to take immediately necessary action so that the Census work may be started in these Indian Enclaves at the earliest.

14.09 hrs.

**INDIAN UNIVERSITIES (REPEAL) BILL**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MAHONAR JOSHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

" That the Bill to repeal the Indian Universities Act, 1904, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, a Commission was set up in May, 1988 under the Chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain by the Department of Personnel and Training to decide that Acts which had lost their relevance, should be repealed, the Indian Universities Act 1904 was one among these Central Acts. The British Government had made this Act in 1904 for five Central Universities of Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore, Mumbai and Madras. Functioning of this Central Universities was regulated by this Act. However, separate Acts were made for all these universities before and after independence. Calcutta University has got separate Act, Allahabad, Mumbai and Madras Universities has also got separate Acts and these are regulated by the State Governments.

This Act has now nothing to do with the Lahore University. This Act has lost its relevance. We have also interacted with the State Governments and they also feel that this Act 1904 (8) is in no way useful, therefore, it should be repealed. This Act, is nugatory. I, therefore, recommend that this motion be adopted and this Act be repealed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion Moved :

" That the Bill to repeal the Indian Universities Act, 1904, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not intend to say anything to the hon'ble Minister, this is not needed also. But some easier word should have been used in place of 'Nirsan'. He himself in a University Professor and is a renowned intellectual, in fact, the word 'Nirsan' sounds for more difficult than its English equivalent.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : In fact, the legal Hindi translation of the word 'repeal' is 'Nirsan', Therefore, it had been used in this legal document.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : Madam, while I accept your suggestion and the suggestion of the hon. Minister, I just want to bring one matter to the notice of the hon. Minister.

Hon. Minister may be aware that the rules, which are there in the Universities, are very complicated. There are people working in the offices; they resign and go for elections. If they lose, then they immediately come back. How far is it correct? I want to ask the hon. Minister about this. If anybody wants to come to politics, let him come. But there is no question of having one leg in the University and another leg in the politics. That is why, the matter has been vitiated in such a level that politics enters into these Universities.

Even though this is not relevant to this Bill, still I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister. This happens in Calcutta, Pondicherry and in other places. So, I request the hon. Minister to apply his mind and see to it that such type of facility is not available.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Madam, the hon. Minister seems to be very enthusiastic in responding to the issue raised by my colleague, Shri Farook. His party had once tried to do all these things during the Emergency

days; not only to stifle any voice of dissent in public life but also in the Universities and Colleges wherever there have been voices of dissent. His party had tried to throttle such voices.

Madam, I am in agreement with this piece of legislation, which is the result of the Commission, which was set up to review the administrative laws. It is one of the pieces of legislation which has lost all its relevance and has become outdated. A number of relevant pieces of legislations have already come into operation in all the concerned States like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

More so, the Indian Universities Act was a product of the British raj, with a specific goal of producing, what in Hindi is called, '*Angrezon Ka Gulam*'.

*[Translation]*

During freedom struggle in Bihar

*[English]*

At that very time, in different parts of the country, institutes had been set up as national educational centres. In the eastern part also, one such centre was set up which ultimately turned out to be, what is called today, the JadHAVpur University. Rabindra Nath Tagore, Subhash Chandra Bose, Subodh Mullick and many other eminent educationists have been associated with that university. At the call of Gandhiji, many students left these institutions which were run under the Indian Universities Act. There are so many people but I am not naming them. For example, Dr. Triguna Sen, who had adorned the Chair that you are adorning now, was an eminent Education Minister who was also associated with that University. He was the Chairman of the National Council of the JadHAVpur University for quite some time.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He was a Professor also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes, you are right. There have been many others also. I am not taking the time of this House because the hon. Minister also knows all these things. What I want to say is that in the post-Independence days, there have been a number of Commissions, such as, the Kothari Commission and many educationists of the stature of Dr. Radhakrishnan. I am not going into the details of all these. The goal of liberal education was considered to be of prime interest for any university in the country. There have been deviations and aberrations, not only during the days of Emergency but in many parts at different times - I am not mentioning all these deviations. But, broadly speaking, we had a national consensus on how

to build up this country with an appropriate, relevant, meaningful educational system at all levels - from the primary level to the higher educational level, to the university level, be it science education or technology education. Today, we have a long road to go and today we are producing some best products in the universities, particularly in the IITs and all these institutions, who are dominating not only the Silicon Valley or Germany or any other place, but also different universities of the world. There is not only Prof. Amartya Sen but there is also, the son of my esteemed colleague, Prof. Krishna Bose, who is holding a high position in Harvard. There are many others also though I am not naming all of them. But, unfortunately, since this Government came to power, they are, I shall use a hard word, polluting the liberal atmosphere in the centres of excellence, in universities and all these places. They are trying to communalise the education by changing the syllabus with a distorted vision, and committees with specific aims in mind, are being set up only for the prestigious institutions like the Indian Council of Historical Research or the Indian Council of Social Science Research or NCERT and many such eminent bodies. There are blatant moves to plant politically committed teachers in universities at the top administration. This is not only harming the nation's educational interest but is also damaging the prestige of these institutions in the eyes of the people outside.

I could have given you any number of examples. In some of the prestigious universities in U.P. - I am not naming them as it is not proper for me to name them - and even very prestigious centres of excellence in Northern India and even in Delhi there have been persistent attempts to plant committed people with communal vision to give them a re-orientation, with a desired goal to fulfil some hidden agenda.

I think this House has taken up this issue several times. But this Government has not learnt any lesson. I would appeal to some of the partners of this Government who are committed to secularism that they should also stand up and oppose this attempts to re-write the history in a most heinous manner by planting some people who have nothing to do with history, who are never considered as historians at all by people who matter.

The next thing is about the Budget. Over the years, the budgetary provision for education as such and higher education and research in particular has been a great casualty. I think the hon. Minister will agree with this that there should be some serious thinking for larger provision for these fields. There are many avenues which can be explored. This is not the occasion for me to make

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

all these suggestions. I will make them when we discuss the General Budget and on other occasions.

But education is in doldrums at their hands and particularly so is the case with higher education and research. This is being done particularly when the whole world is looking at us. We have such a vast course of human capital and brains that if properly trained and if proper skills are added to these human resources, we can have a better role play in the world in the field of education not only in the country but abroad also, in fields of Information Technology, science and many other areas.

But, instead of taking up seriously as to how best to improve the situation in higher education and research, the Government is trying to privatise the whole set of universities. It is going to serve the interests of industrial houses in such a way that the researches are being handed over on a platter to these people instead of those researchers serving a broad national interest. I am not opposed to privatisation. But there are sensitive areas in higher education where private interests will not at all come down to provide the funds. They will look to only such areas where they can derive certain profit for their commercial aims. In such a situation the Government needs to look afresh into the areas of higher education and research. Privatisation is not the way to provide the funds because privatisation will not be able to continue the centres of excellence which are existing either to help them or to improve them further.

There are problems of faculties. I am not naming all of them. It is particularly so in Information Technology. We have a goal to be the super power in Information Technology. But the Information Technology penetration is very less in the country. We are just one step ahead of Pakistan only and we are nowhere when you compare ourselves even not only with the developed Western countries but even the smaller countries of Asia and certain other countries. I mean about the Information Technology penetration here.

We have our best I.T. Professionals in Silicon Valley and many other places. We are producing some excellent I.T. Professionals from our I.I.T.s. and such other institutions.

But according to a rough calculation, we are going to face a serious shortage of faculty in IT institutes. So, we have to think of innovative ways so that we can fill the gap because within four or five years from now, we shall not be able to continue our global position of domination if we do not produce a larger number of professionals not only for abroad but also for the domestic requirement. So, there is problem of faculty not only in the field of IT, but

there are problems in respect of biotechnology, in respect of frontier sciences, even in areas of fundamental research and in respect of many such areas.

Then, there is a move to rank all universities and colleges within a specified period, may be by 2003 but I am not sure. Such ranking should be done not according to whims of certain people because there are moves to downgrade institutions of repute who have contributed to the honour, prestige and educational achievement of this country. So, it should be more transparent, with a broader and meaningful logic. This ranking should not be done in a haphazard manner.

About the deemed universities, this is a good move that all Centres of Excellence which are not yet recognised as universities should be considered as deemed universities, but consideration as deemed university is one thing and providing necessary funds required by such a university is another thing. There are many universities which are considered to be deemed universities, but there suffering from lack of funds to continue their achievement, to continue their performance as Centres of Excellence is a sad commentary. I am not mentioning any particular institution which I have in mind, but the hon. Minister must know certain such institutes which are considered to be deemed universities.

Then, university teachers in particular are seriously aggrieved about one move, that is, the scheme the National Assessment and Accreditation Council is going ahead with which this Council is not at all competent to do, and the teachers have given a call to reject this scheme of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

There is a regional imbalance since the days of Independence till today. Although in the North-East, we do have one Central University currently, but in different parts of the country, there is a regional imbalance in respect of higher education. How quickly this can be rectified should be a matter of prime concern to this Government. I would not like to take much time of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have just one hour for discussion on this Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am concluding.

I am totally opposed to the Government's planned attempts to perpetuate and carry forward their hidden agenda of communalising the educational institutes, communalising the syllabus, and trying to rewrite the history of this country. The Government has no right thinking about how these universities should be run, and adequate funds are not provided for higher education, for research and for Centres of Excellence.



The Government should reconsider all this and when they come with their Demands-for-Grants in the next Budget, I believe and hope that this Government would try to apply their mind to rectify distortions and correct whatever mistakes they have already done, and provide better facilities for liberal atmosphere in the centres of higher education.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000. This is an old Act. It was enacted in the year 1904, and it has no relevance now. It should have been repealed long back. The hon. Minister has chosen to repeal it now, and it is a welcome sign.

I take this opportunity to say a few words about university education. I support the views expressed by Shri Rupchand Pal. Today, the university education is nothing but a mediocre one. I say this because many of the universities do not have even the basic facilities to affiliate colleges, to guide them, to decide and prepare the syllabus that is required and how it is to be tailored to meet the present needs.

The U.G.C. and the A.I.C.T.E. are guiding the universities, but they do not have proper machinery to evaluate the competence of each university. Perhaps, the grants are being given depending upon the voluminous of work that they do rather than on the basis of qualitative research. The affiliated colleges are suffering because they are affiliated to such universities. This is high time that in the matter of higher learning the universities should be guided to achieve the excellence and to take up research work so that our country's needs are met by these universities. These universities, depending upon their research activities, students and teachers' ratio and their excellence, should be given ranking which will, at least, motivate these universities. If they are lower in ranking, they will say, "No, no, we are lower in the ranking." Just as we give rankings to the students, it is high time that we give rankings to the universities also.

The University Act recently recognised some institutes as deemed universities. The whole thing, at the level of higher education, is confusing because we do not know what the actual requirement is and which are considered as deemed universities. Very simple requirements have been given for the deemed universities. Some are being recognised as deemed universities without considering their competence. Ultimately, when they become deemed universities, they give the degrees. The degrees that are being given by these universities must have some value. They must be in relation to the education that they offer and the jobs which the students get. We have liberalised

the higher education. We are not against this liberalisation because the Government cannot afford to foot the huge bills on higher education. At the same time, research activities should be sustained, and they should be maintained.

In the case of A.I.C.T.E., whoever applies, maybe due to pressure, be it political or some other pressure, they grant so many colleges. Each State is now competing to establish more colleges to impact technical education. Ultimately, such colleges are becoming a kind of a mockery because they do not have teachers and infrastructure. Still, they are pressurising the universities to award degrees and that degree has no value. Ultimately, our country will suffer because of this.

Sir, we are promoting and encouraging our IT graduates to go abroad. But unfortunately, many of them have to come back. It is because they are not able to withstand the tests there. Once they fail to withstand the tests in other countries, it reflects on the university from where they got their degrees. If such is the situation, then the country as a whole would lose their academic reputation very fast.

Sir, since the hon. Minister is a learned Professor himself and is aware of the ins and outs of higher education, I would like to request him to take such measures that would help in keeping up the standards of higher education in this country. The under graduate and post-graduate degrees that are given by the Indian Universities should have some value. Today we only value the degrees given by institutes like the IITs and the IIMs only. Why is it so? It is because these institutes maintain high standards of education. Why is it not the case with other universities? These universities also receive huge sums of money as Grants-in-Aid. But they are not able to compete with the IITs and the IIMs.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister to keep these aspects in mind while preparing the Budget for the Universities and these thoughts should also be given proper ventilation while allocating funds to the Universities – our dignity is related to the standard of our education – so that the level of our education is kept high.

Sir, with these words, I support the University (Repeal) Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL ( Varanasi ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to support. The Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000 moved by the learned

[Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal]

Minister Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi, in fact, this Bill should have come right after the independence, however, it did not happen. The Lahore University is still incorporated therein. Those who should have introduced this Bill, did not do so. They should have thought over it. All should rise in support of such Bills moved by this Government to repeal such Acts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one colleague, a communist members stated that the Indian history is being written afresh. I would like to remind him that the history of India they had written in collusion and complicity with Britishers had to be recast and should be rewritten. The communists have nothing to do with the Indian history. They desire inspiration from foreign historian's. But it is very important for the Indian people that their history should be documented properly.

He has also stated that there is no improvement in higher education. But I would like to say here that since Dr. Joshi has become the Minister of Human Resource Developments, the improvement and transparency in educational system quite apparent and the whole country is applauding him. Through you, I would like to say, that there is urgent need to bring uniformity in university education in the entire country.

Medium of instruction could be different but there should be uniformity in education. The hon'ble Minister should ponder over it. I hail from Kashi where the great son of India Shri Malviyaji set up Kashi Vishwavidyalaya. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister that the views and feelings of Mahamana Malviyaji do not have any place in the Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya despite tendencies are on the rise and democratic set up is being emasculated. Even the orders of the court are not being complied with. It is not good to run the university with autocratic approach. It is the need of the hour that the Government should bring another Bill for Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya incorporating the democratic setup therein with these words, I support this Bill and conclude.

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to speak on the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000 introduced by hon'ble Dr. Joshi. Dr. Joshi has been my leader in Allahabad University which is one of the oldest universities. Besides, Calcutta, Mumbai, Madras (Chennai) Universities are also the old Universities. Allahabad University has given to India, the Prime Minister, the President Supreme court judges etc. The present Minister of Human Resource Development is also the product of the same university. Several great persons I.A.S. Officers, judges of the High

court of the country studied there. About one lakh students are studying in Allahabad university of Uttar Pradesh at present. I would earnestly request Dr. Joshi being my teacher that he should bring the Bill making all other old universities alongwith the Allahabad University, the Central Universities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fee is being hiked constantly in the Universities today. The number of students is also on the rise. The students belonging to the villages and even middle class students of urban areas are not able to pay much high fee. I would request to increase the number of universities in the country and education should not be made expensive. Education needs to be expanded in the country. The talented student are coming from rural areas to the urban areas. The students belonging to the lower sections of society should not be deprived of the education. I would again request that the fees should not be hiked. Our leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav believes that the education should be given free of any charge as is given water and air. The University education should be made free as there is also provision for free education in the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalays.

I sincerely hope that the hon'ble Minister would ponder over the suggestions put forth by me.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Madam, Chairperson, going by the Bill, one certainly can raise no objection thereto but when a matter of this importance was raised in this House, we did expect from the hon. Minister not to just refer to the obsolescence of the Act which he wants to repeal but to throw some light on as to what the Government intends to do to strengthen the universities in the country which unfortunately, it is not presently doing.

Madam, it has been said before me by the hon. Member speaking here and I do wish to join them in conveying my views over the matter that the Government of the day has started treating education also as a commodity. In its anxiety to liberalise, to open the economy, to privatise, it could not care less for what happens to education.

Many years back in one of the meetings of the Consultative Committee, the then hon. Minister of Human Resource Development had categorically said that if the universities were to raise some internal resources those would not be taken into consideration or could not be taken into account at the time of disbursement of the Central grants. But what do we see today? I would like to give a homely example, Madam. The Punjab University

is one of the premier universities of the country. At the time of reorganisation of the State of Punjab in 1966, under the Reorganisation Act, it was termed as an Inter-State Body Corporate, and according to the stipulation then, according to the decisions of the Consultative Committee formed by the Government, it was decided later in 1976 after the Haryana Government had withdrawn its colleges from that University that the State of Punjab and Chandigarh Union Territory would pay 40 per cent and 60 per cent of the deficit of the maintenance cost of the university.

For quite a few years, they both honoured that decision. Subsequently, somehow more particularly and unfortunately, after the Akali Government had taken over in the State of Punjab, they stopped making standing or honouring their commitment.

In the recent years alone, when the maintenance amount to be incurred by the university is to the tune of Rs. 73 crore, the Punjab Government just chooses to say, "We would not pay this amount." Taking the cue from the Punjab Government, the Union Territory Administration which is directly under the Central Government also says, "Our liability is to only pay one and a half times what the Punjab Government pays." Is this the treatment to be meted out to the Universities? The Punjab University Chancellorship is with Vice-President of the country. It is an Inter-State Corporate Body. So, is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to see that the University does not flounder, that the University does not go red? Certainly, it is their responsibility. If there were instructions by the University Grants Commission to effect economy, that is fine. If the University Grants Commission were to say, "you try to generate resources", that is fine.

But there was a commitment of the Government of India that that would not be taken away from the ultimate grants for the University. The Punjab University, I can say, has been taking this innovative step. I do not approve of privatisation of the education even at the university level. Madam, there is certainly fall in the standard of education today. Take the case of admissions under the category of NRI students. You admit students who are not upto the mark. The universities have to be centres of excellence but you want to generate money and earn money. Therefore, you sell the certificates. Anybody who comes and pays that amount, you say, "you get the admission." But it has proven to create a very negative impact especially on the brighter students who cannot pay. So, they are not able to get admission in the open category. In their place, you get somebody who has not even come upto the mark, and who is a drag subsequently also on the entire class. I am saying this out of experience. Such students are a drag on the class. Dr. Joshi would appreciate that. If a teacher takes

a class and he finds one student who is against the paid seat quota in the university and who is not really following the pace with others, certainly the progress of the class would not be what it could be with the brighter students there.

So, you are forcing the universities to admit students who are not up to the mark. These are the things that have to be given up.

I would very briefly refer to the Research Fund of the Punjab University. Out of the entire expenditure, eighty per cent goes on salaries alone. The University wanting to do well had started a Research Fund of its own putting it in money it had raised from its own resources. Now, the University, faced with a situation where the Punjab Government and the Union Territory Administration are not honouring their commitments, cannot keep that money separately for research but has to use it for general expenditure. The University is in a precarious condition because of the indifference of the Government of India.

The University has been writing to the Government of India to come to its rescue. These are nothing but SOS calls from the University. I would be grateful if the hon. Minister were to tell us the steps that the Ministry has taken and assure us that the University would continue to work as it always has and would continue to shine as it always has. Unfortunately that is not the position.

A reference was made about privatisation. On the one hand, one can understand that if a private body were to start a dental college they would charge lakhs and lakhs of rupees. A private medical college would also charge lakhs and lakhs of rupees. Those colleges can run because it is a financial proposition for them. The Government might wash off its hands from such institutions. Not necessarily because the poor students must be accommodated but in the case of social sciences and subjects for which nobody would be willing to pay, this cannot be done. You talk of the need to enhance research in bio-diversity. If you were to give that to the private sector, would a poor student be able to afford that? Therefore, it is universities like the Punjab University that really play a very vital role in fulfilling social obligations. Education has to be imparted by the Government. It is not to be sold by the Government. The Government cannot termed a peddler of education. Unfortunately, it is doing so today and we take serious objection to that. I would urge the hon. Minister to assure this House and through this House assure the country that it means business. I am sure, as an educationist, the hon. Minister would want to do it. Maybe there is pressure from the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries but here he has to hold his ground.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

I would like to refer to the on-going long-drawn struggle of the university and college teachers in Delhi. There was an assurance to them by the UGC at one point of time to treat them as university lecturers and accord them the necessary benefits of promotion and pay scales, etc. The Government seems to be going back on that also. I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into this matter with an open mind and ensure that the teachers get what they had been promised.

Finally, to conclude, I would like to come back to the subject on which I have spoken for a few minutes, that is, the poor condition in which the Punjab University finds itself today. It is not of its own making; it is only because of the failure to honour the commitment by the Chandigarh Administration through the Government of India and the Government of Punjab. I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate urgent action in the matter.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Madam Chairperson, I have risen to support the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill 2000 presented by Dr. Joshi.

14.54 hours.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the chair*]

This Bill would bring uniformity in all the Universities of India and the Lahore University which was incorporated therein so far, would be extended therefrom.

Those who ruled the country all along did not find it necessary to bring such legislation. However, Dr. Joshi took care to assess the need and has brought this legislation in consonance with the constitution. I congratulate him for this and whole heartedly support this Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Respected Chairman, Sir, even though this Bill is a necessity for removing one of the Statutes pending for the past 96 years, it would have become a century-old Act if it is allowed to remain as it is for another four years.

Actually this Bill is a pioneering Bill, which gives a lot of ideas for the State Governments to enact University Bills. Therefore, having such Bills at the national level is also a need to give guidance for State Governments to enact laws according to the needs of the society. Therefore, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister might have to give some thought about this and enact a comprehensive

Bill, which can be a model for all the universities throughout India. Every university is controlled by the State enactment that is having different rules and regulations fitted to their own needs. Actually there may be a lot of things that may not be of use for academic excellence. Therefore, we should have a comprehensive Bill that may be a guide for all other universities. The Central Government can have a very good thing having all the resources here, to find out the needs suited for the 21st century. The Bill should have such things that would help universities to come up to the level of excellence at the international level.

The Madras University was actually formed by this Act. This University is now accredited with five stars. It is expecting the Excellent University Certificate also from the University Grants Commission. The Madras University is having such a name throughout the world. Now, they have the pioneering work of having a Consultancy Department separately.

Now, education is made as a commercial commodity. Instead of making it that way, it should be made as a community-based education. If there is an industry that needs management people, if the industry wants chemists, if the industry wants engineers or if the industry wants certain excellent people, then that need should be fulfilled by the Universities. There should be such an arrangement of wedding between them. That is the need of the hour.

Plenty of graduates are coming out; plenty of post-graduates are coming out and plenty of research scholars are coming out, and they are also enrolling as unemployed graduates or unemployed post-graduates or unemployed doctorates. Therefore, this imbalance has to be removed, especially when the UGC has spent crores of rupees for the resource development. To whom such a resource development is being used?

The excellent people who have come out of universities are going to Western countries. They are not being utilised by our country. They are going out simply. Without even a pie being paid for their development on educational side and for their excellence, the Western countries are borrowing our experts. The Western Countries are borrowing our intellectual people; they are getting all the intellectuals. People are doing a lot of research and get patents. We can easily find out the patents that are there in India and in the Western countries. The intellectuals in the Western countries are all Indians.

15.00 hrs.

Therefore, we are supplying the intellectuals to the Western countries without getting even a single pie from

them. This situation has to be checked. We have to see that excellent people are given opportunities in India itself in order to make our country competitive in the world. This aspect has to be gone into. When this Bill came into force 96 years before, they did not have that ambition. They were having colonial ambition. They wanted to have us as their servants, but we are not having that attitude now. We want to be excellent in the world. Therefore, this could be repealed. But a new Bill has to be brought about so that it could be useful for others.

Many institutions, like All India Council of Technical Education are coming up now. These type of institutes are created by the Department. But they are not connected with the Universities. They are giving permission for starting Engineering and Medical colleges. Parliament is not having any control over them. If the Members of Parliament ask them some particulars, they are not ready to supply the particulars. Even the Prime Minister of India replies to the Members of Parliament. But these people are not ready to respond to these queries. That is the situation we are facing. So, I would like to suggest that all the universities and autonomous institutions which are getting the funds from the Union Government should have representatives from Parliament. The universities which are falling in a particular constituency, the Member of Parliament of that constituency should automatically become a member of its syndicate. Then only can we find out their grievances and in that way we can help them. It is because the Central Government is giving the funds to the universities. The State Governments are not giving any money. Only the UGC is giving them the money. Therefore, we have to see that people's representatives should be represented in the Senate. In that way we are not interfering politically. But we can have people who have academic interest. They can help the university to achieve excellent standards.

I would like to suggest that universities should be modernised. In the Western countries, the students get the mark sheets immediately after the examinations. The mark sheets are prepared immediately, and on the same day the certificates are issued. But here what happens? The Students after writing the examination have to wait for so many months for getting their mark sheets. Then, they have to wait for the provisional certificate and then they have to wait for the degree to be conferred. Then only can they register their names for the professional courses or for the jobs. This situation has to be changed. They should be modernised in every aspect.

The academic councils should also change their colours. The system should change. The education system should be modernised. It should not be done in an

orthodox way. Some universities and some deemed universities are not having vice-chancellors. For example, Gandhigram University is without a Vice Chancellor for so many months now. It has been lying vacant for so many months. It seems that the Vice President of India also has cleared it. But it is pending. These vacancies should be filled up immediately. When the present person who is occupying the position is going to retire or complete his term, immediately a replacement should be found so that continuity can be maintained. The management of the university is also not put to any inconvenience by our system of bureaucracy which is not clearing the names at the appropriate time.

When we repeal this Bill, we should introduce another Bill. The hon. Minister is a scholar. He knows the ambition of the society, professors and the staff. The new Bill should cover all the aspects including the disputes which are arising between the administration and the professors. It should be a comprehensive Bill which is useful for all the States.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member Shri Rajo Singh wishes to state something. Please allow him to speak for a minute. There members are absent still.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Would that one minute contain 60 seconds?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is normally so.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : At times, it is more, I would tell you.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : This Bill is quite limited one. This Bill has come here as passed by Rajya Sabha. When this Bill was passed and the House which passed it, no member of that House is alive today. This Bill was introduced 97 years before. The hon'ble Minister has introduced a Bill to repeal this old Bill. I would take this opportunity to put forth certain problems pertaining to the education of my State and the country.

I would like to state that the Patna University in Bihar State is a renowned University. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri Jai Prakash Babu studied there. I support this bill, I would request the hon'ble Minister that when he comes here with the demands of his Ministry and to get this Bill passed, then he should also bring a Bill to make Patna University a Central University.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000. I also congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought this Bill to repeal the Indian Universities Act of 1904. In this connection, I would like to make only one suggestion. I am not going to make a lengthy speech here.

As one of the Members has suggested, there is a need to evolve a uniform code of conduct for all the universities. In most of the universities there is no uniformity. In the name of autonomy they have been looking after their own affairs. Neither the State Government, the UGC nor the Union Government is looking into the qualitative aspect of the universities thereby the quality of the training being imparted is gradually getting eroded. This is one aspect which we have to look after. The UGC and the State Government are not going into the qualitative examination of some of these universities. So, there is a need to evolve a uniform code of conduct for all the universities

There should also be the qualitative assessment of the teachers available in all the universities. The standard of the teachers available in these universities is also not up to the mark. I had also taught in a university for about 26 years. There is hardly any mechanism or machinery to assess the qualitative aspect of the teachers. One of the aspects which need to be introduced is the qualitative assessment of the teachers, whether they are achieving the excellence as far as standards are concerned. Under the able guidance of the hon. Minister it will certainly be possible to set the things right

Most of the universities are starving for fund. The block grant either from the UGC or from the respective State Government is not being released timely. Some of the universities are starving even to release the salaries of their employees. The maintenance of laboratories or libraries also suffers on this account. I just wanted to bring these few aspects before the august House. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am happy to learn that this Bill not only discuss the repealing of the Act but put forth earlier issues relating to the higher education which the House would have discussed at the slated time and such an opportunity would have come at the presentation of the next budget

and We would have discussed all these issues. The issues raised here are quite topical and important.

An issue raised here is that several University and college teachers contest-election's and thereafter they again resume their duties in their respective. Universities and colleges. This issue should be seen in the international perspective and in the Indian perspective. There are several universities in India which made significant contribution in the independence struggle. At that time, the University teachers created an atmosphere of political freedom and independence of the country with in the universities. The Kothari Commission has dwelt on it in details. They have held that all the spheres of society should be represented in the country's political system. Therefore, our Parliament and State Assemblies should have representatives from various fields like intellectuals, universities and science and technology etc. They had made recommendations in this regard which were accepted by several States. The Union Government had also accepted these recommendations. The laws in this regard are very clear as to on what conditions the university and college teachers can contest elections and in case of their winning elections, what they would have to do.

I felt that all the section's of the society should be represented. The farmers, labours, dalit women must be represented and likewise in the age of science and technology the representation from the field of technology, agricultural, science, space science and information and technology is equally necessary. Therefore, this is heartening for all of us that many teachers came forward from universities and colleges and have richly contributed in the politics and in the proceedings of the Parliament and State Assemblies.

One Hon'ble Member is himself a teacher. There are several teachers in Rajya Sabha as well. There are so many members present here in the House who were, and are teachers, and are Ministers also. I too was a teachers when I got first elected to this August House and remained so when I got elected to this House later. Infact, we should welcome it. However, we should see that the relevent provisions of the law in this regard are properly implemented by the University's executive councils and the conditions in which and the number of teachers permission should be accorded, should be given.

There is ban on teachers on fight elections for State Assemblies and State Councils in several States we do not intervene in those matters as the States and Universities have framed their own rules. However, there are several States and Universities which permit

representations in Parliament and Assemblies. I feel it is quite proper. Even a learned person like Professor Meghnad Sahu and several other persons from South India got elected to this House.

*[English]*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Minister, if you could yield for half a minute. I would like to make a submission.

I was one person who had been made to resign. I was teaching in the university for about 26 years. When I wanted to contest the elections, the statutes of my university said that I would have to contest only after resigning my post, no matter whether I win or lose the elections. Whereas in some universities a teacher is allowed to act as a legislator and then come back to teaching. That is why there is a necessity to bring about a uniform code throughout the country. There is also a necessity to have representation of various universities in legislatures. You better have it as this is one of the good measures.

*[Translation]*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : We feel that this system is quite justified and should continue also. Some friends alleged that this government is trying to pollute the atmosphere in the Universities, communalism is being spread and hidden agenda is being implemented. I would like to state that all the Selection Committees constituted by this Government for selection of Vice Chancellors of the Universities constitute are headed by the retired chief Justices of the Supreme Court of India. Justice Jain, Justice Verma, Justice Pathak, Justice Bhagwati are a few names who have headed the selection committees constituted for the selection of Vice Chancellors of various universities. What more transparency can be there? Other names are suggested by the Universities itself. The rule is that two names are recommended by the University and one name is proposed by the visitor, who is his Excellency, the President and we propose the name to the Hon'ble President for this purpose.

Since my coming into this Ministry, all the selection committees except for the Central Universities and the newly set up university where the Minister has got the say, all other powers are with the hon'ble President, our recommendation has been for the retired Chief Justice of India to head the selection committee for selection of Vice Chancellor of the Universities, and I am happy to state that he has always accepted our recommendation. I do not think that has ever been greater transparency than this in

the selection of Vice Chancellor for the Universities. I would like to say it with challenge that my Ministry has never intervened in the appointments made during this period and as long as I am there I would never intervene in the appointment of Chairman of the institutions like NCERT or CBSE. We have never allowed the transparency to be demolished. I would like to state with all humility and confidence that we shall continue with this system in future also. We shall also consider if you suggest a better system. But I strongly believe that only and only merit should be the prime consideration in the appointments in the Universities and other educational institutions and their should not be any extraneous considerations from any quarter, we do not have any role in the internal appointments of the universities. The Universities have their own procedures they go by them. However, if the hon'ble Member brings any case into my knowledge where other political factors than merit have been the consideration for appointment by the selection's committees than I would warn the Vice Chancellors of the Universities not to allow such things to happen but I am surprised that such a thing is being pointed out by the hon'ble Member in whose government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : I can give you facts and figures.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You can give me; I will have them examined. But what about those Governments which appoint Vice-Chancellors purely on the basis of party affiliations? What about those Governments which appoint non-Sanskrit scholars as Vice-Chancellors of Sanskrit Universities? What about those who are violating all recommendations and all procedures of appointment?

*[Translation]*

At least he should not have said this thing. I am talking about the Central Universities. But if you talk about any State University, I am sorry it is not in my jurisdiction. They come under the State laws but I shall inform the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor there about your feelings and got it examined. But the selection committees which are constituted in the central universities, the President takes a decision about them and he can appoint any one from the panel which we send to him. We have never made any interference in that. Even if he has a different opinion, we always respect that. Therefore, I would like to say very categorically that we have never interfered in opinion of his excellency the President. It has been said that we are implementing a hidden agenda. The syllabi of Universities

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is neither decided by the Central Government nor by the UGC. The UGC submits a broad framework as well as the standard of the courses which should be included. The syllabi is decided by the teachers in the Board of studies through the Syllabi committee and later on these are approved by their academic council and thereafter there syllabi are introduced. No syllabi could be introduced at the instance of the Government. Of course, there are some Governments which appoint teachers with the opinion of office bearers of the party. Without setting clearance from even a primary teacher cannot be appointed, let alone the teachers of universities. Syllabi are formulated there with their opinion. I have got the text books of such schools, which I could show you as to what is being taught there. How the history of Independence is distorted and what is being written in them about the great leaders of the country and what is to be written about the great personalities of the country that is to be decided by our country itself. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : One day a discussion should be held on this in the house.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Many times it has been held.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, the Minister is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Shri Rupchand Pal, please sit down.

[Translation]

I have listened to you very patiently, please listen to me also. . . .(Interruptions) It has also been said that this Government is trying to privatise education. We have never privatised education. I would also like to tell the Hon. Member that we do not consider education a commodity either. We consider education as education only and understand the objective of education and employing it with a view to making a better Indian society and a humane society.

Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that we have not taken a step so far outside that policy, which the House had decided in the name of new education policy in 1986. Whatever we have done, we did that under the said policy since that policy was approved by the House. The framework of syllabi prepared by us, which I have sent to

all the Chief Ministers of India and all the political parties of India, I have asked them as to what have they found objectionable in that and what modification is needed in that. We have had an open debate on it and show me just one sentence which is not in consonance with the policy approved by this House or is outside of it. If that is so, we will withdraw it. I have said this very aptly that a debate should be held on that. We have circulated documents to all concerned. We are in conversation with the Education Minister. The Committee which had decided about that, has had debates in eight-ten cities of the country. You are talking redundantly. The syllabi which we are introduced in some intermediate classes and high schools, I can say it with conviction that this syllabi will improve the standard of education in our country. We have not yet decided any syllabus for Universities but we have told them not to depend on traditional syllabus only that is not going to redress the problems of the country. The Syllabus which is 40-50 years old should be changed now. I would like to say in the capacity of a educationist that the speed which the world is changing and knowledge is spreading we should review our syllabi in every five years and new innovative things should be included in it.

It is not possible today to include community manifesto in our syllabus without mentioning of fall of communism in Russia.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Would you not like to teach as to what is communism? And if not, it would end the relevance of economics and political science. Perhaps you want to say something else therefore you have mentioned it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It must be taught but it should also be taught as to how it has failed. I know that you may have been hurt. I had said that how it could be possible that the marxism and communist manifesto should alone be taught and the Soviet system which was being run on that basis is not taught. I know that you want to have friendship with them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, he is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Yes, I am not yielding. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, we thought him to be a little more informed. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the word "Communism" should not be an anathema for him.



DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have not said it. What I have said is this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : A socialist society is a knowledge-based society. No "ism" will work. We want a knowledge-based society. Only knowledge can sustain us.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The question is if capitalism is taught, its failures should also be taught all the same. The hon. Members have just said that attention should be paid towards the standard of universities. I fully agree with it. "The National Accreditation and Assessment council" has been set up for this very purpose. I agree to the fact that there should be an indepth study on the quality of education and learning and teaching patterns in the universities and we should work for its improvement. And this matter should be considered with an open mind. We would request the august House to extent necessary help to the government for the working of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council when the members are giving their valuable suggestions in this regard. Earlier, it was said that the universities should look into their standard until 2000. I again humbly submit that they should know it how for we are lagging behind in comparison to international level in this matter. Just now one of our colleagues told that the Madras University has been converted into a five star university. What I want to say is that no favours were done in that regard. It is also not that the Committee constituted for the purpose had done any favour. And Hon. Karunanidhi gave it a certificate of a five star university casually. It is not so. Intellectuals look into the matter. And there is not only one person but rather it is a full-fledged council which looks into the all aspects openly and forms have been laid down as to what facilities are there in these universities whether there is library or not. How many books are there. What is the condition of the hostels, whether there are teachers or not, research is being conducted or not - all these norms have been prescribed. And these norms are same for all the universities. The level at which they reach, that is their rating and this is an internationally recognised fact. Our colleague was saying that our educational institution should have recognition in the world but that is possible only if our universities are of the international rating. When they will come to know our students have passed out from a five star, four star or three star universities, then they will realise that what their standard is? We should have no hesitation whatsoever in this regard. If any university is below the standard, we should have to think it over as to how the standard of such a university could be raised and

we will also provide assistance for the purpose. We will also point out their shortcomings and will also keep in rectifying the same. But it is not possible that Universities are opened and facilities are not available their and they should be considered as equals. Therefore all our Hon. Members should not insist upon that there should be no accreditation of any university.

They should find out a solution and make them understand that accreditation is necessary. If the Hon. Member put forward their suggestions in this regard or as to what should be done about accreditation to make it transparent. We will consider those suggestions and if necessary, adopt them. We want the Hon. Members should help us in this endeavour. They should be encouraged to get accreditation. Shri Bansal is aware of the situation of Universities. He himself has been associated with Punjab University. You can ask him about the formalities and norms of accreditation. We will definitely consider the suggestions made by you and send them to the Council for acceptance and incorporation. There should not be any opposition to better accreditation. It is a very important thing. We should also know about the standard of different universities.

Today there are 250 Universities in the country and there is a demand that there should be one centre for excellence in each university. No Government can create a centre for excellence in 250 universities. Those which have the capabilities should be shortlisted. I myself have suggested this in the Cabinet. A Committee has also been constituted which will undertake the work of shortlisting so that centre for excellence could be created in order to upgrade the central universities to the international level. Suggestions would be invited from scientists about the benchmark. We would like you to contract the educational institutions and tell us about actual problems. We will give you our full cooperation.

It has been said that there are regional imbalances in it. This is correct. But it is due to some historical reasons and we are trying our best to remove them. Therefore, deemed to be University provision has been made so that time is not wasted in legal complications and delays are obviated. If the State Government agrees, we will give them the status of 'deemed to be University but they will have to get accreditation, they are not outside its purview. If some institutions prove to be good then they will be encouraged and will be accorded the status of 'deemed to be University'. We have made Naini Institute a deemed to be University. It was pending for many years. The Minorities Institute which was run by Christians has been examined throughly and found upto the desired level and today it is deemed to be University. Shri Dharma Raj

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Singhji should be happy that this effort is being made. You should raise the level of education and spread it but some cohesion has to be there between the two. Extension of education should not be done without ensuring improvement in its quality or vice versa. We are making every effort for it. I am glad to say that many applications have been received from several institutions for granting deemed to be University status which is under consideration of the UGC.

A question has been raised here that there has been a decline in standard of Universities. I accept this fact.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppy) : The Government has sent a proposal for giving the status of a 'deemed' university to Kerala Kala Mandalam.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The UGC is examining it. I have those details on my fingertips. Do not worry about it.

[Translation]

I have no hesitation in saying that while there has been decline in the standard of Central Universities, the standard has improved in some of them. But the standard has improved only in very few State Universities and it has either remained at the same level in most of the Universities or has declined.

Shri Rajo Singh has cited the example of Bihar. I admit that once Patna University was one of the most prestigious University of the country and till 10-15 years back some faculties of the Patna University were maintaining a high standard. But the situation that has developed in Bihar during the last few years has resulted in erosion in the standards in Patna University also. Teaching staff of the University were on strike for many months on the question of pay-scales which they are not getting and for which the Central Government have provided funds. This leads to decline in the standards of education. Examinations were disrupted due to the strike. I will be glad if the State Government takes initiatives and formulate some concrete schemes for Patna University and UGC gives its approval to that scheme. I wish that such a scheme should be formulated so that the standard of Patna University could be raised. We certainly want that one university in this region should grow in standard.

I would like to tell you that we have recommended for the upgradation of institutions like engineering colleges of Bihar in the IT's report on technical education. But we should also get cooperation from the Government

of Bihar in this regard as the responsibility of management of educational institutions lies with them. If they want these institutions to be upgraded we shall extend our full cooperation for this purpose.

One of the Hon'ble Members raised a question regarding the Kashi Hindu University. Recently a conference of alumni of the BHU was held in Delhi. Not only alumni of BHU who are in India but those who have gone abroad had also participated in the conference. They have recommended to set up a committee which has been accepted by us and we have asked this committee to help us with suggestions about the BHU, its functioning and ways to facilitate its development. It should also suggest us the ways in which the alumni of the BHU could help the institution.

You will be glad to know that it is being said that education is being privatised. No in regard to higher education only we are trying to incorporate one thing that a person who seeks higher education the society bears the huge expenditure towards making him or her a doctor or an engineer or a professor etc. So the institution which enables you to become a doctor or an engineer or a professor don't you owe to that institution. In our Indian Tradition, we always accept that we must do something for such institutions. This has been the tradition in our society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every room of the school I studied in was built by one or the other person belonging to this society in the name of his/her parents, grant parents or brother, sister. It is not privatisation. Such help and assistance be given to the educational institutions by the society and it is being given even today. We are trying that such assistance should come to the university in a focussed manner. I am glad to inform you that when he had placed this question before I.I.T. Students, at that time a number of students had offered that they would like to donate money out of their property for development of research activities and for the promotion of I.I.T. and for introducing more facilities there. We have stipulated certain conditions for accepting donations from them. We are not accepting donations from them in a way that they may dominate over the institutions. We told them that we welcome it. If you want to contribute deeming it as your duty. We will definitely accept it. We need it and we will accept it.

Recently I had been to Gujarat. It is often asked as to what is our policy. I want to inform the house and you would be glad to know that on 29th, we made a broad assessment of the education and educational institutions of Gujarat. And based on that we have made a provision for Rs. 150 crore in this year's budget, out of the funds

at the disposal of the Ministry for the reconstruction of Gujarat education.

The money given out of the Prime Minister's relief fund or by other people is separate. I am glad to inform you that despite the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, each examination of Xth standard, XIIth standard and of the university would be held in time and the results would be announced in time and at present the classes are going on. All the universities are functioning well. We have assessed the loss in Gujarat and given money commensurate with the loss and rather more than the loss. Today I want to inform you that we have made arrangements to provide education to those children in Gujarat who were rendered orphan by the earthquake. We have made Trauma Recovery Centre for those children, who are in trauma and have not been able to forget that tragedy so far, when they see heaps of debris, they become nervous as if some of their relative had died under these heaps. They are terrified. We had made arrangements for such children. We have made all these arrangements within eighteen day from 29th January to 17th February. We are worried for education and it is our firm belief that attention should always be paid towards education and educational institutions for doing it.

One question was raised with regard to liberalisation of universities. In India, it has been publicized on a number of occasions that the education is being liberalised in such a fashion as if the Government wants to get rid of their responsibility. It is totally confusing. The constitution has already made the Government responsible for providing free education to the children of the age group of 6 to 14 years. Nobody can escape this responsibilities. Apart from it the constitution enjoin on the union Government the responsibilities to maintain the standard, and co-ordinate and the Government hope that as our policy is that if the country has to progress and if we have to take the country ahead then the youth of our country should be provided higher education, better education. They should compete and frame the way for the country to progress. For this purpose, the Government will come forward, the industrialists will come forward and old students will come forward. Let it be a joint effort. In this task the Govt. will not shy away from their responsibility but Govt. Will made the rest of the society aware of its responsibility. We have constantly discussed the matter with the industrialists with the U.G.C. and Science Technology Committee and we know that unless industrial policy, Research Policy and education policy are properly blended for the coming Ten to Twenty Years, many problems of the country would continue to haunt. As such we repeatedly say that the country needs these new subjects. The Universities should pay their attention towards these new subjects. It is neither

a hidden agenda, nor saffronisation but modernisation. It is an endeavour to link education with the present and future of India. Census figures are about to come and then you would know as to what extent we have progressed in the matter of education during the last two three years. I am glad to inform you that whatever new figures are forthcoming and whatever surveys have been made by N.S.S.O and N.F.T. They are quite encouraging and the country should be happy that we are marching ahead.

A question has also been raised about the fee hike. In this connection I would like to humbly submit that intention behind fee hike is not to deprive the poor students of the education. When I use to study in the university then my B.A. Fee was rupees twelve and salary of a university teacher was between Rupees Two hundred fifty to Three Hundred. Even today in the year 2001 a number of universities are charging fees in between 12 or 15 whereas the salary of a teacher is between 12 thousand to 15 thousand.

When I was a student the cost of International Journal was around Rs. 1500 and now it costs around Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000.

The rent of double seated room of the hostel at that time was Rs. ten and even today the rent is same in most of the universities. At that time the rate of electricity was two annas or four annas per unit but where it has reached today? Who will pay for the users' charges and electricity charges? Either the students residing in the hostel or their parents shall pay.

It is wrong to say that the students belonging to poor sections of society are being deprived of higher education. I will cite you an example of the big cities that what is taking place there. What is happening in the Universities of Delhi? The children whose parents are able to spend Rs. 1000. Rs. 1200 Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 per month in imparting education to their wards pass their intermediate examination scoring good marks and take admission in good colleges like. Stephens etc. on the basis of their marks This we have found after conducting surveys. There are certain Universities where annual expenses are Rs. 1 lakh 80 thousand per student and when the same student joins a university and pays Rs. 12 as fee and launches protest whenever the fee is hiked, is simply beyond our comprehension. The hon. Members will also agree that this sort of attitude should not be allowed. We do make arrangements for the talented students who are poor and are not able to pay even Rs. 12 as fee. We try to give them scholarships, books and if necessary provide them soft loans on long term basis, but there also one comes across hurdles. It is easier to get loans for studying a stream which ensures job or an enterprise but for the

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subjects whose study does not ensure any business, enterprise, trade or employment, it becomes harder to get loans. Unfortunately, we do not have such Trusts or Foundations as of now like in rest of the world which provide assistance to the students. I want the Government to consider from this point of view and make some arrangements for them. But I assure you on behalf of the Government that a talented student will not be deprived of education because he is not able to pay the fees. I assure the House that the schemes formulated by us provide for this but those who can pay should pay. When I see the University students spending Rs. 50 to 100 on Cinema tickets once or twice or even more in a month then why can't they pay University fee which is only Rs. 12 ? So if we talk of hiking the fee it is not improper. This will augment the means/facilities in the universities and they will have some of their own funds. If the student can bear the expenses of Rs. 50/- for seeing a film why can't he pay Rs. 50 towards his fees instead of Rs. 12 or whatever fees is fixed by the University. There should be no objection. This question should be kept away from politics. Where from the University will bring money. Even if 20 per cent could be increased in the grant provided by the Government, it will not help. We will have to make some efforts for the quality and it's maintenance for which we show our concern and everyone will have to join hands. I seek the cooperation of the House in this matter especially from all those people and parties who are opposing the fee hike for improper and wrong reasons. Yes, if the fee is hiked by the University to Rs. 1000 then the matter should be brought to our notice we will definitely look into that but we have a very proper and valid reason for gradually increasing the fee at a fixed rate which should not be ignored.

It was also said that some teachers of the University are worried about their demands. A question was raised in the House yesterday in this matter but unfortunately the House was adjourned. I have clarified everything in replay to that question. We have fulfilled all the promises made to the teachers of the University in July 1998. U.G.C. has categorically stated that career promotion is not acceptable. The career promotion scheme is applicable to the readers in the colleges and to the professors in the department of Universities.

It is my appeal to all the teachers friends that they should ponder over this matter in a cool manner. Today when we are facing the tragedy of Gujarat and have faced Kargil war and Supercyclone of Orissa and many other such tragedies that have taken place in the country during

the last one year, at such a time they should not play with the student's examination. They are discussing their demands with UGC which will continue, matters can be resolved through negotiations, it should be encouraged. But which is not possible, improper. . . . *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SATYAVRTA CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : You have just said that people of FEDKWT met us yesterday. There were also some MPs belonging to different parties whom I met and had a talk. I don't know as to how strong is their case. All that I said was that I would request the Minister to listen to their stand also and they should also listen to the Government's stand and some feasible way out should be found. So far as the question of strike or coming on the roads is concerned, we all the members of the parliament have categorically told them that if they will play with the future of the students, we will be not sympathetic to them. They have assured us that they will not adopt this course. . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Thank you very much. I am of the same view. At the end one thing more has been said. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRTA CHATURVEDI : You should call them and talk to them. . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I remain in touch with them in the college. In this regard a national level Bill should be introduced which should be a guide for all the universities of the country. It is an important thing because there are people of different ideological working in the education department of different States. I shall be very happy a consensus is reached on this matter.

Today if any good step is taken it has got too be opposed politically. You should oppose but you should also assist in improving further the steps taken for advancement of education. Not only I or my party or the government of my party is affected by education but the entire country is being affected by it. Children are linked with all the political parties. Their parents may be the supporters of one or the other political party. Ours is a democratic country. There should be development of all the youths and their talent for the progress of the country.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Therefore, you will have to come on the right path. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is hackneyed argument. Please do not beat the same thing. Nobody listens to it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

That has been listened to very well and it has no affect on the country at all. All concerned have endorsed the education policy and all are supporting our move. You are at liberty to oppose it and I assure you that despite your opposition this country will continue its march on way to progress in the field of education. .  
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Within the N.D.A itself people do not agree to it. . . .(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have to tell only one thing to you that you should not allow the West Bengal to leg behind in the field of education, rather you should bring the State to the mainstream of the country. Don't compell me to say that rate of unemployment is increasing rapidly in your State as compared to other States. . . .  
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : One crore refugees came to our State. What the Government have done? Neither your Government nor the previous congress Governments did any thing in this regard.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am well aware of your concern about education. . . .(*Interruptions*) I would like to request the House that the decision held on this important subject. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The matter relating to resources of Punjab University is with you.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : it has not come to me so far. It may be under consideration of the committee in the Ministry. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please clear it because there is resources crunch.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I will definitely consider it when it comes to me. But I will have to see as to what is the obligation of the Union Government in it and which of the States have not lived upto their responsibilities. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Chandigarh is a Union territory and due to this fact you should get it done.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have heard your point and I have said that whatever will be possible at the Ministry level would be considered. It being a University of the Union territory, the matters related to it come to us

through the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Human Resource Development can not do anything on such matter directly. For example Delhi University is run by the Union Government and it is related to us directly. Similarly had it been under the Punjab University its matters would have been coming to us directly but these come to us through the Ministry of Home Affairs. A discussion is held with the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard. We will have a discussion with them on this. Are you satisfied with the Vice Chancellor of the Punjab University.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Yes, Sir.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is one more example. The Chancellor has made the appointment and the appointment has been made properly after taking into consideration the panel.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You should accept what they are saying. The situation is deteriorating there.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I understand your concern as you come from Chandigarh. Therefore, I can understand as to what will be its future.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The deficit has increased by three crores.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I request the hon'ble Members that they should pass the Bill introduced in the House today and authorise the Government to remove the Act of 1904 from our statute book. This has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, I would like to request you to pass it unanimously.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Universities Act, 1904, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

### Clause 1 – Short Title

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 2-

For "2000" substitute "2001" (2)

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

### Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1 -

For "Ninety one" substitute "Ninety two" (1)

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,  
was added to the Bill.*

*The Title was added to the Bill.*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir I beg to move:

"That this amendment Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.00 hrs.

[English]

### CHIT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Sir, on the behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Chit Funds Act, 1982, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into Consideration."

The Chit Funds Act, 1982 was enacted as a Central Act for ensuring uniformity in the provisions applicable to the Chit Institution throughout the country, providing for certain built-in operational safeguards for Chit operations and for protecting the interests of the Chit subscribers. Chit Fund is basically an arrangements to promote savings and their utilisation for mutual benefit of the members of the Chit, The State Governments, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, make rules under the Act, which is administration by the officials and authorities of the State Government concerned. The Act has so far been extended to 16 States and six Union Territories.

The Constitutional validity of the Act and its various provisions were challenged in various courts. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 13th July, 1993, upheld the Constitutional validity of the Act and inter alia commented that the appropriate authorities, in case the demand is so raised from time to time, increase the limits of aggregate amounts of chits under Section 13 of the Act. Keeping in view the comments and suggestion received from some of the State Government, the All India Association of the Chit Funds and the observations of the Supreme Court, the following amendments to the Chit Fund Act, 1982 are being proposed.

Sub-section 3 of Section 6 of the Act provides for maximum amount of discount not to exceed 30 per cent of the Chit amount, which the prized subscriber has to forego. It is proposed to enhance the ceiling of discount from the existing 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

Section 13 of the Act prescribes limit of aggregate Chit amount for different types of foremen. Keeping in view the observation of the Supreme Court, it is proposed to increased the limit of aggregate chit amount for individual foreman from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- and in the case of partnership and association of individuals to from Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- per partner subject to ceiling of Rs. 6,00,000/-.

Section 20 of the Act provides for every foreman to deposite an amount equal to the Chit amount in the name of the registrar in an approved bank for obtaining permission and operating and conducting the chit. It is proposed that the amount which the foreman has to deposite with the Registrar can be deposited to the extent of 50 per cent in cash and balance 50 per cent in the form of a bank guarantee.

This Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha without any modifications. I request this august House also to Kindly consider and pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Chit Funds Act, 1982, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI A.C JOS (Trichur) : Thank you for calling me. I am in general agreement with this Bill, Because you know that I come from Kerala and Kerala is a real breeding ground for chit funds and the maximum number of chit funds are being run in Kerala. There are a number of chit funds running freely and this has been illustrated in my State. And that is why, generally, I welcome the amendments suggested by the hon. Minister.

A chit fund, as such assumes more importance now because of the reduction of the interest and clamouring by the different industries for the reduction of the bank rates. The savings in the deposits in the banks will go down. So, at the village level small level savings can be encouraged through chit funds. So, my request to the Government is this relaxation is very good, especially the amendments No. 2 to Section 6 and the amendments to Section 13 and Section 20. They will facilities well and encourage chit funds to come in.

My request is that the Government should see that there shall not be any harassment of the foremen of the small chit funds by the officers. The foremen at the village level are rather running them but because of the coming into force of the Act, advent of the Act after the passing of the of the Act, the Government officers are running into problems.

The State Governments are doing it. But my suggestion to the hon. Minister is that the Central Government as well as the State Governments should encourage chit funds. The day is coming--it is not far off--when the deposits in the banks will go down if the interest rates are reduced. It is the demand of the industry.

Sir, earlier, the health of our nation used to be in the hands of the small-scale industries. We had a savings rate increased from 22 to 24 per cent. My apprehension is, if the bank rates are lowered, then savings will go down. So, we have to encourage these sorts of small savings. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take more steps so that chit funds can be encouraged.

Sir, in general, I appreciate this amendments and, once again, request the hon. Minister to bring forward a more comprehensive Bill which will encourage chit funds in the future.

[Translation]

DR. M.P JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposal brought by the Government to amend section

6,13 and 20 of the Chit fund (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is a welcome step. Chit fund is prevalent mostly and specially in South of India. There is no arrangement of Chit fund in my State Bihar. It is a kind of cooperative system which envisaged solving the financial problems of the people through Chit fund which is welcome. Besides Chit fund, a number of non-banking financial institutions have been opened which have mobilised a huge deposits of the public but no arrangements have been made for the security of these deposits. Crores of rupees have been bungled. People have disappeared having duped crores of rupees of the public. In this connection the Government should bring a proposal to give capital punishment to those who commit financial crime. The provision of a foreman and keeping fifty percent amount in the banks is also a welcome step. But arrangements should be made that people may not cheat others and the money deposited by small investors for their financial betterment is secured. They should not be cheated and for that purpose Chit fund should provide capital punishment for the people who are found guilty of financial embezzlement so that the people feel themselves secured. Their deposits should remains secure and they should get back their money whenever they need that.

Sir, I support the proposal brought by the Government. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Viskhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

The Chit Funds (Amendments) Bill is a welcome sign. But today a lot of people are being cheated by these chit fund companies. The chit fund companies are springing up everyday with some new name or the other. Actually, the Government has no overseeing authority over the activities of these chit fund companies.

The chit fund companies are being registered, but without registration also the business of the chit fund companies is being carried out.

This is a very importance piece of legislation. The amendments are sought to regulate the activities of the chit fund companies, but nothing much would be achieved with these amendments because they are just raising it from 30 per cent to 40 per cent. Also, the deposit is being raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. Any chit fund company can fulfil these conditions. There is, of course, a very stiff condition that bank guarantee from an approve bank, equivalent to 50 per cent of the chit amount, is to be given. But all these conditions are regulatory in nature and are difficult to be imposed.

[Shri M.V.V.S Murthi]

The Non-Banking Companies Act, under which the chit fund companies are coming up, should be regulated in such a way that there should be stringent action against these companies if they cheat those who are depositing their money in the chits. There should be some punitive action rather than these monetary punishments. In that way only, people could be saved. Also, the accounts of the chit fund companies should be audited at regular intervals. Unless there is an audit report submitted every half-year or every quarter, it may become a very difficult situation to carry on the chit fund business in a regulated manner.

Thirdly, the chit fund companies also have deposit in benami names. Suppose, there are 50 persons in a particular chit. Half of them will be holding chits in benami names. Serious action should be taken to find out whether all the members of a particular chit are genuine or not. So, the genuineness is to be regulated.

The other thing is that there should be a set formula for the chit fund companies to invest their surplus deposits. Just like under the Banking Act, here also there should be set principles for investing the surplus moneys or the moneys that are derived through chits. Otherwise, the moneys are being diverted and ultimately, at the time of payment to the bidder, the money is not available. When the money is not available, how will they take action against the chit fund companies, irrespective of their satisfying all the conditions that are being imposed on them? So, there should be a time stipulation that within so many days, the money is to be paid. In the case of a bank deposit, we go to bank and get back our money, but in the case of a chit fund, if they do not pay the money, no action is taken against them. So, if the money is not paid to the bidder even after giving a certain notice of, say, 30 days or 15 days, stringent punishment should be there.

I hope, the hon. Minister will take note of all these things and will come forward with a comprehensive legislation at the appropriate time to regulate the chit funds because the innocent people are being cheated all over the country. The intelligent people are not being cheated because they are depositing their money in banks. Only the people who want to make quick money or who cannot go to the bank, are restoring to chit funds. Financially, they are not very healthy people. So, to safeguard their interests, the Government should come out with a comprehensive Bill to regulate the chit fund companies. Then only justice will be done to the ordinary people of this country.

With these words, I support this Amendment Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Chit fund (Amendment) Bill.

2000 and also thank the finance Minister for bringing this bill and encouraging the feelings of savings among the public. At the same time the bill has also provided a remedy for the public to jointly struggle against the financial difficulties.

We all are well aware of the difficulties being faced by the common man in taking loan from the nationalised banks. It is being observed that cooperative institutions are not able to make adequate arrangements. Under the circumstances it has become utmost necessary to encourage Chit fund. In our country a lot of institutions are engaged in Chit fund at present but a number of the institution, out of them are not registered. Such institutions are playing with the public money and cheating the public. This Amendment Bill will prove to be a boon to save the public from such cheating and bring creditability in financial system and ensure easy access to the system and the money.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his address of 19th February, His Excellency the President has emphasized on formation of voluntary Organisation. Today 70 per cent population live in the villages in the country which cannot be linked with the Chit fund institution operating in cities. I would request the Finance Minister to consider linking Chit fund Institutions with voluntary organisations, after they are formed, through the assistance received from NABARD. This would help to serve the purposes of the poor people living in the villages. To encourage a feeling of saving and link the same with Chit fund is an important think in itself. Today the constant decline in the rate of interest in the banks and depriving the small investors of any say in the banks are indicative of the fact that the country is not heading towards all round development. The poor man of the villages can get maximum assistance and the general public can get full benefits of the financial system if the whole arrangements are made through Chit fund system and creditability is maintained and registration is there. Whatever we call Chit fund in the cities, the same is called Handiya in the villages. If any person invest money therein, he may be cheated on several occasions. In such a situation this Chit Fund Amendment Bill has been brought. If participation of the villagers is ensured and they are assured, then it would certainly prove to be a boon for the development of country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to reiterate that people in the villages are quite innocent, illiterate and they have no knowledge of the high level arrangements of the Government and the Finance Ministry. Only 20 per cent people are linked with this system and eighty per cent people of the village are not linked whereas we want that the system should be linked with the professions of the



villagers. In such a situation these voluntary organisations should be helped so that their creditability is maintained and they can make financial progress. I would like to urge upon all the honourable Members that they should strongly support this bill. I would also like to say that women account for 50 per cent population of the country and out of this 50 per cent, majority of the women live in the villages who have got no knowledge of Chit fund.

They form group of ten women and collect rupees five from each even today and so they collect their money. In the event of any ailment or urgent work, they take loan from that collection and give rupees two-three per cent as interest per month on that amount of loan. As they need money at that time, even Sahokar does not pay money to them. In such a situation they join voluntary organisation by way of small savings. If these voluntary groups are converted into Chit fund system then undoubtedly it would contribute a lot to the economy of our country. I once upon support this Bill and convey thanks to the Finance Minister and I hope that he would be kind enough to accommodate my views somewhere in this Amendments Bill.

[English]

SHRI E.M SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Respected Sir, in this Bill, actually all the repealing Acts were shown which were not at all in a position to be followed now, but at the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to tell that the modern insurance. . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : The discussion is on Chit Funds Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This discussion is on Chit Funds Bill.

SHRI E.M SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, my name is also there for speaking on the Chit Funds Bill.

With regard to this Chit Fund Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the chit fund has now become a cottage industry. Every village is having chit fund as one of the ways for mobilising funds and escaping from the clutches of law. Actually, this Act and amendment give much attention to the people who are having a regular commercial business and also the people who are registering themselves as firms or any other legal entity. I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. Minister that ordinary people who are living in the villages and also the poor people who are saving their money in the chit fund, feel that they can get more interest and better return on their money by putting their money in the chit funds. These activities at the level of small villages and urban poor middle-class should also be regulated.

Especially in Tamil Nadu, every day we can find some newspaper, media or television reporting that so many lakhs of rupees are cheated by a lady or a person who was collecting the money. People raid that house and find that nothing is there. How are we going to control this? Therefore, there should be a provisions of this Act that even the small chit funds should also register themselves and attract the provisions of this Act, that is, they should be covered under this Act so that they deposit 40 per cent of the amount collected, or whatever is the stipulated amount, in the deposit of a bank or a post office or by way of some bond. This will give more confidence to the people participating in those chits because they can recover their money if some mishap happens. At the same time, we should not curb the activity of chit funds because there are areas where villagers are accustomed to such a type of life that when they go for marriage, they get money as gift, and when they are having marriage in their family, they have to repay it which they withdraw from these chit funds. In our area, there is a custom which we call *moi*. If a person has received money on his marriage, but he does not pay on the occasion of the marriage of another person, he will be asked by that person : 'why are you not paying the money? You pay that donation. That is the contribution to my marriage.' This is the social structure there and this structure has more or less given security to the villagers.

Now, it has come in the form of the chit fund. Here, we have an obligation to the individual as well as to the family. Therefore, we have to give protection to both individuals as well as the family who are going to benefit or are availing of this money.

In Chennai, 35 firms have been blacklisted because they have cheated the people. Thousands of people are ghearing police stations asking for a remedy. The police are simply filing a case under section 420 IPC. They are dragging on the matter and nothing is happening. Therefore, there should be some arbitration provision so that some action is taken immediately. They should go after the assets of these firms, recover the cash and the distribution of money should be made within a specified time so that the agony of the concerned middle-class families, who saved the money through their hard labour, could be relieved. A lot of things like this are coming up every day. At the same time, we have to find out as to why this happens. It is because every man needs money, but there is no liquid money available. The banks are not giving because they are not implementing any scheme with differential rate of interest. No bank is coming forward to give money to the needy and genuine people. For example, a person wants to study B.E or M.E. by paying fees and donation and he is ready to take the loan on a usufruct interest, but the banks are not ready to give him

[Shri E.M Sudarsana Natchiappan]

the money. They are pushing the persons from pillar to post. What is it that we are doing now? when we are allowing the people to take donations and fees, but at the same time, people in the villages are actually suffering because their sons and daughter who wants to study in professional colleges are not getting the money from the banks. That is the main reason why so many chit fund companies are coming up. If people want money for some emergency purpose, be it for a marriage or medical relief, we are not able to provide it to them. The insurance companies are not reaching those families to help them in the form of medical insurance. Therefore, they have to go to some place to get the money immediately. To meet bulk expenses or to make bulk purchases, they need money. During the course of purchase of lands, they may need some extra money. These are all things that are not at all looked into by the banks. That is the main reason why the chit fund companies are mushrooming. They are taking away the money, and the people are suffering. This aspect should be taken into consideration. The nationalised banks and other banks, both commercial and non-commercial, should have a separate cell to help such people. I know that multiple deposits schemes are there. Why can these banks themselves not go for this type of chit funds? They can very well do that. People are ready to believe them because they are nationalised banks and, therefore, they can do that. This aspect should also be taken into consideration.

I support this Bill. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) :  
Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to speak a few times in regard to Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill 2000.

It is called Chit Fund in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and I do not know whether it is called by the same name in the South. As I understand, I have so far not come across such types of institution whereas I have since represented two constituencies. When I was small then certainly Chit Funds were there.

Now I would like to request you in regard to amendments made by you in section 20 that if you want to operate Chit Fund, then you should increase the bank guarantee to hundred percent from fifty percent. If it is not possible for you, then the officers of the bank giving 50 percent guarantee should look over a chit fund and only then that chit fund can be made operational in the existing conditions in Uttar Pradesh otherwise it would continue to operate as a Cheat fund and will go duping money of the

public in this manner. Laws applicable to banks are also applicable to these chit funds but generally it has been seen that no rules and regulations of the banks are applied to them. The members of the chit fund invest its money in their own way and embezzle and misuse money. The main problem is that whenever any member or account holder needs loan then no amount is found to be available in the Chit Fund. Under the circumstances, the small investors and poor workers who save their money slowly and steadily find themselves quite helpless when the money is not made available to them in hours of need. I would like to tell that all these chit fund arrangements are limited to cities only whereas the Government is running voluntary groups and it has been seen that if these types of groups are being run by women, they are running in a far smooth and better way. Being associated with the Estimated Committee, I oftenly come across a number of R.R.Vs I have noticed that the women groups or groups headed by a women, work in a better way. I am expressing my feeling that if the women are given privilege in registration in a Chit Fund, then undoubtedly the chit fund would be in a position to perform better. The working of the banks is audited once in a year. Since the corrupt practices are less prevalent in the banks. The frequency and volume of frauds are not so common in the banks are taking place in chit fund as a routine matter. The Government is aware of all these things. I would like that along with the audit, working of the chit fund must be inspected every month or twice in a month as the case may be. Although it should be inspected by any officer of the bank which is accepting the guarantee. If you will go on inspecting the chit fund from time to time, then certainly it would serve the poor people or such people who have got very less amount of money.

With these words I support this bill and I thank you that you have made meaningful efforts to run the chit fund.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATSWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, this is really a very important amendment Bill that has been brought forward by this Government at this particular time. As my friend Shri Chandrabhusan Singh has pointed out, in most of the places these 'Chit Funds' have more or less become an instrument for cheating some people and making some people richer. There has been a mushroom growth of these chit funds. This is an activity that has been going on for several years and decades in most of the villages. This is an activity that has been going on for years together without the notice of anybody.

Sir, of late, these chit funds have become a source for mobilising money and for mopping up the savings of

the people and then vanishing away. In this present juncture this is a very right kind of a Bill that has been brought forward for providing security to the small depositors and individuals who are involved in this activity. In fact, Clause 20 of the Bill provides that at least 50 per cent of the total deposit should be in the banks and the rest 50 per cent should be there in the shape of a bank guarantee. But again there should be some limitations.

The other regulation is in regard to the bid amount. Bid amount is the most attractive provision as far as mobilisation of funds in chits is concerned. In some cases bids are carried up to an amount of Rs. 500 and more for a chit of Rs. 1,000. Though the bid amount is shared by the members in the pool, this amount should not be allowed to go too high. It should be pegged at a figure which is very near to the bank rate so that it would not be the main factor in attracting people to chit funds. If the bid amount is restricted, it would restrict the growth of malpractice in this sector.

Some hon. Members suggested that auditing of accounts of chit fund companies should be done on a regular basis. This is a very important measure and it should be implemented. benami transactions should be detected and curbed. The whole amount of the chit should be guaranteed either in terms of a deposit in the bank or as a 100 per cent bank guarantee. The bank in this case should be a nationalised bank only so that people feel reassured of the safety of their deposits.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister certain important points relating which relate to the functioning of chit fund companies.

There are problems faced by depositors even while dealing with certain sound chit funds. These chit fund companies impose certain charges like processing charge, joining charge, legal expenses and other expenses. No receipt is given to the depositors against any of these payments. If the amount of the chit is say Rs. 1 lakh, about Rs.1000 to Rs.2000 is demanded by the company by way of these charges. No receipt is given to any of these payments. This is happening even in the case of very good companies, companies which have a very good financial standing in the market. I would like the Government to take serious note of this practice and curb this practice.

I have another important point to make. Suppose I am a subscriber of two chits in a company each amounting to Rs. 30,000 and I have already deposited Rs. 28000 in

each of those accounts. When I wish to withdraw my chit money on the second account giving the first one as a guarantee, the company does not agree to it. It says that the two chits cannot be clubbed as there is a court order against doing so. Finally the subscriber is put to trouble by the companies. I would request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to simplify the procedure and avoid this trouble to the subscriber. There should be a proper guarantee for the funds collected by the companies.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must thank the Members who have participated in the debate and supported the Bill.

I do agree with some of the observations made by the Members. There are some private chit fund companies and un-registered companies. Everybody is aware that officials of the State Government are responsible for implementation of the provisions.

Shri M.O.H. Farook pointed out that the receipts are not given in regard to process costs and other expenditure. But it is a crime, there is no doubt about it. We will instruct the State Governments to advise them in this regard so that without any receipt no money should be taken.

Secondly, I do agree that the South India, especially Kerala and Tamil Nadu, has a great business in this field. There are a number of cases of complaints reported. But as you all are aware, this comes within the domain of the concerned State Governments, and we will instruct them to take proper action.

Sir, there were two-three observations made by some hon. Members about the audit. Every year, they have to get the audit done. It is a must. They must publish the balance-sheet and come out with the Audit Report also as per Section 24. At the same time, penalties are there for violating the rules. It is not that it comes only under Section 420 of IPC. Section 26 of the Act prescribes for conviction, an imprisonment upto two years or a fine of Rs. 5,000 or even both, as the case may be.

Sir, I fully endorse the views of the entire House that this is the poor men's money which is involved here. So, one should know the character of the persons. In this regard societies' awareness is required so that nobody can cheat the poor people because poor people do not have any accessibility to the banks.

I do agree that this money can be used in the marriage or any kind of functions. This money can be gifted for the marriages of the girls or boys as the case may be.

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an hon. Member from Uttar Pradesh raised the issue of registration problem. We have taken note of it. We purposely took the guarantee because 100 percent deposit is there. We tried to discourage it because if a man requires 100 percent deposit then why will he go to the Chit Fund? Naturally, if there is a 50 percent deposit and 50 per cent guarantee of the bank, definitely guarantee should not be revoked until this entire thing is materialised.

I am not fully aware that the scheduled banks are responsible for all these things. So, we cannot discriminate with the scheduled banking system. We cannot ask for the nationalised banks or the non-nationalised banks. Even some cooperative banks are also involved in it. I do agree that there are some problems in the banking system but I am happy to note.

[Translation]

Cases of fraud in banks are on the decline and the confidence of public is on the rise.

[English]

We think that the banks are the main trust instruments or institutions for the common man also. But the problem is that we cannot guarantee everybody because accessibility is not too easy and the need based finance is not with the banking system yet. So, when the policy is likely to come for the need-based finance, naturally the system will improve further.

Sir, somebody from that corner suggested that the women are to be greatly involved here because the women organisations are performing better and they are too honest. Here, we are supporting the women's activities saying that they are performing in a big way but at the same time why are we opposing the Women's Reservation Bill here? But somehow, we are trusting the women of the country, and we will involve more and more women in this field.

Sir, there was also a suggestion made that NABARD's help could be sought. When we are supporting all these institutions through NABARD and if the registered chit fund is there, why should the NABARD not support it, may be, Centrally? We are supporting the NGOs also. So, I will examine this matter and I will talk to the concerned authorities in the NABARD and see how it could be done.

Likewise, there were so many suggestions made by the hon. Members which are very valid ones and relating to the Bill. They will all be taken care of.

Sir, the Chit Funds in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are termed as 'Cheat Funds' as too much of cheating has gone there. But now with the directions of supreme Court, we are trying to regulate it.

So, it is the human character. Cheating should not be there Transparency should be there not only in this Bill but in life also transparency is required. If everybody's life becomes transparent, all these bad things and cheating will go away. This is the situation today.

Some hon. Members spoke about the non-banking financial institutions. The House is fully aware that the Non-Banking Financial Companies Act has been introduced. That is under consideration. It is a separate issue. We cannot compare the non-Banking financial companies with the chit funds. The non-banking financial companies have a greater exposure but chit funds are really the poorman's funds. They should be protected very well. We will request the State Governments through this House that no unregistered funds or unscrupulous elements should be allowed to take advantage and cheat the subscribers. If hon. Members give some specific instances, we will definitely bring them to the notice of the State Governments. The Central Government is concerned about this. We will definitely see to it that its working should be very smooth.

A number of suggestions have been made by hon. Members. Some points have been made about education also. I do agree that there was some problem relating to tuition fees. But as the House is aware, our hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha has assured the Rajya Sabha that tuition fee will not be a problem for the poor boys as far as education is concerned.

The Indian Banks Association's Committee has submitted its report to the RBI and the RBI has reacted on that. I think, the hon. Minister will very soon come up with a very attractive proposal and the poor people will definitely benefit from that.

I have taken note of all the suggestions made by the hon. Members. I now request that the Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, may be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

" That the Bill to amend the Chit Funds Act, 1982, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

" That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 1 – Short Title**

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 2,--

For "2000"

substitute "2001"

(2)

(Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 1, --

for "Fifty-first Year"

substitute "Fifty-second Year"

(1)

(Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

" That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Title was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.50 hrs.

#### **INSURANCE LAWS (TRANSFER BUSINESS AND EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) REPEAL BILL**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item no. 21.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal that the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, 1950, the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956 and the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

This august House would recall that the Government had introduced the Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000 in the last Session of the House. This Bill has been introduced by the Government consequent on the recommendations given by the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws which was set up by the Central Government on the 8th May, 1998. This Commission has recommended repeal of the following Acts.

1. The Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, 1950,
2. The Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956, and
3. The General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the said Commission, the Central Government has decided to repeal the above-mentioned Acts as they have ceased to serve any purpose and have become obsolete.

The Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, 1950 was enacted to provide for the transfer of the business of the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank Ltd. to the United Life Assurance Company Ltd. This Act was enacted before the nationalisation of life insurance sector. After nationalisation of the life insurance business in 1956 and with the Life Insurance Corporation of India having been given the exclusive privilege of transacting life insurance business in India, this Act of 1950 have ceased to have any utility.

The Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956 was enacted to provide for taking over, in the public

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

interest, the management of life insurance business pending nationalisation thereof. The provisions of the Act provide for the management of life insurance business to vest in Government on commencement of the Act. On nationalisation of the life insurance business and with the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 coming into force with effect from 1.7.1956, the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956 ceased to have any utility.

The General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971 was promulgated in 1971 for taking over the management of general insurance business pending nationalisation of such business in the public interest. Through the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 the management of the general insurance business in the country was passed on to the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries. With the passing of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, the provisions of the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971 ceased to have any utility.

The present Bill, that is the Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000 is brought before this House for repealing the above-mentioned three Acts which have become obsolete.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, 1950, the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956 and the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971, be taken into consideration.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Respected Chairman, Sir, actually, we are celebrating the birth of these three enactments which were giving a new life to the Indian people.

The General Insurance Company was taken over by the Government; and that gave the last 50 years of development of our rural areas and also the development of the whole India. Not only the individuals got benefited and the families got benefited, but also lakhs and lakhs of people who were educated but not having employment were benefited by this. They were recruited in the insurance sector. They got the benefit of proper salary and other prerequisites.

We cannot expect these things from the private sector. The amount that were collected and deposited in the insurance sector were utilised for the benefit of the whole

country, for laying roads, for developing drinking water facilities, for funding agriculture development, for funding industrial development etc. This money was utilised in each and every sector. A lot of people have benefited from that. Industries have developed; agriculture sector has developed; and infrastructure has developed. This enactment gave fillip to the lives of millions of people. This enactment has now gone because of the subsequent enactments which were brought by this Government promising that it would continue this business of insurance and without diluting the competition. We hope that the Government would maintain the assurance and it would protect the interests of the millions of people who were very happy when these enactments were brought about. Now, this is going to be repealed. The ambition with which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did it should be remembered. In the same way the ambition of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, when she nationalised the General Insurance should also be remembered. These were done for the sake of the people and for the sake of the nation. We have achieved it for so many years and for so many decades. We have shown that this is the correct thing which we have done. Millions of people have enjoyed it and are going to enjoy it.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that when you are going for the competition, kindly see that the insurance in the private sector does not swallow the funds as the chit fund companies have done. They should not swallow the funds. They should give an assurance to the nation that the interest of the common people would be protected. We are reducing the percentage of deposit to 20 or 22 per cent for the private companies. They may be competing. They may be competing for the purpose of business. Afterwards they will just go away from the scene. That type of thing is happening in the Western countries. The Government should be very careful and see that insurance companies do not cheat the public. Things should be done properly and unnecessary competition should also be curbed. Officials of the Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation are now gradually going to the private sector. That should also be looked into. It is because experienced officials who have been trained by us and who have been working for us are now going to the private companies. The middle level officials and lower-level cadres are suffering. They should be protected and they should be properly looked after.

While repealing the Bill is necessary, I would request the Government to bring a new Bill to fulfil the aspirations which were there when these enactments were made.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Sir, I rise to support the Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and

Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000. This has become necessary because of the new Act which gave existence to Insurance Regulatory Authority. Life Insurance was nationalised in 1950 and General Insurance was nationalised in 1970. There is new thinking all over the world that insurance should be opened up for private sector. It has been done in our country also. That is why this has become necessary. With the new provisions and with the opening up of insurance business, there will be a lot of competition now. People who are really going to benefit are consumers. There was a time when the LIC and the GIC had the Monopoly. There was no competition.

17.00 hrs.

Now, with the opening up of the general insurance and other insurance, there is competition and the beneficiaries are the people in general. This Act, has basically to say that the monopoly or the nationalisation which was there for so many years is being repealed. There is nothing much in it. It has a very limited role. I would also like to say that the general insurance has all the old system. In the world the systems have changed. The number of accidents has increased. The insurance is being done by following the old system. The US has adopted a new system. Under this new system the insurance company does not insure only the car but also insures the person who is driving it. They also take into consideration the fact whether the insurer and the car had any accident before or not. If they had an accident before, the premium goes up. This system was not there in the Indian system.

With the introduction of this system, it is hoped that the number of accidents would come to a lower level. There are people in the rural areas, who are not well educated but who get a licence through means which I will not discuss here. If there is an uneducated driver driving a truck, his premium should go up. The driver should know how to read the signs of the road. But he does not now that. He is overtaking when he is not supposed to. That is why we have so many deaths on the roads. Now, insurance being opened up, we hope all this will be looked into and there will be no monopoly. With these words I support this Bill totally. Thank you very much.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, our apprehensions have proved to be true. At the time of discussion of IRA Bill, some of us had said that this disastrous piece of legislation will harm this country, will immensely damage the two prestigious and glorious institutions of both life and general insurance. These apprehensions have come true. I would cite one example.

You may be remembering that Gujarat had suffered an unprecedented cyclonic storm and vast areas of Gujarat

suffered huge losses in terms of crops and such other things. This happened not long ago but just about three years back. Gujarat could be saved because the general insurance through its international recognition could manage to make provision for giving huge compensation to the farmers and others. We had said that be it at times of emergency, natural calamity or in the matter of nation building process, insurance has provided support to the plans. Even in the Ninth Plan the insurance sector had made a provision of Rs. 1,00,000 crore. There is no institution in the country which can provide such a financial support to our plans for providing drinking water, roads and such other things.

Ultimately, I am happy that reservations are being expressed from the Congress Benches. Had they expressed their reservation at that time instead of joining hands with them, the picture would have been totally different. I had been associated with the Standing Committee. I had submitted a note of dissent. You must be remembering who got the leadership in the Committee. You can go through the proceedings of the Committee. I had submitted a note of dissent.

The private operators who are entering the newly opened field, are they broadly focusing on the national interest, or on the interest of the farmers or on the interest of the rural poor? They are not. They want to operate only in those sectors where there is profit. Till today, they have expressed their intention to enter into the profitable areas only.

What happened in the case of banks? When the foreign banks were allowed to operate - I am not naming them - they had undergone a stipulation that they will also, just like the public sector banks, abide by the guidelines prevailing in respect of the priority sector lending. We examined it. We found that no foreign bank has provided any such priority sector lending, be it agriculture or be it small scale sector. Now they are being told to purchase bonds of IRDF and all these things. They are not paying income tax. They are doing whatever they like. They are squeezing their operations wherever they want. Just like that it is happening in the insurance sector also. It has started already. The most unfortunate part of it is that IRDA has been functioning - framing of rules etc. -- in a manner which is totally prejudicial to our nationalised sector.

At that time, this Government tried to assure us that the public sector will be protected and that the public sector will be given such support and other things. Parliament is the highest and sovereign body. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has amended the GIC act? If it has not been amended, by what authority and by what process you have derailed the four subsidiaries

[Shri Rupchand pal]

from the holding companies. I know the story. At an appropriate time I shall try to lay all the papers on the Table. In the first instance, it was done orally. The chiefs were called and they were asked to do it. Then through one dictum from the office of the Minister of Finance, the words had to be changed. It is not the simple question of changing one word like 'may' or 'shall'. But words had to be changed because the dictum was so vague that the public sector undertakings would have been in serious difficulty. Parliament is here but the Acts of Parliament are being ignored by the Minister of Finance like anything. I am charging this Government that they are trying to escape and that they are trying to avoid this Parliament. They have not amended the parent Act. They are doing it only through oral directives, only through official dicta, and through DO letters. Can you imagine this? I am raising this issue and the Minister owes it to this Parliament. This is not the occasion to elaborate many other things which are happening behind the scene. At the right moment, I shall place everything on the Table of the House. But this Government is out to destroy the prestigious and glorious institutions which have contributed immensely to the nation-building process from the dates of nationalisation, namely, 1956 and 1972.

This Government is quite aware as to how the foreign operators are trying to operate through their domestic counter- organisations and how they are out to influence this body. I can cite any number of examples as to how IRDA office itself is being used by foreign insurance companies in this country. I am not elaborating it much as this is only a simple Repeal Bill to repeal three pieces of legislations which have become obsolete. This could have been done earlier also.

17.11 hours.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

My charge against this Government is that it is not coming forward to this House to explain how it has acted and behaved since the days of opening up of the insurance sector and how the nation is suffering.

I can give one more example about crop insurance. The GIC had prepared a comprehensive crop insurance policy on its own without the support of the Government. The Government also on the floor of the House said so many beautiful things and gave many assurances. But what happened to the crop insurance? Which private insurance company is coming forward to protect the farmers of this country? No one. Which private insurance company is coming forward to protect our small industries

and cottage industries which are in very serious difficulties? No one.

Many parts of this country have been hit by severe drought. West Bengal suffered from unprecedented floods. Gujarat suffered from an unprecedented earthquake; a disaster in the form of super-cyclone had hit Orissa. Along with it so many other parts of the country like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa have also been affected. In Orissa people are dying out of starvation - Members from Orissa would bear me out. Even today a report says that in Bolangir a mother has sold her child for Rs. 5,000. The Government is sitting quiet. I do not know what will happen to this country. Even after so many months lakhs of people are suffering in Orissa. I raised this matter on the floor of this House on an earlier occasion. Those who have visited Orissa know that in certain parts lakhs of people are still under the open sky.

Gujarat earthquake is a very serious issue. Many people have lost their lives. But, in terms of the extent of damage and the extent and magnitude of suffering, it is very high in Orissa and West Bengal also. It should be noted by the Government. There is no institution to come forward and the Government is disowning its responsibility. Of course, people from different parts of the country and abroad are coming in support of Gujarat. It should be like that. But Orissa is also a part of India and so is West Bengal. The Government has itself admitted the extent of damage and suffering there. If the GIC had played its proper role in these parts of the country, including Gujarat, it would have helped them a lot as it happened earlier in Gujarat at the time of a cyclonic storm.

I would not like to go into the details of the developments in the private insurance sector. The health sector is also getting neglected while the Government is making so many promises. My charge is that the Government is out to weaken the GIC.

Suggestions have come that it should not be delinked. Rather four subsidiaries, along with GIC, such a mega body, could have the power to compete with foreign insurance companies that could come to authority. Instead, they were split into four subsidiaries. What is happening? I will give one example. The New India Insurance Company is one of the most profitable subsidiaries. You know that most of the top officials have been lured away. Should I take the name? It is steel major, Tata or Reliance who are operating alongwith foreign insurance company. The New India Insurance Company is almost vacated. It is the most profit-making subsidiary. I could give any number of examples to show how poaching is continuing and how talented people are being lured away. There is a regulatory body and I am charging the leadership of that body that they are acting in



a prejudicial manner subserving the interests of private insurance companies and foreign insurance companies. I demand that the Government should come forward and explain its conduct to this House, without amending the parent Act, that how they could go on acting in such a manner with only executive dictates, only oral instructions and with D.O. Letters.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur) : Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000 moved by the hon'ble Finance Minister. I thank him too for presenting this Bill when it was required the most. Today when we are covering the common people of India with the facilities of general Insurance Corporation and Life Insurance, he has done a commendable job by presenting this Bill at this juncture.

Madam Chairperson, so far the labourers of organised sector in our country have been provided with group insurance and they are availing themselves of this facility but the labourers of unorganised sectors are still deprived of this facility. Most of the labourers working in unorganised sectors are engaged in agriculture out of which 80 percent labourers are women. The modern equipments being utilised for sowing and harvesting are used for saving only male labour force. Modern agriculture equipments have failed to save female labour force and even today 80 percent women are engaged as labourer in agriculture sector, but it is unfortunate that they are not getting the benefit of insurance. They have not been benefited by General Insurance as they neither have means for cattle insurance nor have knowledge because they are illiterate. The General Insurance Corporation should pay its attention in such a situation and the poor class, women and agricultural labourers should also be covered under it.

Madam Chairperson. I want to say one more thing through you and I want to draw the attention of the finance Minister that these days many accidents are taking place on roads in villages. The vehicles used in villages for transportation are not registered as per rules. We find that there is no provision for registration of these vehicles. I want to draw the attention of all hon'ble Members present here towards Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab where in rural areas "Jugaar (Multipurpose engine) are used as main vehicle for transportation, "jugaar" is an assembled vehicle which is used frequently in villages as a means of transportation but these vehicles are neither registered nor these have any legal acceptance. In rural areas this vehicles are used for 80 percent of transportation.

In the case of death of passenger following accidents while travelling by the said vehicle is not provided insurance cover. Nor do they get any other benefits in this regard. I want to say that accident insurance should be explained and benefits of accident insurance should reach to the masses, it should reach to illiterate persons who travel by vehicles like juggar in lack of other vehicles. I want to reiterate that very few people in India are getting the benefits of this insurance cover. The hon'ble Minister should also bring in some provisions in this Bill so that this benefit should reach to more people. I would also like to make a suggestion in this regard that though there may not be any collective data available in regard to unorganised labour but such data can be had from Gram Sarpanch and they can be given the benefit of life insurance cover. This cover has been extended to the Antyodaya families but they get very meagre amount. In case of death Rs. 10000 only is given to that family. Now-a-day Rs.10,000/- is a paltry sum.

I would like to add one more thing that those women who are in Government service get the benefit of life insurance but those who are not a Government servant they get a Joint insurance policy along with their husbands and the benefits is shared by them. The women do not get benefit separately. Are women not an individual unit in India. They should get the benefit of life insurance and in case of their death, dependents and husbands should get the benefit. The hon'ble Minister should incorporate such provisions in this Bill, if possible.

I again support this Bill strongly and request you to accommodate my feelings pertaining to this Bill.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000.

First of all, I would like to submit that the Government had set up a Commission in 1998 to review the Laws and Acts which have over-lived their utility and which need to be scrapped. These Acts are the Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act and the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act. As per the recommendations of the said Commission, it has been decided to repeal these Acts because they cease to serve any purpose, they have become obsolete and they needed to be replaced by these Acts. This is the main purpose for which the Government has come up with this Bill. I support this Bill because it should have been done even earlier.

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

When we are discussing the Insurance Act, there are some things which require to be considered. Today, if you look, it is either the Life Insurance or the General Insurance, it has covered only a small percentage of people and a small percentage of assets. It has to serve very widely. It may have to cover substantially in respect of social obligations also, if necessary. Today, as Shri Rupchand Pal has put it, the Crop Insurance Scheme in respect of farmers is not up to the mark. They are repeatedly coming before the House with the provisions saying that they are going to add and make it more serviceable and useful. But till today, they are not able to make it. This is very important because today the farmers have been able to work very hard. In spite of the calamities that had happened, either cyclone or drought or all these things together, they are hard working and producing a substantial surplus food whether it is rice or wheat or sugar - whatever you may call it. So, they need certain amount of insurance coverage. Please see the natural calamities that are taking place all over the country. There should be special insurance provisions in respect of natural calamities also.

A number of people have not been covered under the medical insurance. Today, medical treatment has become very expensive. Unless insurance coverage is there for a substantial number of people, the medical obligation would also become a problem. The Government is not able to provide a large amount of medicines for the people. At least insurance companies would take care of medicines. There are also other things which require the opinion of the international experts - as to how it should be covered widely; as to how it should serve more number of people.

I feel that unemployed people should also be covered under insurance. Unemployment is increasing. Providing insurance cover to these people would help them.

There are other insurance coverages which are required to be widely taken care of. Air insurance coverage should also be increased. So, also vehicle insurance. Accidents are taking place very frequently and at a faster pace. All types of vehicles, including two-wheelers and three-wheelers must also be brought under insurance coverage. Without the insurance coverage, they should not be allowed to ply on the roads. Under the present conditions and circumstances, this has become absolutely necessary. The Government has to come out with various types of new schemes to help the people in this regard.

The amount collected as insurance premium should be used for the development, progress and prosperity of

the country. The Government should find out as to how the insurance premium should be utilised. The Government should frame guidelines on these things.

The above points should be considered at the time of taking up the main Insurance Bill. I do not want to cover other things because this is not the main purpose of this repeal Bill. This repeal Bill should have been brought much earlier. Anyhow, we all support the Bill.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) :  
Madam, I support this Bill.

Firstly, there is a flaw in the existing law which needs to be set right - and that is regarding crop insurance. Crop insurance coverage is there as long as crop is standing in the field. Once the crop is cut, it requires at least a week for its drying, heaping and then crushing. Insurance is somehow not covered that particular stage of the crop. When it is flat in the field, it is field-oriented crop. Till such time that it is harvested, crushed and produce is taken home, that part of the period should also be covered. It is true that during this particular period, because of floods, etc. the produce is washed away and crop insurance coverage is not being given. This is the flaw that should be set right.

Secondly, regarding vehicle insurance, third party insurance is mostly not there. Poor fellow have been travelling on most of these trucks from one place to another in the rural areas when the accident takes place, they are not getting any insurance benefit.

Thirdly, in most of these things, a lot of misuse is going on. We have to be aware that in most of these godowns and warehouses, godowns are insured and the produce that is stored in those godowns is not insured. When fire accident takes place, the godown owner gets the insurance money, whereas most of the farmers who store their produce in the godowns do not get any insurance benefit.

Some of these anomalies have to be set right. Unless it is done, the actual poor persons will not get the benefit of this insurance coverage.

This is the real situation. As far as insurance is concerned, even today the elite in the society and the business community are only getting the benefit. The people who die while travelling in trucks and most of the farmers who are storing their produce in the godowns are not getting the benefit of insurance. These things have to be set right.

With these few words, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Madam Chairman, at the outset, I thank the hon. Members who participated in this debate and supported the Repeal Bill. They have raised a number of issues which are related to various human aspects, including property. But the scope of this Bill is limited to only repealing and everybody is aware of it.

Shri Rupchand Pal has raised a number of issues. I will not reply to them now. When we bring the Amendment, those issues will be looked into. In the original Act, GIC was a re-insurance company. If it had acted expeditiously, naturally, some foreign company would have come and the entire re-insurance business would have gone abroad. So, that became a re-insurance company.

I do agree with all the hon. Members that after the nationalisation of insurance, the funds collected through premium by the insurance companies were invested in nation building activities like construction of roads, provision of drinking water, health services etc. Today they are investing the money in the field of Information Technology. The insurance money has actually become a big asset for the country not only for the Plan or Non-Plan expenditure, but also for the development of the country, as a whole. Some hon. Members have made comparison as to what is the position of insurance business in countries like the USA, UK, France etc. But I would like to inform the hon. Members that when the Amendment is moved by the hon. Finance Minister, it will take care of the social sector and it will take care of other areas also.

A number of other issues have been raised by the hon. Members. But as far as vehicle insurance is concerned, a number of issues have come up, including the issue of third party insurance. Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu also mentioned the same point. When the Act, was amended and the third party was given the full insurance in the case of vehicle insurance, the passengers were left out. This is an aspect which should be looked into. In the case of public transport like buses, passengers take tickets and travel. The issue of insurance of passengers travelling by buses should also be looked into in detail, because it will ultimately increase the ticket fare also. Then, the issue of unregistered vehicles is a very serious matter. The State Governments have to look into this matter because vehicle registration comes under the purview of State Governments. I do not know why the State Governments are allowing this illegal business. The Central Governments cannot register all the vehicles.

As far as crop insurance is concerned, I do agree with the hon. Members that the rural area is benefited by this scheme, but at the same time it is neglected also in some

ways. We have covered a lot of farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme within a period of three years and it speaks volumes about the coverage of crops under insurance. We will cover all the crops under insurance very soon and this work is slowly picking up momentum. We have already assured the House that the Crop Insurance Corporation will be started soon and it will take care of all these aspects. The Bill for this purpose will come up in the near future. Today, the GIC and other subsidiaries are looking into this area.

A suggestion came from the last speaker, Shri Ummareddy. I will get it examined how it concerns the standing crop and the harvested crop and later on, the harvester. But as far as my knowledge goes, we ensure it in totality.

I do agree with the lady speaker that the organised sector takes away the benefits of all the schemes. But the agricultural labour may be a lady or a gentleman in the unorganised sector always become a victim of the Government schemes because they are not knowledgeable nor are they literate. They are not aware of it. All the NGOs and some social workers throughout the country are also trying to give them benefits. They are making their best efforts. But somehow their ignorance is there. Our suggestion is that we will definitely look into it. I think, it is a very valid suggestion, that is, how the unorganised sector can be benefited by all these things in the insurance sector. All the efforts should not go to the organised sector only. The unorganised sector—whether construction labour or agricultural labour—is definitely a producing sector. I am not going into the details. But these are good suggestions.

Then, there are things like drought or natural calamities that took place in Gujarat and West Bengal. I must convey it to Shri Rupchand Pal that when I had gone to West Bengal, I had the first meeting and then a review meeting with the Finance Minister of that State. He might have seen it in the Press also that he was totally satisfied how the insurance companies and the banking sector helped the Government of West Bengal. I think, he told me personally in front of the entire group of bankers and other officials of the companies that he was totally satisfied. Yet, much more needs to be done because, every time, you cannot settle everything. It requires some process. Some time is required for that.

So far as the Gujarat earthquake is concerned, I must congratulate the officials of the insurance companies and the banking officials. Even the officials of the Gujarat State Government and of the Central Government, looking into the disaster, lost their properties, and they and their relatives had suffered from injuries. They came out of the shock and served the people in general. The insurance companies have been paying crores of rupees

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

for coverage of insurance loss not for crop only. The banking sector is also helping that way.

When a disaster comes, the concerned officials and the officers also suffer damages. It requires one or two days to come out of the shock. They are also human beings. It is difficult to go out within an hour.

As far as Gujarat is concerned, I am placing it on record that we must congratulate them. I appreciate the enormous work done by the officials of the State Government and the Central Government as well as the of the banking and the insurance sectors.

As far as crop insurance is concerned, the banks and even insurance companies have come out with suggestions. The total crop insurance loss in the earthquake sector affected area is going in cash to the farmers so that they are able to rebuild their own things and the entire work will be on schedule. Two year moratorium for the payment of instalment will be later. That way, they are also human beings. The private insurance companies are coming forward. Everything will be adjusted.

My learned friend rightly pointed out that computation is required. When the Crop Insurance Bill was discussed, everything was elaborated by our respected Minister of Finance. That way, we want to give more coverage to the demands of the people. The coverage should be more and more. No section of the society or a class of the society should be left out from that coverage. This is the objective of this Government. I think, we will achieve that.

But I must thank all the sections of the House for giving their support. Now, I request that this Bill may be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Act, 1950, the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1956 and the General Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.*

## Clause-I – Short Title

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 3,--

for "2000"

substitute "2001"

(2)

(Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

## Enacting Formula

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 1,--

for "Fifty-first"

substitute "Fifty-second"

(1)

(Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Madam, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.43 hrs.

[English]

## COLONIAL PRISONERS REMOVAL (REPEAL) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Madam, I beg to move :

"That Bill to repeal the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act, 1884, be taken into consideration."

Madam, I stand to place before this House for consideration, passing a very innocuous, simple and repealing a non-functioning Act, namely, The Colonial Prisoners Removal (Repeal) Bill, 2000.

In fact, it is so anachronistic, so irrelevant that after the departure of Britishers, it has no value and even the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws, headed by Shri P.C. Jain had recommended that such Bills must be removed from the statute book. Through this Bill we are seeking the repeal of the Act, which has neither any functional validity nor does it serve any purpose, except that it adds only to the fat of the statute book.

The Colonial Prisoners Act was passed when the British Government had a large number of colonies and with a view to providing for the shifting, removal of prisoners and criminal lunatics from one colony to another or to the main land. It has lost its relevance immediately after Independence. In fact, this should have been repealed long back. The Act has become quite obsolete. There is no justification for its retention in the statute book.

Therefore, I would request this House that this Colonial Prisoners Repeal Bill, 2001, which seeks to repeal the original Act may kindly be passed. If the House permits, I do not think, it needs any debate on the irrelevant, obnoxious and functionally dead Bill, which is only adding to the statute book.

The Commission has also recommended that all such Acts must go.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act, 1884, be taken into consideration."

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Madam, let there be no debate on this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no unilateral powers. The names are there. Let me ask them.

Shri Nachiappan, do you want to speak? You can just get up and support it.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Madam, we are supporting the Bill but we would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell certain grievances.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you can take five minutes.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the prisoners

involved in the Union Government cases-Narcotic or Customs or FEMA or IPC-are suffering a lot. . . . (Interruptions) Even though, prison comes under the subject of the State Government, I would like to point out that the maintenance of the prison is very poor and the human rights of the prisoners are violated. The Union Government, should look into that aspect because the Union Government is also funding the maintenance of the prison. The prisoners especially in Tamil Nadu, Bihar and in such other States need a lot of improvements. When the prisoners are taken out from the prison to the court and back to prison, they are treated just like animals. The exposure to media is also very much unnecessary. Till they are convicted, they are innocent. In Tamil Nadu, they are removing the shirt of the prisoners and they are photographed. They are also exposed to Television. I would like to know as to why such type of human rights violation is being allowed since they are also human beings.

In *hawala* and such other cases, after so much of exposure and interference of the courts, they were acquitted. What will happen to the damage of their fame and also their reputation? Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this aspect.

I would like to conclude by saying that the rights of the prisoners should be protected. They should be treated as citizens with all respects till they are convicted; and after conviction also, they should be treated as human beings.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill. I would raise a pertinent question. The Jain Commission had recommended that about 1100 obsolete laws to be repealed. One such Bill, which is the Repealing and Amending Act, is under the consideration of this House.

My suggestion is that instead of taking up the Bills piece-meal, all these Bills could have been taken together so that we could have thought of sparing some time of this House for some other purpose. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : But still everybody would have insisted on talking on every Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Madam, this is an obsolete Bill. I would request you to go back to Botany Bay of Australia of the Seventeenth Century when the penal settlement for transportation of prisoners was set up by the British. The penal settlement has now become a big State and lots of people are there. They had imported rabbits also. Rabbits proliferated and they are all peace loving creatures. So, in the present context, I would say that there is no necessity of any harsh laws.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Andamans, as all of us know, had been a penal settlement. The 1897 Criminal Procedure Acts had different penal provisions. One is death; second is transportation for life; and the third is imprisonment for life and all other things. In 1957, the transportation for life was taken out.

These Act have already lost their relevance. Now, since we are thinking of reformative provisions in Penal Code, not retributive provisions, why should we keep all these Acts/ There are some other Acts also which are irrelevant in this context and they have to be removed immediately. Since time is running out, I think it is not necessary to discuss all those penal provisions which are retributive in nature. This one had been enacted in the 31st year reign of Queen Victoria and that provision is not relevant now. Since we have become an independent country, these things should go and I support these provisions.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : I have a suggestion. All these Acts should be taken in one instance and then, repealed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I just wanted to ask the Minister one thing. I do not know if it is still there. Till very recently, the King's birthday was a holiday for all prison personnel as part of the Prison Act. I do not know if that has been amended or not but nobody had even realised it was in the Statute Book till very recently.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Are these prisoners still enjoying the holiday ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know. That is why, I am asking the Minister. Many of the old laws have never really been looked into in detail to look at all the provisions which are outlived.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Madam, perhaps the Government decided in the Law Ministry that all the Ministries should take up their obsolete laws for repeal separately. That is why, they are coming one by one. Otherwise, I do not think there could be any such *modus operandi* whereby all the Bills can be brought by one Ministry at one time because every Bill has to go to the Cabinet. Every Bill has to go to the Law Ministry for vetting and all that. Those must be deleted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Even that procedure should be declared obsolete.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, the Law Ministry is

clubbing a few of them, I think, in Rajya Sabha there is one Bill which consists of 21 Bills. We are also trying to club as many Bills as possible to repeal.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Madam, Chairperson, I welcome this Bill to repeal the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act, 1884. I wonder why this has been kept so long.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is right. We are all wondering.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We waited for you to come to Lok Sabha and welcome all these things.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondecherry) : Let us pass it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : It has been 50 years now. It should have been done. I do not want to take up the valuable time of the House. But we should emulate the good work that has been done by late Shri Indrajit Gupta when he was the Home Minister. It goes to his credit. He has let off those who have not been charge-sheeted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can he let off those persons?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : So, he has done such of these good works. From 30,000, he has brought down to about 1500 or 1600 prisoner's colony without charge sheeting, without assigning any reason for imprisonment in this present modern society.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthi, most of them are women who have never been charge sheeted and who have no one to bail them out.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I agree with that. But there is no discrimination. Whether these women were brought before the law or not but many of them have been imprisoned without assigning any reason. I welcome this repeal Bill. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister, you have nothing much to reply.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Madam, I have nothing much to reply except assuring them that so far as the Government of India is concerned, we always give a lot of money to the State Government though our financial help is meant only for certain definite categories like transport, communication, medical care, repair of buildings, etc. Prison is the State subject basically.

But all the same, the hon. Members have made some good suggestions. So far as the human rights of the prisoners are concerned, I think the Human Rights Commission and all other courts are available for them also. But still the hon. Members have made some suggestions. We will certainly keep it in view, and at the

appropriate time, we would write to the State Governments also to take care of them.

With these words, I once again, repeat that this Bill which is innocuous, which is old and obsolete may kindly be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Colonial Prisoners removal Act, 1884, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The questions :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause-1 – Short Title**

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 4,--

for "2000"

Substitute "2001" (2)

(Shri I.D. Swami)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made :*

Page 1, line 1,--

for "Fifty-first"

Substitute "Fifty-second" (1)

(Shri I.D. Swami)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,  
was added to the Bill.*

*The Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have three minutes to go. Would like the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of Shipping to move the next Bill?

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : No, no.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Please get this Bill passed in fifteen minutes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Six O'clock means six O'clock right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One hour has been allotted for this purpose.

17.56 hrs.

#### **JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION LAWS (REPEAL) BILL**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856 and certain other enactments, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Central Government had appointed the P.C. Jain Committee to go into the question of obsolete pieces of legislation which are occupying the Statute Book and the P.C. Jain Committee had identified 1,323 such laws, which are actually on the statute Book but which have become irrelevant to the different areas to which they pertain. This is because of the subsequent pieces of legislation. Either they have become obsolete by subsequent pieces of legislation or parallel legislations.

Different departments have been examining each of these laws and with regard to administration of justice. These are 17 legislations which have actually become

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

irrelevant to the administration of justice and have lost their utility in this regard. By a process which we call, scavenging of the Statute Book, that whatever is irrelevant in the Statute Book must be taken out, these 17 legislations which deal with the administration of justice are proposed to be repealed.

If I might just make a brief comment, as to, in fact, what area of subjects they were occupying, the first legislation is the Civil Courts Amins Act. This is an Act of 1856. The institution of Amins in the subordinate courts has already been abolished.

The Bombay High Court (Letters Patent) Act, 1866 corrected two clerical errors which have been subsequently amended by a subsequent amendment of the Bombay High Court Act. It is no longer required.

The Unclaimed Deposits Acts, 1866 and 1870, are two legislations which deal with interest payable in Presidency Towns. The concept of Presidency Towns has been dropped.

The Acting Judges Act, 1867 is irrelevant because after the coming into force of the Constitution, appointments are covered by article 224. We have got Additional Judges under article 224 and so Acting Judges are irrelevant.

18.00 hrs.

The fifth law deals with the High Court of Uttar Pradesh. There is no High Court of Uttar Pradesh left because it is the High Court of Allahabad.

The Presidency Magistrates (Court-fees) Act deals with Presidency towns.

The Punjab Courts (Supplementing) Act, 1919 deals with the jurisdiction of the Lahore High Court.

The Federal Court was abolished in 1950. Therefore, the Federal Court Act has to be repealed.

Similarly, the Enlargement of jurisdiction Act of the Federal Court has to be repealed.

The Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction is needed since it has no longer our jurisdiction.

The Rajasthan High Court Ordinance is covered by the Constitution.

The Bhopal and Vindhya Pradesh are no longer States.

The Judicial Commissioners, Courts have been abolished. So, Act are not required.

There is no Mysore High Court now. It is the Karnataka High Courts. So, the Mysore High Court Act has to be abolished.

Similarly, the Manipur Court-Fees Act has become redundant.

As the Goa, Daman and Diu Judicial Commissioner's Court has since been abolished, the above Act may be repealed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Madam, he should honour the time and ask for extension of time. I am ready to give him time. Let him be polite. .  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Madam, I am grateful to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. I have asked for an extension of one minute.

These are the 17 legislations, which have become irrelevant and therefore, are required to be repealed by this one Act. . . .*(Interruptions)*

-MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856 and certain other enactment, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I think, we will pass it tomorrow since it is already 6 o'clock. Can we pass it without discussion ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, We will pass it tomorrow.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 23, 2001/  
Phalgun 4, 1922 (Saka)*



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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033.

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