

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Third Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Monday, May 8, 2000 Vaisakha 18, 1922 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Dahyabhai Parmar.

Shri Dahyabhai Parmar was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970 representing Patan parliamentary constituency of Gujarat.

A consulting engineer by profession, Shri Parmar was an active social and political worker. He worked relentlessly for upliftment of depressed and backward classes and established various educational and cooperative institutions for improving their lot.

Shri Dahyabhai Parmar passed away on 3 April, 2000 at the age of 86 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

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

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

*(The Members then stood in silence  
for a short while)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 581 — Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 10 people belonging to scheduled caste have been murdered in Uttar Pradesh within a week . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please do not raise this issue at this time.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : You must understand that the Question Hour is a very important. After Question Hour, you can raise whatever issue you want to raise. But let the Question Hour not be disturbed.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati and other hon. Member, please take your seats. I will allow you to raise your issue during 'Zero Hour' but not now.

*(Interruptions)*

11.02 hrs.

*At this stage Kumari Mayawati and some other  
hon'ble members came and stood on  
the floor near the Table*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. You are raising a State subject, even then I will allow you during 'Zero Hour' but not now. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please raise it during zero hour.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you have not given any notice also to suspend the Question Hour. Now, you are obstructing the Question Hour. Every time, you are raising a State subject. What is this?

*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. It is not right.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, I am appealing to you all to please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How can you force the Chair to suspend the Question Hour?

What is this? Moreover, this is a State subject. Please go to your seats. It is not right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you. This is not the way to run the House. How can you force the Chair to suspend the Question Hour? How can you stall the proceedings of the House?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you aware of the procedure ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you are aware, then go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice to suspend the Question Hour. There is a procedure for suspending the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Madam, please go to your seat.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want, you can raise it during zero hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the leaders also. This is not the way. You should not stall the proceedings of the House. What is this? This is a matter which pertains to the State. How can you obstruct the proceedings of the House?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Alvi have you given the notice to suspend the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice to suspend the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you again. Please go to your seats. You can raise this matter in the Zero Hour, not now. You have not given any notice to suspend the Question Hour. Please understand that you are raising the matter without giving any notice. This is not the procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given any notice?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Kumari Mayawati is very serious. Many reports have been received from Uttar Pradesh that dalits and people belonging to minority communities are being attacked. . . . (Interruptions) It is such a serious issue, that it should be discussed in the House. You should give an assurance that discussion will take place on this matter. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure. You can discuss the matter in the Business Advisory Committee, if you want. But this is not the way. You should not stall the proceedings of the House. You can discuss the matter in the Business Advisory Committee and finalise it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAVRAO SCINDIA : You please give an assurance that discussion will take place.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Why do not you give an assurance that there will be discussion? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, we will have a discussion in the B.A.C., and then we will decide.

(Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand it. I am again appealing to you.

[Translation]

Please resume your seat. It will not go like this. Please be seated.

[English]

What is this?

(Interruptions)

11.10 Hrs

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Recycling of Batteries

\*581. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :  
SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

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

(a) whether the Government have finalised the rules to be enforced under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate the collection and recycling of the used lead acid batteries for recovery of lead in an environmentally sound manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these rules are likely to be implemented in the States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A draft notification entitled Battery (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 is being finalised for inviting objections/suggestions from the general public. As per the proposed preliminary notification, all manufacturers, importers, re-conditioners, assemblers and dealers shall collect used batteries in lieu of new batteries sold. The manufacturers, importers, re-conditioners and assemblers are required to set up collection centres for this purpose. To ensure environment friendly re-processing, collected batteries are required to be sent only to such re-cyclers who are registered with the Ministry of

Environment and Forests. Consumers are required to return the used batteries to dealers, authorised re-cyclers etc. or deposit at designated collection centers. Manufacturers, importers and dealers shall file a quarterly return to the State Pollution Control Board/Committee of their buy-back and sale of lead acid batteries. The respective State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall be the monitoring agency.

(c) Objections and suggestions can be filed within a period of sixty days of the publication of the draft notification. The Rules shall take effect from the date of publication of the final notification in the Gazette.

### Salvaging of Sal Trees

\*582. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments have submitted any schemes for restoration and revival of the Sal forests;

(b) if so, the details and cost of such schemes;

(c) whether 30 lakhs Sal trees in the Sal forests of Madhya Pradesh and other States have fallen prey to climatic changes and are dying;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to Salvage the Sal forests in States?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no report or evidence that the Sal trees are dying in Madhya Pradesh and other states due to climatic changes. However, it has been reported that during 1995-96 to 1997-98, 41.82 lakh Sal trees were affected in Madhya Pradesh by the Sal borer attack over an area of 4591 sq.km. During 1999, Sal borer attack was also noticed in the Sal forests of Uttar Pradesh in Rajaji National Park and Dehra Dun Forest Division and in Poanta Valley in Himachal Pradesh. Sal borer attack was first noticed in 1899 in India and since then has been assuming epidemic proportion at regular intervals. It has been noticed that when the humidity level is more than 90% and temperature is around 26 degree Celsius, it multiplies rapidly and assumes epidemic form.

(e) As per the established practices, the dead and dying trees are removed and 'trap tree operations' are carried out to check the spread of borer attack. In Madhya Pradesh, 13.92 lakh affected trees had to be cut and removed from the forests and 6.38 crore beetles were trapped and killed to save the healthy Sal trees. This has

controlled the Sal borer attack to a large extent in Madhya Pradesh and other affected locations.

#### Laws of Rape

\*583. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission have recommended to the Government to make several changes in the existing laws dealing with sexual offences to make them more stringent and also to set up special courts to deal with such cases exclusively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an urgent need to review the rape laws in the light of increased incidents of custodial rape and child abuse in the country;

(d) if so, the time by which the necessary amendments in the existing laws are likely to be made, and

(e) if not, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission has submitted 172nd Report in March 2000. However, it has not suggested setting up of special courts to deal with sexual offences.

(b) The Law Commission in its 172nd Report has recommended the changes in sections 375, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, and 376D of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and also recommended insertion of new section 376E in the Indian Penal Code and amendment of section 509 of the Code. Similarly, in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Law Commission has recommended modification of section 114A, the deletion of clause (4) of section 155 and insertion of sections 53A and 146(4).

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Law Commission are proposed to be examined by the Government of India in consultation with the State Governments as Criminal Law and the Indian Evidence Act fall under the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

#### Gas Based Power Projects/Stations

\*584. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :  
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas based power projects/stations in the country alongwith their power generation capacity, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the power generation capacity of these power projects/stations;

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

(d) the funds earmarked to each of these projects/stations for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) As on 31.3.2000, there are 41 gas based power stations in the country. The State-wise details of these power stations alongwith the installed power generation capacity are as under :-

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Gas Power Stations	Installed Power Generation Capacity (MW)
1.	Haryana	1	286.00
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	175.00
3.	Rajasthan	2	451.50
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1469.00
5.	Delhi	1	1282.00
6.	Gujarat	8	2927.00
7.	Maharashtra	3	1832.00
8.	Goa	1	48.00
9.	Andhra Pradesh	3	542.40
10.	Kerala	2	485.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	2	130.00
12.	Pondichery	1	32.50
13.	Bihar	1	90.00
14.	West Bengal	3	100.00
15.	Assam	7	560.00
16.	Tripura	3	148.50
Total		41	9558.90

(b) to (d) Proposals have been received for increasing the power generation capacity of some of the existing gas based power stations. Details of the power stations and the estimated cost are as under :-

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Type of Fuel	Estimated cost
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>				
1.	RAMGARH CCGT-RSEB	71	Gas	Rs.288.63 crores
2.	Anta CCGT Stage-II, NTPC	650	Gas/Naphtha	US \$ 243.71 M+ Rs.899.64 crores
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>				
3.	Auraiya CCGT, Stage-II, NTPC	650	Gas/Naphtha	US \$ 243.844 M+Rs.857.622 crores
<b>DELHI</b>				
4.	Pragati CCGT, DVB	330	Gas	US \$ 59.888 M+ Rs.819.3 crores
<b>GUJARAT</b>				
5.	Dhuvran CCGT M/S Gujarat State Elect. Corpn. Ltd.	100	Natural Gas	Rs.350.468 crores
6.	Kawas CCGT St.II. NTPC	650	Gas/Naphtha	US \$ 243.69 M+Rs.831.57 crores
7.	Gandhar CCGT. NTPC	650	Gas/Naphtha	Us \$ 243.62 M+Rs.845.113 crores
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>				
8.	Dabhol CCGT Ph.II M/s Dabhol Power Co. of M/s Enron, US	1444	Gas	US \$ 1868 M
<b>TOTAL :</b>		<b>4545</b>		

[English]

#### Rural Electrification in Maharashtra

\*585. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rural electrification done in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for each of the State under this programme during 2000-2001;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise rural electrification system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to stream-line the system of electrification in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) State-wise, Year-wise details of village electrification and pumpset energisation in the country during the last three years are given in statement-I & II respectively.

(b) Planning Commission finalises the financial outlays and physical targets for rural electrification on an annual basis. The Planning Commission has not yet finalised the financial outlays and physical targets for the year 2000-01.

(c) and (d) The policy announced by Government of India in 1991 to encourage private sector participation in the power sector is uniformly applicable to all the States both for urban and rural areas.

(e) Ministry of Finance has decided to release funds for rural electrification directly to the States which were earlier being routed through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Further, to give boost to electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis, the Government has recently decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis during 2000-01. Government has also decided to set up a Group of Ministers (GOM) to review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification, so that they enjoy the benefits of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population.

## Statement-I

**Yearwise and Statewise Progress of Village  
Electrification During First Three Years of  
IX Five Year Plan (1991 Census)**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1997-98 Achievement	1998-99 Achievement	1999-2000 (Upto end of Feb. 2000) Achievement (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	●	●	●
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	38	48	NII
3.	Assam	20	NII	Nil(a)
4.	Bihar	5	8	17(b)
5.	Goa	\$	\$	\$
6.	Gujarat	9	4	●
7.	Haryana	●	●	●
8.	Himachal Pradesh	139	45	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	NII	13	5●
11.	Kerala	●	●	●
12.	Madhya Pradesh	463	300	54
13.	Maharashtra	\$	\$	\$
14.	Manipur	52	50	11
15.	Meghalaya	43	NII	Nil(b)
16.	Mizoram	12	3	4
17.	Nagaland	NII	10	Nil(a)
18.	Orissa	800	817	683●
19.	Punjab	●	●	●
20.	Rajasthan	698	685	235
21.	Sikkim	\$	\$	\$
22.	Tamil Nadu	●	●	●
23.	Tripura	15	3	4●
24.	Uttar Pradesh	851	711	397

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	48	83	161(c)
Total (States)		3207	2780	1578
Total UTs		●	●	●
Total (All India)		3207	2780	1578

● Cent percent villages electrified.

\$ Cent percent villages electrified as per 1981 census.

NA Not available

(a) Progress reported upto end of 11/99

(b) Progress reported upto end of 12/99

(c) Progress reported upto end of 1/2000

SOURCE (CEA)

## Statement-II

**Yearwise and Statewise Progress of Pumpsets  
Energisation During First Three Years of  
IX Five Year Plan**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto end of Feb. 2000) (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3398	59997	13419
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	Nil
4.	Bihar	932	813	437
5.	Goa	391	135	68
6.	Gujarat	25931	26282	25353
7.	Haryana	943	835	734
8.	Himachal Pradesh	318	294	296
9.	J & K	533	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	32685	59674	30880
11.	Kerala	14723	24050	17737
12.	Madhya Pradesh	52699	45857	16360
13.	Maharashtra	59473	58810	54942
14.	Manipur	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
18. Orissa		1903	1312	1091
19. Punjab		8941	9810	8772
20. Rajasthan		25308	25051	19625
21. Sikkim		-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu		41920	34673	27584
23. Tripura		-	121(*)	-
24. Uttar Pradesh		11645	16113	9240
25. West Bengal		1610	2855	1475
Total (States)		283351	366663	228013
Total (UTs)		713	581	347
Total All India		284064	367244	228360

\*Inclusive of last year achievement. (97-98)

Source (CEA)

#### Deep Sea Exploration

\*586. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has drawn any plan to undertake the exploration of oil in the deep sea;

(b) if so, the details of the deep sea areas in which exploration is likely to be undertaken by ONGC; and

(c) the funds earmarked for taking up exploration activities in the Ninth Plan period?

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

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has plans to explore in the deep water areas of Kutch offshore, Mumbai offshore and Kerala-Konkan offshore on the West Coast and also Krishna-Godavari offshore and Cauvery offshore on the East Coast.

During the year 2000-2002, ONGC plans to acquire 22,500 Line kilometre of 2D seismic and 1,19,000 Line Kilometre of 3D seismic data, and also drill eight exploratory wells in deep water areas of the East Coast and the West Coast.

Recently, ONGC has been awarded three blocks in the deep water areas of the East Coast under the

New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Exploration works in these blocks will also be taken up in a time bound manner.

(c) An amount of Rs. 210 crores was earmarked by ONGC for undertaking exploration in the deep water basins during the Ninth Plan. This has subsequently been increased to Rs. 723 crores. In addition, there would be substantial investment by joint ventures/private companies in the four deep water blocks for which contracts were signed recently on 12th April, 2000 under the NELP.

[Translation]

#### Village Public Telephone Facility

\*587. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication propose to frame a time bound action plan to provide telephone facility in all the villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets set in this regard and the achievements made during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during 2000-2001 and for the entire Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (b) Government has planned time-bound action plan to provide telephone facility in all the villages of the country. Out of 607,491 villages in the country, 374,605 villages i.e. 61.7% have been provided with public telephone facilities till 31st March 2000. The remaining 232,886 villages are planned to be covered progressively by March 2002. Department of Telecom Services plans to cover 177,038 villages, 55,848 villages are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Providers. State-wise targets and achievements during the last three years and targets set in this regard for next two years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Based on new Village public Telephone (VPT) target, fund requirement estimated for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 450 crores. For the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), funds proposed are Rs. 3057 crores for providing VPT facility in the country.



## Statement

## Statewise Target and Achievements for VPTs

Name of the State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	2001-2002
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Target
Andaman & Nicobar	181	30	53	56	63	55	8	0
Andhra Pradesh	3000	1566	400	526	0	15	0	0
Assam	4000	2484	2900	2907	3000	826	5000	3043
Bihar	12000	2615	6000	2137	8000	4602	24651	29634
Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	508	195	20	0	26	0	4	39
Himachal Pradesh	2500	1504	1000	1208	2500	2577	4000	2633
Jammu & Kashmir	1200	437	1000	763	1500	448	2000	971
Karnataka	3000	3389	2500	2521	2000	2455	1265	0
Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	5500	3878	4000	3707	5000	3546	5860	0
Maharashtra	2940	2725	2670	2462	0	165	0	0
Goa	60	36	30	10	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	362	50	171	21	750	18		
Manipur	232	115	232	48	300	44		
Meghalaya	812	180	232	233	300	111	5110	5000
Mizoram	122	15	52	30	79	14		
Nagaland	214	44	232	21	307	58		
Tripura	258	70	81	51	264	58		
Orissa	8819	2402	2400	2242	3000	2102	14000	10061
Punjab	1245	1327	345	173	0	39	0	0
Rajasthan	5000	3269	2540	2585	0	548	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1000	2530	142	196	0	11	55	91
UP (East)	14000	8618	7500	8219	7000	8303	18000	11206
UP (West)	8000	2197	5500	2937	6000	4440	9000	7020
West Bengal	7800	3153	4930	3955	4826	3520	10900	7300
Sikkim	200	4	70	50	174	10	100	40
Calcutta Tele	47	22	0	0	47	0	47	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83000</b>	<b>42855</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>37058</b>	<b>45136</b>	<b>33965</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>77038</b>

### Demand and Production of LPG

\*588. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the total demand and production of LPG in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide subsidised LPG in each village so as to protect the forests and check the wastage of manure being used in cooking; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The total production of LPG in the country during the year 1999-2000 was 4484 TMT. The total sales of LPG through Public Sector Oil Companies during the year 1999-2000 were 5856 TMT, the difference being met by imports. There are about 468.38 lakh domestic consumers of LPG and a waiting list of 63.25 lakh consumers as on 1.4.2000

(b) and (c) In order to preserve forests and environment, Government has decided to increase the availability of LPG in rural areas. Directions have been given to Oil Companies to release 1 crore LPG connections during the calendar year, 2000 to liquidate the waiting list registered with LPG distributors as of 1.12.1999 in the country. Further, Government have already increased availability of LPG in North Eastern Region, J&K and Himachal Pradesh so that there is no waiting list for LPG connections there. State Governments/UTs have also been advised to surrender their corresponding Kerosene quota to avail additional LPG connections and under this scheme, States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have availed of LPG connections

[English]

### Use of LPG in Motor Vehicles

\*589. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow use of LPG as an alternate fuel in motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his ministry has requested the Ministry Surface Transport to suitably amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the steps taken to make LPG available from petrol filling stations to the customers; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to help in reducing the bill of oil import of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is considered to be an environment friendly fuel. Its use as automotive fuel can commence only after the necessary amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and other relevant rules.

(c) and (d) A bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 4th May, 2000.

(e) Public Sector Oil Companies have been given permission to set up 92 LPG dispensing stations across the country in the initial phase.

(f) This is likely to increase the import bill of oil and oil products. However, the exact extent is still to be assessed.

### Private Participation In Port Sector

\*590. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the details of the action plan for the current year for development and restructuring of port management/ Corporatisation and privatising a number of operations for efficient working in a highly competitive global scenario.

(b) whether the Government have released model documents on private role in Ports;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed model documents; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) Action Plan for the current year in regard to Port management, corporatisation and privatisation includes the following :-

- Construction and Equipping New Berths
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art Equipment to match the emerging cargo mix
- Establishment of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
- Setting up Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)

Labour Training & Welfare

- Increased Role of Private Sector in the existing facilities as well as addition of capacity in the Ports.
- Corporatisation of Major Ports in a phased manner.

A plan outlay of Rs. 1589.99 crores has been earmarked for development of major ports during the current year.

With regard to restructuring of port management/ Corporatisation, a decision has been taken to corporatise Major Ports in a phased manner starting with the new port at Ennore and followed by Jawaharlal Nehru and Haldia Ports. A company for management of Ennore Port called Ennore Port Company has been incorporated. A calendar of activities for corporatisation of Jawaharlal Nehru Port has been prescribed.

Regarding private sector participation, so far 13 private sector/captive port projects of 52.80 million tonnes capacity with investment of Rs. 3926 crores have been approved. Eight projects of 34.4 million tonnes capacity involving investment of Rs. 3500 crores are under bidding process. Three projects aggregating to 5 million tonnes capacity and investment of Rs. 450.00 crores have been identified for which bids are yet to be invited.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has finalised model documents for private sector port projects, laying down transparent bidding procedure, qualification and selection criteria, bid evaluation procedure, termination payments, dispute resolution process etc. and detailed terms and conditions of the License Agreement, inter-alia, aiming at bankability, uniformity and reduction in time taken to select private parties. The documents have been circulated to all major ports for adoption.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of Postal System

\*591. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to modernise the postal system to do away with mismanagement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The Department has undertaken modernisation programme of the postal systems from beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan. This has involved the following activities.

Installation of computer based multipurpose counter machines in important post offices particularly at the point of interface with the customers. A total of 2680 computer based multipurpose counter machines were installed during the 8th Five Year Plan. During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 of the 9th Five Year Plan 918, 1429 and 1250 machines respectively have been installed. Twelve crore transactions per year are being transacted on these machines.

Action has been taken to modernise money transfer systems by adapting satellite technology and installation of 77 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) during the 8th Five Year Plan. Order for installation of 62 high speed VSATs have been placed in March, 2000. 1.25 crore money orders are being transmitted annually on this network.

Action has also been taken to automatise the processing of mail in major metropolitan cities. The Automatic Mail processing systems have been installed in Chennai and Mumbai during the Eighth Plan and about 12 lakh letters are being processed daily.

Computerised mail centres in 41 RMS offices have been set up during the first three years of the 9th five Year Plan with a view to automatising processing of accountable mail like registered articles, insured articles etc.

[English]

#### Money Order Forms

\*592. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the Money Order forms, which are often not printed in the Regional Languages, cause hardship to the rural masses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have received any complaints/representations in the matter during each of the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) It is the longstanding policy of the Department to print money order forms in Hindi speaking States in Hindi and English, whereas in non-Hindi speaking States money order forms are printed in three languages, i.e. Regional language, Hindi and English.

No complaints were received except in November 1988, in Tamil Nadu Circle, where, to cope with the heavy demand, money order forms were obtained from other Circles which were not printed in local Regional language. However, immediately on receipt of the complaints, the stock was withdrawn.

#### **Allocation of Kerosene to Private Sector Companies**

\*593. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have been allocating kerosene to some of the private sector companies in the country as an industrial fuel;

(b) if so, the details of private sector companies to which kerosene has been allocated during the last three years;

(c) the price at which kerosene was allocated and the total quantum of kerosene allocated to these companies during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which the private sector companies have properly utilised the quota of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual allocation is made by Central Government to States/Union Territories for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The distribution through PDS is monitored by the State Governments/Union Territories' Administration. In addition, the Central Government makes allocation outside PDS and under the special categories meant for Railways, Defence, DGS&D, etc. Who are supplied directly by the Oil Companies. The Central Government does not allocate Kerosene directly to private sector companies.

#### **Review of Constitution**

\*594. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Venkatachaliah Commission has started the work of review of Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the details of the precise areas which will be subjected to this review?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No aspect of the Constitution has been specifically referred to the National commission to Review the Working of the Constitution for examination. However,

the terms of reference of the Commission are to examine, in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, as to how best the Constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of Parliamentary democracy and to recommend changes, if any, that are required in the provisions of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features.

#### **Indian Forest Act, 1927**

\*595. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a new Act, in place of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 which has become outdated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Government have decided to amend the India Forest Act, 1927 and the proposals for amendment have already been finalised by the Ministry.

(b) The statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Salient features of the proposed amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 as finalised by the Ministry*

First drafted in 1865, the Indian Forest Act was revised in 1878 and was consolidated again in 1927. The existing Indian Forest Act, 1927 is a consolidated law relating to forests managed for production. The proposed amendment gives more emphasis to conservation aspects in conformity with the National Forest Policy, 1988. The salient features of the proposed amendments are as under :-

1. It updates and consolidates various forest and related Acts, and the amendments made by the States to the IFA, 1927 from time to time. Some definitions have also been added.
2. Suitable provisions have been proposed in the draft to give effect to the pronouncements made in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The preamble of the Act "to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest produce and duty leviable on timber & forest produce" has been revised as "to provide for the restoration, conservation and management of forests and matter connected therewith and incidental thereto".

3. Central Government have been given entrusted with powers to give directions to the States and also to make rules and take other measures necessary or expedient for the protection and improvement of the quality of forests.
4. Central Government have also been entrusted with powers to direct State Governments to constitute a reserved or protected forests within a prescribed time and also the power to give direction to any State Government, officer or person in exercise of its power and functions.
5. Village communities have been assigned greater duties and responsibilities in the protection and management of village forests adjoining habitations to meet their requirements. The scope of village forests has been extended to community lands, institutional lands, village common lands, and other wastelands with a view to assign to village community its conservation, development and management on the principles of sustained biomass production for the collective benefit of the community. State Government may constitute any forest/land, other than a reserved forest, which is the property of the Government or village panchayat or community or over which the Government or village panchayat or community has any right, a village forest. The management of the village forest, as per approved Plan, will be with the community.
6. Village community may also participate in the management of other degraded forests including reserved forests under the provision of Joint Forest Management on usufruct sharing basis provided in the amended Act.
7. Control of shifting cultivation has been proposed to rehabilitate the affected areas with appropriate landuse safeguarding the interest of the affected people.
8. Suitable provisions have been made to encourage tree plantation on private lands. There is provision for registration of any farmer or individual as tree grower in respect of his land in which he has raised plantation. Plantation forests shall not be included in agricultural land holding for the purpose of ceiling laws. State Governments have been empowered to relax or exempt the prevailing restrictions specially on felling and transport of certain species/timber from private to encourage social forestry and farm forestry programmes. States have also been empowered to prohibit or restrict, felling of damaging or removing any kind of tree or all trees from any urban area and from any particular part of the rural area. A tree authority has been proposed for conservation of trees in urban areas and in any particular part of the rural area for mobilising people support for planting and preservation of trees.
9. States have been empowered to impose a levy on the sale and disposal of forest produce. It will be a 'forest development tax' at a rate not exceeding 15% of the value assessed or the amount of consideration paid for the forest produce. It will be in addition to any duty or tax payable and will not be a part of consolidated fund of the State. This amount will exclusively used for regeneration and protection of forests.
10. A number of regulatory measures have been provided for effective control on forest based industries. Requisite provisions have been made to ensure that industries using forest produce as a raw material are not set up without ascertaining adequate availability of such raw material. Provision has also been made for fixing a support price of any forest produce by the Central or the State Government to save the farmers from any possible exploitation.
11. Measures for protection have been made more effective. Penal provisions for the offence of unauthorised felling and removal of forest produce from the reserved and protected forests and other offences have been made more stringent. Some of the offences like encroachments have been made non-bailable and a minimum mandatory imprisonment and fine have been provided. Special provision has been made for preventing corrupt practices by forest and other officials charged with responsibilities of forest protection.
12. Special provisions have been made for controlling saw milling, processing of certain types of forest produce, possession, trade and processing of produce of endangered forest species.
13. Specific provisions have been made stipulating that the government forests shall be managed only in accordance with approved management plans.
14. Procedures under the Act have been comprehensively amended. Forest officials are empowered to confiscate the seized forest

produce including tools, equipment, machinery, plants, vehicles, etc. involved in forest offences. Inter-departmental co-operation has been made mandatory for prevention and detection of forest offences.

15. Provisions have been made to regulate the possession, transit and disposal of wood and products of sandal wood, red sander, and agar wood and other endangered species declared by the State Governments.
16. Provision to reward to any person including forest officers helping in detection of forest offence has been made.

#### **Trial of Public Servants Facing Corruption Charges**

\*596. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will The Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Supreme Court has desired speedy trial of public servants facing corruption charges; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to avoid the delay caused by time consuming procedures in the legal system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. In *Arivazhagan Vs. State*, the Supreme Court of India, vide judgement dated 8.3.2000 [reported in 2000 (2) SCALE 263], inter alia, directed as under :

"... It is true that the concept of speedy trial must apply to all trials, but in the trials for offences relating to corruption the pace must be accelerated with greater momentum due to variety of reasons. . . ."

(b) Government has taken various steps for speedy disposal of cases. These include, inter alia, establishment of Special Courts (including Special CBI Courts)/tribunals and appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates. Some amendments in the Criminal Procedure Code are also proposed.

The Registry of Supreme Court of India has informed that the matters pertaining to the Prevention of Corruption Act are being taken up by the Supreme Court of India on priority basis as per the observations made by the Court in the Judgement referred to above.

#### **Expansion of Speed Post Service**

\*597. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Speed Post Service is getting tough competition from private courier service;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to improve the Speed Post Service to enable it to effectively compete with the private courier service;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the Speed Post Service in various States including Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) It is a fact that the private courier service is giving a serious competition to the Speed Post Service especially in the areas of parcels and documents. The private courier service operates on commercial parameters and has dedicated manpower, transport and other logistical support. The Department of Post has also taken a number of steps to strengthen the Speed Post Service to meet the challenge from the private couriers. The network of Speed Post Offices has been expanded on a two tier basis by opening 494 State Speed Post Offices at mufussil towns and in the district headquarters and by linking 100 major cities and towns in the country on the national network. To enhance the satisfaction of the customers, delivery system has been restructured by creating nodal offices with dedicated delivery staff and by mechanising wherever possible the delivery beats. In addition, booking and delivery offices have been computerized, track and trace system has been introduced coupled by daily monitoring of quality of delivery service. Free pick up service facilities from the customer premises have also been introduced to the market share. For further strengthening of the Speed Post Service, a proposal has been made to the Government for creating a wholly dedicated Business Development Group with full-fledged managerial set up and operative staff for greater market penetration. In fact, the growth of the Speed Post Service during the last three years has been very encouraging as furnished below :

Revenue in 1997-98	Revenue in 1998-99	Revenue in 1999-2000
Rs. 77.95 crores	Rs. 91.36 crores	Rs. 126.17 crores

The growth in revenue during the last financial year was 38% compared to the previous year, i.e., 98-99 which according to the market information is higher than the growth rate of courier industry which is about 25%.

**Bank Guarantee of Cellular  
Telephone Companies**

**\*598. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :**  
**SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has seized around Rs. 600 crore worth of bank guarantees of cellular telephone companies;

(b) if so, the name of the companies whose bank guarantees have been seized and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Cellular Telephone Operators Association of India (COAI) has raised objections in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether all the private operators have urged the Government to extend their bank guarantees; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (g) Under the License Agreements read with the migration package, the operators had to furnish and maintain Financial Bank Guarantees (FBGs) to securitize license fees and other dues. Since the Financial Bank Guarantees of some of the operators were expiring on 31st March, 2000, it became necessary to securitize both the license fees payable under the revenue sharing arrangement and other outstanding dues of wireless fees and royalty. Accordingly, a lien was recorded on these Financial Bank Guarantees of 10 operators amounting to Rs. 189.49 Crores. The names of these operators are given in the enclosed statement.

The Cellular Operators Association of India objected to this action on two main grounds, namely, no prior notice had been given and that, the Financial Bank Guarantees were required to be valid only till 31st March 2000. However, this did not take into account the fact that the operators were required to provide Financial Bank Guarantees to cover the outstanding amounts due including further sums, which might become due from time to time. The operators have since been requested to modify the amounts of their Financial Bank Guarantees to cover their dues and to extend their validity for a period of one year.

**Statement**

*Name of the Cellular Companies on whose Bank Guarantees the Lien was Recorded*

1. Bharti Cellular

2. Bharti Telenet
3. BPL Mobile Communications
4. BPL US West
5. Escotel Mobile Communication
6. Fascel
7. Modi Telstra
8. Skycell Communications
9. Sterling Cellular
10. Tata Communications

**Target for Expansion of National Highways**

**\*599. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :**  
**SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :**

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the expansion of National Highways in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of work of the set target completed as on date;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) the details of the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Statements I & II indicating targets and achievements in respect of Ministry of Surface Transport (Department of Road Transport and Highways) and NHAI are enclosed.

(c) and (d) Following is the yearwise allocation and expenditure for development of National Highways under NH(O) scheme of the Ministry and under NHAI (Investment) head during the first three years of the 9th Five Year Plan

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)		Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	
	NH(O) Scheme (Investment)	*NHAI (Investment)	NH(O) Scheme (Investment)	NHAI (Investment)
1997-1998	551.24	290	494.56	290
1998-1999	792.13	101	680.27	101
1999-2000	1084.62	1192	**1084.62	1192

\* Allocations to NHAI under NHAI (Investment) head are deemed as expenditure by the Ministry.

\*\* Figure is provisional since expenditure details awaited.

## Statement-I

Physical Targets/Achievements for the Ninth Five Year Plan of Most  
(Department of Road Transport & Highways)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Unit	Ninth Plan Target (1997-2002) Km/Nos	Performance for First Three Years (1997-2000) of the Ninth Plan			Shortfall in achieving the targets for first three years of Ninth Plan (%agewise)	Balance Targets for remaining two years of the Ninth Plan
Normal NH works				Target (Km/Nos)	Achievement (Km/Nos)	Achievement in percentage		
1	Widening to two lanes	Km	1194	644	786	122	0	Emphasis will be on improvement of Riding Quality,
2	Widening to four lanes	Km	202	130	290	223	0	
3	Strengthening weak 2 lanes	Km	2908	1651	1522	92	8	
4	Bypasses	No.	20	15	5	33	67	
5	Major Bridges	No.	40	35	31	89	11	
6	Minor Bridges including	No.	226	183	136	74	26	
7	Expressways	On very selective basis where traffic density is exceptionally high						

N.B. Major shortfall have been in construction of bypasses and bridges. This is primarily due to time consuming process of land acquisition and shifting of services. Targets in widening to 2-lane/4-lane were achieved because the funds meant for bypasses and bridges, in the meantime, were utilised for widening activities.

- \* The above Targets/Achievements excludes the NHAI programme.

## Statement-II

## NHA/ Programme

1	National Highway Development Project	Unit	Total length covered under the Project (Km)	Length already Four laned (Km)	On going works/under imple-mentation (Km)	Length to be awarded (Km)	Length to be awarded (Km)	Total length for award (Km)	Target date of completion
						2000-2001	2001-2002	Up to 2002	
(a)	Golden Quadrilateral								
	Widening to four/Six lanes	Km	5952	558	712	3167	1515	4682	Year 2003.
(b)	North-South & East-West corridors								
	Widening to four/Six lanes	Km	7300	630	272	378	0	378	Year 2009
Total		Km	13252	1188	984	3545	1515	5060	
2	Other works by NHAI	Km	1000	0	214	161	625	786	Year 2009



### HPCL Ties with Prize Petroleum

\*600. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the specific gains to the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in tying up with Prize Petroleum;
- (b) the details of the equity contribution of HPCL in this venture;
- (c) whether Prize Petroleum has purchased seismic data on oil resources in India;
- (d) if so, to what extent data collected is authentic;
- (e) the details of the new oil which is expected to be produced by HPCL Prizes Petroleum combination; and
- (f) the time schedule of this activity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) (i) To ensure security of crude supply for the HPCL refineries from its own sources particularly during the deregulated scenario; and (ii) to provide vertical integration of upstream and downstream activities.

- (b) 50% of the equity is held by HPCL.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) and (f) Prize Petroleum was registered in 1998 and is yet to commence commercial operations.

### Strengthening the Transmission Lines in Kerala

6310. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government/Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. propose to strengthen the transmission lines to bring power to Kerala to stabilise the power supply in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal for construction of 400 KV lines each from Madhurai to Thiruvananthapuram and from Bangalore to Kozhikode (Kerala) have been taken up; and
- (d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Presently, Kerala's share of power from Central Sector

generating stations in Southern Region is about 480 MW which is being transmitted through existing Udumalpet – North Trichur 400 KV D/C line and 220 KV inter-state links. Besides, the entire 300-350 MW power generated from Kayamkulam GBCCP is being utilised in Kerala for which POWERGRID has constructed separate 220 KV transmission system. The existing transmission lines are considered sufficient to transfer the present share of Central sector power to Kerala.

However, in order to meet the future requirement of power in Kerala, POWERGRID is considering to establish Madurai-Thiruvananthapuram 400 KV D/C line alongwith a new 400/220 KV sub-station at Thiruvananthapuram. The survey work for this transmission line has been completed. The Bangalore-Kozhikode 400 KV line has been identified by POWERGRID for construction alongwith Associated Transmission Systems of future projects.

### Special Purpose Vehicle by NTPC

6311. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for environment protection and water management;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise the money of Special Purpose Vehicle for afforestation and water management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) As decided by Ministry of Power, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) would create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for environment protection and water management. The SPV would be floated under NTPC in which 1% of the capital cost for setting up of a power plant is contemplated to be set aside for afforestation and water management. The scope of SPV would be expanded later on so as to include other public sector undertakings of the Ministry of Power. NTPC is working on the details for formation of SPV.

[Translation]

### Hydro Electric Power Project in Bihar

6312. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are big water reservoirs in the Purnea district of Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether Hydro electric power is being generated from the said reservoirs;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any Hydro-electric power project in Purnea;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) According to the Central Electricity Authority, no scheme has identified for hydro electric power development in Purnea District of Bihar.

[English]

#### Forest Cover in Visakhapatnam

6313.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any satellite imagery of the forest cover in Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether forest cover is fast declining in the Eastern Ghats; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to enhance forest cover in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to latest State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India on the basis of assessment of the forest cover with the use of satellite data of the period October, 1989 to October, 1993, there has been loss of 3018 sq.km. in the combined districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No separate assessment has been made about loss of forest cover in the Eastern Ghats, however, in the States comprising Eastern Ghats, following are the details of loss/gain of forest cover as per the latest State of Forest Report, 1997 compared to State of Forest Report, 1995 :

Sl. No.	State	Loss/gain of forest cover (in sq.km)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-3622
2.	Orissa	-70
3.	Tamil Nadu	+19

(d) To enhance the forest cover in the states comprising Eastern Ghats, Projects have been sanctioned

during the Ninth Plan for Rs. 6245.04 lakhs for afforestation on 1.15 lakh hectares under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of this Ministry. Externally aided projects are also being implemented for development and preservation of forests in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

#### Out of Order Telephones

6314.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cables are being cut by unscrupulous people or snag appears therein and the Government have not been able to control the same thereby failing to provide a proper and satisfactory service to the telephone subscribers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of times the cables have been cut/stolen in each of the last three years till date;

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

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

(e) whether a large number of telephones in the various telephone exchanges in Delhi particularly in R.K. Puram area are lying out of order at present;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the said telephones are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir. Despite precautionary measures, such as intensified patrolling on the vulnerable (theft prone) cable routes in Co-ordination with the police authorities having been taken, some cable thefts do occur in different parts of Delhi, thereby affecting the telecom services. These cables are restored on war footing to provide satisfactory service to the affected customers.

(b) The details of number of theft cases during the last three years in MTNL, Delhi are as below :

Year	No. of cables
1997-98	238
1998-99	194
1999-2000	179

(c) All these cable theft cases are being reported to concerned police stations for investigations. Also co-ordination meetings are being held with Police Authorities even at senior levels to curb frequent occurrence of such cable thefts.

(d) No significant output reflecting reduction in Cable theft has been noticed so far.

(e) to (g) No Sir. as on 28.4.2000, 4484 subscribers were affected due to cable break down only in the M.T.N. L., Delhi Network. However, in R. K. Puram only one underground distribution cable of size 2000 pairs was damaged by outside agency on 24.4.2000, affecting telephone services to 39 subscribers. This cable has now been restored and the services are normalized.

[Translation]

#### Complaints Against Telephone Department, Jamnagar

6315. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have received a large number of complaints against telephone department in Jamnagar region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received during the last two years and as on date; and

(c) the action taken on each of these complaints alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The number of complaints received is not very high. The details about written complaints are given below :

Jan.98-Dec.98	267
Jan.99-Dec.99	418
Jan.2000-Mar.2000	050

(c) Complaints received covered problems relating to telephone functioning, provision of new telephone connection, provision of new telephone exchange, provision reliable media, etc. Except for 41 new telephone connections. 16 requests for new telephone exchange, 15 cases of reliable media, 15 cases of STD facility and 2 case of staff; all the other case have been already settled.

[English]

#### Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

6316. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has acquired a 30 per cent of shares in India info company for no monetary consideration; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, VSNL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indiatel. com Private limited, Bangalore. As per the terms of the MOU VSNL will get 30% stake in the company without any payment. In addition, VSNL will get 20% Share of the Company revenue with minimum guaranteed amount of Rs. 201. Crores over a period of 3 years.

(b) VSNL has been providing Internet services since 1995. As a result of the new ISP policy a number of new ISPs have been licensed to provide internet services in India, resulting in a competitive scenario. Therefore, it is necessary to provide for rich content and E-commerce capabilities. At present VSNL does not have expertise to provide independent content and E-commerce facilities on the net. The partnership with Indiatel will provide VSNL with the capability to provide rich content and E-commerce through a joint portal VSNL-Indiatel.com (Co-branded portal).

This will make VSNL services on par with other competing ISPs which have access to content and advertising through similar partnership. This partnership will thus add value to VSNL Internet services while generating financial bene-fit for VSNL.

#### National Parks and Sanctuaries

6317 SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country;

(b) the physical, social, economic and ecological infrastructure facilities in each of them;

(c) whether these National Parks and Sanctuaries are connected by networking;

(d) if not, whether there is a plan to connect these parks and sanctuaries by net working; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the information last compiled by the Ministry there are 86 national parks and 448 sanctuaries in the country.

(b) The national parks and sanctuaries have basic infrastructure for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitat. The Central Government provide funding for the objectives mentioned above through centrally sponsored schemes, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries',

'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'. For socio economical objectives a separate scheme "Eco Development around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves" is also being implemented by the Government of India.

(c) to (e) Major national parks and sanctuaries particularly those covered by 'Project Tiger' have internet linkages.

#### Facilities to Kendriya Vidyalaya by NTPC

6318. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NTPC has provided any facilities and financial assistance to the Kendriya Vidyalaya located in the N.T.P.C. campus at Ramagundam;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the present strength of Kendriya Vidyalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Financial outlay for Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Ramagundam for the last three years is as given below :-

1997-98	Rs. 57,93,000
1998-99	Rs. 57,55,000
1999-2000	Rs. 73,90,000

All capital and revenue expenditure of KV Ramagundam as per KV Sangathan (KVS) norms is met by National Thermal Power Corporation. The employees of KV Ramagundam are provided with all facilities like residential accommodation, medical facility etc. as per KVS norms.

(c) Staff strength of KV Ramagundam for the year 1999-2000 is as given below :-

Teaching staff	48
Non-teaching :	12
Total	60

Details of number of students for the year 1999-2000 is as given below :-

NTPC	387
Central Industrial Security Force	420
Others	34
Total	841

#### Performance of PSUs

6319. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry for which Memorandum of Understandings have been signed recently during the current year;

(b) the details of achievements made during the period by these PSUs, PSU-wise so far; and

(c) the details of the ongoing and new power projects proposed by PSUs in power sector cleared/under consideration alongwith their present status, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) These are six MoUs signing Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power. The performance of each PSU in 1998-99 was as under :

Name of PSU	MoU rating
(1) NTPC	Excellent
(2) NHPC	-Do-
(3) Powergrid	-Do-
(4) PFC	-Do-
(5) REC	-Do-
(6) NEEPCO	Very Good

Evaluation of performance for the year 1999-2000 is underway.

(b) Details of achievements during 1998-1999, PSU-wise are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) Details of major ongoing and new power projects proposed by PSUs alongwith their present status are given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

##### Performance of PSUs

#### 1998-99

##### 1. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) :

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 2615.73 crores
Generation	-	1,09,500 Million Units

##### 2. National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC):

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 305.30 crores
Generation	-	9,917 Million Units

**3. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) :**

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 58.22 crores
Generation	-	1935.93 Million Units

**4. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) :**

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 444.42 crores
Circuit Kilometers	-	3444
Line Availability	-	98.64 %

**5. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) :**

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 541.36 crores
Loans Sanctioned	-	Rs 3338.75 crores
Loans Disbursed	-	Rs 2467.00 crores

**6. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) :**

Net Profit after Tax	-	Rs 299.24 crores
Loans Sanctioned	-	Rs 2878.73 crores
Loans Disbursed	-	Rs 2202.60 crores

**Statement-II**

*Details of Some of Major Ongoing Central Sector Power Projects*

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Commissioning Schedule date
1	2	3

**Hydro Projects**

1. Duthasti (3x130 MW) - J&K	March, 2002
2. Dhauliganga (4x70 MW) - U.P.	2004-05
3. Chamara (St.II) (3x100 MW) - H.P.	2004-05
4. Koel Karo (4x172.5 + 1x20 MW), Bihar	8 years from date of start.
5. Loktak D/S (3x30 MW) Manipur	2006-07
6. Teesta St. V (3x170 MW) Sikkim	2006-07
7. Nathpa Jhakri (6x250 MW) H.P.	2001-02
8. Tehri St. I (4x250 MW) U.P.	2001-03
9. Koteswar Dam (4x100 MW) U.P.	2005-06
10. Doyang (3x25 MW) Nagaland	2000-01
11. Ranganadi (3x135 MW) Arunachal Pradesh	2001-02

1	2	3
12. Tuirial (2x30 MW) Mizoram		2005-07
13. Kopili St. II (1x25 MW) - Assam		2003-04

**Thermal Projects**

1. Faridabad Gas Power Project, Haryana	06.99 - 10/2000
2. Simdhari TPS, Andhra Pradesh	03/2002 - 12/2002
3. Ramagundam TPP-St.III, Andhra Pradesh	55 months from the date of investment.
4. Farakka STPS St.III, West Bengal	Yet to be finalised.
5. Talcher STPP St.II, Orissa	11/2003 - 02/2006
6. Neyveli TPS-I, Tamil Nadu	11/2001 - 05/2002

**Transmission Projects :**

**Ongoing Projects :**

1. Kishenpur-Moga Transmission System	December, 2000
2. Nathpa-Jhakri Transmission System	December, 2000
3. Jalandhar-Hamirpur Transmission System	July, 2000
4. Tehri Transmission System	March, 2002
5. Eastern-Northern Inter Regional HVDC Link	March, 2000
6. 400/220 KV Allahabad S/Stn.	March, 2001
7. Agartala Transmission System	December, 2000
8. Talcher Transmission System	June, 2003
9. LD and C Schemes in NR	January, 2002
10. LD and C Scheme in SR	January, 2002
11. LD and C Schemes in NER	April, 2004
12. LD and C Schemes in ER	September, 2003

*List of Major New Central Sector Power Projects Awaiting Investment Sanction by Central Government*

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3

**Hydel projects**

1. Parbati HEP St.II, H.P.	4x200 = 800
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1	2	3
2.	Baglihar HEP, J&K	3x150 = 450
3.	Chamera HEP St. II, H.P.	3x100 = 300
4.	Teesta St.III HEP, Sikkim	6x200 = 1200
5.	Dhaleshwari HEP, Mizoram	3x40 = 120
6.	Loktak Downstream HEP, Manipur	3x30 = 90
7.	Tehri Dam St.II HEP, U.P.	4x250 = 1000
8.	Kameng HEP, Arunachal Pradesh	4x150 = 600
9.	Tuivai HEP, Mizoram	3x70 = 210

**Thermal Projects**

1.	Auriya CCGP St. II, U.P.	650
2.	Rihand STPP St.- II, U.P.	2x500 = 1000
3.	Anta CCGT St.II, Rajasthan	650
4.	Kawas CCGP St-II, Gujarat	650
5.	Jhanor-Gandhar CCGP St.II, Gujarat	650
6.	Ramagundam TPP-III, Andhra Pradesh	1x500 = 500
7.	Talcher STPP-II, Orissa	4x500 = 2000
8.	Sipat STPP, Madhya Pradesh	3x660 = 1980
9.	Kahalgaon STPP St.II	2x660 = 1320

**New Schemes of POWERGRID :**

Sl. No.	Schemes	Likely Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3
1.	Unified Load Despatch and Communication for WR	2003-2004
2.	Jamshedpur-Rourkela Grid Strengthening	36 months from approval
3.	Talcher-Meramundi Grid Strengthening	-Do-
4.	LILO of Purnea-Dalkhola	July, 2001
5.	East-West Inter-Regional Link	36 months from approval
6.	LILO of Bongaigaon-Malda line at Siliguri	30 months from approval
7.	LILO of Bongaigaon-Malda line at Purnea	October, 2002

1	2	3
8.	ICT at Jeypore	24 months from approval
9.	ICT at Malda	18 months from approval
10.	India-Bangladesh T/L	48 months from approval
11.	Kolhapur-Ponda	36 months from approval
12.	Reactor for Kathalguri	12 months from approval
13.	Ranganadi-Ziro	24 months from approval
14.	Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai	24 months from approval
15.	System Strengthening-II of SR	30 months from approval
16.	NLC Extension	March, 2001
17.	ICT Nagarjuna Sagar	24 months from approval
18.	Ramagundam-III	48 months from approval
19.	Kaiga-Extension	36 months from approval
20.	ICT-Ballabgarh	24 months from approval
21.	Series Compensators on Kanpur-Ballabgarh Line	24 months from approval
22.	Dhauliganga TL	48 months from approval
23.	Vindhyachal Realignment	12 months from approval
24.	Talcher-II	48 months from approval
25.	Tala HEP-T/L	48 months from approval
26.	Kawas-II	24 months from approval
27.	Gandhar-II	24 months from approval
28.	Auraiya-II	24 months from approval
29.	Anta-II	24 months from approval
30.	Sipat	January, 2000
31.	Dulhasti Phase-II	March, 2002
32.	Chamera-II	48 months from approval

**M.A.R.R. Telephones in Maharashtra**

6320. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new Multi Access Rural Radio system telephones in Maharashtra particularly in Thane District of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the manner in which the target in this regard is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no proposal to set up new Multi Access Rural Radio system telephones in Maharashtra, including Thane district.

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

#### National Highways in A.P.

6321. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conditions of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is not traffic worthy;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh for National Highways (original works) and maintenance works during the last three years;

(d) whether the amount allocated has been used as per schedule;

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

(f) the total length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh to be undertaken for repair and maintenance during the current year i.e. 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Highways in Andhra Pradesh are being maintained in a traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) Amount allocated during the last three years :

Year	NH(Original) (Rs. crore)	Maintenance and Repair (Rs. crore)
i) 1997-1998	29.50	40.53
ii) 1998-1999	45.00	46.31
iii) 1999-2000	50.45	47.70

(d) and (e) Yes, except during 1999-2000 for which the expenditure is as under :

i) NH(O) Rs. 39.38 crore

ii) M&R Rs. 43.95 crore

Allocated funds could not be fully utilized by the Andhra Pradesh PWD during 1999-2000 due to acute shortage of Bitumen in the working season from January to March, 2000.

(f) The entire NH length of 3967 km is proposed for routine maintenance during the year 2000-2001.

[Translation]

#### SDCA Telephones Exchanges

6322. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) telephone exchanges functioning at present in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether these exchanges are functioning properly in the State particularly in Bilaspur district;

(c) if not, the reason therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether border areas have been connected with this service; and

(e) if not, the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Sir, these exchanges are generally functioning properly including those in Bilaspur Distt.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) Sir, normally all the telephone exchanges in the network are interconnected including those in border areas.

#### Statement

##### Statement of Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) telephone exchanges functioning in Madhya Pradesh state, district-wise

Sl. No.	Name of district	No. of Telephone exchanges working at the centre (SDCC) of SDCAs.
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	8
2.	Betul	8
3.	Shivpuri	8
4.	Bhopal	2
5.	Korba	5
6.	Bilaspur	8

1	2	3
7.	Janjgir Champ	5
8.	Chattarpur	8
9.	Tikamgarh	4
10.	Sehore	5
11.	Chindwara	10
12.	Damoh	6
13.	Dewas	5
14.	Dhar	6
15.	Durg	8
16.	Kawardha	2
17.	Rajnandgaon	6
18.	Guna	9
19.	Gwalior	6
20.	Datia	1
21.	Indore	4
22.	Harda	2
23.	Hoshangabad	7
24.	Jabalpur	5
25.	Katni	2
26.	Kanker	7
27.	Dantewada	15
28.	Bastar	13
29.	Jhabua	6
30.	Khandwa	8
31.	Khargone	41
32.	Mandla	8
33.	Dindori	2
34.	Mandsaur	5
35.	Neemauch	3
36.	Morena	6
37.	Sheopur Kala	3
38.	Bhind	4
39.	Narsinghpur	5
40.	Panna	5
41.	Raigarh	7

1	2	3
42.	Jashpur	2
43.	Raipur	11
44.	Mahasamud	4
45.	Dhamtari	3
46.	Raisen	7
47.	Rajgarh	5
48.	Ratlam	4
49.	Rewa	5
50.	Sagar	7
51.	Satna	6
52.	Seoni	6
53.	Umaria	2
54.	Shahadol	9
55.	Manpur	1
56.	Sidhi	7
57.	Shajapur	5
58.	Korea	2
59.	Sarguja	14
60.	Ujjain	6
61.	Vidisha	7
TOTAL :		361

[English]

**Pending Applications for Outlets in Kashmir**

6323. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2701 dated March 13, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Dealer Selection Board has considered the pending applications for retail outlets in the Kashmir valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of these outlets have already been or are being handed over on three years lease basis to private parties termed as "Handling contractors" under the pretext of "Coco-pumps";

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the justifications and the criteria adopted for selection therefor;



(e) whether the Government propose to cancel these leases in the light of the anomalies made in awarding of such leases;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (g) The Dealer Selection Board could not consider applications pending for selection of retail outlet dealerships in Kashmir Valley on account of stay on selection process due to announcement of General Elections and enforcement of Model Code of Conduct in July, 1999 and subsequently its dissolution alongwith other Dealer Selection Boards.

In order to avoid idling of investments made in development of the retail outlet dealerships, guidelines have been laid down regarding running of the retail outlets for which sites have been taken over and facilities installed on Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) basis. As per these guidelines, the Sales Officer is incharge of such outlet. The Labour contractor is appointed for a period of one year in the manner provided under these guidelines, which can be renewed for a further period of one year.

Accordingly, Oil Companies have developed three retail outlet dealerships as Company Owned Company Operated as per the above Scheme in Kashmir Valley.

#### Programme for New Express Highways

6324. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total programme of Ninth Plan period for new Express Highways, Link Highways and Corridor roads in the country alongwith the amount allocated for the same, State-wise; and

(b) the composition of National Highways Authority of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The programme for sanction of schemes under National Highway (Original) during the 9th Five Year Plan to be undertaken by the Ministry is shown in enclosed statement-I. The State-wise details of allocation of funds under National Highway (Original) for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 of the 9th Five Year Plan are given in statement-II.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) programme during the 9th Five Year Plan and allocation during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given in statement III and IV respectively.

(b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is headed by Chairman and is comprising of five full time members and four part-time members. Presently, there are four full time members and three part time members.

#### Statement-I

##### Physical Targets/Achievements for the Ninth Five Year Plan of Most (Department of Road Transport and Highways)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Unit	Ninth Plan Target (1997-2002) Km/Nos.
<b>Normal NH works</b>			
1.	Widening to two lanes	Km	1194
2.	Widening to four lanes	Km	202
3.	Strengthening weak 2 lanes	Km	2908
4.	Bypasses	No.	20
5.	Major Bridges	No.	40
6.	Minor Bridges including ROBs	No.	226
7.	Expressways	On very selective basis where traffic density is exceptionally high	

#### Statement-II

##### Statement indicating Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways (Rs in Lakhs) in Various States during the Last Three Years

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83	4500.00	5045.00
2.	Assam	1821.00	2600.00	4188.83
3.	Bihar	1900.00	3405.31	6000.00
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	82.00	100.00
5.	Delhi	800.00	1400.00	700.00
6.	Goa	900.00	1100.00	1700.02

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	3675.00	5346.96	7307.17
8.	Haryana	1100.00	2613.50	4200.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1700.00	2500.00	4000.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00	100.00	100.00
11.	Karnataka	2900.00	3500.00	4600.08
12.	Kerala	3600.00	6744.46	10468.12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00	2200.00	3226.75
14.	Maharashtra	2900.00	4811.63	10354.31
15.	Manipur	700.00	700.00	1010.75
16.	Meghalaya	920.00	1000.00	1730.28
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	300.00
18.	Nagaland	100.00	200.00	800.00

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Orissa	2600.00	4000.00	3850.00
20.	Pondicherry	70.00	100.81	319.46
21.	Punjab	1300.00	2500.65	1819.56
22.	Rajasthan	2550.00	3450.00	4550.30
23.	Tamil Nadu	2500.00	3624.75	6500.00
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	50.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4608.00	7078.14	9155.35
26.	West Bengal	5375.00	7150.94	5138.02
27.	Joggigappa Bridge	1244.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Ministry	0.17	3.86	20.00
29.	BRDB	7031.00	8500.00	11230.00
TOTAL		55124.00	79213.01	108462.00

## Statement-III

## NHAI Programme

1	National Highway Development Project	Unit	Total length covered under the Project (Km)	Length already Four laned (Km)	On going works/under implementation (Km)	Length to be awarded (Km)	Length to be awarded (Km)	Total length for award (Km)	Target date of completion
						2000-2001	2001-2002	Up to 2002	
(a)	Golden Quadrilateral								
	Widening to four/Six lanes	Km	5952	558	712	3167	1515	4682	Year 2003
(b)	North-South and East-West corridors								
	Widening to four/Six lanes	Km	7300	630	272	378	0	378	Year 2009
	Total	Km	13252	1188	984	3545	1515	5060	
2.	Other works by NHAI	Km	1000	0	214	161	625	786	Year 2009

## Statement-IV

Allocation of funds to NHAI under NHAI (Investment)  
(Rs in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Amount
1.	1997-98	290
2.	1998-99	101
3.	1999-2000 (Budget)	160
	1999-2000 (Cess)	1032

## [Translation]

Sale of Unauthorised Petrol in  
Uttar Pradesh

6325. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised persons are selling petrol on roads in Azamgarh, Mau, Gazipur, Jaunpur, Ballia, Varanasi, Basti and Gorakhpur districts of the central Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the unauthorised sale of petrol in the said districts?

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 marketing companies have informed that they are not aware of sale of petrol on roads by unauthorised persons in Azamgarh, Mau, Gazipur, Jaunpur, Ballia, Varanasi, Basti and Gorakhpur districts of the central Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Functioning and Achievements of Lok Adalats

6326. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning and achievements of the Lok Adalats set up in various States;

(b) If so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy to set up permanent Lok Adalats in metropolitan cities of the country including Delhi; and

(d) If so, the time by which the policy is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) which is the apex body constituted under the Legal Services authorities Act, 1987, to establish, monitor and review the Lok Adalats, is continuously reviewing and monitoring the progress of the Lok Adalats. As on 31st December, 1999, 49415 Lok Adalats have already been organized throughout the country in which about 97.2 lakh cases have been amicably settled. Apart from the same, permanent Lok Adalats are being established in all the Districts in all the States throughout the country as well as government departments, Statutory Bodies and Autonomous Bodies. In Delhi, Permanent Lok Adalats have been established separately for Delhi Vidyut Board, Delhi Development Authority, MTNL, MCD, NDMC, General Insurance Corporation etc. in which so far 2145 matters have already been settled amicably.

#### Development of Forests in J&K

6327. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement any comprehensive forestry programme for expansion of forest area in the Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set during the Eight Five Year Plan and the achievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has prepared a comprehensive plan of 20 years as State Forestry Action Programme (SFAP) for sustainable development of forests in the State. During this period, besides developing and strengthening the institutions, State has proposed a programme for regeneration of 2.05 million-hectare natural forests and plantation on 4.22 million-hectare non-forest lands. Total financial requirement for these programmes of 20 years is Rs. 57177.2 million. The current level of financial investments in forestry sector of the State is much less than the required in this comprehensive plan.

(c) Target during the Eight Five Year Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the State was 29206 ha. and it has been achieved.

{English}

#### Direct Local Call Facility

6328. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a telephone exchange has been set up in Palashdiha;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide local call facility between Pakhanna and Palashdiha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. Palashdiha is presently served by Durgapur Telephone Exchange.

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

(c) and (d) Pakhanna is served by Parjora Telephone Exchange subscribers of both. Pakhanna and Palashdiha are already having both way local call facility.

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

#### HPCL'S MOU With Government

6329. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government for the year 2000-2001.

(b) If so, the details of the Memorandum of Understanding;

(c) the targetted production of crude oil during the period as compared to the last three years;

(d) the profitability of the company and its comparison with the last three years

(e) whether the establishment expenditure has come down in the last three years; and

(f) if not, the efforts made to bring down such expenditure?

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) Salient features of the MOU of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for the year 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) HPCL has no target of production of crude oil during the year.

(d) The net profit during the last three years is as under :

Rs./Crores			
1999-2000 Provisional	1998-99 Actual	1997-98 Actual	1996-97 Actual
1050	901	701	612

(e) and (f) Increase in the establishment expenditure has been mainly due to implementation of pay revision. However, the Corporation has initiated cost control and reduction measures including Budgetary control and rationalisation of manpower and allowances.

#### Statement

##### Salient features of HPCL's MOU for 2000-2001 Details of MOU Targets for 2000-2001

Criteria	Unit	2000-01 MOU Proposed "Very Good"
Crude Thruput	MMT	Mumbai Refinery : 5.70 Visakha Refinery : 6.85
Total Distillates	Wt %	Mumbai Refinery : 63.30 Visakha Refinery : 72.20
Fuel & Loss (Including Bombay High associated Gas)	Wt %	Mumbai Refinery : 7.50 Visakha Refinery : 7.00
Sales-Market Share	%	-
MS-Retail		26.1
HSD-Retail		23.6
Commissioning of Retail Outlets : Dealerships for LPG	%	65
Lubes-Market Share	%	27.2
Customer Satisfaction :		
Reseller (MS/HSD)	%	96
Reseller (SKO)	%	96
Direct Consumers	%	96
Aviation LPG	%	96
Gross Margin (PBDIT)	Rs. Crs.	1270
Net Profit as % of Capital Employed*	%	7.62

\* These exclude prior period and extraordinary items of income, LPG Cylinder compensation.

In addition to above, targets have been set for

- Various aspects in Human Resources Management
- Completion of projects / certain milestones in projects
- ISO certification for 5 LPG Plants and 1 Lube Blending Plant
- Safety

[Translation]

#### Centrally Sponsored Projects in Bihar

6330. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of centrally sponsored environmental projects started in Bihar each year during the last three years;

(b) the details of the targets achieved and the amount of assistance provided under each project during the above period; and

(c) the details of the such projects proposed to be launched in the State in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The details of Centrally Sponsored Environmental Projects started in Bihar during the last three years and the details of the targets achieved and the amount of assistance provided under each project during the above period are given in the enclosed Statement

(c) All the ongoing projects are likely to be continued in the State in the near future.

#### Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Achievements during 1997-98 to 1999-2000	
		Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4
1.	National River Conservation Plan	158.95	-
2.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in regeneration of degraded forests	36.09	-

•

Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Net Switching Capacity	44000	50354	82300	89216	116000	133240
Direct Exchange Lines	35000	67178	60000	68175	87000	89036
Village Public Telephones	8819	2402	2400	2242	3000	2102

The targets and achievements in respect of Tribal Areas of Orissa are given below :

Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Net Switching Capacity	3750	1008	8100	27326	15520	25692
Direct Exchange Lines	3000	13373	6500	16265	9350	21858
Village Public Telephones	1400	759	1500	763	1332	651

1	2	3	4
3.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project	143.24	1510 ha. area covered.
4.	Area Oriented Fuel wood Fodder Project	245.52	3029 ha. area covered.
5.	Non Timber Forests Produce	28.00	Advance Work.
6.	Modern Forests Fire Control Methods	38.76	-

[English]

#### Implementation of Ongoing Projects in Orissa

6331. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the implementation of ongoing projects in Orissa particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith standard monitoring norms, targets set and achieved in completion of projects; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop, promote and strengthen communication infrastructure network in the State and the tribal areas during the current financial year and for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The targets and achievements in respect of the important development schemes for Orissa for the last three years is given below :-

The progress in achievement is monitored on a monthly basis.

(c) In order to develop and strengthen the communication network in the State, including the tribal areas, new telephone exchanges are being opened and the existing exchanges are being expanded. Also, it is planned to provide STD facility to all exchanges on reliable communication media by the end of 9th Five Year Plan period. Targets proposed for implementation during current financial year and the achievements made up to 31.3.2000 during Ninth Five Year Plan are indicated below :

Item	Orissa		Tribal Area of Orissa	
	Target 2000-2001	Achievement upto 31.3.2000 during 9th Five Year Plan	Target 2000-2001	Achievement upto 31.3.2000 during 9th Five Year Plan
Net Switching Capacity	125000*	272810	17000*	54026
Direct Exchange Lines	100000	224389	12000	51496
Village Public Telephones	14000	6746	120	2173

\*The target of switching capacity shown is tentative.

#### Postal Stamps

6332. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out postal stamps on selected tourist areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Philatelic Advisory Committee which advises the Department of Post regarding issue of commemorative special stamps and other related matters, the Government has decided to bring out special stamps on the themes of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage of the country. Under Cultural Heritage it has been further decided to bring out stamps on places of tourist interest in the country. This includes Andhra Pradesh also. During this year a set of stamps have been brought out to focus attention on the flora and fauna of the North East.

#### Postal Facilities

6333. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create some new postal circles and new postal divisions during 2000-2001;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no proposal with the Department of Posts regarding creation of any new postal circle. There is a proposal for creation of one new postal division.

(b) Bettiah Division in Bihar Circle.

(c) The proposal for Bettiah Division has been approved.

#### Waiting List for LPG Connections in Orissa

6334. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons registered for LPG connections in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for not releasing LPG connection to the registered persons; and

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

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 total waiting list registered with LPG distributors of the Public Sector Oil Companies as on 1.4.2000 was about 0.60 lakh in the State of Orissa.

New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

#### Road Construction in Kerala

6335. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests for relaxation in the restriction to road construction in the forest area recommended by Kerala Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) There is no restriction of road in the forest areas. However, the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 stipulates that no forest area should be diverted for non-forestry purposes including construction of roads without prior approval of the Central Government.

The State Government of Kerala had submitted 3 proposals for construction of roads in forest area in last five years i.e. 1995 to 1999. All these 3 proposals have been approved by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Express Parcel Post Centres

6336. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new express parcel post centre has been opened in Nagpur;

(b) if so, whether this express parcel post service centre would cater to the burgeoning customer need of transmission of parcels in a time bound manner;

(c) if so, the date on which this postal service was relaunched all over the country including Nagpur;

(d) if so, the extent to which this launching of postal service has been much more better than the earlier which was in operation since 1994; and

(e) the manner in which this has helped the customer?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The express parcel post service was relaunched on 01.3.1999 covering all the National Speed Post Centres in India including Nagpur.

(d) and (e) The service relaunched on 1.3.99 fulfilled the customer need in the following spheres:

(i) Larger network compared to previous service.

(ii) It caters to the need of corporate users and Business establishments on contractual basis.

(iii) Door to door service.

(iv) Time-bound delivery.

(v) Book-Now Pay Later facility.

(vi) Economical rates based on distance.

(vii) VPP facility with maximum weight upto 35 kg. permissible.

There has been impressive growth in business income which has increased from Rs. 0.55 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 3.56 crores in 1999-2000.

#### Reforms in The Power Sector

6337. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in furtherance of the reforms contemplated by Andhra Pradesh in power sector, the Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh has been divided into four distribution companies;

(b) if so, whether this is the first reform process for power sector in the State; and

(c) the other reform measures taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government in regard to power sector and the extent to which these reforms would be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) In the Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Reform programme, the following milestones have been achieved :-

(i) The State Electricity Reforms Act has been enacted.

(ii) The State Electricity Regulatory Commission is functional.

(iii) The State Electricity Board has been unbundled into a Generation Company APGENCO and a Transmission Company, APTRANSCO.

(iv) APTRANSCO, the Transmission Company has recently made its tariff submission before the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(v) Four distribution Companies have been created. APTRANSCO is presently undertaking distribution work through them pending the grant of Distribution Licenses to them by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(vi) The privatization of these Distribution Companies is contemplated.

[Translation]

### Telephone Connections

6338. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone connections free of cost to all the police officers/employees awarded with President Medals in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) Gallantry Award Winners in the three Defence Services only have been extended concessional telephone facility.

[English]

### Mahila Pradhan Agents In Post Offices

6339. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for the increase of the commission of Mahila Pradhan agents in the post office saving schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of Mahila Pradhan agents working in the country in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Some requests for increase in the rate of commission payable to Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) agents have been received from Agent's Associations and others.

(c) The total number of Mahila Pradhan agents working in the country under in the scheme is 1,67,557 as on 31.03.1999.

### LPG Agencies in Rural Areas of Punjab

6340. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has urged Union Government to start Tamil Nadu type of scheme for distribution of LPG in rural area of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Supply of LPG through mobile LPG filling vans in Tanjore in Tamil Nadu, Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, Sangrur in Punjab and skid mounted facilities at Deodhar in Gujarat has been started by oil companies to take the LPG to the door steps of villages.

[Translation]

### Petrol Pumps

6341. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the estimated number of petrol pumps to be set up after privatisation of the petroleum sector?

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) : In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing plans, 927 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the marketing plan 1996-98. Locations included in the marketing plan are advertised by the Oil Companies from time to time for selection of dealers through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships from the date of interview. De-regulation of petroleum sector is scheduled from April, 2002. Retail Outlet Marketing Plan beyond 2002 has not been prepared.

### Optical Fibre Cable in Churu

6342. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities and towns proposed to be connected with Optical Fibre Cable lines in Churu (Rajasthan) telecom circle during the next three years;

(b) the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the target set in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The towns and villages listed in enclosed statement are planned to be connected with optical fibre cable in Churu during the year 2000-2003 at an approximate expenditure of Rs. 10.70 crores subject to availability of resources.



**Statement**

*List of stations to be connected with Optical Fibre Cable during next three years 2000-2003 in district Churu*

1. Abarsar
2. Absar
3. Adsar
4. Bain
5. Bandhanau
6. Bhadasar
7. Bhamasi
8. Bhimsar
9. Bhuchwas
10. Changoi
11. Chubkiya Tal
12. Dheerwas
13. Doodwarkhara Village
14. Gaurisar
15. Ghangoo
16. Golsar
17. Hadyal (RS)
18. Hamirwas
19. Jasrasar
20. Khuri
21. Kusumdesar
22. Lalgarh
23. Lamborbari
24. Likki
25. Malsisar
26. Momasar
27. Nangalbari
28. Neshal
29. Paharsar
30. Pattisar
31. Rajalidesar
32. Rampua Beri
33. Ransar

34. Ratan Nagar
35. Riri
36. Sahwa
37. Salasar
38. Sankhu Fort
39. Satra
40. Tara Nagar

[English]

**Supply of Gas Through Pipeline in Delhi**

6343. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG through pipeline has started in some parts of the Capital;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where LPG is supplied through pipelines in the Capital;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to expand the distribution network through pipelines all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indraprastha Gas Limited, a Joint Venture Company (JVC) of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is supplying natural gas to domestic/commercial consumers through pipelines in Kakanagar, Bapanagar, Pandara Park, Pandara Road, Golf Links, Sundar Nagar, Sujansingh Park and Nizamuddin areas of Delhi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), a JVC of GAIL with British Gas and Government of Maharashtra is supplying piped gas to domestic/commercial/small industrial consumers in Mumbai.

[Translation]

**PCO/STD/ISD Booths in U.P.**

6344. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO/STD/ISD booths installed during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for approval for such booths in the State, District-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 75881 PCOs/STD/ISD booths have been installed in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) The number of applications pending for allotment of PCOs in U.P. Telecom. District-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The pending applications are to be cleared progressively subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Telecom District	No. of Pending Applications
1	2	3
1.	Agra	368
2.	Aligarh	188
3.	Almora	0
4.	Bareilly	436
5.	Bijnore	51
6.	Dehradun	26
7.	Etah	118
8.	Ghaziabad	802
9.	Meerut	92
10.	Moradabad	0
11.	Muzaffarnagar	0
12.	Mathura	24
13.	Nainital	0
14.	Srinagar Gwl (Kotdwar)	13
15.	Rampur	0
16.	Saharanpur	249
17.	Badaun	100
18.	Uttar Kashi (New Tehri)	0
19.	Pilibhit	0
20.	Kanpur	114
21.	Lucknow	0
22.	Varanasi	20

1	2	3
23.	Allahabad	10
24.	Gorakhpur	59
25.	Jhansi	0
26.	Mau	9
27.	Sitapur	0
28.	Barabanki	0
29.	Faizabad	6
30.	Etawah	1
31.	Farrukhabad	1
32.	Mirzapur	7
33.	Basti	13
34.	Lakhimpur	1
35.	Gonda	96
36.	Shahjahanapur	42
37.	Unnao	0
38.	Mainpuri	0
39.	Azamgarh	0
40.	Jaunpur	165
41.	Sultanpur	12
42.	Bahraich	1
43.	Rai Bareilly	47
44.	Ballia	17
45.	Pratapgarh	18
46.	Ghazipur	23
47.	Banda	0
48.	Hamirpur	0
49.	Orai	0
50.	Fatehpur	0
51.	Hardoi	0
TOTAL:		3129

**LPG Connections in Ajmer, Rajasthan**

6345. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections provided by various agencies in Ajmer District of Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of consumers registered for new LPG connections during the above period;

(c) the number of additional gas connections issued in the district alongwith the number of consumers on the waiting list, agency-wise;

(d) whether the concerned oil companies preserve the right to transfer the registered consumers and the consumers on the waiting list enlisted with some agency to another agency;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities being committed by LPG agencies in Ajmer district;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(h) the names of the places where the proposal/applications regarding opening gas agencies have been received by the Government and the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The total number of LPG connections released by Public Sector Oil Companies in the Ajmer District of Rajasthan during the last three years is as under :-

Year	LPG connection released
1997-98	21570
1998-99	7200
1999-2000	13653

The waiting list registered with LPG distributors in the Ajmer district as on 1.4.2000 is about 14,600.

(d) and (e) Oil Companies reserve the right to transfer the registered consumers and prospective customers in the waiting list enlisted with some agency to another agency.

(f) and (g) Oil Companies have reported that no established case of malpractice/irregularity has been detected against their LPG distributors in the Ajmer district during the year 1999-2000.

(h) Representations are received from time to time from different parts of the country including Rajasthan for

setting up of gas agencies and the same are set up at economically feasible locations.

[English]

### Refilling Stations of Public Sector Companies

6346. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies propose to establish company owned and company run refilling stations (Petrol and Diesel);

(b) if so, the number of such refilling stations proposed to be established by the public sector oil companies in East Godavari District;

(c) the names of Panchayat/Municipal areas where such refilling stations are proposed to be established, including the name of the oil company;

(d) whether the Government propose to dispense with the system of allotting refilling stations to private dealers under various categories; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Oil Companies propose to set up two Company Owned Company Operated retail outlets in East Godavari District, one at Anaparthi Panchayat and another between Rajamundry Bye-pass and Rajanagaram.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to dispense with the system of allotting dealership/distributorship through the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards.

[Translation]

### Improvement in P & T Service

6347. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve postal, telegraph and telecommunications services in Rajasthan; and

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

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

(b) Details of the measures taken by the Government are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

*The measures taken by the Government to improve Postal Telegraph and Telecommunications services in Rajasthan are as follows*

#### 1. Postal

- a) 90 new post offices have been opened during the last three years.

Setting up of Computerised Registration Sorting Centres	Multi Purpose Counter Machines installed	Savings Bank Local Area Network Installed	Extended Satellite Money Order System installed
01	60	18	05

- e) Modernisation executed in the last three years

Modernised Post Offices	Modernised Railway Mail Services Offices
13	02

#### 2. Telegraph

Telegraph services have been modernised by induction of micro-processor based technology. Two numbers of Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMSs), 32 Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), 209 Electronic Key Boards (EKBs), 2 Formatted Terminal Concentrators and 28 formatted Terminals have been provided in the Telegraph Network.

#### 3. Telecommunications

Rajasthan Telecom Circle has 14.14 lakh lines of switching capacity, all electronic type, with 10.96 lakh of working telephone connections as on 31-3-2000. It is proposed to provide another 2.1 lakh new telephone connections during the current financial year. Also, in order to improve the telecom facilities in Rajasthan, it is proposed to make telephone available on demand and connect all the telephone exchanges on reliable communication media by March 2002.

[English]

#### Scheme for Building of Wharves

6348. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes available with the Inland Waterways Authority of India to build wharves along useable canals and rivers actually being used for inland water transport;

- b) 35 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have been opened during the last three years to provide postal facility to the rural public.

- c) 2074 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been provided with infrastructural furniture to improve the services in rural areas.

- d) Computerisation executed in the last three years :

- (b) the details of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and how much work have been done to build wharves;

- (c) the funds spent in Coastal States and whether demands have been made for more funds for the said schemes; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) The 9th Plan provision of Rs. 308 crore includes Rs. 94.25 crore for construction of terminals on three National Waterways (NW). In addition, provision of Rs.10.50 crore exists for Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) facilities by the State Government, including wharves/terminals on useable canals and rivers. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, 50% of the scheme cost is given as loan to the State Governments on reimbursement basis.

(b) The funds allocated for the terminals/wharves on three National Waterways for the last three years are given below :

	(Rs. in crore)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
NW-1	2.20	4.27	0.37
NW-2	0.19	1.79	1.78
NW-3	NIL	4.05	7.52
Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)	0.68	1.50	0.50

On NW-1 schemes are in progress for setting up of floating terminals at Karagola, Ballia, GR Jetty Calcutta, Permanent terminal at Patna and floating terminal at

Allahabad. Terminals at Calcutta, Haldia, Pakur, Farakka, Bhagalpur, Karagola, Munger, Patna, Ballia and Allahabad are available.

On NW-2 schemes for provision of floating terminals at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur, Neamati, Sadiya and Saikhowa are available under which floating terminals are at first five locations have already been set up and are being maintained. Pontoons for the last two locations have been constructed.

On NW-3 schemes are in progress for acquisition of land for setting up of terminals and for construction of terminals at 11 locations.

(c) and (d) The coastal states of West Bengal and Kerala are served by National Waterway No. 1 and 3 respectively. Besides, under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) various sanctioned schemes are in progress for development of IWT in the coastal states of Goa, Kerala, Tamilnadu and West Bengal. During 1999-2000 an expenditure of Rs. 25.00 lakhs each was incurred for state of West Bengal and Kerala for the development of passenger terminal facilities, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. As against a budgetary provision of Rs. 50 lakhs made in 1999-2000, a provision of Rs. 350.00 lakhs is made for CSS in the year 2000-01.

[Translation]

#### Performance of Oil Companies and Refineries

6349. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the performance of the oil companies and refineries under the public sector and the companies which are utilising their optimum capacity during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the cost of production of the oil companies and oil refineries in the said periods, year-wise and company-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring down the cost of production and also the details of reduction in the cost of production during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Electronic Telephone Exchanges

6350. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set for conversion of manual telephone exchanges into electronic ones in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose in the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No target was set for conversion of manual telephone exchanges into electronic in the country as no local manual telephone exchanges were existing at the beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan.

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

[English]

#### Accident on Delhi-Hardwar National Highway

6351. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place on Delhi-Hardwar National Highway during each of the last three years indicating the types of vehicles involved therein and the number of people killed in those accidents;

(b) the steps taken by the Government of check the recurrence of those types of accidents;

(c) whether any proposal to divide the road for safety reasons has been evolved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Accident data is maintained by State Police Department and not by Highway Authorities.

(b) and (c) Two estimates amounting to Rs. 130.78 lacs for the construction of divider (central median) in a length of 18.50 Kms. on Delhi-Hardwar National Highway-58 have been sanctioned on 31st March, 2000.

(d) The above work are likely to be completed by March, 2001.

[Translation]

#### Telecasting of Films on Environment

6352. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for telecasting of films on environment and forests regularly; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has been approaching the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, from time to time for telecast of environment and forests related films.

Doordarshan has been telecasting some films on its various channels. But in view of the importance of the subject of environment and forests, more films are required to be telecast, particularly during the prime time, to create the desired impact on a larger audience. Prasar Bharati has also informed that the Ministry would be required to pay fee for telecast of films commissioned by the Ministry.

[English]

#### Unauthorised Occupation on Delhi-Gurgaon Road

6353. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about unauthorised occupation on Government land on both sides of old Delhi-Gurgaon road from village Samalakha to Kapashera Delhi Border;

(b) if so, whether the unauthorised occupation has resulted in traffic hazard particularly during office hours in the morning and evening ; and

(c) if so, the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to get the Government land vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quite often the parking of heavy vehicles entering Delhi from Gurgaon, mainly during 'No Entry' hours and fruit/vegetable and other vendors squatting on the road cause the traffic interruptions during office hours in the morning as well as in the evening.

(c) To prevent squatting of vendors on the road and parking of heavy vehicles during 'No Entry' hours, police assistance is sought from time to time.

#### Exploration of Gas/Oil by ONGC in Tamil Nadu

6354. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil/gas exploration has been carried out/being carried out by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in Trivellore district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the results obtained thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of such explorations carried out and proposed to be carried out at off-shore and on-shore in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had acquired 1369 Ground Line Kilometre of seismic data in Tiruvallur district but no drillable prospect could be identified.

(d) Exploration input expended by ONGC in Tamil Nadu and in its continuous areas in the offshore as on 1.4.2000 is as below :

	Onshore	Offshore
2D Survey	38,374 GLK	40,289 LK
3D Survey	1,049 SSK 5,732 GLK	3,239 LK
Prospects drilled	124	29
Hydrocarbon finds	24	3
Exploratory wells drilled	319	52

Exploratory input proposed to be carried out by ONGC during the year 2000-2002 is as below :

	Onshore	Offshore
2D Survey	550 GLK	1000 LK
3D Survey	2850 GLK	—
Exploratory wells	34	In very shallow water, some locations are being firmed up for drilling.

In so far as private/joint venture (JV) companies are concerned, two exploration blocks in offshore area of Tamil Nadu have been contracted to private/JV companies. Recently under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, two blocks in offshore Cauvery have been awarded and contract has been signed for one of these blocks.

GLK = Ground Line Kilometre

LK = Line Kilometre

SSK = Standard Square Kilometre

### Wage and House Rent Allowance of Dock Workers

6355. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government received a some memorandum from the federation of five dock workers regarding the two issue, periodically wage settlement and retrospective payment of house rent allowance:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting was held in this regard with the representative of the federation recently;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the demands of the said federation is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Apart from a number of representations from federations/unions, a number of strike notices were received in which these two issues of the periodicity of wage settlement and retrospective payment of house rent allowance were mentioned.

(c) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Surface Transport with the representatives of the federations on 26th April, 2000.

(d) In the meeting, the two issues relating to the strike were discussed and the Federations were apprised of the efforts made by the Ministry to resolve these issues. As an outcome of this meeting the federations decided to withdraw the strike call.

(e) The matter is being considered on a priority basis and it is expected to resolve the issues at the earliest.

### Resitement of Petrol Pumps

6356. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for taking average sales of all retail outlets situated within 5 km. of periphery limits of 'C' class towns/market to justify the installation of new Petrol Pump/ resitement of Petrol Pump;

(b) the details of Volume distance norms and whether such norms are also followed while resitement of petrol pumps in 'C' class markets/towns; and

(c) the details of industry meeting held on May 6, 1987 at IOC office and circulated by the Chief Regional Marketing Manager on the subject of resitement of petrol pumps of 'C' class markets?

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 extant policy, average sales of all retail outlets situated within 5 KMs of periphery limits of 'C' class towns/market is taken to assess the potential of the location for setting up/resiting the retail outlet dealership.

(b) Details of Volume Distance Norms are given in the enclosed statement. Volume distance norms are kept in view in the setting up/resitement of retail outlet dealerships in all class of market.

(c) In the Industry meeting held on May 6, 1987 at IOC office, it was decided that resitement from 'C' class market can be carried out following Volume Distance Norms and can also be progressed on National/State Highways passing through the town, defined as 'D' class of market. However, such resitement-must be within the periphery limits (i.e., within 5 KMs of the Municipal limits) on the 'C' class of market.

### Statement

*Locations for Development of New Dealerships/Distributorships are identified based on Surveys Conducted by the Oil Industry from time to time keeping the following norms into consideration*

Market	Distance Norms	Volume Norms
1	2	3
<b>1. Retail Outlets</b>		
<b>(a) Lone HSD or MS/HSD</b>		
'A' Class—Cities having a population of over 10 lakhs as per 1981 census.	1. Metropolitan cities and other cities (including 15 km. periphery from municipal limits).	1. Lone HSD : Should yield a min. of 50 kl per month during second year of operation.

1	2	3
	2. Average combined MS/HSD thru-put (within a radius of 3 km) should not be less than 80 kl per month.  3. No restriction for ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities.	2. <b>Combined MS/HSD :</b> HSD 25 kl per month MS. 30 kl per month During second year of operation.
<b>'B' Class</b> —Cities having population between 2 and 10 lakhs as per 1981 census.	1. Average combined MS/HSD thru-put of retail outlets within 5 km of municipal limits should be more than 80 kl per month.  2. No restriction on ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities.	1. <b>Lone HSD :</b> Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.  2. <b>Combined MS/HSD :</b> HSD 50 kl per month MS. 5 kl per month During second year of operation.
<b>'C' Class</b> —Other Towns	Average combined thru-put within a radius of 5 km. from the existing outlet should exceed 80 kl per month.	1. <b>Lone HSD :</b> Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.  2. <b>Combined MS/HSD :</b> HSD 50 kl per month MS. 5 kl per month During second year of operation.
<b>'D' Class</b> —National/State Highways.	Combined thru-put per retail outlet within 15 km (either side) of the proposed retail outlet should exceed 80 kl per month	1. <b>Lone HSD :</b> Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.  2. <b>Combined MS/HSD :</b> HSD 50 kl per month MS. 5 kl per month During second year of operation.
<b>'E' Class</b> —(Remote areas not covered by NH/SH and pockets of agricultural concentration having no retail outlets within 10 km radius).	In these markets, only Low Cost retail outlets are developed	<b>Lone HSD :</b> 25 kl per month during second year of operation.
<b>(b) LONE MS:</b>		
<b>'A' Class</b>	None	Should yield 30 kl per month during second year of operation.
<b>'B' Class</b>	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km. radius of the proposed location.	None.
<b>'C' Class</b>	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km. radius of the proposed location.	None.
<b>'D' Class</b>	Minimum volume 35 kl per month within 15 km along the Highway on both ends.	None.

**Note :** MS can be added to the existing HSD outlet provided the minimum potential of 5 kl is available. However HSD cannot be added to the existing MS retail outlets.



### Manufacture of Light Weight Gas Cylinders

6357. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered manufacturing light weight gas cylinders, specifically for the hilly areas where these cylinders are to be manually carried to places of residence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The possibility of using light weight gas cylinders for the hilly areas is presently under Techno Economic Feasibility Study.

### Power Project In Tamil Nadu

6358. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any power project at Ognakal in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation is preparing a plan for optimal utilisation of the untapped hydro-electric potential estimated at 1150 MW including Hogenakkal (120 MW) of the Cauvery Basin. NHPC would be prepared to execute, operate and maintain the Shivasamudaram, Makedattu, Rasimanal and Hogenakkal HEPs which would generate cheap power, subject to the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil Nadu coming to a mutually satisfactory agreement on sharing of power from these projects.

[Translation]

### Reserves of Coal Bed Methane Gas

6359. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the reserves of coal bed Methane Gas has been explored in Bihar

(b) if so, the total quantity of Gas likely to be available in the said reserve;

(c) whether the Government have decided to formulate a project based on this gas;

(d) if so, the outline thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has drilled four wells in the Jharia basin of Bihar for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM). Besides two blocks in Bihar have been identified for exploration and exploitation of CBM. The preparation for invitation of bids in accordance with CBM policy has not been completed. The CBM reserve base can be known only after exploration and commercial viability of utilisation of such reserves can be decided only thereafter.

[English]

### Collection of Sand in Rivers

6360. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURÈSH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to States banning for collection of sand in rivers from forest area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any request to withdraw such ban; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No Sir. However, as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980, Rules and Guidelines thereof, collection of sand in rivers from forest areas is a non-forestry activity and therefore requires prior approval of the Central Government. Moreover, if the forest areas are part of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, then the provisions of Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972 shall also be applicable.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Complaint Against Department of Post

6361. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the educated unemployed youths of distant rural areas of the country have to miss their various viva voce/written examinations on account of delays/non-delivery of mails by the Department of Post;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of such incidents pending before courts as on date;

(d) the number of persons given compensation by the Department of Post; and

(e) the scheme of the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The department of Post is handling 15766 millions of postal articles annually. While the service provided for such a large volume of mails is, by and large, satisfactory. The Department receives occasional complaints about delays/non-delivery of letters including communications for viva-voce or written examination.

(b) The Department of Post has an effective system of continually reviewing mail transmission and delivery so as to eliminate delays and other service faults through various measures.

(c) 89 complaints are pending in various Foras/Courts through out the country for such incidents.

(d) The Department has paid compensation in 66 cases.

(e) Proper and more effective monitoring of transmission and delivery of mails is an ongoing activity. However, the following specific steps have been taken to further tighten monitoring of complaints about delays/non-delivery of mails :-

- (i) A close coordination is maintained with the authorities of Indian Airlines, Railways and State transport for timely transmission of mails.
- (ii) Mechanised sorting has been introduced at Mumbai and Chennai and mechanised support is provided in Metro towns and other important cities for delivery of mail through Mopeds.
- (iii) Segmentation of mails is done at the initial stage through Green Channel (Local) Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel, Bulk Mail Channel and Periodical (Patrika) Channel to ensure smooth processing and quicker transmission of mails and delivery.

(iv) Live survey of mails is done and periodic drives are launched to monitor delivery efficiency.

(v) Computerisation of Registration Sorting in major mail offices and mail transmission at transit mail offices in the Metro and other important cities, has been introduced for great greater efficiency.

(vi) Use of PINCODE is being publicised.

(vii) The qualitative work of the delivery staff is checked by contacting addressees and punitive action is taken against the staff found responsible for delay in delivery.

(viii) The importance attached to delivery service by the Department is underlined by the scheme of Best Postman Award which identifies and provides encouragement for delivery staff in every division in the country every six months.

(ix) Modern technology, like VSAT is used to speed up transmission and thus ensure more timely and efficient delivery.

#### STD/ISD/PCOs Booths

6362. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the public booth operators get STD/ISD connections on fake name and address and disappear after one or two months resulting in loss of crore of rupees to the Government exchequer;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to light of the Government so far during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Departmental employees are also found involved in the said cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, during the last three years, one case each in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan and four cases in Uttar Pradesh have come to the notice. No such case has come to the notice in other States.

(c) and (d) Sir, in some cases the departmental employees were found to be involved. Action as per rules has been initiated against those employees.

[English]

### Digboi Refinery

6363. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to modernise the oldest Digboi Refinery;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction and the amount earmarked for the purpose;
- (c) whether production from Digboi Refinery has declined considerably; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase its production for its economic-viability?

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) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has already invested Rs. 618 crore in the modernisation of Digboi refinery. Further, in addition to above, IOCL is investing Rs. 762 crore for replacement/upgradation of the facilities.

(c) and (d) Crude throughput at Digboi refinery has increased from 502 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) in 1997-98 to 603 TMT in 1999-2000.

### Audit Observations

6364. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of audit observations and the money involved therein are increasing year after year and observations relating to period commencing from 1979-80 and thereafter have not been cleared so far;
- (b) if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for the settlement of audit objections and appropriate action taken to fix responsibility in cases of defaults;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Public Accounts Committee had also expressed serious concern over the matter and desired it to be informed of the precise progress made in wiping out the outstanding audit observations;
- (e) if so, whether the Committee has been apprised of the progress made in the matter; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The process of audit observations is a continuous one. The number of observations raised and the money involved therein vary from year to year. However, the total number of audit observations raised upto 1997-98 and remaining unsettled at the end of May/June 1999 in respect of the Departments of Post and Telecom were 10,422. This is lower than the corresponding figures for the preceding few years.

Some of the outstanding observations relate to the period commencing from 1979-80 also. The total amount under these observations has gone up on account of manifold expansion in departmental activities and corresponding increase in financial transactions. The amount was however less than one per cent of total expenditure of the Departments during 1997-98.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Audit observations are required to be replied within stipulated time limits by concerned unit officers and the heads of units are required to take action including fixation of responsibility, where called for.

(d) to (f) In respect of the Department of Post, the Public Accounts Committee in its 5th Report (12th Lok Sabha) had desired that besides obtaining a quarterly statement showing Circle-wise pendency of audit objections, the Department should also take concrete steps to avoid any accumulation in future. Action Taken Note in this regard was submitted in August 1999, wherein progress made in settlement of objections was also indicated. In respect of the Department of Telecom, the Committee in para 35 of their 2nd Report (12th Lok Sabha) had expressed its serious concern over the pendency and desired that DOT issue suitable instructions to their officers and take urgent and effective steps under a time-bound programme to wipe out outstanding audit observations and apprise the Committee of the progress made in this direction. In compliance, targets were fixed by the Department of Telecom for clearance of Audit Inspection Reports and objections, and instructions issued for fixation of responsibility in case of defaults. An Action Taken Note on para 35, *ibid*; was also submitted to the Committee in May 1999, duly vetted by Audit.

### Marketing of LNG of Petronet

6365. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some public sector oil companies have agreed to market Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) of Petronet LNG in the country jointly;

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

(c) the name of the companies which propose to market LNG from Dahej terminal in Gujarat jointly;

(d) whether laying of new pipelines are proposed to be set up by these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work of laying of new pipeline is likely to commence?

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) Heads of Agreement has been initiated by Gas Authority of India Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. with Petronet LNG Ltd. to market the regassified Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) from the Dahej Terminal in Gujarat.

(d) and (e) The configuration of pipeline network is dependent upon the specific locations of the individual end-consumers. The LNG terminals and related pipeline network are commissioned at the same time.

#### Internet Facility

6366. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted to provide internet facility in the country; and

(b) the name of towns in Manipur where the said facility has been provided and proposed to be provided during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In line with NTP 1999, Internet access has been provided to almost all district headquarters.

(b) Internet facility has been provided at Imphal and all the district headquarters of Manipur namely; Bishenpur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal, Lamphelapet, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal, Ukhrul on local call basis from the Shillong Internet node. One Internet node is planned at Imphal during the year 2000-2001. Further, Internet Dhabas are planned at Block Head Quarters during the year 2000-2001.

[Translation]

#### Complaints Against NTPC for Inviting Tenders

6367. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints against the National Thermal Power Corporation in awarding contracts of Rs. 5,000/- crore on advertising to the Central Power Service and Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pressure has been put on the members of the National Thermal Power Corporation Board in respect of these contracts; and

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

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

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Hydro-Electric Power Project at Farakka Barrage

6368. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up a Hydro-electric Power Project at Farakka Barrage;

(b) if so, whether project report has been prepared by the Central Water Commission and appraisal accorded by the Central Electricity Authority;

(c) if so, whether environment aspect of this proposed project has been examined; and

(d) the steps so far taken by the Government to expedite the necessary formalities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Farakka Barrage Hydro-electric Project (5x25 MW) in West Bengal prepared by the Central Water Commission and received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno-economic clearance was found in order by CEA on 11.11.1991 subject to certain conditions for execution by Farakka Barrage Hydro-electric Project Authority under the Ministry of Water Resources. The environment aspect has been examined by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and is awaiting its clearance.

#### Neyveli Thermal Power Plant

6369. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Neyveli Thermal Power Plant in Tamil Nadu to generate more power and to overcome the power shortage in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The expansion programme of Neyveli Thermal Power Project in Tamil Nadu is already under implementation. As per the programme, an additional generating capacity of 670 MW is being installed to overcome the shortage of power in the State of Tamil Nadu. Details are indicated below :-

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Implementing Agency	Capacity (MW)	Scheduled date of commissioning
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#### CENTRAL SECTOR

1.	Neyveli TPS-I Expansion by  Neyveli Lignite Corporation	Unit-I 210  Unit-2 210	11/2001  5/2002
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#### PRIVATE SECTOR

2.	Neyveli TPS by M/s ST-CMS Electric Company	Unit-1 250	9/2002
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[Translation]

#### Cases Pending in MRTPC

6370. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of each of the pending cases in the Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether any review has been conducted in regard to registration of cases and quick disposal of pending cases during the last five years;

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

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen/reconstitute the MRTPC Commission during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) MRTPC Commission is a quasi-judicial body created under the MRTPC Act, 1969. The Commission deals with cases relating to Monopolistic Trade Practices/Restrictive Trade Practices/Unfair Trade

Practices (MTP/RTP/UTP) and matters incidental thereto. The following table gives the broad details of the different categories of cases pending before the Commission as on 31.3.2000.

#### No. of cases pending as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Pending Cases
1.	MTP Enquiries	8
2.	RTP Enquiries	1408
3.	UTP Enquiries	1271
4.	Injunction Applications	268
5.	Compensation Applications	2100
6.	Contempt Applications	10

The Commission does not maintain State-wise details of these cases.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Since these are judicial proceedings, the cases get listed for consideration, and disposal in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(d) The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to review the MRTPC Act, 1969 and also to propose a Modern Competition Law. The Committee has been given time up to 31.5.2000 for submission of its Report to the Government.

[English]

#### Agreement with Power Trading Corporation

6371. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had decided against entering into a tripartite agreement with the State Governments and the Power Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Under the revised mega power policy of the Government of India, security to the Power Trading Corporation (PTC) would be provided by means of a Letter of Credit and recourse to the State's share of Central Plan Allocations and other devolutions. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its role as a banker to the Government of India and State Governments does not visualize the need to be a party to the tri-partite agreement between PTC and the State Government. It would need only irrevocable standing instructions from the particular State Government for the transfer of funds under CPA and devolutions to PTC in the event of default by the State Governments/State

Electricity Boards (SEBs) on its obligation under the Power Purchase Agreement entered into between the PTC and the SEB.

#### **Bio-safety Protocol**

6372. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :  
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

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

(a) whether the Un-sponsored Bio-safety Protocol has been approved by the representatives of more than 130 countries in Montreal;

(b) if so, whether India is also one of the signatories in the above Protocol;

(c) if so, the main features of the Protocol; and

(d) the manner in which India will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) and (b) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted by the resumed session of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal in January 2000. India participated in the meeting. The Protocol will be open for signature during the fifth meeting of the CoP to the CBD to be held from 15-26 May, 2000 at Nairobi, Kenya and thereafter at United Nations headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001.

(c) The protocol provides for protection in the field of safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity taking also into account risks to human health and specifically focussing on transboundary movements.

(d) The capacity building provision of the protocol provides for strengthening of infrastructure and upgradation of human resources in biosafety in developing country parties

[Translation]

#### **Survey for Rural Electrification**

6373. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the expenditure likely to be incurred to achieve the rural electrification target set for each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the sources through which the said expenditure is likely to be mobilised indicating the amount from each source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Ninth Plan document has proposed a target of 30,000 villages to be electrified during the plan and energisation of 20 lakh pumpsets. The major sources of funds for rural electrification schemes are—loan from Rural Electrification Corporation, States own resources, funds provided by the Central Government for different schemes and bilateral/multi-lateral credit.

[English]

#### **Electrification in Villages**

6374. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI :  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified during the Seventh/Eighth Plan periods;

(b) whether there is appreciable decline in the Eighth Plan period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to augment rural electrification during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as per 1981 census the number of villages electrified during the Seventh/Eighth Plan periods are 100506 and 18504 respectively.

(b) and (c) As compared to the Seventh Plan, there has been decline in the progress of village electrification during the Eighth Plan. Many of the villages remaining for electrification are in remote and inaccessible areas. State Electricity Boards find it un-economical to electrify these villages. In addition, paucity of concessional resources has also affected the village electrification programme.

(d) Ministry of Finance has proposed to release funds for rural electrification directly to the States which were earlier being routed through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Further, to give boost to electrification

programme in tribal villages and dalit bastis and other weaker sections. Government of India has recently decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for electrification of 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis during the year 2000-2001. Government has also decided to set up a Group of Ministers (GOM) to review the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification so that they enjoy the benefit of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population.

#### Foreign Equity in Telecom Sector

6375. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow cent per cent foreign equity in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, whether the DOT has raised objection to such a decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have not agreed with the views; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) With the economic liberalization in 1991, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)/Non Resident Indian (NRI)/Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) equity in telecom Manufacturing sector was permitted upto 51% on automatic basis through Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and higher amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was considered on case to case basis by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). This limit of 51% on automatic basis has been raised to 100% in Feb. 2000 for the telecom manufacturing sector.

In case of telecom services like Basic, Cellular Mobile, Paging, Value Added Service and Global Mobile Personal Communications by satellite, FDI/NRI/OCB equity is limited to 49%.

(b) No, Sir.

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

#### Guest Houses Under NTPC

6376. DR. (SMT.) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of guest houses in different States under NTPC Southern Regional Headquarters that have been owned or leased or acquired during the last three years;

(b) the number of guest rooms available in such guest houses;

(c) the total amount spent on these guest houses during the last three years, State-wise and unit-wise; and

(d) the amount spent for accommodation and telephone calls in the different Hotels other than the guest houses during the last three years, State-wise and unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Number of Guest Houses and Guest Rooms in different States under NTPC's Southern Regional Headquarters.

State/City	No. of Guest Houses	No. of Rooms
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>		
Ramagundam	1 owned	20
Hyderabad	1 on lease	6
Simhadri	1 on lease	4
<b>KERALA</b>		
Kayamkulam	1 owned	5
Trivandrum	1 on lease	3
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>		
Trichy	1 on lease	4
Chennai	1 on lease	2
<b>KARNATAKA</b>		
Bangalore	1 on lease	3

#### Amount Spent on Guest Houses during the last Three Years

State/City	(In Rupees)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>			
Ramagundam	11,64,000	9,11,000	8,56,819
Hyderabad	3,66,504	4,55,709	5,92,634
Simhadri	59,338	1,97,608	2,49,233
<b>KERALA</b>			
Kayamkulam	1,24,340	3,81,624	5,53,656
Trivandrum	21,701	2,533	15,823

1	2	3	4
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>			
Trichy	Nil	Nil	3,35,722
Chennai	8,792	45,477	7,387
<b>KARNATAKA</b>			
Bangalore	2,69,011	2,73,559	3,00,832

*Amount Spent on Accommodation & Telephone calls  
in different Hotels other than Guest Houses  
during the last Three Years*

(In Rupees)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
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#### ON ACCOMMODATION

##### ANDHRA PRADESH

Ramagundam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hyderabad	14,064	1,50,294	55,592
Simhadri	3,43,118	7,05,061	13,64,080

##### KERALA

Kayamkulam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Trivandrum	45,663	37,076	67,608

##### TAMIL NADU

Trichy	Nil	Nil	54,395
Chennai	1,43,784	3,59,950	3,18,380

##### KARNATAKA

Bangalore	2,78,681	3,48,721	2,51,137
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#### ON TELEPHONE CALLS

##### ANDHRA PRADESH

Ramagundam	30,199	48,904	58,125
Hyderabad	65,357	85,696	1,44,177
Simhadri	3,136	12,200	27,079

##### KERALA

Kayamkulam	Nil	Nil	82,929
Trivandrum	Nil	12,593	Nil

##### TAMIL NADU

Trichy	Nil	Nil	1,53,079
Chennai	Nil	Nil	Nil

##### KARNATAKA

Bangalore	2,36,457	1,77,305	1,19,348
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[Translation]

#### National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

6377. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh as on February 29, 2000;

(b) the steps taken for the repair and broadening of the National Highways passing through the State during the last three years;

(c) whether the condition of National Highway Nos. 7 and 12 is very dilapidated;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal for their repair;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the condition of Jabalpur bypass and the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) The total length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is 5209 KM.

(b) The National Highways widened and renewed and during last three years are as under :-

Year	No. of Kms. widened	No. of Km. renewed in Km.
1997-98	23.31	311.53
1998-99	17.60	353.35
1999-2000	36.00	357.50

(c) No. National Highway No. 7 and 12 are being maintained generally in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(d) and (e) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is continuous process. Funds amounting to Rs. 12.26 crore have already been released so far to the State Government for maintenance/repairs during 2000-2001 of all National Highways in Madhya Pradesh including NHs 7 and 12. Also estimates for improvement of riding quality in a length of 350 KM at an estimated cost of Rs. 71 crore have been sanctioned under 2000-2001 IRQ Programme on National Highways in Madhya Pradesh, out of which sanctions in a length of 82.8 KM and 96 KM at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.97 crore and Rs. 17.82 crore are for the National Highways 7 and 12 respectively.



(f) Condition of Jabalpur bypass is generally good. The work of this bypass is targeted for completion by June, 2000.

[English]

#### Telecom. Facilities in Maharashtra

6378. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes for expansion of telephone network in villages of Maharashtra during the current and the next year;

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

(c) whether the telephone exchanges have been set up and telephone connections provided in all the backward areas of Maharashtra;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The schemes for expansion of telephone network in the villages of Maharashtra for the current year and the next year are given below :-

#### Year 2000-2001

Item	Maharashtra State
New Rural exchanges	345
Net Switching capacity	1,45,000

District-wise details are given in enclosed statement-I.

#### Year 2001-2002:

As per the objectives of the Department for 9th Plan, telephones will be provided on demand in all the rural and urban areas by March, 2002. District-wise plans are yet to be finalised.

(c) and (e) Telephone exchanges have been installed and telephone connections are being provided on priority in the backward areas. District-wise status of telephone exchange capacity, DELs and waiting list in the backward areas, for the period ending 31.3.2000 is given in the enclosed statement-II. The waiting list of 8498 is likely to be cleared during the current financial year.

#### Statement-I

*District-wise details of expansion of telephone network in the rural areas of Maharashtra during 2000-2001*

Sl. No.	District	New exchanges	Switching capacity
1.	Ahmednagar	15	11500
2.	Akola	7	1000
3.	Washim	8	1500
4.	Amravati	14	3000
5.	Aurangabad	15	6000
6.	Beed	9	1500
7.	Bhandara	2	2000
8.	Gondia	2	2000
9.	Buldhana	7	3000
10.	Chandrapur	7	2500
11.	Dhule	5	2000
12.	Nandurbar	2	1000
13.	Gadchiroli	2	1000
14.	Jalgaon	3	6000
15.	Jalna	5	1500
16.	Kalyan	5	4000
17.	Kolhapur	30	15000
18.	Latur	20	4000
19.	Nagpur	6	4000
20.	Nanded	10	4000
21.	Nasik	20	6000
22.	Osmanabad	5	2000
23.	Parbhani	7	2000
24.	Hingoli	3	1000
25.	Pune	25	14500
26.	Raigad	5	4000
27.	Ratnagiri	8	3000
28.	Sangli	30	15000
29.	Satara	20	6000
30.	Sindhudurg	9	3000
31.	Solapur	20	6000
32.	Wardha	2	3500
33.	Yerwade	17	2500
Total		345	145000

## Statement-II

*District-wise status of telephone exchange capacity, DELs and waiting list in the backward areas of Maharashtra as on 31.3.2000*

Sl No	District	Total No. of villages	Villages with VPT	No. of Exchanges	Switching capacity	DELs	Waiting list
1	Ahmednagar	118	77	7	1048	753	284
2	Amravati	344	98	3	1120	888	16
3	Bhandara	284	167	9	1580	1108	65
4	Gondia						
5	Chandrapur	742	270	11	1376	730	95
6	Dhule	997	600	43	10016	7953	550
7	Nandurbar						
8	Gadchiroli	1450	—	19	4288	2449	235
9	Jalgaon	63	20	2	272	225	13
10	Kalyan	1135	500	57	38283	26821	4903
11	Nagpur	97	60	4	872	483	12
12	Nanded	185	70	8	2776	2314	95
13	Nasik	828	500	47	12376	8548	1953
14	Pune	144	27	2	304	208	60
15	Raigad	47	41	3	520	328	52
16	Yeatmal	528	176	11	2784	1926	164
Total		6962	2606	226	77620	54734	8498

## Visakhapatnam Power Project

6379. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has extended the counter guarantee to the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US \$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1 US

\$ = Rs. 35.00) On 16.5.1998, Government approved extension of counter-guarantee to this project through a revised procedure. Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998. CEA does not issue counter guarantee but only techno-economic clearance for power projects. The promoters of the project are yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities. The project is scheduled for commissioning 44 months after the date of financial closure by the promoters.

[Translation]

## Scheme for Traffic Problem in Varanasi

6380. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to decongest the road traffic in Varanasi U.P. the Government have any scheme to expand the National Waterways by deepening the Baruna and Ganga rivers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount allocated for the purpose; and
- (d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) to (d) No Sir. There is no such scheme for Baruna river. However, in view of the recent request received from Commissioner, Varanasi, for development of Varuna river for the purpose of navigation, action has been initiated to obtain detailed project proposal in this regard.

The river Ganga is already declared as National Waterway No. 1, from Haldia to Allahabad. It passes through Varanasi. Maintenance and up-keeping of National Waterways which include deepening, dredging, bandalling etc of navigational channels is a continuing process. For implementing various schemes for development of National Waterways No. 1, a sum of Rs. 14.55 crores has been allocated in the Annual Plan 2000-01.

#### Tehri Dam Project

6381. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of families displaced due to construction of Tehri Dam Project;
- (b) the details of compensation paid to the affected families so far;
- (c) the amount spent so far on this project; and
- (d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The rehabilitation of the population affected by Tehri project is being done in two phases, the first phase relates to the 5091 urban families of Old Tehri Town and 2064 rural families, to be affected by the construction of Cofferdam. The Phase-I rehabilitation has been completed. All the rural affected families of phase-I have been allotted agricultural land in the resettlement colonies and rehabilitated. For the urban population of Old Tehri Town (OTT) also compensations have been paid and allotments of plots, flats and shops etc. in the New Tehri Town and other resettlement sites have already been made.

In Phase-II, 2845 rural families are affected who are to be rehabilitated before the completion of the Dam and impoundment of reservoir.

In addition to the above there are 3998 partially affected rural families who are not to be relocated, but are

to be paid cash compensation for their part land coming under submergence.

(c) As on 31st March, 2000, a sum of Rs. 2484.83 crores (Provisional) is reported to have been incurred on Tehri Hydro-electric Project, Stage-I (1000 MW).

(d) All the four Units of 250 MW each of the project are likely to be completed by December, 2002.

#### Koyal Karo Project

6382. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Koyal-Karo Hydel Power Project of the National Hydro Power Corporation in the Ranchi district of Bihar has been lying closed since many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure speedy completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Koel Karo HE Project (710 MW) in Bihar was originally approved in June, 1981 at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.67 crores at March, 1980 price level. However, no major work could be started due to resistance from the local people to the acquisition of land. In August, 1984 a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India demanding inter alia the scheme for rehabilitation of the displaced persons. On submission of the R&R package, the stay was vacated on 6.2.89, and the Court directed that the rehabilitation plan must be implemented and the compensation must be paid. Government of India, approved the revised cost estimate for the project amounting of Rs. 1338.81 crores in November, 1991.

In a meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted by the Government for reviewing Central Sector projects making slow progress, held on 26.2.97, it was decided to freeze further expenditure on the project thereby putting a stop to work on the project.

Based on the request of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar, Ministry of Power took steps to revive the project. Koel Karo HE Project in Bihar is one of the projects identified as a Mega Power project under the Mega Power Projects Policy approved by the Government on 8.10.1998. The mega projects are entitled for concessions which would make the tariff from the project more attractive.

Thereafter, Ministry of Power has requested the Government of Bihar for conducting fresh survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in order to enable NHPC to formulate the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme Court. It

is necessary to have firm commitment from buyers for the power from Central Sector Power Projects before execution. Orissa and West Bengal have declined to purchase power from the project since the tentative tariff amount to Rs. 7.13 per unit is considered too expensive by them. Bihar has committed to purchase power from the project to the extent it will require to draw power at the prevalent tariff rate. NHPC have been asked to seek the consent of the States outside the region for purchase of power from Koel Karo H.E. Project.

[English]

#### Losses of Public Sector Units

6383. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

Name of the loss making public sectors units	Net losses during the year 1999-2000	Accumulated losses
Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. Visakhapatnam	Rs. 53.85 crore (Provisional)	Rs. 1139.60 crore (Provisional)
Hooghly Dock and Port Engineering Ltd. Calcutta	Rs. 20.00 crore (Provisional)	Rs. 165.00 crore (Provisional)
Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. Calcutta	Rs. 63.00 crore (Provisional)	Rs. 576.77 crore (Provisional)

The Ministry of Surface Transport Department of Road Transport and Highways has a Public Sector Undertaking, namely, Indian Road Construction Corporation (IRCC) Ltd. Vide a decision taken on 18.9.1985, the Government had directed that IRCC should not enter into any fresh contracts and phased programme of its winding up should be worked out. The Government has now taken a decision on 1.2.2000 to wind up IRCC.

#### Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Gujarat

6384. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies sanctioned for rural and urban areas in Gujarat State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies sanctioned to the applicants belonging to SC/ST and ex-servicemen out of them;

(c) whether a number of times advertisements were issued and applications invited, but no action has been taken thereon; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(a) whether a number of public sector units/ organisations/institutions have been running into losses during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof unit/organisation/ institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) and (b) Out of six Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Surface Transport, Department of Shipping, three Public Sector Units have been running into losses during 1999-2000. The details of the loss making public sector units under the Department of Shipping, are given below :

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) During the last three years, 16 retail outlet dealerships and 28 LPG distributorships were allotted in Gujarat. Out of the above, one retail outlet was in rural area and 15 retail outlets in urban areas. 8 LPG distributorships were in rural areas, 4 in urban-rural areas and 14 in urban areas.

2, 3 and 1 retail outlet dealerships were allotted to SC, ST and Defence category respectively. 4, 3 and 4 LPG distributorships were allotted to SC, ST and Defence category respectively. As per the existing policy, there is no separate reservation for Ex-servicemen.

The selection for the remaining locations will be made after the constitution of the Dealer Selection Board.

#### Nandankanan Zoological Park

6385. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lax security plagues Nandankanan" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 5, 2000;

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

(c) whether any enquiry is proposed to be conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ward off such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The facts mentioned in the news-item regarding escape of a tiger from its enclosure and killing an employee of the park in June last year; escape of tiger and mauling of sixty year old man to death on 12th February and nilgai's throat being split by sharp razor are correct. The first incident is not a security related issue and was caused due to misadventure by the keeper himself. The later two issues could have been avoided had a proper security wall been there around the Nandankanan Zoo. The security wall has not been completed inspite of the financial assistance provided by the Central Zoo Authority mainly because of some legal dispute, in which state govt. is required to pay some compensation to an individual.

#### Performance of Major Ports

6386. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the standard monitoring norms adopted during the last three years ending on March 31, 2000, port-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of targets for cargo handling set for the current year-wise and port-wise; and

(d) the details of additional capacity to be added at various major ports as a result of ongoing modernisation/ expansion programme during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Review of the performance of major ports is an ongoing process.

(b) Efficiency of the ports is assessed mainly on the basis of the performance indicators such as Average pre berthing time, Average Turn-round time, Output per ship berthday, Operating Income, Operating Expenditure and actual cargo handled vis-a-vis targets. The Port-wise targets of cargo and the achievements during the last three years are given below :-

(In million tonnes)

Port	1997-98		1998-1999		1999-2000	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Calcutta	24.30	28.16	30.00	29.38	30.90	31.00
Paradip	11.80	13.30	13.35	13.11	13.75	13.64
Vizag	35.60	36.01	36.00	35.65	35.00	39.51
Chennai	32.50	35.53	36.50	35.20	35.50	37.44
Tuticorin	9.40	9.98	10.20	10.15	10.50	9.99
Cochin	11.80	12.32	12.25	12.68	12.40	12.80
New Mangalore	12.80	15.28	15.50	14.21	14.60	17.60
Mormugao	18.00	21.18	20.20	18.02	18.00	18.23
J.L. Nehru	9.60	8.90	10.00	11.72	12.85	14.98
Mumbai	34.60	32.10	34.00	30.97	32.00	30.38
Kandla	36.60	38.90	40.00	40.64	42.50	46.30
Total :	237.00	251.66	258.00	251.73	258.00	271.87

(c) The Port-wise details of targets for cargo handling set for the year 2000-2001 are as under :-

(In million tonnes)	
Port	Target
1	2
Calcutta (CDS)	11.48

1	2
Haldia (HDC)	24.92
Paradip	36.40
Visakhapatnam	40.47
Chennai	42.44

1	2
Tuticorin	10.90
Cochin	12.12
New Mangalore	20.31
Mormugao	19.69
J.L. Nehru	17.58

1	2
Mumbai	28.67
Kandla	41.97
Total :	287.00

(d) The details of additional capacity likely to be added to various major ports through realisation of major schemes during the current year are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Capacity (in million tonnes)	Expected date of commissioning
1	Coal handling facilities at Paradip Port (ADB Scheme).	20.00	Expected to be Operational by Dec., 2000
2	Construction of an oil berth including reception facilities at Paradip Port.	6.00	July, 2000
3	Construction of western quay including extension at Paradip.	2.00	June, 2000
4	Construction of LPG berth at Vizag.	1.00	August, 2000
5	Construction of multi-purpose berth in Outer Harbour at Visakhapatnam Port (balance capacity).	0.5	August, 2000
6	Construction of new port at Ennore (ADB Scheme).	16.00	Expected to be operational by Sept., 2000
7	Additional capacity of PSA Terminal at Tuticorin Port.	0.5	March, 2001
8	Modification to MOHP at Mormugao Port.	1.00	March, 2001
9	Installation of mooring buoys at Mormugao Port.	2.00	Dec., 2000
10	BOT Container Terminal at J.L. Nehru Port (balance capacity).	4.2	July, 2000
11	Relacement of submarine pipelines at Mumbai Port.	7.00	June, 2000
12	Construction of 4th oil jetty at Kandla.	2.00	Dec., 2000
Total		60.2 million Tonnes	

#### Hydel/Thermal Power Generation in North East

6387. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in the thermal and hydel power generation capacity of the power stations operating in the North Eastern States including Sikkim during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of some power stations in these States in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) to (c) The renovation and modernisation schemes are aimed at improving the performance and availability of Thermal power stations and to uprate the Hydel Stations for capacity benefits. There was no increase in the capacity addition of existing Thermal and Hydel power stations operating in the North Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years. However, the following five existing Thermal/Hydel power stations had been identified for renovation and modernisation for capacity benefit :-

Sl. No.	Power Stations	Installed Capacity (in MW)	Type	State/Central Sector	State in which located
1.	Lakwa	120	Thermal	State	Assam
2.	Namrup	133.5	Thermal	State	Assam
3.	Chandrapur	60	Thermal	State	Assam
4.	Kyredemkulai	60	Hydro	State	Meghalaya
5.	Loktak	105	Hydro	Central	Manipur

### Post Offices

6388. DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages without Post Offices in the country at the end of financial year 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which the post offices are likely to be opened in the said villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Post Offices are likely to be opened in the said villages in a phased manner in the Five Year Plans subject to the proposals conforming to prescribed norms for opening of new Post Office. This is further subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance.

### Statement

#### Circlewise Number of Villages without Post Offices

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Villages without P.O.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra	12274
2.	Assam	22638
3.	Bihar	66494
4.	Delhi	75
5.	Gujarat	5556
6.	Haryana	4441
7.	Himachal	14351
8.	J & K	4958
9.	Karnataka	19704
10.	Kerala	Nil
11.	M.P.	61286

1	2	3
12.	Maharashtra	29075
	Goa	156
13.	N.E.	-
	Arunachal Pradesh	3375
	Manipur	1398
	Meghalaya	5038
	Mizoram	312
	Nagaland	896
	Tripura	4057
14.	Orissa	39455
15.	Punjab	9056
16.	Rajasthan	28308
17.	Tamil Nadu	7226
18.	U.P.	94658
19.	W.B.	33559
	A and N Islands	118
	Sikkim	234
	Total :	468698

Total number of villages without post offices = 468698.

### Lions Population

6389. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) the States where lions are found and the comparative population figures of lions, tigers and wild cats of different species, sanctuary-wise,

(b) whether some lions have been brought from abroad and some lions or Gujarat shifted to Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether atleast 89 Gir lions and their cubs were killed during the last three years;

(d) if so, the main reasons thereof; and

(e) the amount spent and the steps being taken by the Union Government to conserve lions population during the last three years, sanctuary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Asiatic Lion is found only in the State of

Gujarat in Gir Forests, where its population was 304 at the time of last census conducted during 1995. Details of population figures of tiger and leopard are given in the Statement I and II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Gir National Park/Sanctuary is a prestigious project for the Gujarat Government and they have provided significant finance for it. Following budget provisions have been made by the Gujarat Government during the last three years.

Major Head	1997-98 Budget	Expenditure	1998-99 Budget	Expenditure	1999-2000 Budget	Expenditure upto 11/99
2406-F&WL Non Plan	434.10	434.15	527.66	484.29	538.96	127.73
2406-F&WL Plan	106.61	109.91	67.04	63.73	81.71	37.52

Details of financial assistance provided by the Central Government under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' to Gir National Park/ Sanctuary in Gujarat during last three years for the conservation of lion is given below :-

Year	Rs. In lakhs
1996-97	21.00
1997-98	5.05
1998-99	5.00

Steps taken by Government to conserve lion population are :-

1. Steps have been taken to improve the bio-productivity potential of the area by implementing soil and moisture conservation works, improvement of grass reserves, eradication of unwanted growth etc.
2. Check posts have been established at sensitive points all along the periphery to prevent illegal activities.

3. Field staff has been provided with arms and ammunitions and vehicles for patrolling.
4. Wireless stations have been set up for better communication and response.
5. Eco-development works have been taken up in the revenue villages, forest settlement villages and maldhari nesses for improving the village economy in order to reduce biotic pressure on the protected area.
6. Nature education and awareness camps are held to create awareness among the masses.
7. Cattle immunisation camps are organised to prevent disease transfer to wild herbivores.
8. Fire lines are prepared to minimise damage to the habitat by fire.
9. Habitat of lion meta populations around Gir is also being improved as a result of which population of lion has increased from 284 in 1990 to 304 in 1995.

#### Statement

#### Population of Tigers in the Country as Reported by the States

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tamil Nadu	33	65	97	95	97	62



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Maharashtra	180	174	301	417	276	257
3.	West Bengal	73	296	352	353	335	361
4.	Karnataka	102	156	202	257	305	350
5.	Bihar	85	110	138	157	137	103
6.	Assam	147	300	376	376	325	458
7.	Rajasthan	74	79	96	99	64	58
8.	Madhya Pradesh	457	529	786	985	912	927
9.	Uttar Pradesh	262	487	698	735	465	475
10.	Andhra Pradesh	35	148	164	235	197	171
11.	Mizoram	—	65	33	18	28	12
12.	Gujarat	8	7	9	9	5	1
13.	Goa Daman and Diu	—	—	—	2	3	6
14.	ORISSA	142	173	202	243	226	194
	TOTAL	1578	2589	3454	3981	3375	3435
15.	Kerala	60	134	89	45	57	N.R.
16.	Meghalaya	32	35	125	34	53	N.R.
17.	Manipur	1	10	6	31	—	N.R.
18.	Tripura	7	6	5	—	—	N.R.
19.	Nagaland	80	102	104	104	83	N.R.
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	69	139	219	135	180	N.R.
21.	Sikkim	—	—	2	4	2	N.R.
22.	Haryana	—	—	1	—	—	N.R.
	Total	249	426	551	353	375	N.R.

N.R.—Not reported by States.

#### Statement-II

#### Population of Leopards in the Country as Reported by the States

Sl. No.	Name of State	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	301	152	138
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21	121	98	N.R.
3.	Assam	123	123	246	N.A.
4.	Bihar	113	134	203	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Gujarat	498	702	772	832
6.	Haryana	10	19	25	N.R.
7.	Himachal Pradesh	199	199	821	N.R.
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	4	—	N.R.
9.	Karnataka	238	283	455	N.R.
10.	Kerala	—	27	16	N.R.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1322	2036	1700	1851
12.	Manipur	7	—	—	N.R.

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Maharashtra	380	580	417	431
14.	Mizoram	6	38	49	28
15.	Nagaland	72	72	-	N.R.
16.	Orissa	266	279	378	422
17.	Rajasthan	270	461	475	474
18.	Sikkim	-	1	-	N.R.
19.	Tripura	27	37	18	N.R.
20.	Tamil Nadu	189	119	139	110
21.	Uttar Pradesh	880	1095	711	1412
22.	West Bengal	112	108	108	N.A.
23.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	10	15	16
24.	Goa Daman & Diu	10	18	31	25
Total		4747	6767	8828	5738

N.R.—Not reported by States.

N.A.—Not available.

#### Registration of Firms in Bangalore

6390. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any tatkal scheme to provide company names to the new entrepreneurs in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open an external cash counter in Bangalore for registration of company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

#### LPG Connections in Andhra Pradesh

6391. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) the total number of applications for LPG connections pending as on date in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which all the pending applications for LPG connections are likely to be cleared?

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 number of persons on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the Public Sector Oil Companies in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.1.2000, was about 8.87 lakhs.

(b) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

#### Estimates Pending from Karnataka

6392. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimates for various work proposals sent by the Karnataka Government are still pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the estimated cost of each work proposal and the steps taken by the Union Government to accord sanction to these work proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) No estimate relating to National Highways, for which Government of India is primarily concerned, is pending.

#### Meeting of All Political Parties with C.E.C.

6393. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has called meeting of all political parties to discuss 11 point agenda on April 29, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the deliberations and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether a number of proposals on electoral reforms have been sent by the Election Commission from time to time to the Government in the past also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the proposal accepted by the Government and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Requirement of LPG at Ranchi, Bihar**

6394. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of LPG for Ranchi district of Bihar at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the steps Government have taken to meet the full requirement of LPG in the district;

(c) whether rural areas of the district are being neglected in supplying LPG;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set up more LPG agencies in the district in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) At present, the demand of LPG customers enrolled with the Public Sector Oil Companies in the State of Bihar including Ranchi is being met by and large in full.

(c) to (e) The existing distributors in district Ranchi are supplying the LPG under their area of operation. Two locations in Ranchi district of Bihar have been included in LPG Marketing Plan, 1996-98.

[Translation]

**T.D.M. Office**

6395. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the telecom divisional office of Daltonganj in Bihar into T.D.M. office.;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) As per the existing norms, a Telecom District is considered for upgradation to the level of Telecom District Manager (T.D.M.) when it attains the workload of 11,550 working connections. The working connection of Daltonganj is 8958 as on 31.03.2000. The Daltonganj will be considered for upgradation to the level of T.D.M. when it would attain the requisite workload of 11,550 working connection.

[English]

**Seminar on Waste Water Treatment**

6396. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sponsored an international seminar in Hyderabad on combined waste water treatment during March, 2000;

(b) if so, the salient features of views expressed on waste water management and regulatory aspects; and

(c) the measures proposed to implement the views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the views expressed on waste water management and regulatory aspects are outlined below :-

- There should be concerted efforts to set up combined waste water treatment plants instead of the common effluent treatment plants as the addition of sewage to the industrial waste water improves overall treatability.
- All efforts should be made to construct/ strengthen the terminal waste water treatment facility to meet the required disposal standards. The sharing of capital cost and the cost of treatment at such facilities could be on equitable basis between the municipality and industry.
- All efforts should be made to recycle and reuse the treated waste waters at the industry/terminal treatment stage.
- In plant controls and cleaner technologies of production leading to waste minimisation should be encouraged through incentives/disincentives.
- Concentration of total dissolved solids in waste water is a serious problem and requires to be addressed in depth.
- The regulatory agencies should initiate investigative studies to assess the effect of the treated effluent on the receiving environment.

(c) The aim of the seminar was to facilitate exchange of views and experience and create better awareness in regard to combined waste water treatment among the participants which would ultimately help in implementation.

### Thermal Power Plants in Haryana

6397. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposal for the construction of thermal power plants in Haryana are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of various existing thermal plants in the state; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal pending with the Union Government for clearance for the construction of thermal power plants in Haryana

(d) and (e) The capacity of Panipat Thermal Power Station is being increased from existing 650 MW to 860 MW by setting up additional 210 MW under Stage-IV. This unit is expected to be commissioned by December, 2000.

Faridabad and Panipat Thermal Power Stations of Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited are covered under Phase-II programme of Renovation and Modernisation launched by the Government of India. Under the R&M programme, it is also proposed to increase the installed capacity of existing 4x110 MW units of Panipat TPS by 32 MW from 110 MW to 118 MW each unit. The work on other units will also be taken up after successful commissioning of Unit-II.

### Road Network with Major Ports

6398. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had prepared a number of action plans to link road network with the major ports in the past;

(b) if so, whether their feasibility studies have been completed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the further steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has planned to develop road linkages to major ports namely Calcutta and Haldia in West Bengal, Paradip in Orissa, Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Chennai, Ennore and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, Cochin in Kerala, New Mangalore in Karnataka, Mormugao in Goa, Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru in Maharashtra and Kandla in Gujarat. The road linkages

identified for development include stretches of National Highways as also State roads. As a first step towards achieving the goal, it is proposed to carry out feasibility study and detailed engineering of the suitable road linkages after studying the entire road network connecting the Port.

(c) Consultancy assignments for feasibility study and detailed engineering related to Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra, Calcutta and Haldia Port in West Bengal, New Mangalore Port in Karnataka, Tuticorin Port in Tamil Nadu have been awarded. Consultancy assignments related to Cochin Port in Kerala, Paradip Port in Orissa are to be awarded shortly. Further scheduling will be based on finding of the feasibility studies

### Self-Sufficiency in Power Sector

6399. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study in power generation system/technology of advanced countries like U.S.A., Canada, U.K., Germany, France, Sweden, Australia, Japan and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt their system of generation and distribution of power in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) While the Government has not made any formal study of power generation system technology in various advanced countries, it is fully aware of the system and technologies in use.

In the conventional mode of generation almost all developed countries of the world have broadly three sources of generation namely, thermal, hydro and nuclear. They have also harnessed non-conventional energy sources, like wind, solar, biogas etc.

All the four types of generation mentioned above are also available in India. The installed capacity by the end of March, 2000 was 97,836.88 MW comprising 70186.16 MW thermal, 23816.01 MW hydro, 2680 MW nuclear and 1154.71 MW from wind.

During the last decade, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government to improve the power position. It began with the amendment of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 wherein private sector was allowed to invest in power generation. A series of measures have been taken thereafter in terms of streamlining the procedures and raising the limit of foreign equity participation in the power sector to promote investments in the power sector. The Government also

announced hydel policy in 1998, a revised mega power policy in November, 1998 and further enacted the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 in order to give fillip to the transmission sector. Private sector participation in transmission was also made possible. Reforms and restructuring, of late, has been the thrust area of the Government wherein Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in 1998 to rationalise tariffs. Separately, 14 other States have set up on their own regulatory commissions. The latest policy initiative of the Government is to under take 100% metering in a time bound manner and finish the entire process by the end of December, 2001. The Government has been encouraging the setting up of power projects through a transparent process of competitive bidding which ensures the supply and adoption of the most advanced and efficient generation and transmission technologies.

#### Corporatisation of Calcutta Port

6400. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present progress of corporatisation of the Calcutta Port;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to exclude Haldia Dock system from the purview of the Calcutta Port and constitute it into a separate corporate body;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :  
(a) to (d) At present, there is no proposal to corporatise Calcutta Port. However, the Government have taken a decision, in principle, to corporatise existing ports in phases starting with Jawaharlal Nehru and Haldia Ports.

#### Withdrawal of Existing Road Fund

6401. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw 1998 resolution governing the existing road fund;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill for levying statutory cess on petrol and high speed diesel for development of National Highways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :  
(a) to (e) It has been decided to withdraw 1977 and 1988

resolutions governing the existing Central Road Fund and to introduce a bill in Parliament for levying a statutory cess on petrol and High Speed Diesel (HSD) for development of National Highways, State roads and rural roads. The Central Road Fund Bill is at a preliminary stage. It has, however, been decided that 50% of the cess of Re. 1.00 per liter on HSD will be spent on development of rural roads. 15% of the cess on HSD and 30% of the cess on petrol will be used for development of State roads. The balance amount, i.e. 35% of the cess on HSD and 70% of cess on petrol will be used for development of National Highways and construction of rail-over-bridges and safety works on unmanned level crossings.

#### Special Benefit for Indian Shipping Lines

6402. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have initiated any special strategy for the benefit of Indian Shipping lines in general and Shipping Corporation of India in particular;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in order to involve the Indian shipping companies in the LNG transportation work for which bids have been invited, the relaxed criteria for the Indian shipping companies would not insist on experience in transportation of LNG;
- (d) if so, whether Indian companies operating large vessels and with good track record of safety would also be eligible for LNG transportation contract;
- (e) if so, the norms finalised in this regard; and
- (f) the final decision likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already initiated steps for formulating National Shipping Policy for shipping industry which includes Shipping Corporation of India, whereby the following fiscal and financial proposals have been included :-

- (i) Grant of export industry status to the shipping industry;
- (ii) Restoration of Section 33 AC of income Tax Act;

- (iii) Enhancement of depreciation from 20% to 40%;
- (iv) Tax relief to Indian seafarers; and
- (v) Coastal shipping to be declared as an infrastructure industry.

The proposal at (ii) above has already been agreed to by the Finance Ministry.

In addition to the above, the Government have granted the status of Mini Ratna to SCI in February, 2000 which entail an enhanced delegation of financial power.

(c) to (f) Petronet LNG Limited had invited applications globally for pre-qualification of shipowners and operators for transportation of LNG. However, none of the Indian shipping companies appeared to be satisfying the conditions stipulated therein. Government have since taken steps to facilitate participation of Indian shipping in LNG transportation. In fact, Government have recently granted approval to SCI for Joint Venture with Mitsui OSK, Japan and Atlantic commercial Finance Company an affiliate of Enron for transportation of LNG to the Dabhol Power Company. Besides this, action has also been initiated to formulate an LNG Transportation Policy, which favours transportation of LNG by Indian flag vessels.

#### Land Affected CRZ

6403. SHRI R.L BHATIA :  
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

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

- (a) whether there is any area of land affected by the restrictions under the Coastal Regulation Zone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the percentage of land coming under this Zone in Punjab and Assam States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL HARANDI) : (a) and (d) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 declares the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters, which are influenced by the tidal action (in the landward side) up to 500 metres from the High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and HTL as Coastal Regulation Zone. This Notification lays down regulations/restrictions on the setting up and expansion of industries, operations or processes and other developmental activities in the CRZ

- (c) The CRZ Notification does not apply to States of Punjab and Assam since these two States have no coastline.

#### Bids by NTPC for Gas Based Power Projects

6404. SHRI A VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has invited fresh bids for four gas based power projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether bids for these projects were also invited twice earlier;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not taking any decision on the bids at that time;
- (e) the names of parties which submitted their bids at that time and this time; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to finalise the bids in respect of these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is inviting fresh bids shortly on International Competitive Bidding (ICB) basis for Main Plant Packages in respect of Anta-II, Auraiya-II, Kawas-II and Gandhar-II Combined Cycle Power Projects.

(c) NTPC received bids for Anta-II and Auraiya-II earlier in March, 1999. However, only one bid was received and that too did not comply with the tender requirement of opening of bids. Therefore, the bid was returned unopened to the bidder. In view of the poor response in Anta-II and Auraiya-II, the bid opening of Kawas-II and Gandhar-II was extended. Subsequently, after modifications to the bidding documents, bids for Anta-II, Auraiya-II, Kawas-II and Gandhar-II were received by NTPC in June, 1999.

(d) to (f) Two bids were received from bidders, namely, M/s BHEL and M/s Asia Brown Boveri (ABB) against ICB in respect of Main Plant Packages for Kawas-II and Gandhar-II whereas only one bid from M/s BHEL was received against Main Plant Packages for Anta-II and Auraiya-II.

Considering the vital national importance of these projects and with a view to avoid any further loss of time, NTPC was advised by the Ministry in public interest to finalise the bids by negotiating with the bidders on the basis of a legal opinion taken from the Additional Solicitor General. However, NTPC, taking into account certain major deviations on various specifications and requirements,

treated both be bids as non-responsive and have decided to go for rebidding after reviewing the bidding conditions and providing adequate time to the bidders for better competition and response.

#### Special Dispensation Fund

6405. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is likely to create a special dispensation fund for providing finances for modernisation and renovation of power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the factors which led the Union Government to create such a fund; and

(c) the details in regard to the proposed utilisation of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) A scheme for creation of special fund for Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) has been initiated by the Planning Commission in order to give a fillip to the reforms process in the power sector. The scheme proposed to cover activities relating to renovation and modernisation (R&M)/ Life Extension/uprating of generating stations (both thermal and hydel) and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system. The scheme will be made operational from the annual plan 2000-2001 and covers projects to be taken up from 1st April, 2000 onwards. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been allocated for the year 2000-2001 under the Ministry of Finance (Demand No. 30).

The modalities for implementing the scheme and the funding of the scheme through a combination of grant and loan are being finalised by the Planning Commission.

In order to avail assistance under the scheme, the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/State Utilities will have to formulate viable projects. A Committee constituted by the Planning Commission will monitor the implementation of the project.

[Translation]

#### Manufacture of Bitumen by Petroleum Companies

6406. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Public Sector oil companies in the country manufacturing bitumen and the annual production capacity thereof, company-wise; and

(b) the details of States to which bitumen is supplied through consumer centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Oil companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Cochin Refineries Limited (CRL), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (MRPL) are manufacturing bitumen in the country. The company-wise production during 1999-2000 (Prov.) is as follows :-

Name of the Oil Companies	Figure in TMT
IOCL	1369
HPCL	334
BPCL	274
CRL	66
CPCL	306
MRPL	137
Total	2487

(b) Bitumen is not supplied through consumer centres.

[English]

#### Satellite Telephone Facility

6407. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to provide satellite telephone facility to the cyclone affected areas;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The department has proposed to provide 5 Nos. of Satellite based transportable emergency terminals to each cyclone prone telecom circle for use in the affected areas.

(c) It is planned to provide 2 Mbps connectivity from 9 coastal districts to Bhubaneswar through a digital satellite network. In addition, 10 Nos. of satellite telephones would be provided for the coastal districts of Orissa this year.

[Translation]

### Expansion of Telephone Network

6408. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for providing telephone connections in rural and urban areas of the country during 1999-2000;

(b) the achievements made during the said period;

(c) whether there is any proposal for expansion of telephone network in both the areas of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the number of new telephone connections likely to be added in the network separately during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) A target of providing 45.5 lakh new telephone connections in rural and urban areas of the country was fixed during 1999-2000. The achievement against this target was 49.18 lakh, in which 12.03 lakh telephone connections was provided in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to make telephone available on demand in the country including rural and urban areas by March, 2002 with the private sector complementary efforts of the Government. The Government have enhanced the target of providing new telephone connections during the 9th Five Year Plan from the original proposal of 185 lakhs to 222.7 lakhs.

(e) During 2000-2001, 57.9 lakh new telephone connections are likely to be provided in the country. Out of this, about 15 lakh lines is likely to be provided in the rural areas.

[English]

### Uniform Rate of Registration Duty on Property

6409. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to make uniform rate of registration duty on property throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (A) No, Sir. The State Governments are empowered to fix the fee for registration as per section 78 of the Registration Act, 1908.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Non-Payment of Rashtriya Bachat Patra

6410. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rashtraiya bachat patra ka bhugtan na karne par daak vibhag doshi: Forum" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated April 11, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Consumer Redressal Forum has held the postal authorities guilty for not providing the desired service to the consumers and have fined the Department of Posts apart from making payment with interest; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the Department of Posts more responsive to the Consumers?

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

(b) Six years National Savings Certificates (VIIIth Issue) with Sr. Nos 04DD 782221 for Rs. 5,000/- and 758381, 758382 for Rs. 1000/- each were purchased on 26-3-93 by Shri Satyanarain (HUF) from Ashok Vihar Head Post Office, New Delhi. After maturity period of six years, when the purchaser approached Postmaster, Ashok Vihar Head Post Office for encashment of the aforesaid National Savings Certificates, it came to notice that the word 'HUF' written on the NSCs against the name of the purchaser was scored out. The maturity value was not paid to the holder since the NSCs were found to be issued in contravention of Rule 4 of NSCs (Rules) 1989 read with Director-General, P&T letter No. 3-26/98-SB dated 28-4-79 which spells out that NSCs (VIIIth Issue) cannot be issued in favour of karta of HUF until the name of another adult member or the co-parcener is added in the application for purchase of the certificates. There is no provision in the rules for payment of interest on certificates issued in contravention of rules. The purchaser of the NSCs had signed an undertaking in the application for purchase that he agrees to abide by NSCs (VIIIth Issue) Rules, 1989. The purchaser was, therefore, informed by the Postmaster, Ashok Vihar Head Post Office that the payment of full maturity value inclusive of interest for such certificates



issued in contravention of rules can be only after approval of the Ministry of Finance.

(c) Yes Sir. On an application filed by the complainant before the Distt. Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum Shalimar Bagh on 5-7-99, the Distt. Forum in their decision dated 9-2-2000 ordered the Department to pay a sum of Rs. 14,105/- being the maturity value of said three certificates alongwith interest from the date of maturity i.e. from 27-3-99 onwards till its realisation alongwith Rs. 500/- as compensation. The Department filed an appeal before the State Commission on 3-4-2000 which was dismissed on 6-4-2000.

(d) The Department has adopted various steps including modernisation of services with new technology, better management control and monitoring of services, easy accessibility of information for customers, etc. for enhancing customer satisfaction.

#### Inadequate Post and Telegraph Facilities

6411. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are inadequate post and telegraph facilities in Orissa;

(b) the targets fixed for the expansion and upgradation of Post and Telegraph network in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of such Gram Panchayats/Block development areas in Orissa where said facilities have not been provided as yet; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The average population and area served per post office in Orissa are 3818 and 19.14 sq. kms. respectively against the national average of 5477 and 21.32 sq. kms.

(b) The targets fixed for the expansion and upgradation of postal network in Orissa during the first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan are as under :-

Plan Year	Targets		
	Extra Dep- artmental Branch Post Offices	Departmental Sub Post Offices	Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras
1997-98	27	2	Nil
1998-99	10	2	20
1999-2000	14	2	30

The targets for remaining two years are yet to be finalised.

(c) All Gram Panchayats/Block Development Areas in Orissa are being provided postal facilities through post offices/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras or from nearby post offices. Out of 5254 Gram Panchayats, 5076 are having post offices and 85 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, leaving only 93 Gram Panchayats without having a post office or Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.

(d) Post Offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance.

#### Department of Telecom.

(a) No, Sir. Adequate telegraph facilities are available in Orissa. There are 30 telegraph offices and 3555 combined offices working in the State.

(b) to (d) No specific targets have been fixed for setting up of Telegraph offices during Ninth Five Year Plan in Orissa. There are 1699 Gram Panchayats and 7 Block Development Areas where Telegraph facilities are not available. As per the policy of the department, each village is to be provided with public telephone facility by March 2002. Public telephone opened in Post Offices are used to provide Telegraph facility on Phonocom.

[Translation]

#### Cellular Telephone Service in Bihar

6412. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide cellular telephone service in Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Purnea, Begusarai and Saharsa district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) is initially introducing cellular services in few selected cities in the form of a Pilot Project. The cities of Bihar state which are proposed to be covered under pilot project are given below. The pilot project is likely to be completed by October/November, 2000.

- 1 Patna
2. Biharsarif

3. Hazipur
4. Arah
5. Rajgir
6. Badh

The case for provision of cellular mobile service in other parts of the country is also under process in the department.

[English]

#### Shelving of Gas Based Power Project by NTPC

6413. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has shelved its proposal to set up four gas based power projects;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are undertaking a project for installation of modern transmission system in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bids for Main Plant Packages for Anta-II, Auraiya-II, Kawas-II and Gandhar-II projects were earlier received by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in June, 1999. As the bidders did not meet the qualifying requirements and taken major deviations on key requirements of the bidding documents, making the bids non-responsive, NTPC Board has decided for a rebid. The fresh bid on ICB basis are being invited shortly by NTPC for Main Plant Packages for these four gas power projects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Presently, power system of the country are operated on regional basis that comprises Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern and North Eastern regions. On the basis of the latest generation expansion plan formulated by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) covering the period upto 2011-12 i.e. end of 11th Plan and the loads projected in the latest Power Survey, the Northern region would be deficit in all India optimisation of generating capacity additions were done then increase in generating capacity in Eastern region for supply of loads in the Northern region is a part of the least cost solution. In these circumstances transmission of a substantial amount of power from the Eastern to the Northern region is

anticipated in the 11th Plan. It is planned to operate power systems of the country in clusters of regions in the 10th Plan time frame and as a uniform National Grid by the end of 11th Plan. Large scale inter-regional power transfers have been projected in line with this proposal. Power system planning studies have been carried out considering all India Power system integration and several scenarios for the development of the power system between now and the terminal year of the 11th Plan i.e. 2011-12. In the plan five possible layouts covering expansion of 400 KV, 765 KV and HVDC and combination of these three transmission voltage options have been considered. Transmission network identified covers the network required for evacuation of power from major generation projects and for inter-regional power transfer also. Out of the five possible transmission layouts, the best possible will be selected for which consultation between CEA and the power utilities are in progress, covering detailed requirements and modifications required if any.

Modern technologies for transmission systems are progressively being implemented in the country. These include series compensation of lines, flexible alternating current transmission system, high voltage direct current transmission system and introduction of the next higher voltage namely 765 KV AC.

#### LPG Connections in Madhya Pradesh

6414. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of LPG connections released in Madhya Pradesh during the past three years alongwith percentage of increase therein, year-wise;
- (b) the number of LPG dealers functioning in each district of Madhya Pradesh at present; and
- (c) the details of marketing plan for LPG and other petroleum products for Bhopal Region of Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001?

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) The number of LPG connections released in the State of Madhya Pradesh by Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years is as under :-

Year	(Figs. in lakhs)
1997-98	2.22
1998-99	1.80
1999-2000	3.99

(b) The total number of LPG distributors operating in the state as on 1.1.2000 was 379.

(c) Two locations for Retail Outlets and one for LPG distributorship in the Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the Marketing Plan of 1996-98 in the State.

#### **Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Hyderabad**

6415. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telephone exchanges in Hyderabad city modernized in January 1999; and

(b) the time by which the remaining telephone exchanges are likely to be modernized in the above city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Out of 59 Telephone Exchanges in Hyderabad city 57 have been modernized by January 1999.

(b) The remaining two Telephone Exchanges were modernized in September 1999 and December 1999.

[Translation]

#### **I.T.I. Mankapur**

6416. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income of I.T.I. Mankapur during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of officers/employees working in I.T.I. Mankapur at present;

(c) whether there is shortage of employees in the said I.T.I.;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to provide any employment facility to the boys of Gonda Janpad in I.T.I. Mankapur; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The profit earned for the last three years is as under:

Year	Profit (Rs. in crores)
1996-97	55.78
1997-98	84.94
1998-99	83.08

(b) The total number of officers/employees are 2355.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### **Blue Ribbon Reforms Advisory Panel**

6417. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Reforms Advisory Panel on restructuring the role of International Telecommunication Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has established a Reform Advisory Panel (RAP). However, specific recommendation of this panel is still awaited.

[Translation]

#### **Navinagar Super Thermal Power Station**

6418. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the initial preliminary work of the Navinagar Thermal Power Station in district Aurangabad in Bihar has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in keeping the project pending?

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

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the need to increase the capacity addition programme in Central Sector during 10th and 11th Plan, Navinagar Thermal Power Project for

development by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). NTPC has been advised to initiate preliminary works of the project after assessing its feasibility and marketability of power to be generated from the project.

[English]

#### Sale of General Items at Petrol Pumps

6419. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed sale of items of daily use at petrol pumps especially located at highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) In line with international practice, oil marketing companies are setting up convenience stores at select retail outlets including some retail outlets on highways for selling various consumer products. This is a step in the direction of value addition and customer service at retail outlets.

[Translation]

#### Ban on I.R.C.C. for Road Construction

6420. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the Indian Road Construction Corporation in regard to undertake contracts for road construction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether I.R.C.C. has submitted several profitable schemes such as implementation of High Speed Tram project in Delhi, commercial development of land of DTC in Delhi and commercial development of land of Calcutta Port Trust and the same are pending for clearance; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the non approval of these projects by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Indian Road Construction Corporation was directed not to enter into any fresh contracts after the set back it received in Libya due to its poor performance and non receipt of timely payments.

(c) and (d) IRCC had submitted some schemes but these were not approved by the Government. The

Government have since decided on 1.2.2000 to wind up the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited.

[English]

#### Amount for National Highways in Karnataka

6421. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought by the Karnataka Government for improving the bad reaches on the National Highways;

(b) the amount agreed to be released by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to release the entire amount sought for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Details of amount sought and allocated during 1999-2000 to the State of Karnataka are as under :-

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Demand	Allocation
National Highway (Original) Work	4500.00	4600.08*
Externally aided Projects	1224.00	1224.00
Maintenance and Repair	3900.46	3921.04
Special Repair Programme	4800.00	4524.00

\*Including Rs. 100.08 lakhs for outstanding liabilities.

(c) The amount is allocated having regard to availability of fund and progress of various schemes/works.

[Translation]

#### Minimum Need Programme

6422. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation provide loan on concessional rates under the Minimum Need Programme; and

(b) if so, the reasons for non-completion of electrification of far flung villages in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Loans under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) are provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) at rates fixed by Government from time to time. The rate of interest for MNP category loans given by REC to State Electricity Boards/

Power Departments, is 12.5% per annum and the period of re-payment of loan is 30 years, including moratorium period of 5 years.

(b) Priority areas for village electrification are decided and determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards keeping in view the availability of financial resources with the State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities and as per the policy and the directions of the State Governments. Many of the villages remaining for electrification in the far flung villages are inaccessible. State electricity Boards find it un-economical to electrify these villages. In addition, paucity of concessional resources has also affected the village electrification programme. Some of the other reasons for slow progress of electrification in far flung villages are inadequate sub-distribution system facilities, disturbed conditions prevailing in some States, non-repayment of dues of Rural Electrification Corporation resulting in no cash flow, lack of demand from the consumers due to backwardness and poor economic conditions.

[English]

#### Per Capita Consumption of Power

6423. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual per capita power consumption at the end of Seventh Plan, Eighth Plan and till date in the country; and

(b) the targets fixed in this regard for the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The annual per capita power consumption in the country at the end of Seventh Plan (1989-90) and Eighth Plan (1996-97) was 237.95 KWH and 334.26 KWH, respectively. The latest figure available are for 1997-98 which was 349.05 KWH.

(b) Targets are fixed for capacity addition during the plan period and not per capita consumption. The targets for capacity addition are given below :-

	Target for Capacity addition in MW
Seventh Plan	22,245 MW
Eighth Plan	30,538 MW
Ninth Plan	40,245 MW*

\*Mid-term review made by the Planning Commission has assessed a capacity addition of 28,097 MW during the Ninth Plan as feasible.

[Translation]

#### Closure of I.R.C.C.

6424. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds on which the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited has been closed without declaring it as a sick public sector enterprise;

(b) whether posts of the higher level such as Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Group General Manager and General Managers have been lying vacant in the I.R.C.C. for several years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the above said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Poor performance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Poor performance and inadequate workload.

(d) Does not arise. The Govt. has decided on 1.2.2000 to wind up IRCC Ltd.

[English]

#### Commissioning of Additional Sea Ports

6425. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether no additional sea Ports have been commissioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the waiting time for ships is from one to two weeks due to lack of port facilities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend Arabian Sea from Gujarat to Bhakhasar Bhawatra in Barmer and Jalore districts (Rajasthan) to create Sea Ports in Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the amount proposed to be provided alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the required port facilities were provided by expanding the capacities of existing Major Port Trusts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation] **प्रश्न**

**Demand of Power in Delhi**

6426. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power scenario in the National Capital is projecting grim picture for the coming months;

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

(c) whether there is a wide gap between demand and supply of power in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction to overcome the power shortage in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) During the months of May-August 2000 of current summer season, Delhi is expected to face energy shortage varying from 2% to 10% and peak deficit from 9% to 16%. The power shortages in Delhi is mainly attributable to following reasons :-

(i) no capacity addition in the NCT of Delhi during past several years;

(ii) low availability from generating stations of Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB);

(iii) transmission and distribution bottlenecks in DVB system;

(iv) low voltage;

(v) high T & D losses; and

(vi) low frequency in Northern Region Grid.

(e) An Action Plan has been drawn up for meeting power demand in the NCT of Delhi during summer of 2000. The Action Plan includes steps to improve availability of power from the existing generating stations, increase in allocation from unallocated quota in Central Power Stations from 9% (81 MW) to 25% (225 MW), upkeep and maintenance of transmission and distribution system, installation of shunt capacitors to improve voltage and assistance to Delhi from other states.

**Scheme for Expansion of Forests**

6427. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme for expansion of forest land from the income earned by the commercial use of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The matter is primarily the concern of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to address the issues underlying the major problems of the forestry sector in line with the National Forest Policy 1988. The objective of the NFAP is to bring one third of the area of the country under tree cover and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests.

**Supply of Gas to Coal Based Industries  
Near Taj Mahal**

6428. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed to supply gas to the coal based industries in the surrounding areas of the Taj Mahal to protect it from pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of industries around the Taj to which gas is being supplied; and

(d) the time by which the remaining industries are likely to be supplied gas?

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 Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated December 30, 1998 had directed the U.P. Pollution Control Board to issue notices to all polluting units including the coal based industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) to apply for gas allocation/relocation.

(c) and (d) Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has created necessary infrastructure for gas supply to such industries in the TTZ. Against the total registered demand of 381 units in Agra and Ferozabad, GAIL is supply in gas to around 22% thereof covering 82 units. Gas supply to the remaining units will depend on their fulfilling the eligibility criteria and the availability of gas.

[English]

#### Requirement of Power in Gujarat

6429. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from foreign company pertaining to generation of power in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) So far as private sector power projects requiring Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are concerned, no proposal has been received in CEA from any foreign company pertaining to generation of power in Gujarat. However, the following private sector power projects in the State accorded TEC by CEA envisage foreign equity participation :-

- (i) Hazira CCGT (515 MW) of M/s Essar Power Ltd. (Foreign equity of around 49% is held by M/s Prime Hazira Ltd.)
- (ii) Paguthan CCGT (854.7 MW) (Promoted by Powergen India Ltd., U.K., Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd., and M/s Siemens, Germany.
- (iii) Jamnagar Project (500 MW) (Though the project envisages some foreign equity participation, the name of the foreign equity holder has not been identified).

Apart from the above projects, a mega power project is proposed to be developed at Pipavav (2000 MW) in the

private sector under the revised mega power projects policy announced by Government in November, 1998. The process has already been initiated for selection of the developer through the process of International competitive bidding. The following foreign companies have evinced interest in the development of the Pipavav mega project:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Country	Mega Power Projects for which interest evinced
1.	Electric de France (EDF)	France	Pipavav
2.	Enron International	U.S.A.	Pipavav
3.	National Power	U.K.	Pipavav
4.	ABB Energy Venture	Sweden	Pipavav
5.	Intergen	U.K.	Pipavav
6.	Shell	Holland	Pipavav
7.	British Gas	U.K.	Pipavav
8.	Bayernwerk A.G.	Germany	Pipavav
9.	TNB	Malayasia	Pipavav
10.	CLP International	China	Pipavav
11.	CEPA, Asia	Hongkong	Pipavav

A petition has been filed with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission on 10.4.2000 for approval of the implementation methodology and bidding process in respect of the Pipavav mega project.

#### Telephone Connections in Kerala

6430. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted in Kerala as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the State during 2000-2001, location-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Number of telephone connections working in Kerala Telecom Circle and the waiting list for telephone connections as on 31-3-2000, district-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) No. of telephone connections proposed to be provided in the Circle during 2000-2001 Secondary Switching Area-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) 450000 new telephone connections are proposed to be provided during 2000-01. The remaining applicants are proposed to be cleared progressively by March 2002. For this the existing exchanges are being expanded and new exchanges are being opened.

#### Statement-I

*Kerala Telecom Circle as on 31-3-2000*

Sl. No.	Name of Dist.	No. of Telephone connections working	No. of persons in the waiting list
1.	Alleppey	100122	52183
2.	Calicut	131640	69511
3.	Cannanore	113519	55301
4.	Emakulam	275203	37797
5.	Idukki	45632	22838
6.	Kasaragod	50648	30491
7.	Kottayam	141698	36616
8.	Malappuram	90186	83388
9.	Palaghat	85666	43662
10.	Pathanamthitta	102388	31024
11.	Quilon	127798	60529
12.	Trichur	193166	58999
13.	Trivandrum	214029	42849
14.	Wynad	20170	22073
Total for Kerala State		1691865	645261
U/T of Lakshadweep		5541	1803
U/T of Mahe (Pondicherry)		7733	101
Total for Kerala Circle		1705139	647165

#### Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Secondary Switching Area	No. of Telephone Connections proposed to be provided during 2000-01
1	2	3
1.	Alleppey	30000

1	2	3
2.	Calicut	80000
3.	Cannanore	45000
4.	Emakulam	75000
5.	Kottayam	30000
6.	Palaghat	20000
7.	Pathanamthitta	25000
8.	Quilon	40000
9.	Trichur	50000
10.	Trivandrum	55000
Total for Kerala Circle		450000

#### Appointment of Company Secretary

6431. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies registered with Registrar of Companies all over the country having paidup capital of Rs. 50 lacs and above;

(b) the details of those companies who have appointed whole time company Secretary as per section 383A of Companies Act, 1956;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against defaulting companies for non-compliance of section 383A of Companies Act, 1956;

(d) whether the Government propose to incorporate a new provision under the Companies Act, 1956 for obtaining a certificate from a Secretary for whole time practice compulsorily for such companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The number of companies with paidup capital of Rs. 50 lacs and above is estimated to be 30902.

(b) and (c) Information regarding appointment of Company Secretary in the companies is not maintained. However, the number of prosecutions filed for non-compliance of Section 383A are 13, 10 and 18 in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.



(d) to (g) The Companies Bill, 1997 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997 and the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1999 provide that every company not required to employ a whole time secretary and having a paidup share capital of ten lakh rupees or more shall file with the Registrar of Companies a certificate from a secretary in whole time practice as to whether the company has complied with all provisions of the Act or not. The penalty for non-compliance of the provision of Section 383A of the Act has been proposed to be enhanced to Rs. 500 per day.

#### Post Offices in H.P.

6432. DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Himachal Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the State during 2000-2001;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present, 2767 post offices are functioning in Himachal Pradesh. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The targets for opening of new post offices during 2000-2001 are yet to be finalized.

#### Statement

##### *District-wise Number of Post Offices Functioning at Present in Himachal Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of post offices functioning
1	2	3
1.	Bilaspur	144
2.	Chamba	222
3.	Hamirpur	223
4.	Kangra	652
5.	Kinnaur	72
6.	Kullu	154
7.	Lehwal & Spiti	46
8.	Mandi	368

1	2	3
9.	Shimla	349
10.	Sirmour	173
11.	Solan	183
12.	Una	183
Total		2767

#### Road Improvement and Road Safety in A.P.

6433. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any high level meeting with NGOs and social activists on road improvement and road safety in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and current year, till date;

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

(c) whether such meetings are proposed to be held in the near future also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve communication with NGOs and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (e) No high level meeting with NGO and social activists on road improvement and road safety in Andhra Pradesh has been held during the last three years and the current year till date.

[Translation]

#### Marketing Policy of Petroleum Products

6434. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an open and competitive market of the petroleum products by abolishing the monopoly of the Government sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to make available the quality items of such products to the consumers at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government, in November, 1997, decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner and to fully deregulate the petroleum sector by March, 2002.

(c) The following actions have been taken to make available quality products to consumers at competitive prices :-

- (i) Oil refining sector has been de-licensed. Refineries are being compensated on the basis of import parity pricing;
- (ii) Customs and excise duties in the petroleum sector have been rationalised over past 3 years; and
- (iii) Quality of transport fuels (motor spirit and high speed diesel) have been upgraded.

[English]

#### Afforestation of Degraded Land

6435. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI M.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government of persuade the States to part with land for afforestation, reclaiming more wasteland and degraded land during the last one year;

(b) the success achieved by each State during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the area of wasteland and degraded land brought into afforestation by each State so far alongwith the measures adopted to minimise deforestation. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) The projects, involving diversion of forest land, submitted by the State Governments to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, are cleared on merits but with the essential stipulation of compensatory afforestation for which States have to make available equivalent non-forest land. Afforestation on degraded forest land twice in extent to that of forest land being diverted is considered in certain category of projects only as exception. During the period 1999-2000, the compensatory afforestation was carried out over 46,765 ha. of non-forest/degraded forest land, and the cumulative area brought under compensatory afforestation

since inception of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is 3,65,962 ha. A statement showing the State-wise details in this regard is enclosed. The guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provide due safeguard to ensure that the deforestation is minimal. Developmental projects are given forestry clearance, after careful scrutiny, giving due regard to the ecological and environmental aspects.

#### Statement

*Compensatory afforestation carried out by States since inception of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Compensatory afforestation done over non-forest land/degraded forest land during the year 1999 till 31.3.2000 (in ha.)	Total compensatory afforestation carried out over non-forest/ degraded forest land since inception of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (in ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111	12424
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	108	923
3.	Assam	0	578
4.	Bihar	0	68
5.	Goa	463	556
6.	Gujarat	8783	38054
7.	Haryana	289	1367
8.	Himachal Pradesh	286	4612
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	288
10.	Karnataka	5587	26140
11.	Kerala	12717	35473
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9260	121260
13.	Maharashtra	4184	65205
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	523
16.	Mizoram	0	2516
17.	Orissa	504	16843
18.	Punjab	1867	2094

1	2	3	4
19. Rajasthan		836	7763
20. Sikkim		58	1517
21. Tamil Nadu		0	1137
22. Tripura		0	1024
23. Uttar Pradesh		0	20751
24. West Bengal		1564	2400
25. A and N Island		138	2184
26. D and N Haveli		0	262
Total		46,765	3,65,962

**Production of Crude Oil and  
Natural Gas in Assam**

6436. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to boost the production of crude oil and natural gas in Assam through ONGC and OIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether present quantity of natural gas production is not sufficient to fulfil the commitment to different industries and people of Assam;

(d) if so, the details of demand and supply of natural gas in Assam; and

(e) the measures taken to minimise the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a), (b) and (e) The following steps have been taken by the Government of boost the production of crude oil and natural gas in Assam :-

- Effective reservoir management through infill drilling redistribution of water injection and installation/optimisation of lift mechanism.
- 3-D Seismic Surveys for better reservoir delineation and to identify deeper prospects within existing producing areas.
- Faster development of new discoveries.
- Sand control and water shut off jobs.
- Accelerated exploration for accretion of more crude oil and gas reserves.

- Engagement of consultants for field specific problems.

- State of the art geoscientific studies for basin modelling.

- Development of non-associated gas reserves in Upper Assam.

(c) and (d) The present requirement of gas by the existing consumers in Assam is in the order of 3.514 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) and the same is being fully met except in the case of LPG recovery plant of Gas Authority of India Ltd. at Lakwa.

**Posting of SCs/STs in Foreign Assignments**

6437. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry have received representations from public representatives about posting of persons from SCs and STs category in foreign assignments under UNO/its affiliated Organisations and other Organisations;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of persons from his ministry and affiliated Organisations deputed to UNO, its affiliated Organisations/other International Organisations to the above Assignments as on January 1, 1996 in different grades and persons belonging to the SCs and STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total such posts;

(d) the number of persons deputed to the above posts and persons belonging to the SCs and STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total posts filled during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the reasons for not taking any action in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One-belonging to general category.

(d) Nil

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Maharashtra**

6438. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new STD/ISD/PCO booths set up in Maharashtra particularly in Aurangabad district, district-wise during the last three years; and

(b) the number of booths targeted to be set up in the said district during 2000-2001 and in the Ninth Five Year Plan, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 34885 STD/ISD/PCO booths were set up in Maharashtra, during the last three years as given below :-

Year	No. of PCOs Setup
1997-98	8510
1998-99	13170
1999-2000	13205

District-wise figure in not available for the year 1997-98. However, the information for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, District-wise including that of Aurangabad is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Under the revised allotment policy, STD/ISD/PCOs are allotted to all eligible applicants subject to technical feasibility. However, as a guideline, a target of 310 PCOs has been set for Aurangabad Telecom District during the year 2000-2001. It has been left to the franchisees to choose the location of the PCOs. The targets are fixed on year to year basis.

**Statement****STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Maharashtra**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of PCOs Installed	
		1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmednagar	338	359
2.	Akola	113	148
3.	Amravati	268	70
4.	Aurangabad	339	197
5.	Beed	122	65

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhandara	126	321
7.	Buldhana	40	190
8.	Chandrapur	146	252
9.	Dhule	175	120
10.	Gadchiroli	0	0
11.	Jalgaon	295	141
12.	Jalna	88	13
13.	Kalyan	1256	1351
14.	Kolhapur	86	587
15.	Latur	322	270
16.	Nagpur	696	394
17.	Nanded	155	217
18.	Nandurbar	0	0
19.	Nasik	325	657
20.	Osmanabad	121	51
21.	Parbhani	117	278
22.	Pune	2114	1835
23.	Raigad	717	307
24.	Ratnagiri	175	277
25.	Sangli	865	154
26.	Satara	296	3
27.	Sindhudurg	57	66
28.	Solapur	21	892
29.	Wardha	121	141
30.	Washim	0	0
31.	Yeatmal	106	34
32.	Mumbai	2506	2719
33.	Thane	685	1032
34.	Raigad	99	164
Total		13170	13205

[English]

**Production and Import of Crude Oil**

6439. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

The details of average cost of production of crude oil per metric ton extracted from the country and average cost of production per metric ton imported from various countries during the last three years, year-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) : The cost of production of crude oil during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 in respect of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Oil India Ltd. and Private/Joint Venture operated fields was as under :-

Year	Cost of Production* (Rs/MT)		
	ONGC	OIL	JV/Pvt. companies#
1996-97	1319	722.01	1027
1997-98	1568	862.99	953
1998-99	1626	896.95	827

\*Excluding Statutory levies.

#Averaged cost converted at the rate of Rs. 43.5 per dollar.

The cost of production of crude in other countries varies from country to country. No data is maintained by the Government in this regard.

### Staff Strength in Ports

6440. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- whether the staff strength in various ports and port trusts are adequate to handle the port works;
- if so, the details thereof, cadre-wise and port-wise;
- the strength of OBC's and SC's/ST's in various ports/port trusts, port-wise; and
- the steps taken by the Government to provide more employment opportunities to OBC's and SCs/STs in port trusts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) at present, the staff strength in various major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards is more than adequate. The Port-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(c) The strength of OBCs and SC/ST employees, Port-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(d) The Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards are following Government's instructions for employment of OBC and SC & ST.

### Statement-I

#### Manpower in Major Port Trust and Dock Labour Boards as on 31.12.99

Name of the Port Trust	Class I Officers	Class II Officers	Class III (Non Cargo Handling)	Class IV (Non Cargo Handling)	Class III (Cargo Handling)	Class IV (Cargo Handling)	Shore Workers	Total
Chennai	401	278	5479	2406	1311	125	931	10252
Mumbai	579	15	19046		5651			25291
Visakhapatnam	223	157	2542	2356	2476	1023	54	8831
Kandla	123	74	1412	1510	270	800		4189
Calcutta	870	325	6519	6392	910	1146	445	16607
Cochin	101	134	2972	1223	551	345	153	5539
JNPT	192	55	187	106	964			1804
Mormugao	148	90	1811	1612	418	445		4522
New Mangalore	80	130	936	387	319	385	262	2499
Paradip	105	225	1530	1190	393		1031	4144
Tuticorin	127	86	952	758	88	34		2046

Name of Dock Labour Board	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Cargo Handling Workers	Total
Calcutta	26	19	397	534	1749	2725
Marstwhile Mumbai DLB	18	2		1060	3797	4877
Kandla	2	4	63	34	930	1033
Chennai	30	15	346	102	1621	2214
Visakhapatnam	19	8	218	114	1724	2083
Total						98556

### Statement-II

Statement Indicating No. of OBC, SC & ST Employees in Major Port Trusts as on 31.3.2000

Name of the Port Trust	OBC	SC	ST
Chennai	761	2405	331
Mumbai	250	4892	1120
Visakhapatnam	399	1546	389
Kandla	163	590	271
Calcutta	84	3133	499
JNPT	19	143	134
Mormugao	124	296	87
New Mangalore	412	299	126
Paradip	17	414	136
Tuticorin	993	485	98
Cochin	276	712	202

### Capacity Addition of Power Generation

6441. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target for capacity addition of power generation in the Central, State and Private Sectors during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the details of achievements made during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period;

(c) whether the target in the capacity addition programme is not likely to be achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Government to streamline the programme during the last two years of the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A target of 40245.2 MW was fixed for the 9th Plan. The Sector-wise/type-wise details are given below :-

(In MW)				
Sector	Hydro	Thermal	Nuclear	Total
Central	3455	7574	880	11909
State	5815	4933	—	10748
Private	550	17038	—	17588
Total	9820	29545	880	40245

(b) The details of achievement made during the first three years of the Ninth Plan is as under :-

Year	(In MW)
1997-98	3226
1998-99	4267
1999-2000	4507

(c) and (d) According to the Mid-term Appraisal carried out in July, 1999, a capacity addition of 28097 MW is likely to be achieved during the Ninth Plan against the original target of 40245 MW. The reasons for shortfall are :-

- Delayed financial closures of private sector projects due to non-availability of escrow
- Paucity of Funds for public sector projects.
- Delay in land acquisition.
- Delay in investment decision
- Resettlement and Rehabilitation problems

- (vi) Law and order problems.
- (vii) Contractual problems.
- (viii) Inter-State disputes in respect of hydro projects.

(e) Close monitoring is being done by Ministry of Power for timely completion of projects through Empowered Committee and Task Forces constituted in the Ministry. For private sector projects, a Crisis Resolution Group has been set up to resolve the 'last mile' problems.

#### Disappeared Companies

6442. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court has ordered Security Exchange Board of India and Department of Company Affairs to identify the 80 companies which are reported to have disappeared after taking the money from public;

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

(c) the details of investment made by the bank and financial institutions in these companies;

(d) whether any of these companies have been identified;

(e) if so, the details of those companies thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government against each of them; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court ordered Security Exchange Board of India and Department of Company Affairs to indicate as to what action has been taken against the 80 companies which have been identified by them as vanishing companies.

(b) A statement indicating the action taken by the Department of Company Affairs against the 80 companies identified by Security Exchange Board of India as vanishing companies and mentioned by the Midas Touch Investors Association in the writ petition has been sent to Addl. Central Government Standing Counsel in the matter to file the same on the next date of hearing in compliance with the directions given by the Hon'ble High Court.

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

(d) to (f) A statement indicating the action taken against these 80 companies is enclosed.

(g) A provision has been made in Clause 122 of the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.12.1999 that a public company having :-

- (a) a paid-up capital of five crore rupees or more; and
- (b) one thousand or more small shareholders shall have at least one director elected by such small shareholders. For this purpose 'small shareholders' means a shareholder holding shares of nominal value of twenty thousand rupees or less in a public company.

#### Statement

*Action taken against 80 Companies Identified by SEBI as Vanishing Companies and mentioned by Midas Touch Investors Association in the Writ Petition No. 760 (MB) of 2000*

#### Vadodara Stock Exchange

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Remarks/Comments of ROC
1	2	3
1.	ADVANCE BIO-COAL (INDIA) LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of Balance Sheet & Annual Returns (B/S & A/R). Action Under Section (u/s) 209A initiated.
2.	EFCON SECURITIES LTD.	Under liquidation vide winding order dt 24.11.98.
3.	MAA LEAFIN & CAPITAL LTD.	Prosecution filed on 13.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
4.	SHUBHAM GRANITES LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.

1	2	3
5.	SURYADEEP SALT REFINERY & CHEMICAL WORKS LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
6.	BHAVNA STEEL CAST LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made.

#### Ludhiana Stock Exchange

7.	CAREWELL HYGIENE PRODUCTS LTD.	Prosecution for non filing of B/S and A/R filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.
8.	SEEMA INDUSTRIES LTD.	This Company was listed as a sick industrial Co. by BIFR and has recommended for wound up.
9.	SUCKCHAIN CEMENT LTD.	Filing position up-to-date Inspection u/s 209A is being conducted.

#### Bombay Stock Exchange

10.	CALDYN AIRCON LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of A/R & B/S
	DIGITAL LEASING & FINANCE LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of A/R & B/S. Action u/s 209A initiated.
	FINTECH COMMUNICATION LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
	HITESH TEXTILE MILLS LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
	ICHALKARANJI SOYA LTD.	Reply received from the company. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.
	LYMPHA LABORATORIES LTD.	Under Liquidation.
	PASHUPATI CABLES LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
	REALTIME FINLEASE LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
	SPARKLE FOODS LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R
	WALKER INDIA LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R
	VPUL SECURITIES LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R
	GAZI SECURITIES LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R.

#### Coimbatore Stock Exchange

	AVR SECURITIES LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated
	GLOBAL BLOOMS (INDIA) LTD.	Not Available. Police Complaint made. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/s & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated
	NAVAKKARAI SPINNERS LTD.	Not available. Police Complaint made. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.



1	2	3
25.	PAPPILON EXPORTS LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police Complaint has also been launched.
26.	SHYAM PRINTS & PUBLISHERS LTD.	Not available. Police complaint launched. Prosecution launched. Inspection u/s 209A has also been taken up.
<b>Calcutta Stock Exchange</b>		
27.	AUROMA COKE LTD.	Filing position up-to date.
28.	ESSKAY TELECOM	Prosecution have been launched for non-filing of B/S. and A/R.
<b>Hyderabad Stock Exchange</b>		
29.	ADITYA ALKALOIDS	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
30.	AQUA DEV INDIA LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
31.	KAMAKSHI HOUSING FINANCE LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
32.	PREMIER AQUA FARMS LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
<b>Madras Stock Exchange</b>		
33.	AMIGO EXPORTS LTD.	Not available. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint also made. Action u/s 209A initiated.
34.	UNICORN PHARMACEUTICALS INDIA LTD.	Under liquidation.
<b>Bangalore Stock Exchange</b>		
35.	READY FOODS LTD.	The Company was placed under liquidation vide court order dates 27.3.97 and subsequently the winding up order was recalled vide Court Order dt. 6.11.98. Accordingly, Prosecution is launched for non filing of B/S & A/R for 1998.
36.	WINFARM AGRO INDUSTRIES LTD.	Prosecution launched for non-filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
37.	ACME SPINNERS LTD.	Filing position uptodate. Action u/s 209A initiated.
<b>Delhi Stock Exchange</b>		
38.	ALPS MOTOR FINANCE LTD.	Filing position up-to-date.
39.	CHIRAU FINANCE INVEST. & LEASING LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
40.	CILSON FINANCE & INVST. LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R.
41.	GRIVS HOTELS LTD.	Filing position up-to-date.
42.	HALLMARK DRUGS & CHEMICALS LTD.	Transferred from Delhi to Punjab. The assets of the company taken over by Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

1	2	3
43.	ICP SECURITIES LTD.	Not Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint lodged.
44.	LAKSHYA SECURITIES & CREDIT HOLDINGS LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint lodged. Action u/s 209A initiated.
45.	PATLIPUTRA CREDIT & SECURITIES LTD.	Filing position up-to-date.
46.	SIMPLEX HOLDINGS LTD.	Filing position up-to-date.
47.	STAR ELECTRONICS LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint lodged. Action u/s 209A initiated.
48.	STAR EXIM LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint lodged.
49.	TACTFUL INVST. LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
50.	WELCOME COIR INDUSTRIES LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
51.	GOGA FOODS LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
52.	KALYANI FINANCE LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated. Police complaint made.
53.	PARIKSHA FIN-INVEST-LEASE LTD.	Filing position up-to-date.
54.	RAJGARH INVESTMENTS LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
55.	STATUS MGM SERVICES LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
56.	ZED INVESTMENTS LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made. Action u/s 209A initiated.
57.	BIG STAR FILMS LTD. Formerly MOON HOLDINGS & CREDIT LTD.	Not available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Police complaint made. Action u/s 209A initiated.

#### Ahmedabad Stock Exchange

58.	ANKUSH FINSTOCK LTD.	Filing position uptodate. Action u/s 209A initiated.
59.	ARROW SECURITIES LTD.	Filed upto 1998. Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
60.	CHARMS CERAMICS LTD.	Filing position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated.
61.	FRONTLINE FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
62.	INTERACTIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed on 12.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed documents upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.
63.	NAISARGIK AGRITECH (INDIA) LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.

1	2	3
64.	NILCHEM CAPITAL LTD.	Prosecution launched for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed documents upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.
65.	SHREEJI DYE-CHEM LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
66.	SHREE SURGOVIND TRADELINK LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
67.	SPIL FINANCE LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
68.	DHRUV MAKHAN (INDIA) LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed on 13.7.99 for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
69.	AMI GANGA INFRASTRUCTURE LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
70.	INTEGRATED AMUSEMENT LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed upto 1998 and A/R for 1999 since filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.
71.	GIRISH HOTELS RESORTS AND HEALTH FARM LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
72.	GROWTH AGRO INDUSTRIES LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
73.	HI-TECH WINDING SYSTEMS LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
74.	ISHAAN INFRASTRUCTURES & SHELTERS LTD.	Filing Position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated.
75.	KESAR GREENFIELD INTERNATIONAL LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
76.	KOME-ON COMMUNICATION LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Filed upto 1999. Action u/s 209A initiated.
77.	ORIENT TRADELINK LTD.	Filing position up-to-date. Action u/s 209A initiated.
78.	MOBILE TELE-COMMUNICATIONS LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. BS for 1998 and AR for 1999 filed. Action u/s 209A initiated.
79.	SHRI MAHALAXMI AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS LTD.	Available. Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.
80.	SHIVAM APPARELS EXPORTS LTD.	Prosecution filed for non filing of B/S & A/R. Action u/s 209A initiated.

#### Long Rotational Natural Forests

6443. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original long rotation natural forests in India are left only one per cent of geographical forests of India; and

(b) if so, the causes of this loss and the steps taken by the Government to prevent further loss in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country with the help of satellite data. As per the latest State of Forest Report, 1997, forest cover of the country is 19.27%, out of which dense, open and mangrove forests are 11.17%, 7.95% and 0.15% respectively. No separate assessment has been made about the extent of original long rotation natural forest in the country.

(b) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT

Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make in depth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years, The major steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover are :-

- (i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.
- (ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (v) A net work of protected areas has been established.
- (vi) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

#### Efficiency of Thermal Power Stations

6444. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of thermal power projects in the States are running below their operational installed capacities;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts has been made by the Government to enhance the operational efficiency of such plants; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The average Plant Load Factor (PLF) for thermal power stations in the country during the year 1999-2000 was 67.3%. The average PLF of thermal power stations in the States during the year 1999-2000 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The reasons for some of the thermal power plants not generating the targetted power are, backing

down of generation due to power regulation or low demand; forced outages of the units; partial unavailability; transmission, distribution and financial constraints; and renovation and modernisation of old units.

(c) and (d) Both short term and long term measures have been taken to improve the availability of the Thermal Power Stations. These include Renovation and Modernisation of old thermal stations, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units. Interest subsidy through Power Finance Corporation for improving O&M under PAGER scheme. Implementation of Renovation and Modernisation and life extension of the plants. Phase-I of R&M programme of 34 old thermal stations comprising 164 generating units has been completed. With this an additional generation of 10,000 MU per annum was achieved. Government has now undertaken Phase-II of the R&M programme under which 44 Nos. of thermal stations involving 198 Nos. generating units of total capacity of 20869 MW are covered.

#### Statement

*Average Plant Load Factor (PLF) (%) of Power Plants in the States during 1999-2000 including central utilities located in the States*

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000 (April-March) (%)
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	69.8
2.	Haryana	53.1
3.	Rajasthan	
	Thermal	82.8
	Nuclear	83.8
4.	Punjab	74.8
5.	Uttar Pradesh	
	Thermal	70.4
	Nuclear	81.1
6.	Gujarat	
	Thermal	65.8
	Nuclear	87.1
7.	Maharashtra	
	Thermal	71.0
	Nuclear	77.2

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	78.2
9.	Andhra Pradesh	86.1
10.	Karnataka (Thermal)	82.0
11.	Tamil Nadu	
	Thermal	72.7
	Nuclear	74.8
12.	Bihar	34.2
13.	Orissa	63.9
14.	West Bengal	49.5
15.	D.V.C.	35.8
16.	Assam	17.9
	ALL INDIA	67.3

#### Long Distance Service Sector

6445. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has been permitted by the Government to enter into long distance service sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cities likely to be covered at the first phase; and

(c) the amount of investment proposed to be made by MTNL therein?

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

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

#### Conservation of Lakes

6446. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the large lakes at the national level in the country alongwith physical dimensions of each lake;

(b) whether there is a proposal to improve these large lakes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL ARANDI) : (a) A total of 10 urban lakes have been identified under the National Lake Conservation Plan for

conservation and management. The names and the physical dimensions of these lakes are given below :-

Sl. No.	Name of lake	State/UT	Area of Lake (in hectares)
1.	Kodaikanal	Tamil Nadu	26.3
2.	Ooty	Tamil Nadu	14
3.	Nainital	Uttar Pradesh	48
4.	Dal	Jammu & Kashmir	1150
5.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	82
6.	Sukhna	Chandigarh	152
7.	Powai	Maharashtra	210
8.	Rabindra Sarobar	West Bengal	29.2
9.	Udaipur lake system	Rajasthan	520
10.	Hussain Sagar	Andhra Pradesh	570

(b) and (c) A scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan covering these 10 lakes at an estimated cost of Rs. 637 crore was put up for approval of Government in December, 1997. In view of resource constraints, It was decided to explore the possibility for tie-up of external financial assistance for the scheme. A number of bilateral and multilateral funding agencies were approached, but none evinced interest in the proposal.

#### Royalty on Crude Oil

6447. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the rates of royalty were revised last on the crude oil;

(b) the date on which the rate of royalty is due to revise on the crude oil by the Union Government;

(c) the total amount of royalty paid to Andhra Pradesh on crude oil during the last three years; and

(d) the amount pending with the Union Government as royalty to different States, 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) Recently, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has vide letter No. O-22013/2/98-ONG.III dated 2.5.2000, enhanced the existing provisional rate of royalty from Rs. 750/MT to Rs. 800/MT with effect from 1.1.2000. Also, with a view to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil applicable

with effect from 1.4.1998, a Committee has been constituted on 26.4.2000 in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) During the last 3 years i.e. 1997-98 to 1999-2000, a total of Rs. 18.11 crores has been paid to the state of Andhra Pradesh on account of royalty on crude oil. There is no pending amount because royalty payments to the States have been made regularly, on or before the due date.

[Translation]

#### Telecom Districts

6448. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for setting up of Telecom Districts;
- (b) the number of Telecom Districts set up in rural and tribal areas of the country during the last three years as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the working of the telecommunication department in Karnataka and set up new Telecom Districts in the State during 2000-2001;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (e) whether Korba district of Madhya Pradesh and Keonjhar district of Orissa are proposed to be declared as Telecom Districts;
- (f) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Committee on Telecommunications, Secondary Switching Areas (S.S.As) were constituted in 1985 with the basic management and operational unit of the circle known as Telecom District taking into account National Networking, Traffic flow and the Geographical boundaries. As per the policy, 326 Telecom Districts are operational in the Country.

(c) to (f) No, Sir.

(g) Secondary Switching Area is the basic unit of operation for Telecom Services. Charging and Routing Plan is based on S.S.A. concept. Most of Group 'C' & 'D' cadres are S.S.A. cadres with their transfer liabilities restricted within S.S.A. Because of the Operational and

Administrative reasons, it is not expedient to consider re-organisation of S.S.As/Telecom Districts. Thus, creation of separate Telecom District at Korba and Keonjhar is not feasible because of genuine administrative, operational and technical constraints mentioned above. Requisite level officers are posted at Korba and Keonjhar to take care of operations, maintenance and development of telecom services as well as redressal of telecom subscriber grievances.

[English]

#### Self-Sufficiency In Power Generation

6449. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :  
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the factors responsible for the non-attainment of sufficiency in power generation in the country;
- (b) whether the Government propose to issue any directives to State Governments to undertake the task of co-generation in industries on a continuing basis in view of the prevailing power shortage in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The factors responsible for non-attainment of sufficiency in power generation in the country are :-

- Difficulties in exploitation of hydro potential such as geological surprises.
- Infrastructure inadequacy in development of gas, LNG terminals, port handling facilities.
- Delay in obtaining Environment and Forests clearance.
- Factors causing delay in execution of projects such as delayed financial closures of private sector projects, non-availability of Escrow cover, paucity of funds for public sector projects, delay in land acquisition, delay in investment decisions, Resettlement and Rehabilitation problems, law and order problems, contractual problems, delay in placement of orders, failure to provide project inputs in time, delay in supply of plant and equipment, lack of supply of quality equipment, delivery of non-sequential supplies and inter-State disputes in respect of hydro projects.

(b) and (c) The Government had issued detailed guidelines in October, 1995 to promote captive and

cogeneration power plants. The State Governments including Uttar Pradesh were requested to accord high priority for setting up these plants. The Government has also requested the states vide their letter and Resolution of 6th November, 1996 to create an institutional mechanism which may allow co-generation power units and easy and automatic entry into the power sector by quickly clearing applications for such proposals.

#### World Bank Assistance for U.P.

6450. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by the World Bank for various road projects in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of utilization of these funds, project-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance provided/likely to be provided for road projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Financial assistance in equivalent Indian Rs. 16.20 crore has been provided by the World Bank for preparation of Detailed Project Report for four laning Agra-Varanasi section of NH-2 in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Utilization of these funds for the above project are :-

Year	Amount Utilized (Rs. Crore)
1997-98	0.223
1998-99	8.257
1999-2000	4.68

(c) Negotiation with the World Bank for financial assistance for the construction of above project in Uttar Pradesh is in progress.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Facility in Gram Panchayats

6451. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir which have not been provided with telephone facility so far, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats where said facility is proposed to be provided during 2000-2001, location-wise;

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in all the Gram Panchayats of the State; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to provide better telephone facility to the Gram Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Out of 1461 Gram Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir 587 Gram Panchayats have not been provided with telephone facility so far. District-wise details are as under :-

District	Gram Panchayats
Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kupwara, Badgam and Srinagar	429
Jammu	18
Kathua	3
Doda	48
Udhampur	24
Rajouri	3
Leh & Kargil	62
Total	587

(b) 102 Gram Panchayats are proposed to be provided with telephone facility during 2000-2001. details are as under :-

District	Gram Panchayats
Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kupwara, Badgam and Srinagar	72
Jammu	10
Kathua	3
Doda	10
Udhampur	4
Rajouri	3
Total	102

(c) The remaining Gram Panchayats are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March, 2002.

(d) New technologies like WLL and C-DOT PMP are proposed to be inducted to provide telephone facilities in rural areas. Satellite based technologies are proposed to be deployed to provide village public telephones (VPTs) in very remote and isolated areas.

[English]

**GAIL Pipeline Project in Krishna,  
Godavari and Cauvery**

6452. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has expanded the pipeline network projects in the Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery basins;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether GAIL has also presented a proposal to Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up an Import terminal at Kakinada; 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) Yes, Sir. In K.G. Basin, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has completed two pipeline projects of 16.3 km length at a cost of Rs. 12.7 crore for transportation of natural gas. In addition, GAIL is executing five such projects of around 131 km length at an estimated cost of Rs. 107.40 crore in K.G. Basin and four projects of around 33 km length at an estimated cost of Rs.13.62 crore in Cauvery Basin.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GAIL has presented a preliminary proposal to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in the Kakinada Port area with the facilities of receipt and regassification of 2.5 to 3.0 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG at an estimated cost of US\$ 500 million.

**Hazardous Waste Management Rules**

6453. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Government have amended the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules of 1989 removing several discrepancies to ensure safe processing and disposal of such wastes besides laying down stringent curbs on import and export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it will help in safe disposal of hazardous waste; and

(d) the details of stringent curbs laid down on import and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests notified amendments to the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 entitled Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2000 on the 6th January, 2000 after incorporating suggestions/comments received on the preliminary notification issued on 8th January, 1999. Following are the salient features of the amendments including those prescribed to ensure safe disposal and regulation of import and export covered under the Hazardous Waste Rules of 1989 :-

- 1) The schedule listing 18 categories of wastes in the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 has now been substituted with 3 Schedules. Schedule 1 describes the processes and waste streams generating hazardous waste. Units operating these processes are now subject to the rules. A list of concentration limits of constituents in the wastes is indicated in Schedule 2. This concentration limit is to be used as limit for classification/characterization of waste stream as hazardous/non-hazardous in case of dispute. A separate list of wastes subject to imports and exports, similar to the Basel Convention Annexure VIII and IX, is indicated in schedule 3 with hazard characteristics in part B of the same schedule.
- 2) Responsibility for identification of sites for establishment of Common Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities (CTSDF) and individual TSDF now rests with the occupier, industrial association and the State Govt. instead of the state government alone
- 3) Provisions relating to import and export of hazardous waste for recycling has been expanded to describe in detail the procedure being followed. Requirements of re-export under the Basel Convention of illegal traffic of waste has also been incorporated.
- 4) Rules on design, setting up and closure of landfill facilities have been elaborated.
- 5) A manifest system for tracking hazardous waste from the point of generation to the disposal site introduced.



6) The Authorities responsible for regulation of imports and exports and monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the rules have been mentioned in schedule 4; and

7) A fee for authorization and import has been prescribed.

(c) and (d) As per the amendment, the Occupier of units generating hazardous wastes will ensure setting up of facilities for disposal in addition to seeking authorisation from the concerned Pollution Control Board for handling wastes and track wastes till its final disposal through a Manifest system. The Occupier has also been made responsible for identification of Site, conduct of EIA and setting up facilities for disposal. Such sites for disposal are to be notified by the State Government. Import of wastes for final dumping and disposal in the country is prohibited. Only units possessing environmentally sound technology, disposal facilities and complying with environmental laws are recommended to the DGFT for grant of a licence for importing of waste listed in Schedule-3, to the rules.

#### Pollution in Major Cities

6454. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of pollution in metro and other major cities of the country and rate of growth over the last three years, city-wise;

(b) whether the levels of air, noise and water pollution have reached at an alarming zones;

(c) If so, the details of steps taken during the Eighth Plan to reduce substantially pollution level in urban and industrial areas of the country-projects launched and results achieved thereunder upto March 31, 2000; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out to deal with pollution problem effectively during the current year and next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The present level of pollution in the metro and other major cities of the country exhibits an increasing levels of air, noise and water pollution due to

urbanization and industrialization. Details are given in the following Tables I to III.

Table-I

#### Status of Air Quality in Metro Cities

Pollution level	Annual Mean Concentration Range (ug/m3)			
	Industrial		Residential	
	SO2&NO2	SPM	SO2&NO2	SPM
Low(L)	0-40	0-180	0-30	0-70
Moderate(M)	40-80	180-360	30-60	70-140
High(H)	80-120	360-540	60-90	140-210
Critical (C)	>120	>540	>90	>210

#### STATUS

Sl. No.	City	SO2	NO2	SPM/RSPM
1.	Ahmedabad	L	M-H	M-H
2.	Bangalore	L	M-H	M-H
3.	Bhopal	L	M	M
4.	Calcutta	M	M-H	H-C
5.	Chennai	L	M	M-H
6.	Delhi	L	M	H-C
7.	Hyderabad	L	M	M-H
8.	Indore	L	L	M-H
9.	Jaipur	L	L-M	M-H
10.	Kanpur	L-M	L-M	M-H
11.	Kochi	M	M	M-H
12.	Lucknow	L	L-M	M-H
13.	Ludhiana	L	M	H-C
14.	Mumbai	M	M-H	H-C
15.	Nagpur	L	L-M	M
16.	Patna	L	M	M-H
17.	Surat	M-H	M	M-H
18.	Vadodara	M	M	M-H
19.	Visakhapatnam	M	M	M-H

(Source : Central Pollution Control Board)

Table-II

*Ambient Noise Levels in Cities (All values expressed in decibels)*

Cities	Residential		Commercial		Sensitive		Industrial	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
Bhopal	60	44	75	57	73	42	68	47
Bangalore	59-75	37-59	68-81	46-64	58-74	—	63-86	42-65
Calcutta	76-86	58-76	70-90	57-78	69-89	65-70	75-82	53-70
Chennai	57-84	45-50	74-80	69-71	46-70	47-50	69-76	63-69
Delhi	53-71	—	63-75	—	62-68	—	65-81	—
Dehradun	50	38	70	50	58	42	50	45
Hyderabad	56-73	40-50	67-84	58-73	62-78	51-67	44-77	42-70
Jaipur	46-82	43-78	64-88	51-80	60-75	55-66	59-81	48-78
Kanpur	49-69	39-59	68-82	57-76	47-61	35-57	63-78	57-63
Kochi	70	51	85	56	72	51	70	61
Lucknow	55	50	70	58	50	40	60	56
Mumbai	45-81	45-68	63-81	60-75	58-77	46-66	73-79	56-72
Varanasi	50	40	70	50	55	40	50	50
Vizag.	74	59	85	70	75	57	75	51

(Source : Central Pollution Control Board)

Table-III

*Waste Water Generation, Collection, Treatment in Metro Cities*

Sl. No.	Name of the metrocity	Vol. of waste water (mld)	Waste water generated (mld)	Waste water Treatment collected
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	556.0	430.0	Most of the cities have only partial waste water treatment facilities.
2.	Bangalore	400.0	290.0	
3.	Bhopal	189.3	87.0	
4.	Calcutta	1432.2	—	
5.	Chennai	276.0	257.0	
6.	Delhi	1270.0	981.0	
7.	Hyderabad	348.3	115.0	
8.	Indore	145.0	14.0	
9.	Jaipur	220.0	27.0	

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Kanpur	200.0	41.0	
11.	Mumbai	2456.0	109.0	
12.	Nagpur	204.8	45.0	
13.	Patna	219.0	105.0	
14.	Pune	432.0	170.0	
15.	Surat	140.0	70.0	
16.	Vadodara	120.0	81.0	
17.	Varanasi	170.0	101.0	
Total		9275.0	2923.0	

(Source : Central Pollution Control Board)

(c) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the metropolitan/major cities of the country which include the following :-

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

- (ii) Highly polluting industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound basis and legal action has been initiated against the defaulting units.
- (iii) A scheme of common effluent treatment plants has been launched by the Ministry of Environment & Forests for establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for small scale industries which are unable to have individual effluent treatment plants. 88 CETPs have been sanctioned and are at various stages of implementation.
- (iv) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.
- (v) A systematic programme to introduce lead free petrol and low sulphur diesel all over the country had been carried out. The leaded petrol has been introduced in the country w.e.f. 1.2.2000. Low sulphur fuel is now available in the country. An integrated approach has been adopted to control vehicular pollution.
- (vi) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.
- (vii) The conceptual framework of eco-cities has been evolved and a programme to transform the existing cities into eco-cities has been taken up for seven cities.
- (d) The details of the Action Plans to deal with the pollution problems effectively include the following :-
  - (i) National Environmental Action Plan for Control of Pollution has been prepared to control pollution from various sources such as industrial, domestic, vehicular, agriculture and noise. It also envisages the implementation of time bound programmes entailing coordinated inter-departmental strategies.
  - (ii) City specific Action Plans to control pollution in the mega cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta have been prepared and are being implemented to control pollution problems. Action plan to control pollution in Chennai has been prepared and is being finalized.
  - (iii) Action plans have also been prepared for pollution control in the cities of Guwahati and Kanpur. On the basis of the land use and pollution status of the Kanpur city, an Urban

Management Plan has been devised based on zoning concept, which is being implemented by the local authorities.

#### **LPG Agencies to SCs/STs/OBCs and Unemployed Youths in Orissa**

6455. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of LPG agencies and diesel/petrol pumps allotted to the unemployed youths, SCs/STs and OBCs during the last two years in Orissa State, district-wise;
- (b) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps to be allotted during this years in the State; and
- (c) the reasons for not constituting Dealer's Selection Board in Orissa till yet?

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) As per existing policy 25% dealerships/distributorships are reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category.

During the last 2 years oil companies have allotted total of 12 retail outlets dealerships and 8 LPG distributorships under the SC/ST category.

In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 30 retail outlet dealerships and 41 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plans for Orissa. Locations included in the marketing plan are advertised by the Oil Companies for selection of dealers/distributors through the Dealer Selection Boards. Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

#### **Allocation of Power to KSEB**

6456. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received a request from Kerala Government for allocation of power to Kerala State Electricity Board from Eastern Region; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Government of Kerala for

allocation of 90 MW of power from Eastern Region. In response to this request, Kerala has been allocated 60 MW of power on long term basis (12% of the total 500 MW power allocated to Southern Region States from Eastern Region through the 500 MW HVDC back-to-back link at Gazuwaka) out of 15% unallocated quota in NTPC stations in Eastern Region.

#### **Supply of Unleaded and De-Sulphurised Petrol and Diesel**

6457. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government for expediting the process of supplying unleaded and de-sulphurised petrol and diesel to the State for containing the high level of pollution in the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union 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) In order to minimise pollution caused due to auto emissions, the oil marketing companies have commenced supplies of unleaded petrol with effect from 1.2.2000 and 0.25% max. sulphur diesel with effect from 1.1.2000, throughout the country.

#### **Oil Exploration Surveys Conducted by ONGC**

6458. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received detailed reports on the oil exploration surveys conducted by the ONGC in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the prospects of the oil occurrence and possible production in various oil basins in the country;

(c) the steps taken by Government to produce more crude oil by exploitation of these oil wells in the country;

(d) whether the exploration and production of crude oil from various oil wells in the country still needs foreign expertise and technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) During the last three years (1997-2000), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has carried out 17644 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK)/Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D and 348539 GLK/LK of 3D seismic surveys in onland and offshore areas and has taken up eighty four new prospects for drilling besides extension/delineation drilling in the existing fields. The drilling of these new prospects has led to twenty new hydrocarbon finds in Cauvery basin, Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin, Cambay basin, Upper Assam, Assam Arakan Fold Belt and Mumbai offshore areas of which seven are oil and thirteen are gas bearing. The oil wells both from the new as well as in the field extension/growth area are continuously studied and evaluated for putting them on commercial production.

(d) The exploration of oil and gas is a process involving multidisciplinary approach and constitutes several components like acquisition, processing, interpretation of seismic data and drilling of exploratory wells. National Oil Companies (NOCs) are equipped with expertise to achieve the exploration and production needs. However, in special cases or area the services or technology is obtained through foreign expertise or technology, as the case may be.

(e) Some of the foreign expertise or technology in selected area utilised for exploration and production include Ocean Bottom Cable (OBC) surveys in offshore, data acquisition in transition zone (between very shallow water offshore including adjoining coastal area), data acquisition in fold belt areas, gel technology and advance fracturing.

#### **Saving Scheme in Post Offices**

6459. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual collections in the post office saving schemes during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is decrease in the post office savings due to recent lowering in the interest rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to attract people to deposit more amount in the post office saving schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The total annual collections in the Post Office Savings Schemes during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Amount (Rs in thousand)
1996-97	33,84,26,788
1997-98	46,83,91,371
1998-99	55,84,43,579

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Following important features are available with post office savings schemes to attract people to deposit more amount in the post office saving schemes.

- (i) The interest payable in different savings schemes in the post office is higher than comparable schemes available in the banks.
- (ii) Interest earned in Post Office Savings Accounts is completely tax free.
- (iii) Deposits made in National Savings Certificates (VIII issue) qualify for tax rebate under sec. 88 of I.T. Act.
- (iv) Interest earned in 5-Year Post Office Recurring Deposit Account is exempt under Sec. 80-L of I.T. Act.
- (v) Deposits in Post Office Time Deposits are exempted under Section 5(1) of Wealth Tax Act and interest exempt from tax under Section 80-L of I.T. Act.
- (vi) Deposits in 15 year Public Provident Fund Account qualify for Income Tax rebate under Section 88 of I.T. Act. These deposits are completely exempted from Wealth Tax. Also interest is completely tax free and no attachment under court decree is allowed.
- (vii) Interest earned in the deposits in Post Office Monthly Income Scheme is exempt under Sec. 80-L of I.T. Act.
- (viii) The amount deposited in a year in National Savings Scheme Account 1992 qualifies for rebate under Sec. 88 of I.T. Act. The interest is exempt under Sec. 80-L of I.T. Act.
- (ix) In Kishan Vikas Patra an adult can invest money for himself or on behalf of a minor or to a minor.

#### Setting up of Petrol/Diesel Pumps in Punjab

6460. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has urged Union Government to open retail outlets of MS/HSD at focal points set up by State Government at various locations in the State;

(b) whether according to survey conducted by State level Coordinator (Oil Industry) Punjab and Haryana, 151 locations have been found feasible for setting up of retail outlets of MH/HSD; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Government reaction 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) Government of Punjab has requested for setting up facilities for petrol/diesel outlets and LPG distributorships at the different focal point all over the State of Punjab. The locations found economically viable will be included in the Marketing Plan and allotted through the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Board on merit on the basis of interview. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealership/distributorships from the date of interview.

[Translation]

#### Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

6461. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of POWER: be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds in Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore from 1995 to 2000;

(b) the details of the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes appointed therein;

(c) the number of cases lying pending in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During the period 1995-2000, two appointments were made on compassionate grounds in Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore.

(b) Out of the two compassionate appointments made in CPRI, one belonged to the General category and one to the Scheduled Castes.

(c) In accordance with the guidelines of the Government, adopted by CPRI, cases of compassionate appointments are considered with reference to the economic condition, educational qualifications, size of the family, presence of an earning member and availability of vacancies. The Committee set up by CPRI considered all pending applications for compassionate appointment in March, 2000 and recommended none of the applicants for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(d) Does not arise.

**LPG Agencies in Rural Areas of  
Andhra Pradesh**

6462. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain rural areas, the LPG consumers have to travel around 25 kms. to reach the LPG dealer to secure a refilled LPG cylinder thus facing great inconvenience;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to redress the consumer's grievances;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up LPG dealership in every mandal head-quarters in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the time schedule to implement the initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Supply of LPG refill to the consumer is made by the distributors in their respective area.

In order to provide better service to LPG consumers and to meet the increased demand, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including small towns and rural areas :-

- (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.

Accordingly, 124 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Andhra Pradesh locations included in the Marketing Plan are advertised by the Oil Companies for selection of distributors through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of distributorships from date of interview.

**White Paper on DVB**

6463. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to issue a White Paper on the functioning of DVB;

(b) if so, whether in view of failure of DVB to generate, distribute and to check theft cases, the Union Government propose to take over the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) is under the administrative and financial control of the Government of NCT of Delhi. Presently, there is no proposal before the Union Government to issue a White Paper on the functioning of DVB nor to take over generation and distribution of the Board. However, Government of NCT of Delhi has already brought out a Strategy Paper on Power Sector in Delhi in January, 1999.

**Role of Employment Offices**

6464. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the role of employment offices under his ministry in the field of shipping and seamen's welfare;

(b) the number of employment offices/centres under the Shipping Corporation of India in the country, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the performance of these employment offices;

(d) if not, the reasons for low performance of these employment offices/centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) As per Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the business/

function of Seamen's Employment Offices is to regulate and control the supply, recruitment and employment of seamen, to maintain registers of various categories of seamen, selection of candidates for training and their employment on the principal of rotation. These offices also deal with registration of Indian Seamen their employment on Indian as well as foreign flag ships, discharge, repatriation, identity documents, etc.

(b) There are three Seamen's Employment Office (SEOs) set up under the Directorate General of Shipping one each at Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. The Seamen Employment Offices are not under Shipping Corporation of India.

(c) to (e) The system of regulating employment of seamen through the Seamen's Employment Office was evolved during 1950s for ensuring proper employment to India seamen without any exploitation by shipping companies. The strict implementation of the roster system in giving equal opportunity in employment, however, resulted in a large number of overaged seamen occupying the higher ranks in the general roster inhibiting employment of India seafarers by shipowners who prefer younger seamen. To compete effectively in international employment market, retainer scheme allowing shipping company the freedom to maintain the roster of seamen was introduced in 1992-93.

Following recommendation of Expert Committees on issues relating to Continuous Discharge Certificates and Employment of Seafarers and to facilitate the increased employment opportunities of India Seafarers and on board foreign flag vessels, the Government took a policy decision not to insist on India or foreign ships to take seamen through SEOs only.

#### Condition of NH-2 from Delhi to Ballabgarh

6465. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of National Highway No. 2 from Delhi to Ballabgarh is very bad condition;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of NH-2 from Delhi to Ballabgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Funds are provided to the State Government of Haryana from time to time for maintaining the road in a traffic worthy condition.

#### ED Post Offices

6466. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for opening of Extra Departmental (ED) post offices in the remote, hilly and underdeveloped region of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the number of representations received during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the number of ED post offices opened in each of these districts during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the number of said post offices proposed to be opened in these districts during 2000-2001, location-wise?

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

(b) the number of requests for opening of post offices for the last three years are given below :-

Districts	Requests received		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Pauri	31	20	30
Chamoli	37	15	14
Rudra Prayag	15	09	12

(c) The opening of new post office is subject to proposals confirming to prescribed norms for opening of new post office. This is further subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

(d) Number of ED post offices opened during the last 3 years in these districts is as under :-

Districts	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Pauri	-	-	-
Chamoli	1	-	-
Rudra Prayag	-	2	1

(e) The target for opening of post offices in the country and districts of Uttar Pradesh are yet to be finalised.

#### Desilting of Chilka Lake

6467. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing siltation of Chilka lake;

(b) If so, the steps taken to desilt the said lake;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. From a recent estimate by Chilka Development Authority, it is estimated that 365499 cubic meters of silt gets into Chilka through 52 number of rivers and rivulets leading to shrinkage of the lake and reduction of its water holding capacity.

(b) to (d) Chilka lake has been identified for conservation and management under the National Wetland Conservation Programme of Government. The programme includes such activities, as afforestation, soil conservation, habitat improvement of Nalaban, environmental awareness, information data base etc. Besides this, Tenth Finance Commission has also released financial assistance for improvement of Chilka lake for various activities including desiltation. A total amount of Rs. 19.08 crore has been released to the State Government for conservation of Chilka lake so far as per the break-up given below :

Ministry of Environment & Forests	Rs. 1.48 crore
Tenth Finance Commission	Rs. 17.60 crore
Total	Rs. 19.08 crore

#### Piracy Cases in Indian Waters

6468. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in recent past there is sudden spurt in piracy cases in Indian waters;

(b) if so, the details of such piracy cases that took place during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government are considering to take some effective steps to combat the piracy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Delay in Criminal Justice

6469. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Delay is destroying the Criminal Justice System" appearing in 'Times of India' dated April 3, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of official statistics regarding cases relating to Indian Penal Code pending from 1996; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement regarding available figures is enclosed.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of criminal cases. These include amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, improvement in the standards of legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

#### Statement

##### Statement of Official Statistics regarding cases relating to IPC pending from 1996

Sj. No.	Year	Total number of cases for trial including pending cases
1.	1996	52,57,662
2.	1997	54,61,004
3.	1998	56,61,172

[Translation]

#### Employment to Displaced Persons of NTPC

6470. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have adopted any policy to provide employment to those people whose land has been acquired for the N.T.P.C. Power Project at Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) the number of affected families which have not been provided employment so far; and

(d) the time by which these families are likely to be provided employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has adopted a Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) policy approved by the Government in 1993. NTPC power plants are capital intensive and utilise state-of-the-art technology and thus do not provide significant job opportunities to the local residents. However, most of the jobs in the unskilled category are earmarked for Project Affected Persons (PAPs). Even in the skilled category, jobs are offered to suitable PAPs who meet job requirements. NTPC also makes efforts to provide other opportunities like employment with contractors, self-employment schemes, allotment of shops and other income generating schemes in line with the R&R policy.

NTPC has two Super Thermal Power Projects in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, one at Rihand and the other at Singrauli. The Project Affected Families (PAFs) numbering 1273 in Singrauli and 992 PAFs/PAPs in Rihand are covered by rehabilitation measures extended by NTPC to these projects. Out of 1273 PAFs, 396 have been provided jobs in Singrauli project while the remaining 877 have been provided self-employment/income generating schemes which include allotment of shops, space for kiosks, petty contracts through local cooperative societies etc. So far as Rihand project is concerned, out of 992 PAFs/PAPs, 129 have been provided jobs in the project. Of the remaining, 79 are working as contractors in Rihand project, 394 are working with contractors, 232 have been provided self-employment/income generating schemes while 158 have been rehabilitated as per revised action plan.

(d) NTPC has no further requirement of manpower in unskilled category at Singrauli and Rihand Thermal Power Projects.

[English]

#### Nidhi Companies

6471. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote insurance cover for depositors in Nidhi companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the depositors in Nidhi companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to the Notification No GSR 737 (E) dated 01.11.1999 every Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society is required to maintain a contingent fund by transferring half per cent of each deposit to such fund and keep the entire amount in any nationalised bank. The Central Government has the power to appoint a Special Officer to monitor the working of the Nidhi in case there is default in making refund of deposit to more than ten depositors. The Central Government has also the power to order special audit of the accounts of Nidhi Companies who shall furnish to the Central Government a certificate regarding compliance of all the requirements specified in the aforesaid notification.

Recently the Government has constituted a nine member Committee to examine various aspects of Nidhi companies. The terms of reference of the Committee includes examination of the feasibility of bringing in insurance cover on deposits in Nidhi companies.

[Translation]

#### Encroachment of Forest Land by STs

6472. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes communities have encroached upon the forest land;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are empowered to regularise the occupied forest land illegally by the Scheduled Tribes before 1980;

(c) if so, the number of Scheduled Tribes who have encroached upon the forest land alongwith the area of land regularised, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation), Act 1980, Rules and Guidelines thereof, all the cases

of subsisting encroachments of forest land of pre-1980 where the State Government stand committed to regularise encroachment of forest land for cultivation and other purposes on account of past commitment, may be submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980. Such proposals should invariably conform to the criteria that State Government had taken a decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 to regularise

"eligible" category of encroachments. The proposal submitted by the State Government is processed as per the guideline issued under the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) A statement showing status of proposals of regularisation of pre-1980 encroachment on forest land received from various State Governments/Union Territories under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 is enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Status of Proposals of Regularisation of Pre-1980 Encroachments on Forest Lands Received From Different State Governments/Union Territories Under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980*

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	District	Area (Hectares)	Remarks
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	1,367	Approved in August, 1988.
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	89	Approved in-principal on 31.1.1992.
3	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	735	Essential Details sought from UT Administration on 5.10.89.
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	10,160	Essential Details sought from State Govt. Reminded on 7.10.99.
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	13,419.29	Approved in-principle on 23.10.1992.
6	Gujarat	Dangs, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha etc.	10,900	Approved in November 1994.
7	Gujarat	10 districts	39,750.59	Approved in-principle on 17.11.1994.
8	Karnataka	Chikmagalur, Dakshin Kannada, Mysore etc.	732	Rejected on merits on 8.4.1996.
9	Karnataka	19 different districts	14,848.83	Approved in May, 1996.
10	Kerala etc.	Idukki, Ernakulam	28,588.159	Approved in January, 1995.
11	Madhya Pradesh	All Districts	1,82,889	Under Consideration.
12	Madhya Pradesh	10 districts	63,449.13	Approved in July 1990.
13	Maharashtra	Dhule	10,185.32	Essential Detail sought from State Govt.
14	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	28,886.4	Essential detail sought from State Govt.
15	Rajasthan	10 districts	3171.4	Information sought from State Govt on 2.12.98. Reminded on 30.7.99.

[English]

#### Outdated Laws

6473. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of outdated laws are hampering economic reforms;

(b) If so, the details of those laws;

(c) whether the Law Commission has submitted any report for elimination of such outdated legislation;

- (d) if so, the details thereof, and  
(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (e) Sir, to examine the shortcomings in the laws and to remedy the situation, the Central Government had constituted a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws and the said Commission had recommended repeal of about 1382 Central Acts which have been identified either as obsolete or dysfunctional or needing modification. The Law Commission of India has also submitted its 159th Report on "Repeal and Amendment of Laws" which has been laid on the Table of the House on 27th October 1999. The administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India concerned with these Acts are now examining whether the said laws could be repealed/amended. Six Bills have already been introduced in the Houses for repeal of twenty-one Acts and three Ordinances.

[Translation]

#### Development of Telecommunication Network in M.P.

6474. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the development of Telecommunication network in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the funds earmarked for this purpose in the State for the current year;

(c) whether the development work has been completed as per the target fixed therefor;

(d) if so, the details of the amount spent for the development work in the State during each of the last three years, till date; and

(e) the number of new telephone connections released in the State particularly in Chhatarpur and Rewa districts during the last three years, till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The funds allocated during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	(Amount in crores of Rs.)
1997-98	303.32
1998-99	416.17
1999-2000	516.72

(b) The funds proposed for Development of Telecommunication network in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle during the year 2000-01 are Rs. 576.56 crores.

(c) The targets in respect of switching capacity, DELs, New exchanges opened, and microwave system were exceeded. However, there was a shortfall in the installation of VPTs.

(d) The amount spent for development work in the State during last three years in as under :-

Year	Amount Spent (Amt. in crores of Rs.)
1997-98	329.84
1998-99	390.54
1999-2000	384.87*

(\*Provisional, Accounts yet to be finalised).

(e) The number of new telephone connections released in M.P. Circle and Chhatarpur and Rewa districts are as under :-

Year	M.P. State	Chhatarpur	Rewa
1997-98	1,02,642	421	597
1998-99	1,40,237	1000	2867
1999-2000	1,54,816	2905	2543.

[English]

#### Maheshwar Dam Project

6475. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families displaced or ousted due to construction of Maheshwar Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to the affected families by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted to Central Electricity Authority by M/s Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited (SMHPCL), the promoters of the 400 MW Maheshwar Hydro Electric Power Project in Madhya Pradesh, 2276 families (11821 persons) are required to be displaced/ousted due to construction of the project. Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB), which is the implementing agency for the Resettlement and

Rehabilitation (R&R) package of the project, have informed that so far no family has been displaced at project site due to ongoing construction.

(b) and (c) MPEB have informed that as per available records, M/s SMHPCL has paid an amount of Rs. 27.39 lakhs to 258 families after obtaining approval from the competent authority of Government of Madhya Pradesh. The broad principles for Rehabilitation of displaced families are as under :-

- i. The aim of the State Government is that all displaced families would after their relocation and resettlement improve, on at least regain their previous standard of living within a reasonable time.
- ii. It would be ensured that no hardships caused to the displaced families in moving out from the present habitat into a new place and way of living.
- iii. It would be ensured that no adverse social, economic and environmental affects of displacement would take place on the host communities.
- iv. Special care would be taken of the families of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, marginal farmers and small farmers.
- v. Families having legal titles to land and the encroachers would be treated on the same footing for the purpose of entitlement for compensation or for payment of an amount equivalent to compensation as the case may be and for their rehabilitation.
- vi. No distinction would be made between the families displaced from revenue villages and the families displaced from the forest villages in respect of their rehabilitation.
- vii. Reasonable compensation would be determined for the lands, buildings and other immovable assets acquired. Similarly, a reasonable cost would be charged for the lands that would be allotted at the new sites.
- viii. Displaced families would be rehabilitated, maintaining the existing structure of social groups as far as possible, in the command area or near the periphery of the affected areas in accordance with their performances.
- ix. Adequate physical and social infrastructure and community services would be provided at the new sites.

- x. While resettling families entitled for allotment of land, it will be ensured that viable units of land are given.
- xi. In order that in the process of resettlement, the new and host families get fully integrated, the displaced families would be encouraged and assisted in purchase of lands from voluntary sellers of the host villages.
- xii. The rehabilitation policy be so implemented that middlemen and profiteers would get eliminated.
- xiii. Landless agricultural labourers and non-agriculturist families would be assisted in rehabilitation at the new places by giving grant-in-aid in the initial period and self and wage employment opportunities.
- xiv. Displaced families would be given priority in employment on the project construction.
- (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

#### Development of Conversion Kit for Three Wheelers

6476. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI G. J. JAVIYA:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether a Hyderabad based company in association with the Automotive Research of India has developed a new conversion kit for three wheelers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of the Union Government in encouraging availability of liquified petroleum gas based conversion kits for various types of vehicles?

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) Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Hyderabad has undertaken a sponsored assignment to design and develop a kit for three wheelers.

#### National Highways in Khandesh Region

6477. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways already in existence and planned for the Khandesh region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any proposal is pending to develop the National Highway connecting all the districts of Khandesh region;

(c) if so, whether any foreign investment is in offing for construction of the National Highways in Khandesh region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) National Highways Nos. 3, 6 and 211 are passing through Khandesh Region of Maharashtra. Total length of National Highways in the Region is nearly 487 km. No new National Highway is presently planned in the said Region.

(b) No, Sir. The districts and their Headquarters are already connected by National Highways excepting the district Headquarter of Nandurbar. There is no proposal pending to connect Headquarter of Nandurbar with National Highway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Post of Post-Master

6478. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some regional offices under Deptt. of Posts have been abolished and some of them shifted to other places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the post of Post-Master Raipur region, Madhya Pradesh has been abolished; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), does not arise.

#### Reserves of Petroleum and Natural Gas

6479. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

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

(a) whether schemes are being chalked out to explore the vast reserves of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose;

(d) whether surveys have also been conducted at some places in this regard; 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) and (b) The 9th Plan targets of exploratory work, alongwith the work done during the years 1997-2000 and plans for the year 2000-01 of oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), the national oil companies, are given below :-

#### ONGC

Activities	9th Plan Target	Actual (1997-2000)	Plan for 2000-01
1	2	3	4

#### Seismic Surveys Onland

2D (GLK eq.) *	17810	12062	4302
3D (GLK eq.) *	19639	39183	12725

#### Offshore

2D (LKM) **	12925	5584	27500
3D (LKM) **	167000	309355	37500

#### Exploratory Drilling onlands/offshore Wells (Nos.)

	692	401	180
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#### OIL

Activities	9th Plan Target	Actual (1997-2000)	Plan for 2000-01
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#### Seismic Surveys Onland

2D (SLK) ***	5912	3944	1400
2D (GLK) +	1460	510	1145
3D (Sq. km.) ++	766	500	350

1	2	3	4
<b>Offshore</b>			
2D (LKM) **	1000	-	1000
3D (LKM) **	-	-	1000
<b>Exploratory Drilling</b>			
Onlands/offshore	83	33	16
<b>Wells (Nos.)</b>			

\* GLK Eq. = Ground Line Kilometre Equivalent

\*\* LKM = Line Kilometre

\*\*\* SLK = Standard Line Kilometre

+ GLK = Ground Line Kilometre

++ Sq. Km. = Square Kilometre

(c) The funds earmarked by NOCs for the current year i.e. 2000-01 for exploration are Rs. 2452 crores approximately.

(d) and (e) Surveys have been conducted by ONGC, OIL and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons in the following basins :-

Cambay basin, Himalyan Foothills, Vindhyan basin, Cauvery basin, Krishna-Godavari basin, Upper Assam basin, Assam-Arakan Fold belt, Ganga Valley basin, Rajasthan basin, Jaisalmer basin, Kutch-Saurashtra basin, Satpura basin, Damodar basin and East Coast and West Coast basin.

#### Power Projects In Bihar

6480. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of power projects functioning at present in Bihar alongwith the details of projects that are under consideration of the Government;

(b) the present status of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up power projects in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether foreign/private investors have shown their willingness to set up power projects in the State; and

(f) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The names

and installed capacity of power stations in the State of Bihar as on date is given in Statement-I. The details of power projects which were accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and are under execution are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Only one project is under examination in CEA namely Kahalgaon TPS St. II (2x660 MW) by M/s. NTPC. No hydro scheme is under examination in CEA.

The following inter-state and inter-regional mega power projects are proposed to be set up in the State of Bihar in 10th and 11th Plan period :-

1. North Karanpura STPP-Hazaribagh Distt.	2000 MW by NTPC
2. Barh STPP-Patna Distt.	2000 MW by NTPC
3. Kahalgaon St. II-Bhagalpur Distt.	1500 MW by NTPC
4. Malihon Right Bank-Dhanbad Distt.	1000 MW by Joint venture of DVC and BSES

Detailed project report (except for Kahalgaon) of above mentioned mega power projects are yet to be formulated and to be submitted to CEA for techno-economic clearance.

(e) and (f) Private investors namely M/s Jamshedpur Power Co. are presently setting up Jojobera TPP (2x120 MW) which is likely to be commissioned during 9th Plan.

#### Statement-I

##### Installed capacity of power stations in Bihar

##### State Sector

##### Thermal

1. Patna	13.50 MW
2. Muzaffarpur	220.00 MW
3. Barauni	320.00 MW
4. Patratu	840.00 MW
5. Tenughat	420.00 MW

##### Hydro

6. Sone West Canal	6.60 MW
7. East Gandak Canal	15.00 MW
8. Sone Eastern Canal	3.30 MW
9. Subernarekha	130.00 MW
10. Kosi	20.00 MW

**Central Sector****Thermal**

11.	Kahalgaon St. I	840.00 MW
12.	Chandra Pura	780.00 MW
13.	Bokaro	877.50 MW

14. Maithon GT

90.00 MW

**Hydro**

15.	Panchit Hill	80.00 MW
16.	Tilaiya	4.00 MW
Total		<u>4659.90 MW</u>

**Statement-II**

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Capacity (MW)	Status	Date of Commissioning
<b>Thermal</b>			
1.	Jojobera TPP (2x210)	Financial closure was achieved on 17.12.98. Order for main plant and machinery placed on BHEL in 4/98.	U-1 (6/2001) U-2 (9/2001)
<b>Hydro</b>			
1.	Koel Karo (4x172.5+1x20)	Works are at standstill due to funds constraints and local agitation.	8 years from the date of start of work
2.	Chandil LBC (2x4)	Civil works are nearing completion. Erection of TG sets is in progress.	2001-02
3.	North Koel (2x12)	Civil works are partly completed. Further, civil works are at standstill due to contractual problem with NPCC. TG sets received at site.	2001-02

**Delay in Delivery of Mail**

6481. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about delay in the delivery of mail in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the smooth and timely delivery of mail throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints received the Department include those relating to delays in delivery of mail and during 1998-99, the number of such complaints was 47,869 which worked out to 0.0003% of the total mail traffic handled during the year. Delay in delivery of mail is mostly caused by irregular/late running of trains/state transport buses and Airlines, as the Department is dependent on these agencies for transmission of mails. Delay due to human failure is also noted but only occasionally.

(c) The Department of Posts has an effective system of continually reviewing mail transmission and delivery so

as to eliminate delays. The following steps have been taken by the Department for ensuring smooth and timely delivery of mail :-

- (i) A close coordination is maintained with the authorities of Indian Airlines, Railways and Road Transport for timely transmission of mails.
- (ii) Mechanised sorting has been introduced at Mumbai and Chennai and mechanised support is provided in Metro towns and other important cities for delivery of mail through Mopeds.
- (iii) Segmentation of mails is done at the initial stage through Green Channel (Local), Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel, Bulk Mail Channel and Periodical (Patrika) Channel to ensure smooth processing and quicker transmission of mails and delivery.
- (iv) Live survey of mails is done and periodic drives are launched to monitor delivery efficiency.
- (v) Computerisation of Registration Sorting in major mail offices and mail transmission at transit mail offices in the Metro and other important cities has been introduced for greater efficiency.

- (vi) Use of PINCODE is being published.
- (vii) The qualitative work of the delivery staff is checked by contacting addressees and punitive action is taken against the staff found responsible for delay in delivery.
- (viii) The importance attached to delivery services by the Department is underlined by the scheme of Best Postman Award which identifies and provides encouragement for delivery staff in every division in the country every six months.
- (ix) Modern technology, like VSAT, is being used to speed up transmission and thus ensure more timely and efficient delivery.

#### Forest Promotion Scheme for Poorvanchal

6482. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any forest promotion scheme has been formulated for the control of an ecological imbalance likely to suffer due to decline of percentage of forest in the Poorvanchal districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the scheme for removing imbalance is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A project named 'Poorvanchal Integrated Afforestation Development Scheme' for 20 districts of Eastern U.P. (Poorvanchal) for Rs. 4193.66 lakhs for three years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002) was prepared and submitted to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi in 1999-2000.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Vacant Posts in Tehri Dam Project

6483. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers working in Tehri Dam Project;

(b) whether the persons belonging to minority, SC/ST/OBC categories have been given due representation in appointment against the reserved posts;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for filling up posts for the said categories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There are, at present, 315 officers working in Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC).

(b) to (d) Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd (THDC) has been giving due representation to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Back Classes. However, a backlog of 45 posts reserved for these categories has been reported as per details given below :-

(i)	Scheduled Castes	-	29
(ii)	Scheduled Tribes	-	10
(iii)	Other Backward Class	-	6
TOTAL			45

The main reason for the above backlog is reported to be non-availability of qualified persons having requisite experience in the specialised field of Hydro Power Generation. THDC proposes to clear this backlog by making Special drive For requirement of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC Categories through an open advertisement.

[English]

#### Post Offices in Maharashtra

6484. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in Maharashtra, category-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the State particularly in Malegaon region of Nasik district during 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Targets for opening of Post Offices for 2000-2001 are being fixed including Maharashtra. Branch Post Offices will be opened in Malegaon region subject to prescribed norms for opening of new Post Offices. This is further subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.



## Statement

*Category-wise Post Offices in the Rural and Urban Areas of  
Maharashtra Postal Circle as on 31.3.2000*

Sl. No.	Name of Dist.	Head Post Offices (HOS)		Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)		Extra Deptl. Sub Offices (EDSOs)		Extra Deptl. Branch Offices (EDBOs)		Total	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Aurangabad	1	Nil	25	21	Nil	Nil	3	243	29	264
2.	Jalna	1	Nil	12	18	Nil	Nil	Nil	199	13	217
3.	Beed	1	Nil	15	18	Nil	Nil	2	286	18	304
4.	Dhule	1	Nil	14	20	Nil	Nil	5	222	20	242
5.	Nandurbar	Nil	Nil	8	11	Nil	Nil	1	181	9	192
6.	Nasik	3	Nil	48	43	Nil	Nil	14	554	65	597
7.	Nanded	1	Nil	26	25	Nil	Nil	Nil	412	27	437
8.	Parbhani	1	Nil	21	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	272	22	283
9.	Latur	1	Nil	13	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	257	14	273
10.	Jalgaon	3	Nil	33	38	1	13	2	429	39	480
11.	Osmanabad	1	Nil	13	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	251	14	267
12.	Ratnagiri	2	Nil	14	64	Nil	4	2	564	18	632
13.	Kolhapur	3	Nil	40	51	1	9	2	445	46	505
14.	Sangli	2	Nil	24	55	1	13	1	319	28	387
15.	Sindhudurg	2	Nil	07	49	Nil	5	Nil	304	09	358
16.	Thane	3	Nil	74	38	2	1	23	283	102	322
17.	Raigad	2	Nil	29	35	1	3	5	356	37	394
18.	Mumbai	11	Nil	250	Nil	1	Nil	11	Nil	273	Nil
19.	Satara	2	Nil	32	56	Nil	9	3	553	37	618
20.	Solapur	2	Nil	40	51	1	4	7	424	50	479
21.	Ahmednagar	2	Nil	27	75	Nil	Nil	4	539	33	614
22.	Pune	3	Nil	142	67	Nil	1	33	544	178	612
23.	Akola	1	Nil	26	21	Nil	5	2	341	29	367
24.	Amravati	2	Nil	32	20	1	19	6	370	41	409
25.	Buldhana	2	Nil	18	18	Nil	8	1	304	21	330
26.	Bhandara	2	Nil	09	23	Nil	7	1	258	12	288
27.	Chandrapur	1	Nil	12	23	Nil	5	2	285	15	313

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
28	Gadchiroli	Nil	Nil	03	12	Nil	Nil	1	167	04	179
29	Nagpur	3	Nil	87	23	Nil	7	2	227	92	257
30	Wardha	1	Nil	19	10	Nil	3	Nil	152	20	165
31	Yeotmal	1	Nil	21	22	Nil	4	Nil	321	22	347
TOTAL		61	Nil	1134	950	9	120	133	10062	1337	11132
Goa											
1.	North Goa	1	Nil	35	38	Nil	1	5	99	41	138
2.	South Goa	1	Nil	14	17	Nil	2	2	43	17	62
TOTAL		2	Nil	49	55	Nil	3	7	142	58	200

#### Adulteration in LPG

6485. SHRIMATI KAILASHO D VI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulteration in domestic LPG is taking place extensively;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas in which it is more prevalent; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to book the persons involved in such adulteration?

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) Regular checks of the LPG distributors are carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels. If any distributor is found indulging in any malpractice / irregularities, action is initiated against such a distributor for the established malpractice / irregularity, depending upon its nature.

#### Petrol Pumps in Maharashtra

6486. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DODOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the plans of the Government to set up LPG agencies and Petrol Pump in the Western part of the Maharashtra State;

(b) the waiting list for LPG connections in Kolhapur, Sangli and Sholapur districts in Maharashtra; and

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

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 addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 124 LPG distributorships and 84 retail outlet dealer-ships have been included in the current Marketing plan 1996-98 for the State of Maharashtra including its Western part.

(b) and (c) as on 1.4.2000, there was a waiting list of 11861 in district Kolhapur, 18939 in district Sangli and 3343 in district Sholapur of Maharashtra.

Instructions have been issued to the oil companies to release 1 crore new LPG connections for the entire country during the current year to clear the waiting list existing on 1.12.1999.

#### Supreme Court's Order on Polluting Vehicles

6487. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to comply with Supreme Court's recent order Delhi Government has withdrawn thousands of public transport buses and other polluting vehicles from the road transport system;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely impact of the fresh move;

(c) whether such a move is likely to be taken in other metropolies of the country and if so, the likely impact thereof, metropolitan-wise; and

(d) the details of present levels of air pollution in Delhi and other metropolies - Metropolitan and action taken/proposed to deal with the problem most effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, in compliance with the directions of Supreme Court, more than eight years old diesel buses and all pre-1990 autos and taxis plying in Delhi have been taken off the road. The ambient air quality is indicating reduction in the levels of pollutants after the withdrawal of these vehicles.

(c) At present, there is no such a move by the Government.

(d) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the levels of ambient air pollutants (annual average) measured in residential areas in metro cities including Delhi during the year 1999 are as indicated in the following table :-

City	Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Nitrogen (NO <sub>2</sub> ) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Delhi	16.3	26.5	351
Mumbai	14.4	29.9	247
Calcutta	31.5	29.2	268
Chennai	8.2	14.0	77
Hyderabad	15.8	28.4	223
Ahmedabad	10.8	10.3	340

The steps taken to control air pollution in Delhi and other metro cities includes notification of stringent Mass Emission Standards known as India 2000 norms akin to Euro-I norms for motor vehicles manufactured from 1.4.2000 in the entire country and more stringent Mass Emission Standards known as Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II norms for registration of private (non-commercial) vehicles from 1.4.2000 in the National Capital Region, notification of specification of two-stroke engine oil effective from 1.4.1999 in the entire country, supply of improved fuel quality commensurate to upgradation of automobile technology, phasing out of leaded petrol, adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto fuel, promotion of use of clean fuel, closure of industrial units in non-conforming areas.

#### Establishment of LPG Agencies at Banaskantha, Gujarat

6488. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Banaskantha district of Gujarat where LPG agencies have been established so far;

(b) the number of additional LPG connections provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons in the waiting list, agency-wise in the districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Presently there are four LPG distributorships in district Banaskantha two at Palanpur, one at Dantiwada and one at Deesa. During the last three years 7915 LPG connections were released. Waiting list as on 1.4.2000 was 5692.

Further M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is also supplying LPG through mobile filling vehicles/skids on an experimental basis in Banaskantha district.

#### Exploration of Natural Gas

6489. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified any other places for exploring the Natural Gas during the current year and the next two years;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government for exploring the Natural Gas in the different parts of the country during the last three years?

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) Exploration, an on-going process, is done for oil and natural gas (hydrocarbons) together and consists of seismic data acquisition, processing, interpretation, prospect identification and drilling. Exploratory work has been carried out and would be carried out in the following basins :-

Cambay basin, Himalayan Foothills, Vindhyan basin, Cauvery basin, Krishna-Godavari basin, Upper Assam basin, Assam-Arakan Fold belt, Ganga Valley basin, Rajasthan basin, Jaisalmer basin, Kutch-Saurashtra basin, Satpura basin and East Coast and West Coast basin.

(c) The amount earmarked by the National Oil Companies for exploration during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is Rs. 5716 crores approximately.

#### Joint Ventures Projects by IOC and KPC

6490. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has a proposal to launch some new projects in collaboration with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total investment proposed to be made in those projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are expected to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) In July, 1998, Government had approved setting up of a 9 MMTPA grassroot refinery in District Jagatsinghpur, Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crores through a Joint Venture Company between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

KPC has since withdrawn from this Joint Venture. IOC plans to execute the project on their own which is scheduled for completion by August, 2003.

#### Containers Handling Cranes

6491. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai Port Trusts had invited open tender for leasing containers handling cranes in 1998;

(b) if so, whether the tender has been finalised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the government thereto;

(e) the loss of revenue suffered due to non-availability of cranes;

(f) whether the responsibility for this loss has been fixed and action taken against the concerned authorities;

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

(h) the present status of finalization of the tender and the time by which the contract is likely to be finalised to obviate further loss of revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There were only two valid tenders and when the tenders were being analysed, it came to the notice of the board that the lowest tenderer was not financially sound. The board after detailed examination, decided to award the contract to the other tenderer.

(d) A representation was made by the lowest tenderer to the government. The Government directed Chennai Port Trust to review the proposal of leasing the crane in view of the latest decision to involve private sector participation for operation of the container terminal at Chennai Port through 'specialised solution'.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Doesn't arise.

(h) The Chennai Port Trust Board is re-examining the proposal.

#### Survey of Harihar to Maharashtra Four Laning Project

6492. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake survey of road from Harihar to Maharashtra for taking up for laning work;

(b) if so, whether the survey work has been entrusted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the project report has been submitted to the National Highways Authority of India; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is expected to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The work is being done in following packages:

(i) Harihar-Havari (km. 282-340) length of 58 kms.

(ii) Belgaum bypass (km. 495-515) length of 20 kms.

- (iii) Harihar-Maharashtra border excluding Belgaum bypass & Hubli-Dharwad by pass (km. 340-592) length of 202 kms.

(d) and (e) The detailed project report for various sections are targetted to be received by the end of year 2000.

#### SC Judgement on Denotification of Forest Land

6493. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about Supreme Court Judgement regarding denotification of Forest land which was delivered in the year 1997;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines given by the Supreme Court; and

(c) the reaction of the Government and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement directions given by the Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABAU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 22.8.1997 have ordered that before denotification of any area which is included in a sanctuary/national park, the concerned State Government shall refer the proposal to Indian Board for Wildlife for its opinion and their after the proposal shall be placed for consideration before the State Legislative Assembly alongwith the opinion of Indian Board for Wildlife.

(c) The Order of the Supreme Court is being followed in its letter and spirit.

#### Telephone Facilities in Tamil Nadu

6494. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide cent percent telephone connectivity before August 15, 2000 in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to simplify the procedures for shifting and transfer of telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government have planned to make telephone available on demand in Tamil Nadu, by March, 2002 with the private sector complementing the efforts of the Government in this regard. However, in the case of Chennai Telephone

District, during a special offer of reduced registration charges 77000 new registrations for telephone connections have been made and it is likely that all these new registrations will be provided with connectivity by 15th August, 2000.

(c) The steps taken to simplify the procedure for shifting and transfer of telephones are :-

- (i) To cut short the delay in case of All India Shift, the field officers apart from taking action on completed advice note will send a copy to Accounts Officer (TR) through FAX or details will be communicated on telephone so as to enable him to issue bill to the subscriber upto date of disconnection of telephone.
- (ii) The closure certificate is handed over to the subscriber himself in a sealed cover for submitting it alongwith the application for telephone connection at the new station.
- (iii) The commercial officers have been asked to issue OBs immediately on receipt of application alongwith paid copy of the last bill without any reference to the Accounts Section.
- (iv) Transfer of telephone provided under N-OYT-General and OYT-General categories to any person, firm or company has been allowed after one year of installation for a non-refundable fee or Rs 500/- to be paid by the transferee.
- (v) Third party transfer of telephone provided under special category has been permitted against payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 500/- if its date of registration has been cleared under NON-OYT-General category.

[Translation]

#### Accident on National Highway

6495. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of fatal accidents take place every day on National Highway between Gumla and Ranchi due to bad condition of this road;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of this highway; and

(c) the amount spent during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However all efforts are being made to improve the condition of this National Highway. Ministry has approved widening works worth Rs. 618.88 lakhs and special repair estimates for improvement of the riding surface worth Rs. 515.05 lakhs during the last two years.

(c) the expenditure incurred during the last three years are as below :-

Year	Original (Rs. in lakhs)	Maintenance & Repair (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	88.51	117.19
1998-99	45.89	104.61
1999-2000	235.37	295.35

[English]

#### Construction of Post Office Building

6496. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a post office building in Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Setting up of LPG Agencies at Ambala in Haryana

6497. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections at Ambala district in Haryana;

(b) the time by which waiting lists are likely to be cleared;

(c) the number of LPG connections proposed to be released in the district during the year 2000; and

(d) the details of new LPG agencies to set up in the District in the next few years?

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 number of

persons on the waiting list for LPG connections with the Public Sector Oil Companies at Ambala district in Haryana as on 1.4.2000 is 16297.

(b) and (c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release around 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

(d) Two locations in Ambala district are included in LPG Marketing Plan of 1996-98.

#### Private Basic Operators

6498. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private basic operators are not meeting their share to achieve the village Public telephone targets;

(b) if so, whether the Government have directed the private basic operators to chalk out a time bound action plan to increase the teledensity in the rural areas and provide effective services;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the private basic operators on the direction of the Union Government;

(d) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out by the private basic operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Letters have been issued to private licensees of telephone service for achieving the targets committed for first 3 years of licence by the date of completion of such 3 years period from the effective date of their licence agreement.

(c) So far Licensees have not given any definite indication (time-frame) for achievement of their committed targets.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

**Power Projects by Foreign Companies**

6499. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects set up with collaboration of foreign companies during the last three years and till date;

(b) the total amount spent/proposed to be spent on these projects during the said period; and

(c) the names and details of foreign and Indian participants with the amount of total investments proposed

and the time schedule fixed for completion of each such project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As per information available, there are 59 private power projects involving investment by foreign companies, which require techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority. Out of these, Power Purchase Agreements have been signed by State Governments in respect of 20 projects during the last three years. The details and salient features of these 20 projects are given in Statement-I. Details and salient features of the seven private power projects fully commissioned during the last three years are given in Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement-I**

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crores)	Foreign/Indian Participants	Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power Maharashtra)	1072	5187	Ispat Alloys Limited/ GEC, UK/EDF France	42-48 months from Financial Closure
2.	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (M/s Kalinga Power Corporation) Orissa	500	2191.53 -	George Sakellaris, USA/ Foster Wheeler, USA, Parson Power System, UK	33-36 months from Financial Closure
3.	Gouripore TPP (M/s Gouripore Power Company) West Bengal	150	659.44	Thermo Ecotek, USA/ BHEL/Birla Technical/ WBSEB	32 months from Financial Closure
4.	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers) Uttar Pradesh	567	2432.43	Aditya Birla Group/ Powergen, UK	40 months from Financial Closure
5.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.) Uttar Pradesh	330	372.32	Duncans India/ Synergics/USA	62 months from Financial Closure
6.	Bhilai TPP (M/s Bhilai Power Supply Comp.) Madhya Pradesh	574	2489.71	L&T/SAIL/Community Energy Alternative, USA	39 months from Financial Closure
7.	Pithampur DGPP (M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.) Madhya Pradesh	119.7	442	Shapoorji Pallonji Power/ Wartsila, Finland	14-17 months from Financial Closure
8.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s GVK Power (Ratlam) Madhya Pradesh	118.63	451.29	GVK Group/Wartsila Finland	14-17 months from Financial Closure
9.	Vizag TPS (M/s. NNPCL) Andhra Pradesh	1040	4628.12	Hinduja Power/National Power, UK	38-44 months from Financial Closure

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s BPL Group) Andhra Pradesh (On ICB Route)	520	2384.57	M/s BPL, India/Marubeni Corp., Electric Power Development, Japan	33-39 months from Financial Closure
11.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.) Andhra Pradesh (On ICB Route)	520	2221.32	Continental Energy Services, Ililnova Generating Company, PMDC, BBI, USA	36-42 months from Financial Closure
12.	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.) Karnataka	1015	5495.99	Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd./Fireseed Ltd. Hongkong	38-42 months from Financial Closure
13.	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power) Karnataka	107.6	390.593	Subash Projects & Marketing Ltd./Coastal Power, USA	19 months from Financial Closure
14.	North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power) Tamil Nadu	1050	4423.80	Videocon/ABB, Switzerland/National Power, UK	42-46 months from Financial Closure
15.	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC) Tamil Nadu	525	2324.10	Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Ltd./Power Gen, UK	39 months from Financial Closure
16.	North Madras TPP (M/s Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited) Tamil Nadu	525	2246.77	Pembinaan Redzal, Malaysia/Pro-Majestic, Malaysia/GECA, UK/PSEG, USA	37 months from Financial Closure
17.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power) Tamil Nadu	106	384.221	Balaji Group/Wartsila Diesel, Finland/Ogden Energy, USA	14-17 months from Financial Closure
18.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co. Ltd.) Tamil Nadu	106	390.822	SIV Industries/Shapoorji Pallonji/Wartsila Diesel, Finland/Ogden Energy, USA	14-17 months from Financial Closure
19.	Jayamkondam TPP (M/s. Jaymakondam Lignite Power Corporation Ltd.) Tamil Nadu (on ICB Route)	500	.	Reliance/North American Coal Corp., USA/Foster Wheeler, USA/Consolidated Electric Power Asia Ltd., USA	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance
20.	Ennore CCGT (M/s. Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium) Tamil Nadu (On ICB Route)	1884.64	.	M/s Siemens, Germany/CMS Energy, Singapore/Grasim India/Woodside Development, Australia/Unocal Bharat Ltd., Mauritius	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance

\*The promoters of the project are yet to submit complete Detailed Project Report to Central Electricity Authority for techno-econom



## Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crores)	Foreign/Indian Participants
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s GVK Industries Limited), Andhra Pradesh	216	816	APSEB/International Finance Corp./ CMS Generation, USA/GVK
2.	Godavari CCGT (M/s Spectrum Power Generation Limited), Andhra Pradesh	208	748.43	Spectrum Tec., USA/Jaya Foods
3.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Limited), Tamil Nadu	200	756.778	GMR Vasavi/Rosy Blue Group, Luxembourg/ Hyundai, Korea/Odgen, USA
4.	Dabhol CCGT Phase-I (M/s Dabhol Power Company), Maharashtra	740	9051.27	Enron, General Electric, Bechtel, USA/MSEB
5.	Torangallu TPP (M/s Jindal Tractebel Power Company), Karnataka	260	1093.86	Jindal group/Tractebel, Belgium
6.	Paguthan (Gujarat Power Gen Energy Corporation Limited)	654.7	2298	Power Gen, UK/GPCL/Siemens, Germany
7.	Hazira CCGT (M/s Essar Power Limited)	515	1666	Essar Group/Prime Hazira Mauritius

[English]

## Iridium Venture

6500. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- whether the Iridium Venture has been closed;
- If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether the VSNL has made every possible effort to get this venture operational;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- the extent to which this collapse is likely to effect the future growth of the telecom industry in the country?

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

(b) Iridium services were terminated as of 11.59 p.m. EST (American East Coast Standard Time) on 17th March, 2000. However, IITL informed that Motorola, the key promoter and shareholder of Iridium, decided to continue the operations and maintenance of Iridium satellite constellation for limited period of time to allow subscribers in remote locations to obtain any alternative

communications. Accordingly, Motorola advised gateways, (in case of India, IITL) to independently decide on closure of their gateway operations and maintenance at their own discretion. IITL informed that the Board of Directors of IITL decided in their meeting held on 23rd March, 2000 to close Iridium services in India in a phased manner ending on 31st March, 2000 at 2400 hrs.

It is believed that Iridium LLC failed to achieve projected/expected subscriber growth, and because of poor marketing, high tariffs and some technical problems with their handsets.

(c) VSNL has no equity stake in Iridium and therefore, VSNL can play no role in making the venture operational.

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

(e) The commercial services in India were commenced by IITL only by the end of Feb, 1999 when the handsets became available. Due to high tariff, the service was not popular throughout the world and India was no exception. It is understood that the Iridium services, did not achieve substantial subscriber base in India and to that extent the consumers at large in India would not be at a disadvantage due to stoppage of Iridium services.

### Area Coverage by LPG Agencies

6501. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether there are any guidelines/norms in regard to distance to be covered by a deliveryman of a LPG agency to provide cylinder to the consumers at their residence on demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether LPG dealers in Maharashtra and Karnataka particularly in Raigad district of Maharashtra are refusing to deliver the cylinder to the consumers at their residence;

(d) whether guidelines have been issued at all the LPG agencies in the country;

(e) if so, whether LPG agencies are following the guidelines; and

(f) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against those agencies which are violating the guidelines?

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 (f) All the LPG distributors are under instruction from Oil Marketing Companies to effect home delivery to all the consumers who do not want to avail cash and carry discount, in their prescribed area of operation. Regular checking of the LPG distributors is also carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels. Whenever any complaint against a distributor is received, action against the erring distributor is taken as per the Distributorship Agreement/Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

### Connection of Road Network

6502. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing road network connecting with Delhi and neighbouring towns in the National Capital Region are not sufficient to cater the volume of traffic in the next five years;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regards;

(c) the number and details of the National Highways which are connected Delhi to National Capital Region;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct Expressways in the National Capital Region particularly in the State of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRAHDAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major proposals identified by the National Capital Region Planning Board are upgradation (4 laning) of the National Highways, Construction of seven expressways and Widening (4 laning) of inner and outer grid roads systems. Details are given in Statement-I enclosed

(c) 6 National Highways connecting Delhi to National Region are as under :-

- |       |           |   |                     |
|-------|-----------|---|---------------------|
| (i)   | NH No. 1  | : | Delhi-Amritsar      |
| (ii)  | NH No. 2  | : | Delhi-Calcutta      |
| (iii) | NH No. 8  | : | Delhi-Jaipur        |
| (iv)  | NH No. 10 | : | Delhi-Rohtak-Hissar |
| (v)   | NH No. 24 | : | Delhi-Lucknow       |
| (vi)  | NH No. 58 | : | Delhi-Hardwar       |

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Details of the proposals are given in Statement-II enclosed.

### Statement-I

(1) Upgradation (4 laning) of the following NHs :-

- |       |           |   |   |
|-------|-----------|---|---|
| (i)   | NH No. 1  | : | Delhi to Panipat  |
| (ii)  | NH No. 2  | : | Delhi to Palwal   |
| (iii) | NH No. 8  | : | Delhi to Gurgaon (6 lane),<br>Gurgaon to Behror (4 lane). |
| (iv)  | NH No. 10 | : | Delhi to Rohtak   |
| (v)   | NH No. 24 | : | Delhi to Hapur  |

(2) Construction of following Expressways :-

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| (i)   | Faridabad - NOIDA-Ghaziabad Expressway (56 km.)   |
| (ii)  | Ghaziabad-Kundli Expressway (42 km.)  |
| (iii) | Kundli-Panipat Expressway (Parallel to NH-1.90 km.)   |
| (iv)  | Ghaziabad-Meerut Expressway (38 km.)  |
| (v)   | Perimeter Expressway (85 km.) along the Western Periphery of NCT-Delhi connecting NH-1 at Kundli and NH-2 at Faridabad. |

- (vi) Elevated Expressway on the existing ring road in Delhi (52 km.)
- (vii) Delhi-Loni-NOIDA-Surajpur-Bulandshahar-Khurja to Aligarh (total 150 km) on new alignment is suggested Beyond 2001.
- (3) Widening (4 laning) of Inner and Outer Grid Road System

#### Statement-II

At present there are 3 proposals for construction of Expressways in NCR as under :-

- (i) Faridabad-NOIDA-Ghaziabad 56 km in length
- (ii) Kundli-Ghaziabad and 80 km. in length Ghaziabad Meerut
- (iii) Western peripheral Express- 85 Kms in length way Connecting NH-1 at Kundli & NH-2 at Faridabad via NH-10 and NH-8.

Feasibility Studies for these have already been undertaken. There is no proposal to construct expressway in the State of Rajasthan.

#### Requirement of Diesel and Petrol Pumps

6503.SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to evaluate the requirement of diesel and petrol pump outlets in the country by 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present strength of outlets of various companies like BPCL, IOC, IBP, HP, etc. and

(d) the percentage of anticipated market share which is likely to the private companies in such outlets by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In order to evaluate requirement of retail outlet dealerships, oil companies conduct feasibility surveys from time to time. Locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plan.

(c) As on 1.10.1999, there were 17299 retail outlet dealerships in operation in India Company-wise details are given below :-

#### COMPANY

IOC	7032
BPC	4421
HPC	4397
IBP	1449

(d) No study to assess the anticipated market share of private companies in retail outlet dealerships by 2010 has been conducted.

#### Rural Electrification in Kerala

6504.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government for financial assistance for rural electrification in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent during the last three years for rural electrification in the State;

(d) whether the Government have issued any directions to Kerala State Electricity Board to take up Kokkathodu in Pathanamthitta District for rural electrification scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned electrification projects sponsored by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) during the last three years. Details are as under :-

Year	No. of schemes sanctioned	Loan outlay (Rs. lakhs)
1997-98	100	11566
1998-99	97	43842
1999-2000	146	36894

(c) Details of loan assistance against the sanctioned rural electrification schemes of Kerala State Electricity Board is as under :-

Year	Loan Disbursed (Rs. lakhs)
1997-1998	5200
1998-1999	13703
1999-2000	22722

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Identification of villages and priorities for their electrification are determined and decided by State Electricity Boards/State Power Utilities keeping in view the availability of financial resources and as per policy and directions of State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Connections

6505.SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long waiting list for telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under the Mandavi region of Gujarat and Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and expand the existing telephone exchanges of the said region and the districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The total waiting list as on 31-03-2000 for telephone connections in Mandavi region (Mandavi constituency in Surat SSA) of Gujarat is 3004 and in Azamgarh & Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh is 4500 & 5103 respectively. The exchange-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Necessary action is being taken for enhancement of capacity of exchanges, opening of new exchanges and making external plant ready to clear the pending waiting list by March 2001, subject to timely receipt of equipment.

#### Statement

##### Exchange-wise Waiting List Mandavi Region of Gujarat as on 31-03-2000

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Areth	09
2.	Bajipura	140
3.	Bardoli	683
4.	Bodhan	0
5.	Buhari	0

1	2	3
6.	Dhatwa	0
7.	Dolara	0
8.	Dolvan	0
9.	Fort Songadh	0
10.	Gangadhara	0
11.	Ghata	0
12.	Godawadi	0
13.	Kadod	0
14.	Kadadara	178
15.	Kamrej	548
16.	Karchelia	66
17.	Karjan	0
18.	Kathor	0
19.	Madhi	0
20.	Mahuva	355
21.	Mandvi	282
22.	Nizar	327
23.	Palsana	0
24.	Sarbhon	0
25.	Sevni	0
26.	Shampura	0
27.	Uchhai	0
28.	Ukai	0
29.	Valod	0
30.	Valvada	0
31.	Varad	0
32.	Vyara	369
33.	Wankaner	47

##### Exchange-wise Waiting List of Azamgarh & Mau District of Uttar Pradesh as on 31-03-2000

#### AZAMGARH DISTRICT

1.	Ahiraula	60
2.	Ambari	10

1	2	3
3.	Anjanshaheed	60
4.	Atraulia	50
5.	Azamgarh	400
6.	Bankat	125
7.	Bilariyanganj	200
8.	Bindawal	80
9.	Bardah	80
10.	Bindrabazar	150
11.	Bilmau	50
12.	Chandpatl	80
13.	Chltpur	145
14.	Devgaon	150
15.	Deedarganj	114
16.	Gosal ki Bazar	20
17.	Jahaganj	5
18.	Jeyanpur	115
19.	Kanchanpur	6
20.	Kandhrapur	5
21.	Kaptanganj	100
22.	Khanhani	15
23.	Kollsa	30
24.	Kauria	12
25.	Lalgaonj	70
26.	Laighat	80
27.	Lahideeh	80
28.	Martinganj	90
29.	Maharajganj	80
30.	Mahul	5
31.	Mehnagar	90
32.	Mehrajpur	90
33.	Mubarakpur	110
34.	Nizamabad	250
35.	Palhana	10

1	2	3
36.	Pawal	14
37.	Phartha	80
38.	Phulpur	359
39.	Rani ki Sarai	90
40.	Sanjarpur	260
41.	Saraim eer	208
42.	Sardaha	90
43.	Sathlaon	110
44.	Singhpur	5
45.	Senpur	10
46.	Sumbhi Bazar	7
47.	Tarwa	100
48.	Thekma	130
49.	Tahbarpur	20
MAU DISTRICT		
1.	Adari	0
2.	Allakh	0
3.	Amlia	81
4.	Atarsawan	92
5.	Bojhee	132
6.	Chakara	0
7.	Chiralyakot	213
8.	Doharighat	0
9.	Dubari	121
10.	Haldharpur	69
11.	Ghoel	219
12.	Karha-A	192
	Karha-B	
13.	Khurahat	40
14.	Kurthizaffarpur	84
15.	Kushmaur	0
16.	Kopaganj	303
17.	Madhuban	500

1	2	3
18.	Maryadpur-A Maryadpur-B	85
19.	Mau	1575
20.	Mohamadabad	549
21.	Nadavasaraia	251
22.	Pipradeeh	0
23.	Ranipur	79
24.	Ratanpura	171
25.	Semar-Izamalpur	103
26.	Sipah	41
27.	Suggichauri	37
28.	Surajpur-A Surajpur-B	137
29.	Sultanpur	29

[English]

**Setting up of Effluent Treatment  
Plant in A.P.**

6506.SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have any schemes to assist State Governments to set up effluent treatment plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought assistance to set up effluent treatment plant at Amberpet in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the proposal has been examined and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of assistance given to Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Union Government has a scheme on Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) wherein financial assistance is given to the small scale industrial units for the construction of CETP for the treatment of effluent. The financing pattern for the CETP consists of grant of 25% of the project cost from the Central Government subject to a matching contribution from the State Government, 20% promoter's contribution and the remaining amount could be taken as a loan from financial institutions.

(c) to (e) Proposal for Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Amberpet was submitted by the State Government for allocation of funds under the National River Conservation Plan. This proposal can not be considered under the National River Conservation Plan of the Central Government, as Amberpet is not included in this programme.

**Power Projects in Orissa**

6507.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects submitted by Orissa for approval during the last three years:

(b) the details and present status thereof;

(c) the number of projects out of the total cleared so far;

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the expected quantum of power to be generated from these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) During the last 3 years that is, 1997-98 to 1999-2000, two power projects, namely, Ib Valley TPP Units 5 & 6 and Hira TPP were received in the Central Electricity Authority from the State of Orissa for techno-economic approval. The details of these proposals alongwith present status are given below :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ Executing Agency	I.C. (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ib Valley TPP Units 5&6 (M/s. AES Valley Corporation)	2x250 =500	8/97	Cleared by CEA on 26.02.1999

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Hirma TPP (M/s. CEPA Pvt. Ltd.)	6x720	30.09.98	Proposal was returned on 30.11.98. Inputs/clearances yet to be received include State Government recommendation on DPR/cost, revalidation of fuel linkage, MOEF clearance, firming completed, cost tentative financial package and adequate Power evacuation system. This project was subsequently included in the list of Mega projects under the Revised Mega Power Policy announced in November, 1998 and now does not require TEC of CEA.

[Translation]

**Salary for Members of Constitution Review Commission**

6508.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any salary for the members of newly constituted National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is gross irregularity in the salary of these members.

(d) If so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have selected any office for the said Committee; and

(f) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) The Chairperson of the Commission is entitled to an honorarium of Rs. 33,000/- per month. Other Members are entitled to a daily allowance of Rs. 1,000 while on duty. However, a Member of the Commission, who is a Member of Parliament, shall not be entitled to any remuneration or allowance other than the allowance as defined in clause (a) of section 2 of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution has been provided office accommodation in Vigyan Bhawan Annex.

**Scheme to Link North Bihar and South Bihar**

6509.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to link Power Grid of North Bihar and South Bihar with a transmission line;

(b) whether Northern parts of Bihar remain in darkness due to lack of a transmission line despite abundance of power in Southern Bihar;

(c) whether there is any scheme to link Muzaffarpur and Bihar Sharif with a power transmission line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A 132 kV double circuit line between Hathidah in South Bihar and Barauni in North Bihar is already in existence. A 220 kV double circuit transmission line between Bihar Sharif in South Bihar and Begusarai in North Bihar is under construction and is expected to be commissioned in the year 2000. A 220 kV D/C line between Fatwa in South Bihar and Hazipur in North Bihar had been constructed but has been washed away in Ganga river crossing portion and is yet to be restored by Bihar State Electricity Board.

(b) The Northern parts of Bihar have been experiencing energy shortage primarily due to constraints in its sub-transmission and distribution system and inability of BSEB to meet full payment obligation of NTPC and POWERGRID for availing requisite quantum of central sector power to meet their full requirement.

(c) and (d) POWERGRID has drawn a proposal to construct 400 kV sub-station at Muzaffarpur for evacuation of power from Tala HEP (Bhutan). 400 kV Muzaffarpur sub-station will be connected to Purnea sub-station through

400 kV D/C transmission line. This in turn will get connected to Bihar Sharif through Malda, Farakka, Kahalgaon by 400 kV transmission lines.

[English]

#### Life Cycle Assessment of Power Plants

6510.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering to take up Life Cycle Assessments for the Coal Cycle in power, cement plants etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of power plants identified for violation of guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Life Cycle Assessment Study for Coal Cycle in Power Sector only is to be taken up in collaboration with the Department of Power and other concerned agencies. The scope of this study, role of agencies and likely funding are still under discussion.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board has identified that forty two power plants are not complying with stipulated emission standards.

[Translation]

#### Foreign Investment in Private Internet Sector

6511.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed upto 49% foreign capital and investment in private internet sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the present policy of the Government Foreign Direct Investment (FDI/Non Resident Indian (NRI)/ Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) equity is permitted up to 49% in Internet Services.

[English]

#### Development of Eco-Cities

6512.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government propose to develop seven cities as eco-cities in the country;

(b) if so, the name of these cities and criteria adopted for their selection; and

(c) the measures undertaken for implementation of the National Forestry Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad have been taken up under the eco-cities concept based on population criteria.

(c) The measures taken to implement National Forestry Action Plan include the following :-

(i) States have been asked to increase allocation to forestry sector.

(ii) States have been asked to submit proposals under the various on-going centrally sponsored schemes for the Ministry for stepping up allocation during the remaining years of IXth Plan and Xth Plan.

(iii) The states have been requested to prepare project profiles to secure funding from external agencies.

(iv) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Indian Institute of Forest Management and Forest Survey of India have been asked to formulate umbrella projects for external assistance for research, human resource development, survey and demarcation etc.

[Translation]

#### Mobile Telephone Service

6513.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies authorised by the Government to provide Mobile Telephone Service in the country;

(b) the names of companies authorised and operating in each State;

(c) the role of companies and Government in regard to selection of areas to provide the Mobile Telephone Service;

(d) the existing rules to provide Mobile/Cellular Telephone Service;

(e) the number of districts not covered by the one said service in the country; and



(f) the number of districts proposed to be covered by said service in the country during 2001-2002, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, eight licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the four metro cities were issued to 8 Indian registered companies and 34 licences for 18 Telecom Circles were issued to 14 Indian registered companies. A list indicating licensee companies and corresponding service areas is enclosed as Statement-I

(c) As per the License Agreement granted to the private cellular operators, at least 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. Liquidated Damages as per Licence Agreement is chargeable for delays in meeting the coverage criteria.

(d) The main terms and conditions of the licence agreement under which the service is to be operated in given in the Statement-II.

(e) and (f) A list of district headquarters and cities/towns covered by Private Operators as furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India, service areas-wise is given Statement-III. The rest of districts/cities in respective service areas are presently uncovered.

Licences have also been granted for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Delhi & Mumbai and to Department of Telecom Services (DTS) for rest of the country. Names of the district headquarters/cities proposed to be covered under a pilot project initially by DTS is given in Statement-IV; firm plan for the year 2001-2002 has not been finalised by the DTS.

#### Statement-I

##### List of Private Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Operators and Corresponding Service Areas

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Service Area (Metro Districts/ Telecom Circles)
1	2	3
1.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi

1	2	3
2.	Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi
3.	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	Mumbai
4.	Hutchison Max Telecom. Ltd.	Mumbai
5.	Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.	Calcutta
6.	Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	Calcutta
7.	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Chennai
8.	Skycell Communications (P) Ltd.	Chennai
9.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana
10.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Rajasthan
11.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	U.P. (East)
12.	FASCEL Ltd.	Gujarat
13.	Hexacom India Limited	North East
14.	Hexacom India Limited	Rajasthan
15.	JT Mobile Limited	Andhra Pradesh
16.	JT Mobile Limited	Punjab*
17.	JT Mobile Limited	Karnataka
18.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa*
19.	Keshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Bihar*
20.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	U.P. (East)
21.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	U.P. (West)*
22.	Tata Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
23.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana
24.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	U.P. (West)
25.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Kerala
26.	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
27.	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Kerala
28.	BPL Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra
29.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
30.	RPG Cellular Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
31.	Birta AT&T Communications Ltd.	Gujarat

1	2	3
32.	Birla AT&T Communications Ltd.	Maharashtra
33.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
34.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	West Bengal
35.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Assam
36.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Bihar
37.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
38.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	North East
39.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Orissa
40.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Karnataka
41.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Punjab
42.	Aircel Limited	Tamil Nadu

Note : \*These Licences stand terminate as at present.

#### Statement-II

1. The licensee companies must be Indian registered companies.
2. The initial period of the licence shall be 40 years, which may be extended by the Government. This licence period has now been extended to 20 years under a Migration Package to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime.
3. The licensee shall provide the service within 12 months of the effective date of the licence.
4. The service shall conform to Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) Standard. However, the existing licensees upon their migration to

NTP-99 regime in terms of migration package will be permitted to expand their networks using any other technology or the GSM technology.

5. The service shall be provided within the ceiling tariffs fixed in the Licence Agreement; now regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
6. The licensee shall pay a licence fee to the Telecom Authority, in addition to access and junction charges as applicable.
7. The licensee will also pay wireless licence fee, WPC (Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing) Royalty, GSM MOU (Global System for Mobile Communications - Memorandum of Understanding) Charges etc.
8. The licences are issued on a non-exclusive basis. A maximum two operators were allowed per city/ Circle. However, entry 1 of multiple operators is permitted as per NTP-1999 and in terms of Migration Package to existing operators, after obtaining recommendations of TRAI.
9. Department of Telecommunications (DOT) itself or through a designated Public Authority had the right to operate as a third operator in any/all areas. Licenses have been granted now to DIS/MTNL for the Service in the country.
10. The licensees shall provide facility for monitoring of calls in accordance with the provision of Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
11. Direct foreign equity in the licensee companies must not be more than 49% of the total equity.
12. The local and external commercial borrowing will be governed by guidelines issued by Finance Ministry, Reserve Bank of India and other Regulatory Bodies.

#### Statement-III

##### Cellular Coverage in Cities/Towns of India

Sl. No.	Circle	Operators	Actual DHQ's covered by name	City covered in Lieu of DHQ (Name of DHQ)	Cities covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	J.T. Mobile Ltd.	Hyderabad, Guntur, Nellore, Vishakhapatnam	Vijayawada (Machilipatnam), Amalapuram (East Godavari), Tirupati (Chittoor).	Rengareddy, Krishna, Vizag, Uppal, Kattedan, Hayatnagar, Pattancheru, Gannavaram, Kankipadu, Adavinekkala, Tenali, Budampadu, Vejjandla, Ponnuru, Chebrolu, Dagadathi, Kovur, Kodur, Mylapadu, Mathukur, Buchireddy, Palem, Chittoor, Chandragiri, Vadamalapeta, Gajula, Mandyam, Gajuwaka, Agnampudi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Tata Communi- cation Pvt. Ltd.	Hyderabad, Guntur, Vishakhapatnam, Eluru, Sangareddy, Nellore, Kakinada,	Vijayawada (Machli- patnam), Rajah- mundry (Kakinada), Suryapeta (Nal- gonda) Tirupathi (Chittoor)		Rangareddy, Krishna, West Goda- vari, East Godavari, Kakinada, Ling- ampally, Kukatpally, Uppal, Vanas- thalipuram, Shaumabad, Medchal, Jeedimefla, Kapra, Hayatnagar, Ganapavaram, Hanuman Jn., Tolaprolu, Ibrahimpatnam, Mangala- geri, Anakapalle, Gajuvaka, Zellamanchilli, Payakaraopeta, Machillipatnam, Rajanagram, Ravulapalem, Tuni, Prathipadu, Bhimadole, Bhebrole, Tadepalli- gudum, Tanuku Kovure, Vatluru, Patancheru, Bolareum, Aranavara.
2. Assam	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati		Nil	Guwahati
3. Bihar	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (***)	Patna, Gaya, Bihar Sharif, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Bokaro		Nil	Chas, Katras, Jharia.
-do-	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Patna, Hajipur, Ranchi, Dhanbad	Jamshedpur, Jharia, Danapur, Chas		
4. Calcutta	Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.				Fully covered (Metro)
-do-	Usha Martin Tele- com Ltd.				-do-
5. Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.				Fully covered (Metro), Maraimalai Nagar Export Promotion Zone, Minzur, Mahabalipuram
-do-	Sky Cell Comm- unication Pvt. Ltd.				Fully covered (Metro)
6. Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-		-	Fully covered (Metro), Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon.
-do-	Sterling Cellular Ltd.				Fully covered (Metro), Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon.
7. Gujarat	Birla AT & T Communications Ltd.	Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar Bha- ruch, Surat, Valsad, Rajkot, Mehsana, Jamnagar, Vado- dara, Kheda		N/A	Bareja, Por, Karjan, Kim Udhna, Pipodara, Gandevi, Chikli, Pardi, Udwada, Dungra, Navsari, Ankleshwar, Nadiad, Anand, Silvassa, Vapi, Adalaj, Kudsan, Koba, Shertha, Sola, Gota, Chiloda, Sarkhej, Khodiar, Aslali, Jetalpur,

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Uttarsanda, Borlavi, Matar, Vidhyanagar Vadatal, Karamaad, Bhayali, Jaspur, Fertilizer Nagar, Kashipura, Palej, Amod, Diva, Jhaghdia, Kabirwad, Panoli, Kosamba, Mangrol, Sayan, Kamrej Kator, Amroli, Utaran, Dumas, Saonpal-sana, Atul, Dadra, Dabhel, Linch, Dhinoj, Panchot, Kherva, Magroda.
	-do-	Fascel Ltd.	Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad Anand, Nadiad, Bharuch, Surat, Valsad, Meh-sana, Rajkot, Bhav-nagar, Vadodara, Navsari, Bhuj, Jam-nagar, Unagadh	Nil	Sachin, Billimora, Pardi, Vapi, V.V. Nagar, Chhatral, Kalol, Sanand, Padra, Vaghodiya, Borsad, Anklesh-war, Kim, Palsana, Gandevi Chikhali, Daman, Silvassa, Gandhi-dham, Kheda.
8. Haryana	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Sonepat, Panipat, Karnal, Ambala, Rohtak	Nil		
	-do-	Escotel Mobile Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Ambala, Hissar, Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Rewari, Yamuna Nagar	Nil	Bhiwani, Kaithal, Shahbad, Kundli, Jagadhari, Kaika, Bahadurgarh.
9. Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Shimla, Solan, Kulu, Mandi	Sarahan (Sirmour), Bandia (Bilaspur)		Parwanoo, Baddi, Barotiwala, Barog, Dhelli, Sago, Thog, Bhunter, Naldhera, Kufri, Kasoli, Chail, Kandaghat, Bhunter, Manali, Solang, Nala
	-do-	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Shimla	Nil	Shimla
10. Karnataka	J.T. Mobiles Ltd.	Bangalore Mysore, Mangalore	Nil		Attibele, Chandrapura, Nelaman-gala, Nanjangudu, Srirangapatna, Ulital, Panamburu, Kankanadi, Belkempady, Kolor, Kevur, Kottar, Urva, Surathkal, Dakshin Kannad.
	-do-	Spice Communi-cations Limited	Bangalore, Coorg, Raichur, Bijapur, Mangalore, Mysore, Hassan, Tumkur, Davangere, Hubli, Belgaum, Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Mandya Bellary, Gulbarga.	Nil	Chitradurga, Madikeri, Dharwad, Gadag, Renebennur, Sagar, Harihar, Udipi, Manipal, Bhatkal, Tiptur, Bhadravathi, Hoskote, Bidadi, Nelamangala, Sakleshpur, Kundapur, Gonikoppal, Nanjangud, Hoepet.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Kerala	BPL Cellular Limited	Calicut, Alleppey, Cochin, Kannur, Kollam, Kottayam, Malappuram, Palakkad, Thrissur, Trivandrum		Nil	Kozhikode, Aroor, Chavakkad, Chertala, Chengannur, Changanassery, Guruvayoor, Karunagapalli, Kodungalore, Kunnamkulam, Manjery, Muvattupuzha, Palai, Thalassery, Thiruvalla, Varkala, Aluva, Feroke, Mavelikara, Chalakudi, Irinjalkuda, Perumbavoor, Angamali, Kalamassery, Tripunithura, Kondotti, Valapatnam, Thodupuzha, Kanjikode.
-do-	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Allapuzha, Cochin, Kannur, Mallapuram, Kollam, Kozhikode, Kottayam, Trivendrum, Thrissur, Palakkad,		Nil	Aluva, Angamaly, Ernakulam, Attingal, Chalakuddy, Changanassery, Chengannur, Chingavanam, Cherthala, Chavakkad, Ettumanur, Feroke, Kalamassery, Manjeri, Pallimukku, Shaktikulangara, Thiruvalla, Tripunithura, Thalassery, Tirur, Kottackal, Perinthalmanna, Kunnamkulam, Kanjanhad, Kanjikode, Koddungalore, Kayamkulam, Mavattupuzha, Perumbavoor, Kasarkode, Thodupuzha.
12. Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Indore, Dewas, Ujjain, Ratlam, Sehore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Raipur, Durg.		Mandideep, Pithampur Sonkach, Bhilai.	
-do-	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	Indore, Bhopal, Dewas, Sehore, Ujjain.		Mandideep (Raisen) Pithampur (Dhar)	Dhar, Betma, Sagore, Raisen.
13. Maharashtra	Birla AT&T Communications Ltd.	Pune, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Panjim, Madgaon, Satara, Kohlapur, Sangli, Aurangabad, Alibaug, Jalna, Amaravathi, Akola, Wardha, Jalgaon.		N/A	Bhiwandi, Ulhasnagar, Karad, Margao, Ichalkaranji, Lonavala, Pimpri, Chinchwad, Mapusa, Ponda, Chakan, Talegaon, Pen, Khopoli, Khandala, Sirur, Supe, Nevasa, Narsapur, Shirval, Islampur, Jaisinghpur, Rajguru Nagar, Manchar, Sinner, Shahapur, Ranjangaon, Chikalthana, Thvrim, Porvorim, Betim, Raibandar, Old Goa, Banastarim, Kundaim, Goa, Velha, Agacaim, Cortalim, Verna, Nuvem, Majorda, Navelim, Varca, Cavelossim, Mobur, Betul, Chapora Fort, Vagator Beach, Anjuna Beach, Baga Beach, Calangate, Candolim, Aguada Fort, Miramar Beach, Cabo, Dona Paula, Mormugao, Vasco, Dabolim, Bogmalo, Beach, Colva, Beneulim.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Maharashtra	BPL Cellular Limited	Pune, Nagpur, Nasik, Kohlapur, Satara, Aurangabd, Sangli, Jalgaon, Dhule, Jalna, Amravati, Akola, Madgaon, Alibag, Panjim, Ahmednagar.	N/A	Goa, Ichalkaranji, Miraj, Malegaon, Bhusawal, Karad, Lonavala.
14.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.			Fully covered (Metro), New Mumbai, Kalyan.
	-do-	Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.			Fully covered (Metro)
15.	North East	Hexacom India Ltd.			None
	-do-	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Shilong	Nil	Shilong
16.	Orissa	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (***)	Cuttack, Puri, Jagatsinghpur,	Bhubaneswar (Khorda)	Pipli
	-do-	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Cuttack, Puri	Bhubaneswar	
17.	Punjab	JT Mobile Limited (***)			Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar.
	-do-	Spice Communications Limited	Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bhatinda, Patiala, Rupnagar, Sangrur, Hoshiarpur, Faridkot, Kapurthala, Nawanshahar, Muktsar, Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur.	Batala & Pathankot (Gurdaspur)	Khanna, Jagraon, Mohali, Panchkula, Mandi, Gobindgarh, Rajpura, Goraya, Phagawara, Beas, Kotkapura, Nabha, Barnala, Rampur Phul, Malout, Abohar, Dhuri, Malerkotia, Banga, Mahalpur, Derabassi, Zirakpur, Dhanaula, Phillaula, Kharar, Kartarpur, Behadurgarh, Shambu, Banur, Rays, Dhillwan, Sahnewal, Saikhdur, Abul Kharana, Goriiana Mandi, Verka.
18.	Rajasthan	Aircel Diglink Indian Ltd.	Jalpur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur.	Nil	Kishengarh
	-do-	Hexacom India Ltd.	Jalpur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Bhitwara.	Makrana (Nagaur)	Beawar, Kishengarh

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Tamil Nadu	BPL Limited	Sellular	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Erode, Kanchipuram, Karur, Madurai, Namakkal, Pondicherry, Salem, Thanjavur, Ooty, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Trichy, Villipuram, Virudhunagar.	N/A	Bhawan, Gobichettipalayam, Mettupalayam, Pollachi, Rajapalayam, Sivakasi, Tirupur, Tiruchirappalli, Udumalpetal, Avinashi, Coonoor, Tribhuvanai, Udumalpet, Ranipet, Arasur.
-do-	Aircell Limited		Coimbatore, Ooty, Salem, Erode, Madurai, Trichy, Nagercoil, Pondy, Kanchipuram.	Tirupur	Thudiyalur, Perianai Kenpalayam, Karamadal, Mettupalayam, Annur, Avinashi, Sulur, Palladam, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Pillipalayam, Bhavani, Komarpalayam, Sankagiri, Perundurai, Thiruchengodu, Palani, Sriangam, Manachanallur, Thiruverambur, Kulthalai, Namakkal, Thanjavur.
20. Uttar Pradesh(E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.		Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Unnao.	Nil	
-do-	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.		Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Bhadohi, Unnao, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Mirzapur, Faizabad, Jaunpur, Barabanki, Gorakhpur.	Nil	Jagdishpur, Nawabganj, Mughul Sarai, Shuklaganj.
21. Uttar Pradesh(W)	Excotel Mobile Comms. Ltd.		Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Bulandsahar, Bijnor, Dehradun, Mathura, Ferozabad, Haridwar, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit, Rampur, Saharanpur, Rudrapur,	Hapur (Ghaziabad), Haldwani (Nainital)	Bilaspur, Bazpur, Kashipur, Roorkee, Khatauli, Mussourie, Chandausi, Hathras, Khurja, Kitcha, Modinagar, Rishikesh, Sambhal, Shamli, Vrindavan.
-do-	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (***)		Agra, Meerut, Dehradun, Muzaffarnagar, Moradabad, Aligarh, Bulandshahar, Haridwar, Mathura, Saharanpur, Ferozabad, Rampur, Bareilly.	Hapur (Ghaziabad), Haldwani (Nainital)	Modinagar, Roorkee, Khurja, Khatauli, Vrindavan, Pilibhit, Secundrabad, Purkazi, Farah, Kosikalan, Dadri, Amroha, Rudrapur, Rishikesh.
22. West Bengal	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.(***)		Darjeeling, Gangtok	Siliguri, Durgapur, Asansol, Raniganj, Kerecong, Barakar.	

Note : (\*\*\*) These licences stand terminated and position indicated here was the last prevailing status.

**Statement-IV**

*List of District Headquarters/cities proposed to be covered under a pilot project by Department of Telecom Services in the first phase*

**Andhra Pradesh :**

1. Hyderabad
2. Vijaywada
3. Tirupati
4. Guntur
5. Visakhapatnam
6. Amlapuram
7. Kakinada

**Tamil Nadu :**

8. Chennai
9. Madurai
10. Coimbatore

**Bihar :**

11. Patna
12. Bihar Sarriif
13. Hazipur
14. Badh
15. Arah
16. Rajgir

**West Bengal :**

17. Calcutta
18. Haldia

[English]

**Post Offices as Multi-Utility Offices**

6514. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make post offices as multi-utility offices with a view to serving customers in a better way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Besides the core activity of transmission and delivery of mails, the post offices are already providing multi-farious services such as Savings Bank/Cash Certificates Schemes, Postal Life Insurance, Sale of Revenue and Non-judicial stamps, Pass Port application forms, UPSC forms for various recruitments, collection of Telephone bills etc. to provide better customer satisfaction

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

**Development Work by I.R.C.C. in Libiya**

6515. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Libiya has not made payment of the bills relating to the development work undertaken by the I.R.C.C. so far;

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

(c) the total number and costs of bills alongwith the period for which these are pending; and

(d) the outcome of the efforts made by the India-Libiya Joint Commission in regard to the payment of bills by the Libiya Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on date an amount of 1.19 Million Libyan Dinars (MLD) equivalent to Rs. 11.02 crores (approx) is outstanding since 1993 due to financial crisis in Libiya.

(d) Efforts was made in the 7th Session of Indo-Libyan Joint Commission meeting held in Tripoli (Libya 12-15 April, 1995) for release of IRCC outstanding dues. This issue was again taken up during follow up action on 7th Indo-Libyan Joint Commission, in the inter-ministerial meeting held on 15.7.98 in Delhi. No progress with regard to release of dues has yet been achieved in spite of above two meetings.

[English]

**Development of Road in Tamil Nadu**

6516. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:



(a) the names of the projects under construction for development of the National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the loans have been sanctioned by foreign and Indian Private Financial Institution for the said project;

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

(d) the details of amount received from domestic and foreign institutions and spent during last three years as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The following major projects costing more than Rs. 5 crore are under construction on National Highways in Tamil Nadu :-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost (Rs in Crore)
1.	4-laning of Hathipalli-Hosur section bridge NH-7	38.75
2.	Karur bypass including ROB and Amaravathi bridge on NH-7	51.33
3.	4-laning of Thoppur ghat section of NH-7	25.87
4.	Construction of 4-lane Salem bypass on NH-7	22.12
5.	Chennai bypass (Phase-I)	80.00
6.	Strengthening the existing 2-lane carriage way in Km. 24/5-40/650 (excluding ROB) of NH-45A.	7.83
7.	Strengthening the existing 2-lane carriage way in Km. 599/0-611/0 (excluding Bridge) of NH-47	5.88
8.	Construction of additional 2-lane bridge and improvement of existing bridge across Kosathalayar At Km. 26/4 of NH-5 (B.O.T.)	24.60

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Introduction of Legal Aid Scheme in North East Region

6517. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Legal Aid Scheme for poor people has been introduced in North East Region particularly in Manipur;

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

(c) the details of achievements made by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years. State-wise; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to create awareness among poor people to avail free legal aid assistance under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHAMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

— (b) and (c) The State-wise details and achievements made in this regard during the last three years, in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura, is given in the Statement enclosed. The information from Nagaland is being obtained and will be paid on the Table of the House.

(d) Nation-wide publicity campaign has been launched to make people aware of their legal rights and to create legal awareness among the poor people including the tribals. Permanent and continuous Lok Adalats at District levels are also being established throughout the country for providing quick and inexpensive justice at the doorsteps of the people.

#### Statement

Year	Number of Persons who received free legal aid	Number of Lok Adalats Organised	Number of Cases disposed of through Lok Adalats	Number of MACT Cases settled through Lok Adalats	Compensation awarded in MACT cases
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>I. ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b>					
1997-98	18	—	—	—	—
1998-99	50	—	—	—	—
1999-2000 (As on 30.11.99)	—	3	49	23	Rs. 42,90,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>II ASSAM</b>					
1997-98	Statements from District-Legal Services Authority are not available at present	5	751	177	Rs. 66,88,500/-
1998-99	14 Through High Court Legal Aid Committee Statement of DLSA are not available at present	4	516	210	Rs. 90,31,850/-
1999-2000	5 Through State Legal Services Authority Statement from DLSA are not available at present	36	7936	1517	Rs. 7,05,08,850/-
<b>III MANIPUR</b>					
1997-98	2	-	-	-	-
1998-99	4	1	190	117	Rs. 87,00,000/-
1999-2000 (As on 30.11.99)	-	2	-	64	Rs. 40,24,000/-
<b>IV MEGHALAYA</b>					
1997-98	-	-	-	-	-
1998-99	-	-	-	-	-
1999-2000	-	3	186	49	Rs. 48,08,000/-
The Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority was constituted only on 15-07-1998 and started functioning from April, 1999					
<b>V MIZORAM</b>					
1997-98	147	42	101	89	-
1998-99	1336	1	14	-	-
1999-2000 (As on June, 99)	643	23	17	-	-
<b>VI SIKKIM</b>					
1997-98	-	-	-	-	-
1998-99	8	7	25	3	Rs. 5,85,000/-
1999-2000	39	58	335	187	Rs. 44,13,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6
VII TRIPURA					
1997-98	18	4	150	78	Rs. 19,43,816/-
1998-99	30	5	676	278	Rs. 56,07,316/-

### Bio-Diversity Action Plan

6518.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a detailed bio-diversity strategy and action plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds being made available by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the action plan is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has prepared a National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity. For developing detailed microlevel action plans at State and regional levels, the Government has launched a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Project (NBSAP). Key features of this project include an emphasis on decentralised state level planning, and the use of interdisciplinary working groups to involve all sectors concerned with biodiversity conservation.

(c) The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided US\$ 968,200 for this project.

(d) The project is for a duration of two years.

[Translation]

### Construction of By-Pass on NH-3

6519.SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a by-pass on National Highway No. 3 at Gwalior and Mhow in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work for Land acquisition and shifting of utilities required for construction of Gwalior by-pass has been sanctioned and is in progress. Estimate for survey and investigation to fix alignment for Mhow bypass has also been sanctioned.

### Protection of Taj Mahal

6520.SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:  
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

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

(a) the details of various schemes/programmes being implemented for the protection of Taj Mahal; and

(b) the time by which all these schemes/programmes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The details of various schemes/programmes being implemented for the protection of Taj Mahal are given below :-

1. Improvement in Electric Supply at Agra.
2. Improvement in Electric Supply in and around the rural areas of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri.
3. Water Supply (Agra).
4. Water Supply (Mathura-Vrindavan).
5. Gokul Barrage.
6. Solid Waste Management.
7. Storm Water Drainage System (Agra).
8. Construction of one part of Agra Bye-pass.
9. Widening of Agra Bye-pass.
10. Improvement of Master Plan of roads of Agra City.

(b) These Schemes are projected to be completed by the year 2002 by the State Government.

**Research Scheme on Forest Produce**

6521. SHRI DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) Whether the Government have any scheme to enhance the income through forest products on the basis of a research conducted in this regard;

(b) If so, the total funds allocated for the research work in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the results achieved from the research conducted in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not implementing the research scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the objectives of the forestry research is to enhance the income through research on forest products.

(b) Forestry research work of the Ministry is executed by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun and Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore. Funds allocated (Rs. in crores) under Plan Scheme, to these institutes in the last three years are as under :-

Year	ICFRE	IPIRTI
1997-98	54.74	0.45
1998-99	70.81	0.66
1999-2000	70.75	0.70

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

1. Development of sawing, seasoning and treatment technique for short rotation plantation grown eucalyptus and poplars.
2. Design and development of solar seasoning plant.
3. Development of technique for making bent wood furniture through vapour phase ammonia plasticization technique.
4. Ammonia fumigation technology to improve the colour and texture of plain looking plantation timber specie.
5. Development of new preservative formulation (ACA) for treatment of refractory timbers.

6. Development of cost effective, simple treatment method for the treatment of joinery timbers in rural areas.
7. Development of adhesives from natural phenolic substances as a substitute for synthetic resin for plywood manufacturing.
8. Development of structural wood bamboo, lops and tops of plantation species like Eucalyptus and Poplar to substitute conventional structural timbers like Sal and Teak.
9. Studies on evaluation of suitability of plantation timbers for plywood and allied products.
10. Development of laminated veneer lumber from low density plantation wood like poplar which are not finding use as such for manufacture of door and window shutters.
11. Natural durability of timber in terrestrial conditions.
12. Natural durability of many timber species under various conditions.
13. Survey and identification of rare, endangered and threatened species of medicinal and commercial importance in Central India which provide subsistence to the rural poor.
14. Standardization of cultivation techniques of species of medicinal importance viz, Buch, Safed musli, Chitrak, Muskdana, Ashwagandha, Isabgol, Kalihari and Bixa.
15. Development of drying technology maintaining the quality of various Non-Timber Forest Products which helps in fetching better market price to the rural poor locally.
16. Chemical screening of different clones and provenance of many important forest species like teak, bamboo, etc. against their key defoliators and identification of resistant clones.
17. Development of wood alternatives from bamboo, plantation timber and other natural fibre.
18. Development of corrugated bamboo board.

[English]

**Introduction of Publicity Measures on Road Safety**

6522. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to introduce publicity measures on road safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission have provided any funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the main schemes monitored by his Ministry for publicity measures on road safety alongwith the amount to be spent thereon;

(f) the extent to which this publicity has helped the road safety measures;

(g) whether the Union Government have decided to supply publicity materials on road safety as well to the State Governments;

(h) if so, whether the Government are also considering to give State Road Transport Corporation awards for having minimum percentage of accidents;

(i) if so, the total amount paid to each SRTCs during the last two years and current year so far; and

(j) the total awards provided so far in all the States particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Publicity is by :-

(i) Advertisements.

(ii) Organising of Road Safety Week in the first week of January every year.

(iii) Organising All India Essay Competitions on Road Safety through Central Board and Secondary Education and United Schools Organisation, New Delhi.

(iv) Telecasting of video spot "Unmanned Railway level Crossing" of this Ministry alongwith the TV serial titled "Road Watch" on Metro channel of Doordarshan.

(v) Telecasting of Road Safety Serial titled "Hello Motorist" on Doordarshan by Automobile Association of Upper India, New Delhi.

(vi) National Award on Road Safety to be awarded to a Non Governmental Organisation for creating

awareness about road safety among the road users.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the current financial year 2000-2001, a sum of Rs. 3.00 crores have been given.

(e) The details of the main schemes monitored by the Ministry and the amount spent thereon during 1999-2000

1999-2000

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Transport Minister's Trophy   | Rs. 5,14,580/-  |
| 2. Publicity through DAVP for undertaking various publicity campaigns                                  | Rs. 45,00,000/- |
| 3. Organisation of All India Essay Competition on road safety  | Rs. 48,875/-    |
| 4. Telecasting of video spot on 'Unmanned Railway level Crossing' alongwith serial titled 'Road Watch' | Rs. 9,30,000/-  |
| 5. Printing of Publicity materials   | Rs. 39,99,580/- |

(f) Publicity undertaken by this Ministry has helped create an awareness about road safety among the public thus it has helped road safety.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) It comprises of cash amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and a trophy and the 1st award has been given to Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation in February, 2000.

(j) Only one award has been provided so far to Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and no award has been given to Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

#### Use of LPG in Automobiles

6523.SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have given approval for using LPG in cars instead of the fuel being used at present;

(b) if so, whether this decision of the Government is likely to increase the demand of LPG in the country;

(c) if so, the estimated demand in percent likely to be increased annually;

(d) whether dependence on imports is also likely to be augmented to meet the demand;

(e) if so, the estimate thereof; and

(f) the details of average imports and domestic production to meet the demand of LPG in the country at present?

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 use of LPG as auto fuel can commence only after the necessary amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 etc.

(b) to (e) The introduction of LPG as an auto fuel will increase the demand for LPG in coming years. This is likely to increase the impact of LPG. However, the exact extent is still to be assessed.

(f) During the year 1999-2000, the total production of LPG in the country was 4484 TMT and imported by Public Sector Oil Companies was 1377 TMT.

[English]

#### Exemption for Mini Tractors

6524.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed for the exemption from getting proto-type certificate to minitractors which is required under rule, 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Land for Afforestation

6525.SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether to maintain ecological balance forests on one third of the total land is a must;

(b) if so, the area of land on which afforestation is required as per the recent estimates;

(c) whether this land has been identified;

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

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The concept of proportion of forests to the total land area was introduced in the National Forest Policy, 1952. While formulating the policy in 1952, the proportion of forest area in European countries as well as whole World was studied. Europe had 41.35% and World had 27.6% of total area under forests. It was taken a view that in India, where we have to reckon with an oppressive tropical sun, desiccating hot winds, periodic monsoons, steep mountain slopes etc., a proportion higher than that of Europe appear to be required but on practical considerations, the policy aimed to put 33.3% of country's area under forest and tree cover. The same goal has been adopted in the National Forest Policy of 1988.

(b) to (f) Government has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme, a comprehensive plan of 20 years for sustainable development of forests and to bring one third area of the country under forest and tree cover. The programme stipulates total regeneration/plantation of 60 million hectare (regeneration of 31 million hectare degraded forests and plantation of 29 million ha. non-forest lands) in twenty years against the total cost of Rs. 133027.8 million to put one-third area of the country under forest and tree cover. The non-forest land required to be planted have been identified on the basis of available land use data. Out of 60 million ha., States have identified 48.23 million ha degraded forests as well as non-forest lands. Balance area will be covered by the private plantation under agro-forestry. State-wise forest/land to be regenerated/planted and funds required are given in the enclosed Statement.

## Statement

## Summary of Statewise Investment Estimates of NFAP (Rs. in million)

State/UT	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year	1st Five Year	2nd Five Year	3rd Five Year	4th Five Year	Total for 20 Years	Area to be Regenerated/ planted (million ha)
Andhra Pradesh	2618.82	2619.5	2620.1	2620.7	2621.3	13100.43	12964.73	12687.98	12580.98	51334.12	4.93
Assam	1174.9	737.7	743.4	744.3	737.2	4137.49	3578.36	3260.89	3136.85	14113.59	0.15
Bihar	706.2	873.3	1008.8	1129.9	1228.0	4947.25	5779.85	5068.15	4925.10	20720.35	1.10
Goa	2899.8	2952.2	3047.6	3063.2	3145.2	15107.94	15605.72	15700.01	15653.99	62067.66	4.21
Gujarat	108.9	108.9	108.9	108.9	108.9	544.52	277.12	283.16	279.17	1383.97	0.03
Haryana	855.7	1032.1	1112.2	1161.3	1179.4	5340.74	6042.18	5962.52	5901.22	23246.66	2.62
Himachal Pradesh	716.0	716.2	716.3	716.5	718.3	3583.3	3806.14	3824.18	4553.67	15767.29	0.87
Jammu & Kashmir	1839.2	2134.3	2524.5	2970.8	3362.9	12831.70	17190.00	29080.50	49412.50	108514.70	0.90
Karnataka	2609.7	2608.9	2608.9	2608.9	2608.9	13045.25	14333.58	14329.41	15468.95	57177.19	6.27
Kerala	5400.85	5410.35	5420.85	5436.35	5446.85	27117.25	27246.75	28995.75	30017.25	113377.00	3.21
Madhya Pradesh	1544.6	1582.8	1586.7	1584.4	1530.1	7788.64	6862.18	6235.12	5196.95	26082.89	0.26
Maharashtra	6698.1	9723.2	10673.7	11074.3	11474.6	49643.82	60195.07	60221.26	60229.29	230289.44	7.39
Manipur	1788.4	1787.7	1787.7	1789.6	1789.6	8943	16746.77	24565.78	34658.66	84914.21	3.36
Meghalaya	968.3	1121.5	1185	1241.5	1296.4	5812.71	5942.87	4671.13	3009.45	19436.16	1.08
Mizoram	63.4	66.2	68.6	71.2	73.8	343.15	408.16	473.17	538.17	1762.65	
Nagaland	598.6	723.5	767.5	792.4	817.2	3699.22	4473.12	5827.48	5221.08	19220.90	0.62
Orissa	396.8	328.6	339.9	325.6	330.8	1721.7	1270.4	894.7	736.7	4623.5	
Punjab	332.76	1348.58	1348.58	1347.29	1344.75	5721.98	6391.45	7056.45	7982.45	27152.33	0.44
Rajasthan	956.3	1154.7	1220.3	1342.9	1375.3	6049.49	7292.62	4904.93	4365.64	22612.68	0.66
Sikkim	5598.3	6194.8	6772.9	7351	7947.8	33864.79	47416.27	52665.53	57197.89	191144.48	5.14
Tamilnadu	417	432.1	447.6	448	448.3	2193.05	2103.26	2095.53	2101.23	8493.07	0.28
Tripura	1547.04	1547.04	1547.04	1547.04	1547.04	7735.20	7618.25	6006.10	5828.45	27188.00	0.71
Uttar Pradesh	396.8	328.6	339.9	325.6	330.8	1721.70	1270.40	894.70	736.70	4623.50	0.08
West Bengal	681.6	1372.1	1539.2	1585.2	1658.7	6836.80	9018.94	8204.74	8147.70	32208.18	3.24
A&N Islands	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	9785.05	12464.03	15849.79	19179.98	57278.85	0.61
Total States	292.4	319.6	293.3	291.8	293.1	1490.22	1544.06	1973.86	2579.69	7587.83	0.07
Central Sector	43167.49	49181.47	51767.47	53615.68	55372.24	253106.39	297842.28	321732.82	359639.71	1232321.20	48.23
Total for Country	3520.5	3696.5	3881.4	4075.4	4279.2	19453.00	24149.00	27921.10	35183.50	106706.60	
	46688	52877.97	55648.87	57691.1	59651.44	272559.39	321991.28	349653.92	394823.21	1339027.8	48.23

[English]

### Bus Service between Calcutta and Dhaka

6526. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether bus service was introduced between Calcutta and Dhaka recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance to the bilateral agreement signed with the Government of Bangladesh on 17.6.1999, the regular operation of bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka has commenced from 9.7.1999. The bus service is provided by West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation (WBSTC) from Indian side and by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) from Bangladesh side. The WBSTC is operating two bus services on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Calcutta and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Dhaka. The BRTA is operating two bus services on these days from Dhaka and Calcutta respectively. Other modalities of operation of this bus service have been published in Government of India Gazette Notification GSR No. 128(E) dated 16.2.2000.

### Post Offices in Kerala

6527. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in the State during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the State during 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present 5056 post offices are functioning in Kerala, District-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) District-wise details of the post offices opened during the last three years, are Given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) The targets for opening of new post office during the year 2000-2001 are yet to be fixed.

### Statement-I

#### District-wise Number of Post Offices Functioning in Kerala

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of post office functioning
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	421
2.	Kollam	363
3.	Pathanamthitta	325
4.	Alapuzha	292
5.	Kottayam	410
6.	Idukki	290
7.	Ernakulam	384
8.	Thrissur	490
9.	Palakkad	453
10.	Malappuram	432
11.	Kozhikode	419
12.	Wynad	162
13.	Kannur	383
14.	Kasargod	230
Total:		5056

### Statement-II

#### Number of Post Offices Opened during the Last Three Years

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Post Offices opened		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Idukki	2	1	-
2.	Kollam	2	3	-
3.	Pathanamthitta	3	1	-
4.	Wynad	1	-	-
5.	Thrissur	-	1	-
6.	Ernakulam	-	1	1
7.	Kottayam	-	1	-
8.	Alapuzha	-	1	1
9.	Thiruvananthapuram	-	2	1
10.	Kozhikode	-	1	-



1	2	3	4	5
11. Palakkad		—	2	1
12. Kasargod		—	1	—
13. Kannur		—	—	1
14. Malappuram		—	—	1
Total		8	15	6

#### Super National Highways in Sikkim

6528. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved highway in the North Eastern States including Sikkim as Super National Highways;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of the proposed highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) In the State of Assam, the project of four laning of km. 156.00 to km. 163.895 of Guwahati bypass section of NH-37 has been taken up for construction under Phase-I programme of the East-West Corridor. The project involves strengthening of the existing road and construction of additional two lane road, including construction of service roads and drains along the road. The work of the project has recently been awarded. The project is targeted to be completed by June 2002, at an estimated cost of Rupees Fifty Five Crore.

[Translation]

#### Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Bihar

6529. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies functioning in Darbhanga district of Bihar at present;

(b) the number of new LPG agencies and petrol pumps set up during the year 1998 and 1999;

(c) the number of applications received by the Government for the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps in the district during the last three years;

(d) the time by which the said LPG agencies and petrol pumps are expected to be allotted; and

(e) the number of new LPG agencies and petrol pumps expected to be set up in the said district during the year 2000 and 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) to (e) At present there are 23 retail outlet dealerships and 4 LPG distributorships functioning in Darbhanga District of Bihar. One retail outlet dealership and one LPG distributorship have been set up in this district during the years 1998 and 1999.

During the last three years 7 retail outlets and 4 LPG distributorships have been advertised in Darbhanga District. Out of the above, 1 retail outlet dealership and 1 LPG distributorship have already been commissioned. Letters of Intent for two retail outlet dealerships have already been issued. Selection for remaining retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships will be made on the constitution of Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

#### Restoration of Licences of Private Telecom Operators

6530. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to restore the licences of some private telephone operators against whom dues are still outstanding;

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

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government for restoration of licences of private telephone operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, 6 licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (3 licences of M/s. Koshika Telecom for Bihar, Orissa and UP-West Circles, 2 licences of M/s. Aircell Digilink for Haryana and Rajasthan Circles and 1 licence of M/s. JT Mobiles for Punjab Circle) were terminated prior to offer of the migration package. Opinion of the Attorney General for India (AG) in the matter of treatment of these terminated cellular licences, in the context of migration package was obtained. The AG recommended restoration of the

terminated licences and offering of migration package on certain conditions contained in his opinions.

The Government accepted the advice of AG and a package for restoration of 2 terminated licences for Haryana and Rajasthan Circles and simultaneous migration to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime was offered to M/s. Aircell Digiling under letter dated 6.4.2000. The company had accepted the package unconditionally and made part payments in accordance with the migration package, hence, these two licences were restored provisionally on 26.4.2000. Similar package was also offered to M/s. Koshika Telecom for three terminated cellular licences of Bihar, Orissa and UP-West Circle under letter dated 17.4.2000. M/s. Koshika furnished unconditional acceptance in this regard on 25.4.2000. Offer of package for restoration and simultaneous migration to NTP-99 regime in respect of Punjab Circle licence of M/s. JT Mobiles is under process.

The decision of the Government for restoration of these terminated licences and offer of migration package to NTP-99 regime was based on legal opinion tendered by AG.

#### **Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies in Orissa**

6531. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal to set up petrol pumps and LPG agencies in the State of Orissa are lying with the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 30 retail outlet dealerships and 41 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plans for Orissa. Locations included in the marketing plan are advertised by the Oil Companies for selection of dealers/distributors through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

#### **Benefits Offered Under NELP**

6532. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some extra benefits have been offered under New Exploration and Licensing Policy for Western Region of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Maharashtra and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such extra benefits have attracted private investors/foreign firms to undertake exploration activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the area earmarked under NELP, State and Union Territory-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) The terms and conditions for offer of blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) would apply equally to all onland areas of the country including western region. The main terms and conditions for offer of blocks under NELP are given below :-

- (i) No mandatory state participation.
  - (ii) No carried interest by National Oil Companies (NOCs).
  - (iii) Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
  - (iv) Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
  - (v) Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for discoveries in deep water areas beyond 400 mso-bath' will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.
  - (vi) Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
- (c) Yes, Sir. Of the 48 blocks offered under NELP-99, bids were received for 27 blocks. Out of the above, 25 blocks have been awarded and Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 22 blocks have been signed.

(d) The area of onland blocks offered under the first round of NELP statewide is as under :-

State	Area Sq. Km.
Rajasthan :	43075
Uttar Pradesh :	55175
West Bengal :	19900
Arunachal Pradesh :	300

[Translation]

#### Import of Petroleum Products

6533. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) the names of petroleum products which were imported during the last three years alongwith the quantity and rates thereof, year-wise;

(b) whether certain agencies had made agreements for a fixed period for import of the petroleum products;

(c) if so, the names of these agencies and the product-wise rate of freight paid to these agencies during the said period; and

(d) the selection criteria of these agencies and the period for which these agencies were selected?

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 names of the imported petroleum products covered under Oil Economy Budget and quantity and rates for last three years are as under:-

#### 1997-98

Petroleum Product	Quantity (MMT)	Weighted Avg. Price (\$MT)
1	2	3
ATF	0.055	166.46
SKO	3.812	177.02
High Speed Diesel	14.075	163.06
LPG	1.087	219.71
Petrol	0.331	203.62
Furnace Oil	0.141	106.83
Others	0.029	368.80

1	2	3
	1998-99	
SKO	5.823	130.54
High Speed Diesel	10.485	110.86
LPG	1.525	174.24
Petrol	0.251	180.11
Furnace Oil	0.514	83.46
Others	0.182	284.51
	1999-2000 (Prov.)#	
SKO	4.986	195.39
High Speed Diesel	4.958	161.85
LPG	1.311	256.65

#### #Up to Feb' 2000

The weighted average price is based on the composite amount which includes FOB price in case of FOB cargoes and C&F price in case of C&F cargoes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1997-98 and 1998-99 annual contracts with the following National Oil Companies (NOC) were entered into for import of SKO, HSD & LPG:

SKO	HSD	LPG
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.	Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.	Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (1998-99)
Bahrain National Oil Co.	Bahrain National Oil Co.	Saudi Aramco (1997-98 & 1998-99)
Kuwait Petroleum Corpn.	Kuwait Petroleum Corpn.	Kuwait Petroleum Corpn. (1997-98 & 1998-99)

During 1999-2000 no term contracts were entered into for HSD. However, term contracts with following companies were finalised for 1999-2000 for import of SKO and LPG:

SKO	LPG
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.	Saudi Aramco
Kuwait Petroleum Corpn.	Kuwait Petroleum Corpn.
Emirates National Oil Co., Dubai	
National Iranian Oil Co.	

The pricing basis for cargoes on term contracts is linked to the published price quotations (PLATTS) in the Arab Gulf market around B/L Date with a small premium. In case of C&F cargoes, there is also an element of freight which is related to the published freight rates around B/L Date.

(d) Term contracts are entered into by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) with the National Oil Companies (NOCs) of producer countries which have exportable surplus of oil. The term contracts are finalised on annual basis and the contracted quantities are lifted evenly during the year. These term contracts are entered into by IOC with NOCs of the respective countries that sell crude oil on Official Selling Prices.

Imports of petroleum products on term contracts are finalised with the National Oil Companies with exportable surpluses with the approval of an Empowered Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Deptt. of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce besides Chairman and Director (Finance) from IOC.

[English]

#### Dismantling of APM for Petroleum Products

6534. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to dismantle the administered price mechanism in respect of kerosene, diesel and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help bridge and overcome the budget deficit in 1999-2000 and the ensuing years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government, in November, 1997, decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner. The said decision, inter alia, includes the following:-

- (i) That, the subsidy on Kerosene for public distribution would be brought down to 33.33% of the import parity price by the year 2001-02.
- (ii) That, the subsidy on LPG (packed domestic) would be brought down to 15% during the year 2000-01.

(iii) That, the price of diesel would continue to be fixed on the principle of import parity as per Cabinet decision of 01-09-1997.

(c) Consequent to the recent upward revision in the ex-storage point prices of kerosene for public distribution, LPG (packed domestic) etc., it is estimated that the oil pool would benefit by about Rs. 5,400 crores in a year.

#### Completion of NH-2 from Barakar to Palsit

6535. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to complete the National Highway No. 2 from Barakar to Palsit and Palsit to Howrah during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the bifurcation of G.T. road from Palsit to Howrah would not be covered under National Highway No. 2 ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the authority responsible for that road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The stretch from Palsit to Dankuni is not a part of National Highway system and is maintained by the Government of West Bengal. The stretch from Dankuni to Howrah is being maintained by National Highways Authority of India through State Public Works Department.

[Translation]

#### Waiting List for Telephone Connections

6536. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection at present in Bihar particularly in various telephone exchanges under the Bettia region, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in the State and the said region during the last three years; district-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State;

(d) whether the telephone exchanges in Darbhanga district of Bihar are functioning properly;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the said exchanges are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The total number of persons on the waiting list as on 31.3.2000 and the number of telephone connection provided during last three years in Bihar State, District wise is given as per Statement enclosed.

Betiah comes under Motihari Telecom District. There are two revenue districts namely East Champaran and West Champaran. The waiting list of East Champaran is 6544 and that of West Champaran is 2940 (as on 31.3.2000).

The number of telephone connectios provided during last three years in Betiah region is given below :-

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
East Champaran	1374	2701	3051
West Champaran	1000	2300	2230

(c) The Department has planned the following steps to be taken to clear the waiting list in the state :-

- (i) Opening of new telephone exchanges
- (ii) Increasing the capacity of existing exchanges
- (iii) Laying Underground Cables to provide telephone connections.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Question does not arise in view of reply (d) above.

(f) Question does not arise in view of reply (d) and (e) above.

#### Statement

*District-wise Waiting List as on 31.3.2000 and the number of telephone connections provided in the Bihar State during the last three years, District-wise is given below*

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.3.2000	Telephone connections provided during		
				97-98	98-99	99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arrah	Bhojpur Buxar	745	2499	3004	3205
2.	Bhagalpur	Bhgalpur Banka	2793	3093	3372	3572
3.	Chhapra	Saran Gopalganj Siwan	8077	3009	4003	6052
4.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga Samastipur Madhubani	18843	7719	6388	11322
5.	Daltonganj	Palamau Garhwa	1386	1946	1460	2295
6.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad Bokaro	10093	6241	10433	8619
7	Dumka	Dumka Deoghar Sahebganj Pakur Godda	2602	2419	3006	3009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Gaya	Gaya Aurangabad Jehanabad Nawadah	1550	3219	6046	6085
9.	Hazipur	Vaishali	3884	0 (Note 1)	0 (Note 1)	2050
10.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh Kodarma Giridih Chatra	758	1234	4821	4830
11.	Jamshedpur	East Singhbhum West Singhbhum	5562	8033	12249	11900
12.	Katihar	Katihar Kishanganj Purnea Araria	4777	3789	7011	6016
13.	Motihari	East Champaran West Champaran	9484	2374	5001	5281
14.	Khagaria	Khagaria Begusarai	0	0	0	0
15.	Monghyr	Monghyr Sheikhpura Lakhisarai Jamui	895	1573	3709	5470
16.	Patna	Patna Nalanda	14962	7657	15037	23042
17.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur Sitamarhi Sheohar	7498	4618	5572	5488
18.	Ranchi	Ranchi Gumla Lohardaga	6633	3975	7805	10102
19.	Saharsa	Saharsa Supaul Madhepura	1588	1585	2777	4115
20.	Sasaram	Rohtas Bhabhua	4066	1311	1434	2546
TOTAL			106196	66294	103128	126179

NOTE:- The figure for Vaishali district for 1997-98 and 1998-99 were included in Muzaffarpur SSA.

#### Losses to SEBs

6537. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of the losses suffered by State Electricity Boards upto March, 2000 alongwith the liabilities thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Statement-I indicating the profits and losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards during the year 1997-98 is enclosed. Debt/Liabilities of the State Electricity Boards as per 1997-

98 account is given in Statement-II enclosed. The details of losses suffered by State Electricity Boards upto March, 2000 are yet to be finalised by SEBs. Provisional/unaudited accounts (for the year 1998-99) of only some of the SEBs are available.

#### Statement-I

##### Statement of Surplus & Deficit of SEBs (without Subsidy)

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of SEBs	1997-98
1	2	3
1.	APSEB (A)	-1134.46
2.	ASEB (U)	-439.58
3.	BSEB (U)	-225.42
4.	GEB (A)	-1363.62
5.	HSEB (A)	-712.79
6.	HPSEB (A)	29.45

1	2	3
7.	KEB (A)	-321.77
8.	KSEB (A)	-298.70
9.	MPEB (A)	-753.01
10.	MSEB (A)	36.61
11.	Me SEB (A)	-52.00
12.	PSEB (A)	-555.27
13.	RSEB (A)	-639.53
14.	TNEB (A)	-296.42
15.	UPSEB (A)	-1547.97
16.	WBSEB (A)	-164.18
ALL INDIA :		-8436.66

A - Audited

U - Unaudited

SOURCE : CEA

#### Statement-II

##### Debt Liabilities of SEBs (During 1997-98 i.e. as on 31.3.98)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	SEBs	Capital Liabilities	Funds from State Govt.	Borrowing for working capital	Payment due on capital liabilities	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	APSEB (A)	399947.94	69650.26	20682.33	32878.18	523158.71
2.	ASEB (U)	61376.41	123098.11	0.00	161399.37	345873.89
3.	BSEB (U)	90311.72	144291.18	0.00	174713.34	409316.24
4.	GEB (A)	268902.00	337035.00	27695.00	34077.00	667709.00
5.	HSEB (A)	152092.18	56536.39	4140.71	19519.39	232288.67
6.	HPSEB (A)	90321.00	44863.27	0.00	2193.57	137377.84
7.	KEB (A)	133958.00	48608.00	2660.00	2829.00	188053.00
8.	KSEB (A)	1932920.95	102435.57	2032.02	68456.49	2105845.03
9.	MPEB (A)	368985.47	161508.49	2000.00	66858.96	599352.92
10.	MSEB (A)	489225.00	414396.50	5817.00	116662.00	1026100.00
11.	MeSEB (A)	18440.44	14716.75	0.00	21971.57	55128.76
12.	PSEB (A)	199476.09	485754.28	0.00	280172.84	945403.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. RSEB (A)		332050.00	115292.00	5017.00	54.00	452413.00
14. TNEB (A)		352804.00	78811.00	0.00	0.00	431615.00
15. UPSEB (A)		230292.00	1129439.00	0.00	692677.00	2052408.00
16. WBSEB (A)		125108.00	114514.00	1849.00	37252.00	278723.00
TOTAL :						10450766.27

A - Audited

U - Un-audited

⊙ - Includes an amount of Rs. 96976 lakhs towards interest accrued but not due on Government Loan.

SOURCE : CEA

[English]

**Permission to Private Companies to Extract  
Crude Oil from Oil Fields**

6538.SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector companies have been allowed to extract crude oil from the oil fields;

(b) if so, the details of such oil fields specifying the name, district and State where each oil fields located and the date of handover of the respective field to private company from ONGC or other Government agency; and

(c) the quantum of extraction by the above private companies since the last three years, field-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) Yes, Sir. Since, 1992 private companies have been involved in the development of 14 oilfields discovered by National Oil Companies (NOCs) viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL), either in joint venture with NOCs or by themselves through entering into Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for these fields. The details of these oil fields are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of quantum of extraction of oil from these fields during the last three years are given in Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement-I**

Name of field	State	District	Date of Hand-over under Production Sharing Contracts
Asjol	Gujarat	Mehsana	14.3.1995
Bhandut	Gujarat	Surat	12.11.1994
Bakrol	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	16.10.1995
Cambay	Gujarat	Kheda	01.02.1996
Dholka	Gujarat	Ahmedabad & Kheda	19.10.1995
Indora	Gujarat	Ahmadabad	16.10.1995
Lohar	Gujarat	Mehsana	16.10.1995
Matar	Gujarat	Bharuch & Baroda	12.11.1994
Sabarnati	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	12.11.1994
Wavel	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	19.10.1995
Kharsang	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	01.02.1996
Ravva	East Coast Offshore	-	28.1.1995
Panna & Mukta	West Coast Offshore	-	22.12.1994

**Statement-II**

Name of field	Oil production('000 tonnes)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Asjol	2.79	3.88	3.8	10.47



1	2	3	4	5
Bhandut	2.29	0.43	1.4	4.12
Bakrol	7.04	8.96	8.1	24.1
Cambay	0.13	0.08	0.1	0.31
Dholka	14.94	18.15	22.84	55.93
Indrora	0.32	0.20	0.97	1.47
Lohar	0.19	0.04	0.41	0.64
Kharsang	14.42	44.54	56.2	115.16
Ravva	1719.62	1464.56	2418.7	5602.88
Panna-Mukta	470.3	1043.58	1134.4	2648.26

No oil production was obtained from Matar, Sabarmati and Wavel fields during last three years.

#### Escrow Cover to Mangalore Power Company

6539. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has not accorded an escrow cover to Mangalore Power Company which is setting up a 1000 MW thermal power project in the West Coast;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), has ruled out funds for the project without escrow cover; and

(d) If so, the action being taken by the Union Government in consultation with State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Karnataka Government has not so far extended escrow cover to Mangalore Power Company for the thermal project (1000 MW).

(b) This is in keeping with recommendations of the High Level Committee constituted by Government of Karnataka during December, 1999, which were subsequently accepted by the Government of Karnataka. The Committee had recommended that the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has no escrow available and therefore it would not be possible to extend escrow cover to Independent Power Producers.

(c) ICICI are prepared to consider financing the project if a satisfactory alternative security structure is available for the project.

(d) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2. p.m.

11.11 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at one Minute Past  
Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Journalists are on strike today in the country . . .  
(Interruptions)

14.01 hours

*At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other Hon. Members come and stood on the floor near the table.*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the implementation of the Wage Board report for the journalists in due. . .  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, of the journalists are on strike today. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Kumari Mayawati.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After that, you should allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing her as a special case.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats, I have called Mayawati ji.

14.02 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

14.04 hrs.

# RE : REPORTED ATROCITIES ON SCHEDULED CASTES IN UTTAR PRADESH

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is due to the ongoing oppression of 'Dalits' and frequent murder of the people of dalits communities in Uttar Pradesh and indifferent attitude of Uttar Pradesh government to stop the oppression on 'Dalits' that compelled me and my party men to come to the Well during the question hour. . . .

*(Interruptions)* Please listen Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to convey to the entire House, particularly the government that yesterday a painful incidence occurred involving dalits in Hardoi district headquarter that falls in Lucknow Commissionary, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. In Hardoi, one police inspector, alongwith some armed musclemen entered the house of a Dalit family in a Dalit Mohalla and shot dead four members of a family. This happened yesterday. Not only this, after this incident, to in order to create terror in the entire area, that sub-inspector alongwith his musclemen climbed on the roof of the same house in which they had killed four Dalits and fired in the air. They created the atmosphere of terror in that area so that nobody comes to help them. The result is that terror has prevailed in dalits living in and around Hardoi and after yesterday's incident, nearly one dozen villagers have left their home i.e. they were compelled to leave their homes. This happened yesterday and before this incident, on first May, which was also a labour day, our Hon'ble Labour Minister is sitting here and apart from Home Minister, I also want to tell him that when four scheduled caste persons were returning to their home in the night after loading potatoes in a truck, in Basai Village near Tundala which is located on the main road, they were taken to the police station in vehicle by the police personels who were patrolling the area. On 6 May I myself was in Basai Village near Tundala and I met the members of the deceased families and I have talked to them. I want to tell you what they have told us. On first of May, police was patrolling the area and they took four scheduled caste persons to the police station who were returning after work and first they tortured them and then killed them and in order to hide their crime they disposed their dead bodies outside the Basai Village. There was a cold storage nearby and a watchman was keeping watch. He belonged to the Jat community and he asked them us to what they were disposing. Police thought that he might become an eyewitness so they also shot him. He fainted and police flew away. When people of Basai Village got up in the morning, they saw that four dead bodies were laying outside the village and the cap of a police man was also left there in haste. From this it is quite evident that these

murders were committed by the police personels. Police men took the dead bodies for post-mortem at the Collector's order. Thereafter, dead bodies should have been handed over to their families. As a result of this, resentment against police and police atrocities among the natives of Basai Village was so deep that public came on the road in Tundala. Not only Scheduled caste people, but people belonging to all communities were there and they demanded that FIR should be registered against police personels and urged that dead bodied should be handed over to the families but the dead bodies were not handed over. The District Collector ordered firing on the public and as a result of that firing one man belonging to the Jat community was killed on the spot. Four persons belonging to the Scheduled caste community were killed on the night of May First and on second May one man belonging to Jat Community was killed in police firing and when the members of these five families demanded the dead bodies, it was heart shattering scene because all five deceased were married and they were not more than thirty years old. They might be below 30 years. When the widows of the deceased demanded for a last glimps of their dead husbands, police even denied this opportunity, and lathi charged them. Those five women were severely beaten. Those five women were weeping and showed me the marks of beating and out of them, one woman was so severely beaten by the police that there was blue marks on their face and hands and the bone of one hand was broken. She sat at my feet wept for half an hour. She complained that nobody will listen to her and when I saw her hand I was deeply moved. Not only this, thereafter the district magistrate of Firozabad gave a statement that the deadbodies would not be handed over and if needed he might order for firing again. If 10 or 20 persons belonging to scheduled caste die, it does not make much difference to me. That is why, I would like to tell you that four persons belonging to scheduled caste community and one man belonging to the Jat community was killed in Basai Village near Tundala by the police men in connivance with the District Collector. There is Nakla masjid few kms away from Basai Village. I was there on 6th of this month. There dacoits looted for two hours in the village and a result of this, on first of the month three persons belonging to the Muslim community were killed. Yesterday, four scheduled caste persons were shot dead in broad day light in their home. Villages in and around have been vacated. Similarly, in Moradabad Mandal, New Delhi, few days back for scheduled caste boys got married, and they had got few things in their dowry. There was dacoity and police knows every thing. Police arrested the dacoits much earlier and sent them to jail so that they may not take them on remand. They robbed them and one man was killed on the spot and another is struggling for his life. Atrocities on dalits are rampant in entire Uttar Pradesh. I am very aggrieved

[Kumari Mayawati]

and Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit to the Home Minister that I am really baffled to see what is happening in Uttar Pradesh and under what conspiracy only Scheduled Caste persons and not less than four are being killed. They have planned that if they have to kill, they have to kill not less than four persons. Among Scheduled Castes whosoever are killed are killed in a lot of four and they are either Chamars or they belong to Jatav community. No less than four are killed and they say that they have killed four Jatavs here and four Chamars there in Radoi, I do not understand what kind of conspiracy it is and what an irony it is that wherever people of Scheduled Caste community are killed, not less than four are killed. Four Chamars killed here and four Jatavs killed there and selective killings of Chamar and Jatav are going on. To me it seems that there is some deliberate political conspiracy behind these incidences. The reasons behind this is that there is a political awakening in Uttar Pradesh especially among Scheduled Castes, Chamars and Jatavs and efforts are being made to politically suppress it by creating an atmosphere of terror and by committing atrocities against them. I request the Hon'ble Home Minister that it is a serious matter though in the morning. Hon'ble Speaker was saying that this matter is related to the State and these matters should be raised in State Assembly. This matter should not be raised here. I would like to tell Mr. Speaker that incidence of Tundala and Basai village and the incidence of atrocities against dalits were raised so many times in Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh but the government did not take any action. There was MLC election, and I was in Lucknow. The Government said that they have given four weeks time for investigation. Uttar Pradesh Government has transferred those officials who had ordered the firing. Transfer is not a punishment. Unless you take very strict action against the guilty officers, atrocities will not reduce. I was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. During my rule nobody had guts to take law in their hand. Forget about dalits nobody had guts to commit atrocities on any person. I feel that bureaucracy is helpless there. Hon'ble Home Minister I know that your party is in power in Uttar Pradesh. Your Government is based on horse trading of Legislatures and you do not have absolute majority there. It is certain that you are running the Government, but your popularity graphs will come down every day till such time you are in power. There are nearly 21-22 legislatures who belongs to your party and who are Ministers in the Uttar Pradesh Government, they have criminal past and have close relation with criminals and these criminals are committing atrocities against other communities. When police officials raise voice against them, such Ministers come to the rescue

of those criminals. Thus crime will never be checked. That is why, through you, I would like to request Hon. Home Minister that such Government will bring your popularity graph down. Since you do not have absolute majority and you have formed government by means of horse trading, this is encouraging Mafia and criminal elements. Today there is no law and order in Uttar Pradesh and "Jungle Raj" is prevailing everywhere. If you want to check the downfall of your popularity graph, you should dismiss U.P. Government and impose President rule there and hold election so that a popular government based on the public opinion may be formed. Otherwise atrocities on larger scale will be committed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have to take up certain other important business also. I have given you special permission to raise this matter.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only two lakh rupees has been given to the families of the deceased in Tundala, their widows are young. I, therefore, request you that instead of two lakh, five lakh rupees should be given to each of them and employment should be provided to the family members and strict action should be taken against guilty officials. I would like to again request you that dalits are also being kidnapped as well as being killed in Uttar Pradesh and all kind of excesses are being done against them. You are the Home Minister of India. So, I request you to take action on all points that I have raised and if any State Government fails to maintain law and order situation in the State, then Central Government should interfere and control the situation otherwise situation will further deteriorate. Apart from that, I also submit to the Labour Minister that Scheduled Caste persons who were killed at Basai village near Tundala on May 1, were labourers, and labourers were killed on Labour day. You should seriously think about it. I request you that you should seriously take up those points that I have suggested and take action in this regard. . . . (Interruptions) The Home Minister should reply to what I have said and then give chance to others to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case I have allowed her to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of killings of dalits . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'. As a special case I have allowed her to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the Government of Uttar Pradesh is on the wrong track. How can one expect for justice from a government which has as many as 22 such ministers who are history sheeters . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given notice to speak on this?

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I have given, sir. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of notice . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can you speak without the permission of the Chair?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what can be more heinous incidence than this. One member of the each party should be allowed to speak for one minute. So that they may place their views. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, we should also be allowed to express our views.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only in Tundla alone, but in other different parts of India incidents of the killings of minority people and Dalits are being reported in the newspapers. Hardoi has also been mentioned besides Basai and Nagla. I think, all this is happening due to the behaviour of the Government. The present Government is against the minority people and also against the people from weaker sections. The character of the common people reflects the behaviour of the Government as the same message is conveyed to the society . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Behaviour of which Government are you talking about? . . . (Interruptions) When Mayawati ji was attacked by your own

party people, then it was the behaviour of which Government. Hon'ble Mayawati ji was assaulted by your party people and the Bhartiya Janata Party people had saved her life, so you are talking about the behaviour of which Government . . . (Interruptions), Kindly tell us about the behaviour of the Government, which Government are you talking about. It is a well known fact that hon'ble Mayawati ji was severely attacked during the tenure of your Government and our party people saved her life, why are you people becoming protector . . . (Interruptions) I would like to know as to which Government are you talking about . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : It was a conspiracy of the then Government. That Government wanted to kill Mayawati ji so that the dalit leadership in India may come to an end . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the Government through you that the most frustrating aspect behind this incident is that Government performs the funeral of such unidentified dead bodies only when there is no one to claim these dead bodies. But on the contrary, all the family Members kept on requesting and urging that the dead bodies may be given to them, but these dead bodies were not handed over to the family Members. Day before yesterday, I met those persons who are imprisoned in Firozabad Jail. It is a matter of great concern that three brothers of real paternal uncle of Ram Prasad, who died, were imprisoned. One person of Dholapura was going to meet his sister and he was imprisoned. And as a reaction to this, when people were initiating a peaceful movement, then the PAC and Police Personnel Firozabad, Selai, Baudhnagar and Chhota Nagla Mirza entered into the houses of people and beat them. The most distressing aspect of this is that when there was a robbery in Nagla Masjid, the police station was informed about this robbery, but even after many hours of this information, police did not reach at the spot and the guilty police officials were only sent to the line which is not a punishment. People would become more careless if a severe punishment is not given in such incidences. I would like to request through you that whatever is happening in the entire country, is required to be discussed at length. This matter should be discussed under rule 193, so that the real face of the Government may be exposed. I wish that hon'ble Home Minister may direct the Uttar Pradesh Government to take stringent action in the Basai episode.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time. I shall finish my statement in two minutes only. Sir, it is indeed a state subject but the matter of concern is that why do the killings of even four dalits a day take place, why is this happening, the Government does not conduct any investigation on state subject. When

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

State itself is the protector and the Police officers of the State are involved in killing the innocent people, then where will the poor people go? Today, it is the responsibility of the Government of India as to why an enquiry cannot be conducted in that case. We agree that this is a State subject. The Home Ministry of Government of India will say that we cannot interfere in this matter. But 12 jatavs were charred to death in Kumher killings . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to give reply. You are simply raising the matter, but you are not listening to him.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am allowing him. I am just finishing my point. I must make my point so that the Minister will be able to reply in the proper perspective.

*[Translation]*

There was Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Rajasthan when the Kumher killings took place. Presently even Jatavs are being killed every now and then. The Bhartiya Janata Party Government is still there. The common people of this country understand that the dalits do not get protection if there is Bhartiya Janata Party Government at the Centre or even at the State level also. I would like to submit to hon'ble Minister through you that he may give statement in this regard and whatever oppressions are taking place over there, may be stopped i.e. oppressions on the dalits. Even dead body has not been given to their relatives. I urge that the persons guilty of such act should apologise, you kindly direct the Government to give a statement . . . *(Interruptions)*

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if in any part of the country there is harassment of dalits, or they are oppressed or injustice is done to them or there are incidents of killings of dalits then it is but natural that it would be a matter of concern in Parliament. It is natural that Mayawati ji, Suman ji and Shinde ji have drawn our attention towards these incidents of Uttar Pradesh, but you will also agree to the fact that first of all it is my duty to ask about this incident from the Uttar Pradesh Government, actually what has happened and tomorrow I shall give a statement to this effect in the House. We shall take further action on that basis only . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has given reply. He has categorically said that after consulting the State Government, if necessary, he would make a statement in the House. Please understand this.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, we would like to raise the issue pertaining to working journalists.

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow, not today. Today you have consumed the entire time.

14.27 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Andhra Pradesh Urban Development and housing Corporation and the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited (Amalgamation) Orders, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 197(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2000 under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT 1832/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 :-

- (i) The Chartered Accountants (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2000 Published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/44/99 in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2000.

- (ii) The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/45/99 in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT 1833/2000]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 123(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2000 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 1834/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year, 1998-99.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1835/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1836/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 280(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th may, 1997 approving the Vishakhapatnam Port Employees (Grant of Advances for Purchase of Conveyance) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (ii) G.S.R. 429(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1997 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 651(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 1997 approving the Kandla Port Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (iv) G.S.R. 8(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the new Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

- (v) G.S.R. 831(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1999 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
- (vi) G.S.R. 7(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Leave), Amendment Regulations, 1999.
- (vii) G.S.R. 9(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
- (viii) G.S.R. 70(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Contributory Outdoor and Indoor Medical Benefits after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (ix) G.S.R. 72(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 approving the Paradeep Port Trust Employees (Contributory) Outdoor and Indoor Medical Benefits after Retirement) Regulations, 2000.
- (x) G.S.R. 104(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2000 approving the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust Employees (Educational Assistance) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xi) G.S.R. 105(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees, (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 106(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2000 approving the Amendment to Mormugao Port Trust Employees (Recruitment of Head of Department) Regulations, 2000.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 111(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2000 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Pension Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 130(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust employees

(Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion)  
Amendment Regulations, 2000.

- (xv) G.S.R 131(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000
- (xvi) G.S.R 132(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 approving the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Regulations, 2000.
- (xvii) G.S.R 133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2000
- (xviii) G.S.R. 229(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2000 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (xix) G.S.R 228(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2000 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Leave) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000.
- (xx) G.S.R 230(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2000 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Medical Attendance) Regulations, 2000.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xxii) G.S.R 233(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2000 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Temporary Service) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 241(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xxiv) G.S.R 242(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees

(Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion)  
Amendment Regulations, 2000.

- (xxv) G.S.R 252(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2000 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 253(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2000 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Leave) First Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 254(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2000 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 269(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2000 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 326(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2000 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulation, 2000.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 270(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2000 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees Digest of pay and allowances, Leave and Pension (Amendment) Rules, 2000.
- (xxxi) The Mormugao Port Employees (Classification Control and Appeal) Regulations, 1964 published in Notification No. 965 in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1964.
- (2) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i), (ii), (iii) and (xxxi) of Item No. (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport, for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1837/2000]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1838/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport, for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1839/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts under section 24 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1840/2000]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1841/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 1998-99.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1842/2000]

- (11) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 335(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2000 making certain amendments in the Central Motor Vehicles

(Amendment) Rules, 1998 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1843/2000]

- (12) A copy of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 93(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1999, under section 8A of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1844/2000]

- (14) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 :-

(i) Annual Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1845/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1846/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1847/2000]



- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1848/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. 1849/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1850/2000]

- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1851/2000]

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Cochin Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1852/2000]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : On behalf of Shri O. Rajagopal, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 215(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2000 making certain amendments in the Schedule XIII to the Companies Act, 1956, under sub-section (3) of Section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1853/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) The Private Limited Company and Unlisted Public Limited Company (Buy back of Securities) Amendment Regulations, 2000

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 216(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2000.

- (ii) The Company Law Board (Fees on Applications and Petitions) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 219(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1854/2000]

14.28 hrs.

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint six members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to give an effective system for protection of the rights of plant breeders and farmers, and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants, and to give effect to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 3 of article 27 of Part II of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in the vacancies caused by retirement of six Members namely Shri Janardhana Poojary, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Shri Onkar Singh Lakhawat, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta and Shri Gurudas Das Gupta from Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, 2000 and resolves that Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Dr. M.N. Das, Shri Lalitbhai Mehta, Shri Kailash Joshi, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta and Shri N.R. Dasari be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

14.29 hrs.

### CONSTITUTION (NINETIETH AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of article 16)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 8.5.2000.

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

This is to incorporate Clause 4B under article 16 of the Constitution with a view to enabling the State to provide that 50 per cent limit on reservation shall exclude the backlog vacancies. It may be recalled that the Government has issued an Office Memorandum dated August 29, 1997 to provide that 50 per cent limit on reservation shall apply to current as well as backlog vacancies.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you are supposed just to seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill and not to make a speech.

Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : In this regard, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, Members of Parliament, have given notices to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, in the Papers Laid on the Table, there is inordinate delay in placing these papers before the House. This is a very serious matter. These papers have been laid on the Table after 34 years. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The notice of Shri Prakash Ambedkar is time-barred as it was received after 10 a.m. So, I am allowing Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to oppose the introduction of the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, this is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already gone to the next item and I have called Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chennithala, how can you raise it now? We are already on item No.10.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I have given notice on this matter. The Speaker should direct the Government not to do such a thing in future. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I have called Shri Radhakrishnan to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, this a very serious issue. You should direct the Government on this matter. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I fully support the principle involved in the Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : After Shri Radhakrishnan concludes, I will allow you.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I would like to raise objection because the Government is not sincere. If the Government is sincere in giving due representation to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the backward communities, they would have done much more. In the case of Tamil Nadu, they have not adhered to 50 per cent limit enunciated by the Supreme Court. Without taking a final decision in regard to the ceiling of reservation, what the Central Government has extended may not find a legal footing because the Supreme Court has taken a very clear decision about 50 per cent. Why don't you take a decision about that? It is because the Tamil Nadu Legislative has gone beyond 50 per cent. They have gone to the extent of 65 per cent. When that is the situation, then I think the Government will be able to give much more . . . . *(Interruptions)* I strongly support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, if a Member is supporting the Bill, then how can he object to the introduction of the Bill? I really do not understand.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you are not opposing the introduction, you are supporting it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Belpur) : He wants a foolproof Bill. He says that there are some mistakes in the Bill which you should take note of. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He can do that at the time of discussion. He can make suggestions at that time . . . . *(Interruptions)* I have a point of order, Sir Rules permit the Members to object the introduction of a Bill but that opportunity should not be used to make speeches on the merits of the Bill. If he thinks that we are not having legislative competence about the Bill, then he can oppose it.

Now, if he is supporting, it means that he has no objection to the introduction of the Bill. He should not be allowed to use this opportunity to discuss things and whatever he has said should be expunged from the proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, he is supporting you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : All of us have to observe the rules. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have my own doubts about the legislative competence of the Government. When you are talking about 50 per cent here, the Tamil Nadu Legislature has gone to 65 per cent. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. You have given notice to oppose the introduction of the Bill. But you are supporting the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No. I have specifically stated that the Tamil Nadu Legislature has given 65 per cent . . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : But your notice is for opposing the introduction of the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The legislative competence is in doubt and the Central Government is bringing this Bill half-heartedly.

Mr. Minister, you are really supposed to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and help them. If you are honest and sincere, you have to take a decision about the Tamil Nadu Bill and the other statutes. But you have not done that. That is why, I question the legislative competence of the introduction of this Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Though the notice given by Shri Prakash Ambedkar to oppose the introduction of the Bill was time-barred, that is, it was received after 10 a.m., yet I am allowing him as a special case to oppose the introduction of the Bill.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Thank you, Sir. Both these matters were referred before the Supreme Court in the *Indira Sawhney versus the Union*

of India case. There were two points which were raised. One was the decision given in 1962 regarding the definition of the word "appointment" in which it was said that "appointment" includes promotion also. . . . *(Interruptions)*. I am coming to the question of why I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, just now, you have heard the reply of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Again, you are going into the theory of it. Why are you opposing the introduction of this Bill? You should tell about it.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am on a specific issue. I am just coming to that. I am just giving the background.

MR. SPEAKER : You can say why you are opposing the introduction of the Bill. This is the introduction stage only.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am coming to that only. To overcome this decision, Parliament itself had amended article 16 of the Constitution and article 16(4)(a) was added to it. Even the article 16(4)(a) was challenged before the Supreme Court and the decision given by the Supreme Court was that it neither creates right in favour of the Scheduled Castes nor it casts a duty on the Government to give them reservation or promotion. . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Well, if my hon. friend yields for a second, I would like to say that we are trying to fulfil a promise which we have made to the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes. We have made a promise on the floor of the House. We are trying to fulfil it. But he is trying to oppose it. I cannot understand it. Why did he give notice for opposing the introduction of the Bill?

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I know that you have made a promise. I am opposing only the introduction of the Bill. I am trying to say that whatever efforts which the Government are making are a farce. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, please understand that this is not a debate.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I am only saying that the hon. Prime Minister assured this House that he would protect the interests of the Scheduled Casts. The hon. Prime Minister categorically assured that article 335 would be amended. Now, what is coming up before the House is a matter which has already been decided by the Supreme Court. So, I am opposing it.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that it is well-established that the Chair does not decide whether a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House or not. The House also does not take a decision on a specific question of vires of a Bill. In the circumstances, I am now putting the question to the vote of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I am raising a very important issue before this House. In respect of the Papers Laid on the Table, there are certain procedures. A Committee has been constituted for that. But the inordinate delay in placing the records or papers before this House is a very serious issue. So, I would like your goodself to give a direction to the Government in respect of placing the Papers before the House in time.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, is he talking about today's Order Paper?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Yes, I have already given a notice to the hon. Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : All right, you have given the notice. I am not objecting to it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Please refer to Item Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 14 and its explanatory memorandum. It is not at all satisfactory. My request is that the Chair should direct the Government not to make such inordinate delay in placing the Papers on the Table of the House. This is my point. I am not blaming the Government. I am talking about the procedure. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : For the 34-year delay, you are blaming me only. . . . *(Interruptions)* You can only blame me for the two-year delay.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am not blaming you. There is a delay of 34 years in placing the Papers on the Table of the House. . . . *(Interruptions)* This is not correct. This is not a healthy Parliamentary practice.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, which Government is he talking about?

MR. SPEAKER : He is talking of the previous Governments.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, the Government is a continuing entity. So, the present Government has to take the blame for the entire delay of about 34 years.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We are responsible. I think, we should definitely inquire into if there is a 32-year delay. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No 'if'. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : But I am trying to understand which items he has mentioned specifically. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I have already mentioned the items. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramesh Chennithala wants to raise the issue of delay in laying certain papers on the Table of the House. No doubt, there has been an undue delay on the part of the Government in laying certain papers. However, in view of the provision of rule 305(c), the matter has to be referred to the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House instead of raising it on the floor of the House.

Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Anadi Sahu.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Member has to refer it to the Committee if there is any delay.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Hon. Minister must make a statement tomorrow on the Working Journalists' Agitation. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Let him say tomorrow. Then, I will decide. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raigarh) : The I & B Minister should be present in the House tomorrow while the issue is taken up. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : When the issue is taken up, the Minister should come prepared. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

14.42 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) **Need to order berthing of two urea ships at Gopalpur (Orissa) in the months of November, and December, 2000 with a view to provide employment to cyclone-hit people of Ganjam district**

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Sir, Gopalpur is a fair-weather minor Port in Ganjam district of Orissa. It is operational from November to March, every year. A number of ships come to this Port during this period. Till 1995, Urea ships were coming to this Port. However, anchoring of Urea ships in Gopalpur Port were stopped thereafter. After the supercyclone, the people of Ganjam are not getting adequate work. If Urea ships are brought to this Port in November and December, people will get work. In addition, farmers will get urea at a cheaper rate.

I request the Government of India to order for berthing of two Urea ships at Gopalpur in the months of November and December, 2000.

14.33 hrs.

*[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]*

- (ii) **Need to provide electricity and telephone facilities in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

*[Translation]*

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Garu and Mahua Dant blocks of my Parliamentary Constituency that even after 52 years of independence none of the villages of these blocks have been provided with the facility of electricity and telephone. In Manika block only 20% villages have electricity and more than half of the transformers are out of orders. These are very backward tribal dominated areas and the studies of the students is being adversely affected as a result thereof. Development works are taking place in all parts of the country but not in these blocks. It is affecting the economic development of the people of these areas. In absence of these facilities, these tribal people are unable to develop themselves.

Through this House, I would request the Central Government to immediately provide electricity and telephone connections to the villages of these blocks.

- (iii) **Need to carry out maintenance work of National Highways in Bihar particularly N.H. No. 2 from Baroon to Aurangabad**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the deplorable and dilapidated condition of National Highways throughout the country, particularly in Bihar.

National Highway No. 2, which passes through Bihar, has nearly 400 kms. length in Bihar itself. This very National Highway from Baroon to Aurangabad which is in my parliamentary constituency, popularly known as G.T. Road covers 35 kms. length. The condition of this road is worst and impossible for any commercial or passenger vehicle to move. There are big path-holes on the road. No concrete step has been taken to improve it.

Due to worst condition of N.H. No. 2 in Bihar, there are traffic jams for hours together. Women and children sitting in the vehicles are stranded for hours together and are often looted or murdered by miscreants. Trunks and other goods vehicles carrying perishable items such as fruits and vegetables are also facing problems since their items are normally destroyed due to late arrivals etc. It has also affected on the consumption and wastage of petrol and diesel.

Keeping in view the above mentioned factors, I urge upon the Government to direct the concerned to repair and provide adequate maintenance at National Highways passing through Bihar, particularly from Baroon to Aurangabad immediately.

- (iv) **Need to set up an International Exhibition Centre at Nagpur**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, New Delhi is our capital and one of the important centres of industrial and commercial activities. Thanks to the development of International Exhibition Centre like Pragati Maidan, where a number of different exhibitions and industrial fairs are being held regularly every year, this had encouraged the foreign countries also to participate in these fairs. Such fairs provide an ideal opportunity for new launches, new technologies new components and as a whole new set of business possibilities. Now the time has come to initiate to develop more such centres.

Recently, the Chief minister of Maharashtra announced his intention to establish an International Exhibition Centre like Pragati Maidan at Nagpur.

14.47 hrs.

*[Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair]*

Nagpur is the centrally located and most suitable place, which is a geographical capital of the country, second capital of Maharashtra and second greenest city. Nagpur covers 214 sq. kms. of area and has reasonable good urban infrastructure, housing, medical, education and recreation facilities. The National Highway No. 7 (Varanasi-Kanyakumari) is just half a kilometre from Nagpur airport, which connects National Highway No. 6 (Mumbai-Calcutta). Approximately 300 domestic and international flights pass over Nagpur air corridor daily. Nagpur becomes a logistic hub of the country and also an ideal hub site between South East Asia, Australia, Japan, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Sharjah. Nagpur is also a major transshipment centre for goods. Butibori Industrial Estate, which is 20 kms. away from Nagpur is one of the biggest of its kind in Asia, having all kinds of five star facilities and it has created an industrial atmosphere.

Nagpur, because of its ideal central location, good climate, ample and cheap space, peaceful and secured atmosphere, good ancillary infrastructure, good road and rail connections offers an excellent site for global trade centre.

I, therefore, request the Government to kindly take a final decision and issue orders for establishing an International Exhibition Centre at Nagpur.

- (v) **Need to revert to the earlier policy of admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas giving priority to children of serving soldiers and Ex-Servicemen**

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : Sir, I would like to invite your kind attention towards the norms of admission to Kendriya Vidyalaya, which have been revised from this year. As per the revised norms, 50 per cent of seats have been reserved for Central Government employees, 30 per cent for State Government employees and 20 per cent for others. Admission to these categories is done by drawing lots from the eligible children of each category separately. No priority is given to the employees in each category as done in the previous years. Serving soldiers and Ex-Servicemen had got priority in the admission of their children according to their service and transfers from one station to another previously. As per the revised norms, the names of their children are put together alongwith the other eligible children in their category to select them for admission by drawing lots. Their priority has been taken away by introducing the new norms for admission to Kendriya Vidyalaya. There are requests from them to reinstate the priority. While considering their arduous

nature and dedicated work for our motherland, their request is genuine and reasonable. Their priority in the admission of their children to Kendriya Vidyalaya may, therefore, be reinstated as in the previous years. So also, the Central Government organisations like Employees Provident fund, Passport Office and others, were placed in the third category and denied admission of their children.

I, therefore, request the Government to make necessary changes in the new guidelines and reinstate the priority given to the serving soldiers and Ex-Servicemen in the admission of their children in Kendriya Vidyalaya

- (vi) **Need for early expansion of Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the expansion of Kayamkulam Thermal Powder Project is delayed due to various reasons. The non-availability of Liquefied National Gas (LNG) at the appropriate time is one of the reasons. I request the Government to take immediate steps for the expansion of this Thermal Power Project.

- (vii) **Need to look into the problems of opium growers particularly in Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki) : In our country, with the permission of Finance Department, farmers undertake cultivation of opium under licence in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and it is being done for the last so many years. Under this provision farmers have to deposit opium fulfilling the standards earmarked by the government. This crop is so sensitive that a little fluctuation in temperature, wind, storm, hailstorm, heavy rain quickly affect it and farmers face loss in cost and yield.

Therefore, Government should conduct assessment of yield and production of the crop at regular intervals and provide necessary relief and compensation to the farmers. In my constituency, opium growers production of opium is not tested properly at Saldarganj Purchase Centre in Barabanki district (U.P.) and there are complaints of farmers from dozens of villages including amseruva, Tikaria against their insult and partisan attitude adopted while testing their produce.

I request the Government that it should conduct a retesting of opium deposited by these villages and provide the necessary relief to the farmers and continue their licences.

- (viii) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Bihar for making closed sugar mills viable with a view to protect the interests of workers

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur) : 15 Sugar Mills running under State Government of Bihar are lying closed for the last three crushing seasons since 1997-98 and more than 13,000 employees working in these mills are jobless. These poor workers and employees have not been paid their salaries for the last three years due to which they are on the verge of starvation. Crores of rupees as price of sugarcane growers and salaries of employees of these sugar mills are outstanding against Government. Central Government should give a special package and take steps for early revival of these sugar mills in the interest of sugarcane, sugarcane growers of Bihar and employees of sugar mills.

- (ix) Need to formulate a National Slum Policy

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Sir, the Supreme Court judgement of March, 2000 giving instructions to the Government to remove encroachment on various States/Central Government lands and private lands is an important verdict for crores of slum-dwellers throughout India. It is going to affect the lives of more than six crore downtrodden people living in Jhuggles for years together and it creates an atmosphere of scare and fear among those downtrodden people. They will be rendered homeless. There is a need to finalise National Slum Policy immediately. Corrective action by the Government is required. Shelter, safety and basic amenities to these downtrodden people are utmost necessary. I request the Government to come out with their policy decision.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up item No. 12. Hon'ble Minister has introduced.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 331E(b). There are two Constitution Amendment Bills and some other Amendment Bills are presented to this House. My request is that according to Rule 331E(b), as the Standing Committees are being constituted by this House, these important Bills are to be referred to the Standing Committee for the extensive scrutiny of the Bills.

Sir, it has become a practice that all the Bills are introduced, discussed and passed in the House. I can understand if it is not a Bill of this nature then it can be just discussed and passed. But a Constitution Amendment

Bill is going to have a far reaching effect in the society, so this should be first referred to the Standing Committee where it should be discussed and when the report comes to the House, then it can consider it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen first.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : As soon as these Bills are introduced, they become the property of the House. My request to the Chair is that such Bills should be referred to the Standing Committee and then these should be passed.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Chief Whip of the Congress Party, whether this is the position of the Congress to refer these Bills and take them to the Monsoon Session or is it the opinion of the Member only . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, it is not a party affair. These two Constitution Amendments Bills ought to have been referred to the Standing Committees . . . (Interruptions)

14.58 hrs.

#### OBSERVATION RE : NOTICE FOR REFERENCE OF CERTAIN BILLS TO DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala has tabled a notice regarding reference of certain Bills to Departmentally Related Standing Committees which are included in today's List of Business.

The Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Repeal Bill, 2000 and the Direct-Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Bill, 2000 seek to repeal certain enactments which have already become obsolete. The Bills are of trivial nature and hence I have not referred these Bills to the respective Standing Committees.

The Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 seeks to amend the Parent Act to remove the lacuna pointed out by the Supreme Court in Dr. Ashok Vs. Union of India. Minister of Agriculture had also requested me not to refer the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 to the Standing Committee as it does not involve any policy matter. I have therefore, not referred the above Bill to the Standing Committee.

The Food Corporation of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000 were introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28 February, 2000 and 14th March, 2000 respectively. The Rajya Sabha initiative of referring the Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha has to come from the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker has given ruling in this regard about which I have informed you.

15.00 hrs.

## INSECTICIDES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Item No.12 -Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000. Time allotted for this Bills is two hours.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main objective of the Insecticides Act, 1968 was to protect the human beings and animals from insecticides and to regulate the production, sale transportation or distribution of insecticides. There was a provision regarding ban on hazardous insecticide in the section 27 of this Act but on May 2, 1997 hon'ble Supreme Court gave a decision that there is no provision for banning insecticides under sub-section 1 & 2 of Section 3(e). It is true that there is no provision. In order to remove this lacunae and to make the penal provision of the Act more effective, some amendments have been brought in some sections of the Act and to add a sub section in the Act, this bill has been presented in the House. Proposed amendment will check the spurious and sub-standard pesticides and the guilty persons can be severely punished. With this aim, this bill has been presented.

I request the House to pass this bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

That the Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968, be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Insecticide Act (amendment) Bill, 2000 moved by the Government. Hon'ble Minister has just now stated that the Act was formulated in 1968 mainly to protect the plants and to keep a check on the growth of weeds which are harmful for the plants. It was enacted to

regulate the export, import or production, sale, transportation and distribution or use of insecticides and to protect the human beings and animals from the ill effects of insecticides. That's why it was enacted in 1968. In 1997, the Supreme Court passed an order in case number 2298, Dr. Ashok Verses Union of India stating that as soon as an insecticide is included under section 3 and is specified under a specific schedule, then the government is left with no power to put a ban on it. The Government has no power to cancel the registration. If it is scientifically proved that a particular insecticide is harmful then its registration should be cancelled and action should be taken against it. Even though the product is injurious to the health, Government has no power to stop its use. Therefore, it was not possible to initiate the legal action against the company. The law has inherent defect and this Act was originally enacted to remove these shortcomings. It has been amended under section 27. I think this amendment will resolve the problem. Due to such shortcomings, the hon'ble High Court has taken the decision and this amendment was brought to remove the shortcomings. This amendment is very much appropriate and contemporary. I support all these amendments.

I want to say one more thing that spurious insecticides are also being manufactured and when the farmer uses them on their crops, it fails to kill the insects and grasshoppers etc. These spurious drugs prove ineffective. A farmer should know which drug is suitable for which climate and for which crop. If they are adulterated, they prove ineffective. It is to prevent the spurious and ineffective insecticides from reaching the market that this amendment is being made and it is very useful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, cases against dishonest people take a long time in disposal so that spurious drugs and other things continue to be sold in the market. One of its provisions include arrangements for the setting up of special courts, which will help in early disposal of cases. Special courts may also be notified by amending subsection (2) of section 31 if the cases are to be made against manufacturers of spurious drugs or even against spurious drugs brought within the country through imports. This is also a good provision. It provides for early hearing and will help take most strict measures against the manufacturers of spurious drugs, their sellers or transporters or against the people misleading the farmers.

Another very useful provision has also been made. Earlier, the minimum penalty was that of Rs. 5000/- now a proposal has been made to increase it to Rs. 25,000/-. Earlier it provided for the imprisonment for one year which has now been proposed to be increased. It will too help in measures against spurious articles and sub-standard insecticides.



[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

In the name of globalisation or plant protection, the plant insecticides are being brought in the country on the pretext that it will protect useful insects and kill harmful ones. But what will happen if the reverse happens? The provisions which have been made to control those articles as well as the provisions in different articles about the punishment, penalty and establishment of special courts, will be very useful. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if any insecticide is found to be spurious or sub-standard, then it is sent to the laboratory for examination. The law provides for ways to stop distribution or use of that insecticide during the course of its laboratory examination. Otherwise it so happens that the insecticides continue to be sold during the time taken in the laboratory examination, which usually takes about 15 days to one month, and the submission of report after analysis. It provides for the time limit of 30 days for the submission of reports. It also provides for banning them during the course of laboratory examination.

Sir, I wish to say that insecticides should be used only to the extent of their usefulness, because excess of every thing is bad. Farmers should be trained about using right insecticides, in right quantity, in right climate and environment. Otherwise, they may adversely affect the growth of plants, which in turn, may affect the consumers and their health may get adversely affected.

Farmers should also select the place of safe keeping of insecticides carefully and they should be carefully stored. Often farmers store their insecticides in such a place which are accessible to children. Such insecticides may be drugs for killing rodents or bugs or for killing grasshoppers, which are harmful for agriculture. It may get into the hands of children, or if there is a quarrel in the family and someone may attempt to suicide by consuming it, there may be death in the family. If any provision can be made to prevent such occurrences, I think they should be made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the insecticides act, which was enacted in 1968, was necessary for plant protection, protection of agriculture in our country. Its provisions were made with a view to preventing its ill impact on humans, animals and other organisms. The lacunae and shortcomings of the act have been removed. I think that in the present time, when we are moving towards green revolution, white revolution, towards attaining self reliance in agricultural production, this amendment will prove to be useful in making the law more effective and useful. With these words, I strongly support the amendment acts brought by the Government and I also thank you for the time you allowed me for speaking.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Insecticides Amendment Bill, 2000 was presented in the house by the hon'ble Minister, I felt that the hon'ble Minister, Shri Patwa, is not a farmer. Yet, as far as I know, Shri Patwa is not only a farmer, but a good farmer at that. May be he is not involved in farming directly, but cultivation definitely is done on his farms. The act was enacted in 1968 and when this was being made by his department and Law department, I was thinking that being a farmer, being a Chief Minister and his long experience in public life will be useful to India, to the Parliament. It has been presented here for amending five sections of the original Act. Rajya Sabha has agreed to the amendments and it has now been presented in the Lok Sabha. The bill has been brought to amend sections 21, 22, 24, 27 and 31. On the other hand, under the directions of the high court, amendment is being made in the section 2 of the 1974 act. But, it has to be realised that there are three aspects of the insecticide drugs—first the manufacturers; second the sellers and third, the people who use it in their farms. Please make it clear, as to for which group the law is being enacted—is it being made for the sellers, or for the producers or for the farmers who use it on their farms. As for a I think, you are not making it for the farmers. Have you ever thought who provides license for the insecticides?

Licence for production is provided by the agricultural director who sits in the state headquarters. You have fixed a time limit of 20 days in the bill. Have you ever thought that in Lucknow, or wherever, the headquarters of state is, the farmers living in the remote areas who use insecticides — how will they get those examined? You bring the bill in haste and are satisfied after getting it passed in hurry. The bill was passed even in 1964, then how the shortcomings remained there. You have just provided for increase in the period of imprisonment, increased the penalty, but you have not done anything to ensure benefits to the farmers. The farmers feels helpless. Insecticide drugs, fertilizers and water at essential things for the farmers.

15.16 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

A long as they do not get good quality seed, water and arrangements for the spraying of insecticides they cannot improve their farming. The preceding speaker said that even animals die. He was right. Milk production increases when the animals consume the prepared grass. But insecticides are sprayed even on that grass. Animals die after grazing there. Farmers having one cow or one buffalo, cultivate grass on some area so that their cow and buffaloes give more milk. But the animals die after eating this grass. He indicated that those insecticides do not protect our agriculture. In the course of cultivation, farmers

have to deal with many types of insects and pests and the insecticides do not protect the produce. He said that insecticides are stored in homes and sometimes children die after consuming them. It is not so. You have misunderstood. It appears that you are not from the family of a farmer. Let me drink those insecticides. It would make no difference where these insecticides are being manufactured? Spurious insecticides are being manufactured and who given protection to them. The Hon'ble Minister has amended section 21. What is written in that about the person who will have to examine them? There will be an inspector who is not even a gazetted officer. Many distinguished persons have come in our parliament. Somebody has been a DGP, someone was a collector while someone was a commissioner. There may have been opportunities in their careers also when a farmer would have represented about the damage to their crops when they applied an insecticide, bought from the market. Leave apart increasing production, the entire crop got damaged when they were used and the season ended without the farmer getting anything. I wish to say to the hon'ble Minister that please don't make such laws with your eyes closed. This is the highest house. I had heard you saying on day that you were not the village chief but you were ward commissioner. You have come here after being a ward incharge in the village, and on the basis of that you should have had greater practical experience and you should not have depended upon the officials. This is the highest house. The laws made by the House will be applicable to each and every corner of India, from east to west and from north to south and the farmer will be the victim of this law. Farmers will get in difficulties. You have empowered an inspector to investigate. ; You have increased the penalty to Rs. 25,000 but on whom - on petty shopkeepers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, petty shopkeepers do not manufacture fertilizers, or insecticides, these are manufactured by the factory owners. Please tell me, what provisions are there in the law for taking action against the factory owners? It seems to me that they have been given full freedom. If we accuse you of being hand in gloves with big factory owners and have brought this law to protect them, to help them, then I don't think it will be unfounded.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I trust that hon'ble Minister won't be angry when I say that he breaks his promises made in this house. I would tell more about this later. You had promised in the house that members of Parliament would be made Chairman of DRDA, but that promise has not been implemented yet. Therefore, we don't have to get promises from you on this bill, because, in any case, you do not fulfill your promises. Since you had agreed and promised to make the members of Parliament, chairman of DRDA, we will wait till 7th May and then we will inform Hon'ble Speaker about the violation of privileges.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not agree to the amendments Hon'ble Minister has proposed in the articles 21, 22, 24 and 27 of the Bill. In it you have empowered an official of the inspector rank for undertaking investigations and in case the shopkeeper is absent, he will be issued a receipt. What sort of receipt that will be, what will be its value and whether the Government, or the director, agriculture will certify that?

If you want to get it probed at the district level, why didn't you provided for a higher official for its probe, why the district agriculture officer of sub-divisional agriculture officer were not appointed for the purpose?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no mention about the number of centres to be opened in each state. I want to give a suggestion through you that maximum number of centres should be opened. I also wish to submit that farmers should get pure and unadulterated insecticide. To ensure this, the insecticide factories should be strictly monitored and full caution should be observe while granting licenses to them. Please do not grant licenses to them carelessly. If you can't open such centres at the district level, then at least open them at subdivisonal level. When the insecticide would reach the farmers after thorough examination at these centres then they could be put to good use in the farms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble member of parliament from Begusarai is present in the house. He is a good farmer and was also the Minister of Agriculture in Bihar. He is a good potato cultivator. He gets good crop in his farms by using the insecticide bought from the department. May be he gets good quality fertilizer and insecticides because he has been a minister. But when we buy the insecticides and fertilizers they are spurious. We use them in our fields at night thinking that by the morning the crops would be rich and plenty. But in the morning when we go there, everything is destroyed as a result of using spurious insecticides and fertilizers. Who will pay for that?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I again request the Hon'ble Minister through you that necessary amendments be introduced in the bill. We have no objection to any amendment. But they should be such that more than petty shopkeepers and businessmen, bigger traders and factory owners, who manufacture spurious insecticides, should be reined in. Farmers are always in haste. They come to buy insecticides and fertilizer at the last moment when it has already rained because if these are sprayed after the soil gets dry, they will be useless and ineffective. That is why he is in great haste. He is unable to identify good quality insecticide and fertilizers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in any case I do not speak much. You are our chierperson in the Railway Standing Committee.

[Shri Rajo Singh]

I hope that Hon'ble Minister would consider all aspects of the points and sections, on which I have objected in the bill which he has introduced on the instructions of the Supreme Court. Before concluding, I would again like to say "Biti Tahi bisar de, Aage ki sudhi le" —Shri Patwa, forget what happened in the past and attempt to create a new history. You have got into the ministry of agriculture by accident. Shri Nitish ji would have done something about that if he had remained there. I think that talking about this is not going to serve any purpose. I wish to say that do not unnecessarily get tangled in the issue of privilege.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if someone tries to intimidate the Minister then...?

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a person can be intimidated only when he is alone. In such a large House one cannot intimidate anybody. One simply makes one's submission. . . . *(Interruptions)*

\*SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal) (Bijapur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000, moved by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Sunder Lal Patwa Ji in this august House. There are five amendments in this Bills. Sir, as you are well aware, at many parts of the country particularly in Gulbarga and Bidar districts of Northern Karnataka farmers have committed suicide because their crops were destroyed due to adulterated insecticides. Farmers, the backbone of our nation buy the insecticides from the open shops and finally they realised that the insecticides and pesticides were adulterated to the maximum extent. Specially in Karnataka, farmers who had spent several lakhs of rupees on insecticides are in great trouble. It is most unfortunate. Not even a single person has been punished under Insecticides Law, 1968. Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister has brought this Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

The insecticide inspectors have been given more powers and the culprits would be given stringent punishment. I welcome this Amendment Bill and I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for this. Many international companies are coming to our country. The Indian companies which were functioning here are facing danger and our Government has to take a serious note of this. These new companies which are mainly responsible for the supply of adulterated insecticides are ruining the future of our farmers. In fact, these serious matters including the suicide of farmers have been raised in the State Assembly also. The Hon'ble Minister in this Bill has made provision to set up special courts under section 31 of the original

Bill. I congratulate him for this step. I urge upon the Minister to set up these courts immediately. I hope these courts would give their verdicts quickly and do justice to the farmers of this country.

Many insecticide shops are selling insecticides whose expiry dates are already over. Government should know how many such cases have been reported. The inspectors are not doing their job in this respect. The Hon'ble Minister should look into this problem very seriously and the farmers should be rescued from disaster. The fine for the culprit is Rs 25,000 and the period of imprisonment is quite justifiable. I welcome all these steps of the Government of India and I hope the benefits of this Amendment Bill would reach our farmers.

Sir, with these words I thank you conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I rise in support of this amendment. The amendment is brought in with three objectives. The first one is that as a result of the Supreme Court judgement, a lacuna in Section 27 has to be removed. Secondly, to make it more deterrent because the punishment provided in the original Act is not sufficient to prevent subsequent commission of offences. Thirdly, more special courts have to be established for the speedy trial of cases. The Government was supposed to come before the House with this amendment because the Supreme Court had given a judgement that once registration is given to a product, it cannot be cancelled merely on the ground that it is injurious to human health. That is the reason why the Government had to come before this House with this amendment.

The general tendency in the market nowadays is that there is adulteration in every field. Even Potassium Cyanide, the most fatal poison, is adulterated today. If one wants to get pure cyanide for committing suicide, he will find that even that is adulterated. That is the order of the day. Almost all materials are adulterated. In order to prevent adulteration, we have enacted the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act with provision for more deterrent punishment to be awarded by the High Courts also. The courts have also taken very serious view of the matter and very stringent punishments have been awarded by the courts in the cases related with adulteration. Even then, there has been no decrease in adulteration. If you go to the market to purchase some foodstuff, you cannot purchase anything without the fear of that foodstuff being adulterated. Can you find any foodstuff in the market without being adulterated, in spite of the fact that we have enforced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act? Even in the enforcement of that Act, the courts have observed on several occasions, there is an inherent weakness in it.

\*Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Kannada.

According to the Act, the primary or the first offender is the manufacturer. The retailer is innocent; and he does not come into the picture at all. The manufacturer is the person who is liable to be punished. But, he is not punished; he is not convicted. He escapes punishment without any difficulty at all. But the person who purchases from the manufacturer, the retailer, is always in the dock. He will go to courts and he will be punished.

So, there is a cry from the retailers that they must be saved from this punishment process. They are innocent. They do not mix up the poison when it is manufactured. They do not play any role in the manufacture of it. They are only distributors. But in spite of the fact that the Act is there, we could not prevent adulteration to our advantage. That is the position. In spite of the fact that the punishment has been made very deterrent, even the Evidence Act had not been strictly adhered to in matters of dealing with evidence regarding prevention of food adulteration. There, the witness is let off.

Even a independent evidence is not required in the matter of punishing the food adulterators. That is the present law. In spite of these stringent methods, our experience is that adulteration is the order of the day. So, we will have to find out some methods by which this can be prevented. If that is the case of adulteration with regard to the food for human consumption, what will be the case of adulteration in the matter of insecticides? In the matter of insecticides and pesticides, we want to prevent adulteration. We are in the age of globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation. Multinational companies will come into the market, and sub-standard quality of insecticides will be sold in the market without any restriction. Would we be able to control them? They are purchased by the Indian agents who will then be distributing them. The prosecution is possible only against these persons, the Indian agents, who had purchased them and then sold them. They are taking them from multinational companies who are the real manufacturers. But they will not come into the picture, they will remain behind curtain. They will not be accused in the matter for adulteration. They simply get honourable position in the matter of dealings with the insecticides. But the Indian agents are the first offenders. Even if there is prosecution, the Indian agents alone will be punished. The persons who are really liable, who are really the root cause for this adulteration are getting away especially in an age where we speak of globalisation, liberalisation and all these things.

So, I think, our legislation will be ineffective in dealing with such cases. So, we will have to evolve some methods by which the real culprits or the real offenders would be booked. But how can we punish them? That is the most important aspect so far as this legislation is concerned. Our Amendment also is silent on this aspect. The original

Act also is silent on this aspect. Hence the adulteration will be continued.

Our food crops will be sprayed with insecticides which are dangerous to human life. We cannot effectively prevent all these things. Even giving a deterrent punishment is not the only remedy. If that be the case, the adulteration in foodstuff would have been prevented. We could not prevent it for the only reason that the Food Adulteration Prevention Act is giving deterrent punishment. So, giving deterrent punishment is not the only remedy. We will have to find out other methods by which this can be prevented.

So, I do consider that this is only an attempt. I think, it is an honest attempt and I do concede it. But this will not be an effective remedy unless and until some drastic measures are taken by the Government.

Similar is the case regarding Chemical Analyses Report. It takes a lot of time. We do not get this Report at the proper time, and the culprits escape. So, when we think of establishment of proper courts, we will have to think of establishing laboratories throughout the country. Such laboratories are very few in number. Until and unless, a timely Chemical Analysis Report is prepared in a laboratory, which is available, it will not prove to be an effective measure. So, we will have to think about not only of establishing the additional courts but also the establishment of additional Chemical Analysis Report. It is also an essentiality.

We must find provision for that also. So, additional courts, additional laboratories and additional crops alone can solve the problem.

I would request the Government to think on those lines and provide not only additional courts but also sufficient places for checking. The number of Inspectors who are to take the samples must be increased because in the process of globalisation, the offences will always be on the increase. To prevent such a catastrophe, I would request the Government to take immediate steps for giving additional staff also for implementing this particular Act.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : I rise to support the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000. All the previous Members have already enumerated the various Clauses to which amendments have been made. So, I will not go into very many details on them. This Bill deals with human life.

Under Section 21, the Inspector was previously going to stop the distribution, sale and use of insecticides for 20 days, but it has now been increased to 30 days. Previously, as Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has said, the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

laboratory examination report of the Inspector was not forthcoming. That is why, it has been introduced in this Bill that the Inspector will have to give a report within 30 days. This comes under Section 22.

Under Section 24, the time has been fixed. Under this Section, the Inspector previously when he was taking some samples, was to pay for that. Now he will not pay. Now he will only pay if it is proven after the laboratory tests that these samples are not misbranded.

Through this Bill, the Government has asked the State Governments to set up additional courts and at various stages, the punishment money has been increased.

So, I thank the hon. Minister for at least he has taken steps to move the amendments. I am raising a very serious matter here. We are talking about the human health for which we are going to bring this amendment. But do you know what incalculable harm is caused to human life by adulterated or unadulterated insecticides? I will give you some examples. By the use of chemical fertilisers in the fields, the nitrogen phosphate etc., are mixed with the stream of water and it enters into the foodstuff and harms the human life. Mostly, the harm is caused to Andhra Pradesh where starting from the village and it goes right up to 5-Star hotels. The water is mostly contaminated with insecticides.

It has caused a lot more harm to the people of Andhra Pradesh in comparison to the other States. Haryana, Karnataka and Punjab, which are the States which use insecticides the most, are also just following the footsteps of Andhra Pradesh gradually.

About five lakh people in the world die every year because of the bad effects of insecticides. Seventy per cent of the total insecticides used in India are banned in Western countries. They do not utilise them but they send all those insecticides to be utilised in India, just like the baby food and other things that they dump in India since they do not use them. About 70,000 tonnes of DDT are manufactured every year and it has a negative impact on foodstuffs. It has a negative impact on water, flora and fauna and the human body. Most of the countries have banned the use of DDT whereas we have not banned it. The DDT enters into the body and it causes damage to the tongue, lips, kidneys and heart; and cancer is mostly caused as a by-product of the use of DDT. BHC, a by-product of DDT is two-and-a-half times more poisonous than DDT. This is also used in India. It enters the human body through skin, mouth and nose. The insecticide produced by the use of BHC leads to cancer. The Western countries like the USA have banned it. The poison of the insecticides not only

affects the kidney but it also affects the brain. The diseases of paralysis and cough are caused by the use of insecticides.

Crores of tonnes of insecticides and fertilisers are produced and exported from India. About 30 per cent of the fertilisers are used in the unorganised sector and are being produced by the small-scale industries. Even mother's milk is very much contaminated. . . . *(Interruptions)*

I will conclude in four or five more minutes. . . . *(Interruptions)*

The Ministry of Agriculture has supplied statistics that from 1988-89 to 1996-97, the use of insecticides was reduced by 25 per cent. It is surprising that while 24,775 metric tons of insecticides were produced in 1971, 90,788 metric tons were produced in 1996. So, how do we say that it has reduced? It has not reduced. I do not know how the Government has most of the time come out saying that the use of insecticides has reduced. This has not been reduced; rather, it has gone up by more than 300 per cent. Actually, 50,000 to 60,000 types of insecticides were produced in India during the last one or two decades and every year, 3,000 more types are produced.

After Andhra Pradesh. I will give you the example of Tamil Nadu. During the last few years 40,375 people were affected by the use of insecticides. Out of them, 38,000 people died and we could not prevent it.

Out of eight vegetables that were produced seven were contaminated. Even in Andhra Pradesh, you will be surprised to know that bees, which are the carriers of germination, died in large numbers because of the introduction and use of fertilisers. This has happened mostly in Andhra Pradesh and it has started happening in other States also. After some years, probably, we will find that various varieties of bees have died.

Finally, I will conclude by suggesting the solution. Let us go for the bio-fertiliser. Let us go for the fertiliser or the insecticides, which could be produced indigenously. In India, this could be produced out of bitter gourd, out of *neem*, and also out of garlic. It does not require very heavy investment. Farmers can produce them. In foreign countries, the vegetables produced out of bio-fertiliser and bio-insecticides are sold at three times the cost that we incur for producing very lovely looking vegetables that are produced out of use of chemical fertiliser and chemical insecticides. It might be that the vegetables and fruits produced out of use of bio-fertiliser and bio-insecticides are odd and that they do not look very lovely; but in no way, their production is less. Many people are using it now.

So, I appeal to the Government that they should not only bring forward such amendments, they should also

create a situation in this country where the farmers are educated. Farmers may feel that chemical fertiliser and chemical insecticides are helping them, but they will not help our children in future. You may go to any village during monsoon season and you will find that due to the use of chemical fertiliser and chemical insecticides in the paddy fields, crabs and other small fishes are dead. In Orissa you can find that. When I was a kid, I was going to fish during monsoon season, in the paddy fields. But nowadays, fish is not there; they are dead because of use of chemical fertilisers and insecticides.

All insecticides and viruses are not against human health. There are so many viruses and insects, which help plants. But the indiscriminate use of insecticides and pesticides are killing them.

So, I will appeal to the Government to create a situation in this country where the farmers are educated. They should not go in for this type of poison, which is not only poisoning our food products, but they are also poisoning our body. They should go in for bio-fertiliser and bio-insecticide, which will retain human health in good condition, of our children in future. Thank you very much and, I hope that this House will pass Bill.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : I thank the Government for bringing forward the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

In 1997, we had a very great misery, where hundreds of farmers killed themselves or committed suicide because of spurious insecticides made available to them.

Most of the farmers were cotton growers. As all of us know, the hybrid cotton which was brought during the Green Revolution, demand heavy usage of pesticides. The poor farmers who were enthused by the success of other farmers had changed the cropping pattern. Most of them switched over to cotton cultivation. This hybrid cotton demand usage of heavy insecticides. They are not as disease-resistant as the Indian varieties are. The poor farmers had pledged the jewellery of their wives and bought pesticides. This extreme demand enthused the local farmers to give these furious chemicals which ultimately resulted in crop failure. More than fifty per cent of the crops failed. The huge burden of debt forced nearly 500 farmers to commit suicide. The Insecticides Act, 1968 had some defects in the legislation. So, the Government has to come up with some amendments. Proposals in Section 27 led to amendments proposed in section 21, 22, 24 and 25. It is a welcome step that the Government could punish all spurious chemical manufacturers which caused agony to the farming community. While saying that the Act and the amendments proposed here are good, I demand that implementation part should be taken care of so that the

farming community is benefited. The farmer community is heavily burdened with the cost of insecticides and the burden of harvesting each and every crop. If an insecticide which is supposed to control a particular pest or insect fails, then the Government should compensate the farmer, either from its own resources or through the manufacturer of that insecticide. It is because the losses caused to the poor farmers are colossal. The Government should consider this suggestion. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to IPM which has been prophesied by us much before any other foreign country did.

16.00 hrs

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Since its inception in 1985, not much has been done towards this end. As the previous speaker has rightly pointed out, we have to follow the practice of IPM right from selection of the pest-tolerant varieties to the improved cultural practices like deep tilling, crop rotation, mixed cropping, seed treatment and a number of such other mechanical ways to eliminate pests. A number of such improved measures, which have actively been prophesied, will have to be taken to the farming community and an awareness will have to be created. We will also have to give a lot of financial support to the farmers who practise IPM. The pesticides or insecticides which we use in the farm sometimes also lead to the death of a number of other insects which otherwise may be beneficial to the crop. This causes ecological imbalance. As my learned friend has pointed out, as a result of this, the natural enemies of the pests get degenerated. Birds like Lady Bird Beetle and many other good useful insects get killed in the process of spraying the chemical insecticides. In this connection, the farming community has to be taken into confidence. The entire farming community should follow the pest management as the biological control agents generated in a particular field will not stay there. They will go to the adjoining fields. So, the farmers will have to observe these indigenous technologies.

The Government has approved a new fund for use of pesticides. It is encouraging neem-based pesticides and other eco-friendly pesticides. These chemicals should be effectively controlled so that the farming community is not made to suffer because of them.

With these few words I conclude my speech and appeal to the Government, though the intention of the Bill is good, its implementation has to be strictly adhered to.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have stood up to support the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 presented by hon'ble Minister. A

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

lot of facts have been revealed by both the sides in this regard. I do not want to repeat the harmful affects of the use of pesticides and what are the provisions that have been made for this. Hon'ble Mr. Rajo Singh, who is not present here now, was saying in this regard that although provisions have been made in this Bill for punishment to the sellers, distributors or users of pesticides, but no provision has been made to punish the manufacturer. Sir, when the law was enacted in 1968, there was provisions in it for checking disorder at the time of import of pesticides, and their production, distribution, transportation but now with the passage of time if some lacuna have come into light, say for example, the manipulator, may they be the producers, distributors, importers of insecticides or the transporters who find ways to escape from the article and laws, only in order to remove these lacuna the government has introduced this Bill and that's why, I support this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since I was the Minister of agriculture, so I got an opportunity to work in the agricultural department for long. It has been my experience and being a farmer, I would say that it is a good effort that you have made these provisions to rectify the lacuna in it so that action could be taken against the guilty officials. Sir, the inspectors who take samples of the pesticides, they should be advised not to keep the samples with them for long instead they send them to the laboratory and provisions have also been made for the laboratories to check the samples within a stipulated period of time. The amount of penalty has been raised from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 50,000 and from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 75,000/-. A number of provisions in this regard have been made in this Bill for which I support this. But as per my experience, I feel that today these insecticides are making an adverse effect on our crop. There was a time when our country witnessed the 'Green Revolution', new seeds were, introduced new technology was introduced and we began making use of fertilizers and insecticides, this step did increase our production and thus proved to be beneficial for us. But now, very adverse effect is taking place due to its use. Even it has effected our production, you see that when the nature has created this earth, it has also created pests which are helpful to us as also pests which are harmful to us. Due to these pesticides the friendly pests are dying in more numbers than that of the harmful pests thereby causing damage to our crops and making adverse effect on the production.

The second thing is that pesticides are used so extensively that people in every house, are using them, whether big farmers or small. Our people are not so literate farmers are also not literate and the persons spraying the pesticides are also not literate. These have also made an

adverse effect on our health, it has also been observed that whenever there is any kind of dispute in a family, people take resort to using pesticides and thereby committing suicide. Not only the pesticides but you must have seen that in the beginning, DDT powder was also sprayed at a large level in our country. In America when a test on Human body was conducted, they found that 11 per cent DDT element is in the human body. It is effecting our body more extensively, which is ultimately causing health hazards.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now a days Phillipines has strictly prohibited the use of pesticides in the country. Developed countries like Canada and America, though not completely but limited its use, but such steps have not been taken in our country. Although the subsidy given on production, distribution and spraying of the pesticides has been stopped. So our country is also heading towards the fact that use of pesticides should be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today's need is that appropriate pesticides should be identified. But the fact is that now-a-days appropriate pesticides are not being identified. So many pesticides have come into the market that what to speak of the farmers, even a technical person cannot identify the right pesticide. I was minister in Bihar for eight years. I made a lot of efforts to see that appropriate pesticides could be identified as even spurious Pesticides are also being used, but I could not succeed in this effort of mine.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I fully agree to the fact that this cannot be prohibited completely but at least fully equipped laboratories at the Commissioner level could be established in order to check the pesticides and they may be allowed to be used only on being found appropriate after the test. Today Integrated Pest Management Programme (IPM) system has been evolved but no large scale provisions have made in this regard. I request that under this system arrangement should be made in such way that farmers may be trained about the fact that which pests are beneficial to us and which are harmful to us. Although it is a technical aspect, only the people from agriculture stream, who have been imparted education in this field can understand this, but the farmers can be trained as to how to get rid of these pests in a natural way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the evolution of planning era or Green revolution the pesticides are being used at large scale but we have got the report, on the basis of which I would like to say that even previously, there were agricultural operations in your country, and that too without using such pesticides and there was high production. At that time, the farmers knew as to when the fields are to be ploughed, when the seeds are to be sown and which is the right time to kill the pests. They had been using the

neem cakes and certain other things to kill the pests and thus we were able to protect our crops from pests. We support the Bill and its amendment thereby, presented by you, but we expect that the IPM scheme initiated by you, should be accepted extensively in the country to ensure that farmers could be benefitted. We had the high yielding crops in the country even before the planning era. You may kindly initiate such system to train the farmers so that they could protect their crops from the pests. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, five Bills are listed in today's Order Paper for consideration and passing. To enable as many Members as possible to participate in the debate and the passing of the Bills, the House may sit late today. I hope the House agrees.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : How can you pass all the five Bills after 6 o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are all small Bills. They are all one-line or two-line Bills.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They are not one-line or two-line Bills. There is Direct-Tax Laws Bill and the Companies Bill. They are important Bills. Up to Sugarcane Control Bill, it is okay. Beyond that, please do not take up other Bills today. It would not be proper. Those important Bills cannot be discussed within half-an-hour or forty minutes. We discussed it in the Business Advisory Committee meeting and said that we require two hours for them. It has been approved. It does not mean that we sit up to 10.30 p.m. or 11 p.m. and pass them. Therefore, on behalf of my Party, I would say that please take up for consideration up to Sugarcane Control Bill today. Even if it means sitting beyond 6 o'clock, we can accommodate them. But after that, please do not take up other Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are now considering the Insecticides Bill. Then comes the Food Corporations Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : After this Bill, the Food Corporation Bill come followed by Sugarcane Control Repeal Bill. After the Bill regarding sugarcane, there should not be any business today. The rest of them may be taken up tomorrow. How can we do like that, Sir? Bills like Indian Companies Repeal Bill and Direct-Tax Laws Repeal Bill cannot be passed just like that. This is not the way to pass. We have agreed in the BAC that they will be discussed in two hours. So, passing upto Sugarcane Control Repeal Bill will be all right today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will sit upto the passing of Sugarcane Control Repeal Bill Shri Ravi Prakash Verma may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, sometime back, I had read in the newspaper that many farmers have committed suicide due to the extensive damage to their crops by the use of spurious and adulterated insecticides. It is owing to this only that the government have introduced this Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 in the House. The purpose of this Bill is to put a check on the sale of spurious pesticides which have a rough market share of approximately Rs. 200 crores, and is significant from agriculture point of view.

It is very strange that when very ambitious targets have been fixed for enhancing the production of crops to meet the increasing demand of fulfilling the needs of 100 crores of population, sub-standard pesticides are being sold in the market. It has given a set back to our agriculture based system. The way the farmers have committed suicides have made it very clear that the farmers of India thrives on low investment and he cannot afford to bear the losses which range from 30 per cent to 70 per cent in some cases. It is a very clear that if we are to achieve our targets of agriculture production, then a very judicious and sensible use of resources has to be made. The Insecticides (Amendment) Bill introduced by the government is a step in the direction of removing the lapses in the earlier Acts.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, right now, many hon. Members who have spoken earlier have said that there is a separate mechanism for producing insecticides. The industrialist set big brands for their products to bring into market and the government issues licences for that hence there is a mechanism of their sale and marketing through which the products are distributed in controlled manner. Is it not surprising that even after falling so many tests, the trade of spurious insecticides which have a market share of approx. 200 crores, is still thriving and the most peculiar thing is that they are continuously available in the market. I feel that it is a very important question and the government must pay attention to it. I would like to tell that the price mechanism of pesticides affects the mode of production to a great deal. The farmer has to share an extra burden of 26 per cent due to the imposition of 18 percent of excise duty on such an important item of agriculture and it is where the manufacturers of spurious pesticides enter the market. The farmer has to buy cheap material out of compulsion and the dealer provokes the farmer to buy duplicate and unbranded pesticides. The evil after-effects of these pesticides need no mention. Pesticides are very important agricultural input. On one hand the government is giving subsidy while on the other hand it has consistently imposed heavy excise duty on them. You must seriously think over the issue of providing



[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

good quality pesticides at fair prices so that they do not buy spurious pesticides.

Second important thing which has been mentioned is that despite repeated sampling and their failing the tests and imposing heavy penalties on defaulters, spurious pesticides are continuously available in the market. I have a cutting of newspaper with me through which it is clear that spurious pesticides worth crores of rupees was sold but still no punishment has been given to the producers of these spurious pesticides owing to our faulty legal procedure and government machinery and the method of their functioning. While on one hand manufacturer of the branded pesticides have to suffer due to the production of spurious pesticides, on the other hand farmers are also suffering on this account. And the persons who are accountable for all this irregularity do not have to face any problem.

The hon. Minister has made no accountability of the distribution and regulatory system. Today, both the seller and the producers are held accountable for the present state of affairs. The spurious produce is continuously available in the market, the controlling officer should be made accountable for the continuous availability of spurious pesticides.

The Member who spoke on this issue prior to me has observed that pesticides is a timely produce. The pesticides have to be used for a short span of time to bring about favourable crop production and when there is a need to buy these pesticides on the part of farmers, there is an acute shortage of good quality pesticides in the market and they are not easily available and it is when the spurious pesticides are introduced in the market. Today, such is the scenario that a sample is passed in one laboratory and it fails to do so in another. Second thing is that today, there is a lot of work load in the laboratories. Besides, the complaints regarding the prevalent corruption in laboratories are also received. It is alleged that the producers of spurious products go and strike a deal with the laboratory personnels. They somehow manage to get their samples okayed through manipulation. It is my submission to the government that it should establish many classified laboratories at the 'Mandal' level so that no problem may take place at the level of sample testing.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI . RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : I am concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

Alongwith it, one more thing I would like to say that the graph report of the sample tested which reflects about

its sanctity and farmers fairness should also be submitted, alongwith the laboratory test report. It is a very important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the government towards it and a many Members who had spoken earlier have said that our targets about agriculture. . .  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you supporting the Bill?

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : I am supporting the Bill but conditionally.

[Translation]

More attention should be paid towards the objectives of the Bill. No provision has been made to deal with the clerical problems and the problem of the system. Normally, the failure of the policies of the government and its inability to achieve its objectives is due to these reasons only.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Hon. Chairman. Sir, I rise to support this Bill. . . (Interruptions)  
First, you please listen to what I say. There are some lacunae in the Bill but the hon. Minister has brought this Bill to protect the humanity, the friendly pests and insects and the interests of the farmers from the use of spurious pesticides. This Bill also have provisions to deal with the import, sale, marketing and consumption of the pesticides.

In the Schedule to the Bill, it is also mentioned that the testing time limit of samples of the pesticides has been increased from 20 days to 30 days. It is a right provision. The time limit for committing the first offence has been increased from a minimum of Rs. 10,000 to Rs 50,000. The fine for committing second offence has been raised from 15,000 to 75,000. The minimum fine of Rs. 500 has now been revised upto Rs. 5000 alongwith the provision of six months of imprisonment which can be given alongwith the fine. The fine for committing first offence has been revised from a minimum of Rs. five thousand to Rs. 25 thousand and provision has also been made for imprisonment also. In all it can be said that the hon. Minister has tried, from every point of view, to inflict punishment to the producers of spurious pesticides.

Alongwith it, the provision has also been made for setting up special courts with the consent of the High Court to do away with the problem of delay in the disposal of cases. But I want to submit that it is for you to decide that whether the powers given to the inspectors can be delegated to some higher authority under this Bill. But the intention of this Bill is definitely good. I think that every Bill has a positive as well as negative side associated with

it. When I was in the opposition, even I had a tendency to find faults with a Bill but now when I am a Member of the Ruling party, I can realise the truth . . . (Interruptions) It is the problem, it is this tendency which harms our interests as such we must exercise control to check this tendency, hence hon. Minister has brought this Bill. This Bill is indeed a good Bill, hence you should not consider it with emotional attitude. We should welcome this Bill. I, on my own behalf and behalf of my party, support this Bill wholeheartedly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate is on Insecticides Amendment Bill. A law was enacted in 1968. Supreme Court had found some loopholes in the Bill and Hon'ble Minister has brought the bill to remove those loopholes. Farmers use insecticides on a large scale. In early times people used to protect plants from insects by pouring ash or spraying kerosene on the plants. But since the development has taken place in science and technology, people are using insecticides rather recklessly. Insecticides are used within the surface and they are also sprayed on the crop. Two types of germs affect the plants. The first one are those which are visible while the second one are those which are invisible. These germs destroy the crops. Normally there is bumper crop of cotton, but sometimes germs affect them and the entire crop may get destroyed within two to four days and it ruins the farmers. As a result of it he commits suicide. Sometimes it so happens that germs come with high velocity wind and destroy the crops. Generally there is bumper crop of potato, but when it is affected by germ called *Labralite*, entire crop gets destroyed in two or three days. The crop can be saved by spraying insecticide two or three times. Similarly Elderin powder is used to prevent the effect of termites. Germs living in the sub surface area are killed by spraying gases in the plant roots.

Hon'ble Member Mr. Swain has said that these drugs are being used recklessly. Organic phosphorus, which is toxic, is used in cereals, vegetable and fruit crops. Few traces of toxic elements, remain in these fruits, vegetables and cereals. After we consume these commodities, parts of the toxic elements also goes in our body. Scientists have confirmed the facts after thorough research. This affect human health adversely. It also affects our physical health as well as the taste of our food. We can find out the use of insecticides if we just taste that commodity.

Crores of peepal and sisum trees have got dried up in Bihar. Farmers are becoming poorer. After examination, it was found that the roots of the trees were affected by germs. Similarly coconut trees in Kerala were affected by germs and it destroyed large quantity of crops. Vegetables and fruits like brinjal and mango get affected by an insect

called 'Madhuva'. If this insect infects the plant, not a single fruit remains on a tree. Therefore, insecticides have to be sprayed on these plants.

My suggestion is that all insecticides, on which research is being done, should be examined to ensure that they do not affect human body adversely. It should be ensured that the insecticides should be able to kill the insects but they should not affect the person who is consuming. It is possible only after the proper research and examination. Farmers use insecticides in all the crops, fruits, vegetables and cereals etc. Earlier, germs were not such big problem. Ashes were sprinkled on brinjal and it remained safe from insects. But now such visible and invisible germs have appeared that they destroy the trees right at their roots. I suggest that insecticides should be thoroughly examined and proper analysis should be done on its production so that germs are killed but there is no ill impact on our body. Farmers buy the insecticides in great enthusiasm and sprays it but later he finds that the insecticide was spurious. For this a provision was made that rules should be implemented strictly and penalties should be imposed. Businessmen trade on large scale and sell spurious drugs. They make lakhs of rupees, earn huge profits and when penalty is imposed on them it is as little as Rs. 5000. What they have lost? On the contrary, they made a lot of money. Therefore, the money penalty provision should be kept there but there should be provision for imprisonment in every clause. But such provision is there only in a few clauses. They sell drugs of Rs. one lakh and even if they are penalised for Rs. 5000 they are still able to make a profit of Rs. 95,000. Cash penalty will not have much impact while imprisonment provision will surely have some impact. Farmers buy the products of established companies in the belief that the drugs would be of good quality. But when the same drug is sprayed it proves spurious. For example, earlier, people used to say that Ditenum 45 prevents potatoes from getting infected but now, during winter it is only this germ which is destroying the entire crop. Earlier people used to apply 'Haria Kadla' to avoid the ill impact of evil sight but in the present age when research and scientific technology all are available, the need for crop protection and conservation has increased.

Drugs have become very expensive, therefore, the government should ensure that the farmers get good quality of drugs at reasonable prices, and they don't have to buy spurious drugs. A provision has been made for it and we support it only in the hope that good work will be done in this direction. We get angry and feel pained only when no adequate attention is paid to the farmers. Farmer invest everything including his labour, capital and seed and they also spray insecticide drugs but when the same drug is found spurious and results in the destruction of his crops.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Farmer really has to suffer for this. We have seen that in various states farmers are getting disappointed and resorting to suicides. Such type of complaints are being received. The situation is tragic for the farmers. At the time of the crop production too, these drugs should be examined and it should be ensured that they are not harmful for human beings but should be able to kill insects. Spurious drugs production should not be allowed. Insecticides should be cheap. Government and others should also provide proper information to farmers so that they can make proper use of insecticides and could protect and conserve their crops and plants. It is better to grow crops without the help of pesticides or chemical fertilizers. But our first issue is to get cereals of good quality. We are committed for food security. We also want that our country of 100 crore people should be self-reliant in the matter of food. We will not have to depend on others. In my opinion, Mr. Yerannaidu had made great efforts to present this bill in the House and had also raised a few questions in this connection. He has really tried hard to compel the government to take steps in this direction. I, therefore, thank Shri Yerannaidu ji and I also thank the government for taking steps in this direction.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI. K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I welcome this Bill wholeheartedly because all these amendments are suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

In the year 1997, the farmers suffered a lot because of the present Act and so many farmers committed suicide due to spurious pesticides. This legislation was passed in the year 1968 and after 32 years now we are proposing these amendments. We can understand that because all these 32 years there was no attack of these pests on our crops. That is why nobody took keen interest in these amendments.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, parts of Punjab, Maharashtra and everywhere, after the pest attacks, the farmers have been suffering a lot. They have to borrow from private lenders after their crop failure and they are not able to repay that money. They have to pay huge interest on that amount. That is how, this issue came to light and that is why the Andhra Pradesh Government has taken one month to go through the present legislation to suggest what are the important amendments that are required in the interest of the farming community.

At present, this Act is not useful for the farming community, it is useful only for the manufacturing

community. For the purposes of administration and implementation of the Act, we are facing certain difficulties. That is why, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed all these amendments in the year 1997. Though this Amending Bill has been proposed by our hon. Minister three years after it was passed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. In the same august House, I raised this matter nearly ten times. This Bill has the support of all the parties. So, on behalf of all the parties I support this and thank the hon. Minister for bringing this legislation. By amending Section 31 of this Bill, we can control the spurious pesticides and insecticides and empower the State Governments for speedy trial of cases. We can also punish the offenders and thereby restrict them from manufacturing spurious insecticides.

After repeated requests made by the Andhra Pradesh Government the hon. Minister was kind enough to bring these amendments. So, once again, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill to this House. The whole credit for this goes to our present hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sunderlal Patwa. The whole country will feel very happy when this Bill becomes an Act as the present Act has no power to restrict the selling of the spurious insecticides and the offender, after 20 days, can again sell all these spurious insecticides. With the help of this legislation, we can control, to some extent, the sale of spurious insecticides. I would like to draw the attention of the House that even the present Act to control adulteration is not able to control adulteration as it is going on in the country. We have to take measures in that regard also. Anyway, I once again thank the hon. Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to give a piece of information to hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Minister, last year paddy crop was destroyed by pests in Uttar Pradesh. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of U.P. Shri Divakar Vikram Singh could not save paddy crop in his farm. I am also a farmer and we could not save our paddy crop. Agriculture Scientists have also conducted research, but they could not save paddy crop. I request hon'ble Agriculture Minister that he should look for measures to save paddy crop.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my support to the Pesticide (Amendment) Bill, 2000 that has been introduced by Shri Sunder Lal Patwa ji. I, on my behalf, and on behalf of my party, Shiv Sena extend support to this bill. For this, I would like to give some suggestions. Though it appears to be trivial but it is of great importance. Whether he is a big farmer or a small peasant in this country, whosoever want

to increase the land productivity, certainly needs pesticides. Our House is very lucky that a person like Sundar Lal Patwa ji is in charge of Agriculture Ministry Patwa ji who has served in small village Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, District Council and Legislative Council and had been Chief Minister is now serving the nation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Patwaji because he himself is handsome, his thought is also noble, he is also son of the soil and for good work there is no need to convince him. There cannot be two different opinions that whatever rules and regulations will be formulated in agriculture ministry will be certainly good. I want to give some suggestions regarding this bill because I am also a representative of farmers. When a small peasant of a village goes to the market to purchase pesticide, he is not aware of which fruit, flower, vegetable and plants are suffering from what diseases and what pesticide has to be sprayed on them. When he goes to the market to purchase pesticide, shopkeeper gives him pesticide of his choice. That is why I think that it is essential that peasants should be provided with the technical guidance. Through this amendment bill subsection (3) of section 22, subsection (1) of Section 24, Subsection (3) of section 29, subsection (2) of section 31 are going to be amended. It is very essential for the farmers to know as to what pesticide is to be purchased for which type of diseases. There is no such facility available to him in the market. Four persons are concerned with it. Manufacturer of the pesticide, second is the agency that supplies such pesticide and third is the shopkeeper that supplies pesticide to the farmer.

My submission is that there is need to impart training and guidance to the farmers about different pesticides. These days duplicate and outdated pesticides are available in the market. Farmer should know as to what pesticide is required to them.

Last year, in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, cotton plants were attacked with a disease. Farmers sprayed pesticide twenty-twenty five times. But that was not effective on that disease. Farmers were ruined and they committed suicide by drinking that very pesticide. This has happened in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

This year, in Maharashtra cotton, papai and banana was attacked by a new disease called virus and farmers suffered a lot. Pesticides were not effective on this disease. It is very essential that pesticides should not be outdated and farmers should have technical knowledge about spraying them. That is why the government should make such arrangement that farmers may get complete knowledge about the pesticide.

The government should see that how much pesticide is required by the farmers and how much is being produced.

Today Farmers are required to be inclined towards bio-fertilizer which is a new technique and besides this the government should also ensure that farmers may get good yield by using minimum quantity of pesticides. The government should also ensure that human beings and animals are not adversely affected by the pesticides. When farmer spray pesticide on vegetables, it should not affect human beings who are consuming them. It is a point to ponder upon.

I extend my thanks to Patwa ji and want to say that pesticides should be of good quality so that these eliminate unwanted insects and may not harm useful insects. I would like to request Agriculture Minister only this that only harmful insects should be destroyed and not farmers. With extending my thanks to the Minister, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to all those hon'ble MPs who have showed their keen interest through Participation in large number on a small amendment and I express my gratitude to them and welcome their suggestions. By and large hon'ble Members have welcomed the amendment bill and some shortcomings have been pointed out.

I specially extend my thanks to Kharabela Swain, Shri Ramjivan Singh Ji, Shri Reddy. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Please extend your thanks to the Members of this side.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : I would specially like to thank Raghuvansh ji. He has tried to invite attention towards a seminal problem. I will not go in detail. Shri Yerrannaidu and the government of Andhra Pradesh have drawn attention towards it and have made efforts for these things. I accept all those suggestions that have been given by the Members. Shri Suresh Jadhav ji has praised more, so I give him more thanks. Being a common worker I tried to understand and learn...(Interruptions) Beauty is the gift of god. What should I say. When god bestows beauty, that comes automatically.

We had the problem of population growth. It created the need to increase the productivity of food grains. When respected Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was our Prime Minister, America had stopped the supply of wheat under PL480 at the time of war with Pakistan. At that time there was a challenge before the nation. Where ever process of maximum yield of science and technology was adopted in the world, we adopted those measures and increased our production. At that time we specially adopted Mexican wheat, hybrid seeds insecticides and pesticides. I would thank the farmers of the nation that they faced the

[Shri Sundar Lal Patwa]

challenge and overcome the difficulties. He said that this nation has capability to be self reliant. Hybrid seeds, insecticides, pesticides, deep ploughing and intensive irrigation are some of the processes required for it. That was need for the time. Those who brought these processes their intention was noble but these process are like age. Their age is less than the age of Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. All these systems have evolved over a period of time, some in 25 years, some in 50 years and some in 100 years.

Perhaps we have forgotten that in our country people are engaged in agriculture for the past 5000 years. At that time there were no insecticides, pesticides and hybrid seeds. We had our own seeds and our own systems of farming. You have mentioned these things also.

Some of my colleagues have mentioned that such sort of research should be conducted so that the insects harmful for crops should be destroyed and insects beneficial for crops may not be affected in any way. Besides, there should not be any ill-effects on human beings. How is it possible? The life of chemical based fertilizers and man made insecticides is very short and that too at experimental stage.

17.00 hrs.

A mention has been made about bio-chemicals, bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides I would like to remain alive till the day when instead of chemical fertilizer, insecticides and pesticides, bio-friendly parasite measures will be used. We are concentrating our attention towards these measures though there is no scarcity of any kind in production. One of our colleagues Shri Kharabela Swain has said that people are ready to purchase that production technique by giving thrice the actual cost in which chemical fertilizer, insecticides and pesticides are not used. That technique not only helps in increasing production but also contributes to good taste and flavour in the produce. The modern technique looks good for sometime and we think that we are doing right thing but that is not a permanent measure. Therefore, as long as old methods are not established and unless scientists and scholars of today get recognition, we will have to depend on this system. This was the objective of the Integrated Pest Management Training Programme also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Rajo Singh has made a very impressive speech but I am compelled to say that he has not read the Bill at all. He is saying that particular provision is not there in this Bill while I say that it contain all these provisions. In this Bill, there is provision to arrest and punish producers and factory owners. These provisions

were not there till 1968. I was not the Minister at that time but whosoever was the Minister at that time, they made this provision but Supreme Court found fault in it saying that an attempt has been made to insert two clauses in the Bill, restriction of which is beyond the legislative competence of the Government. I would like to assure hon'ble Members that had they given any suggestion to check it then I would have welcomed it.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this context I would like to say that the concerned officers are taking samples which are being checked and examined. Samples have failed as they have not been found up to the mark and the spurious pesticides are constantly available in the market. Does it not reflect any laxity on the part of the administration? Provision should be made in this regard in the Act.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I fully agree with you and if I am asking you this thing then I am not doing any wrong thing. I would like to know whether our examining officers, testing laboratories and judges are not reliable and competent? If there is some defect in our base itself and if there is any measure or suggestion to remove that defect, I shall welcome it and support that and I shall try to adopt them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, but the provision of law and punishment is for exceptional cases. If evil spread everywhere in society then law will become ineffective and there is no measure to check it. Reform takes place only from society. Administration and Power are for exception. The provision of inflicting punishments is more of an exception than rule. If everybody keeps on flouting laws then both the administration and the provision of punishment become useless. I am of the view that at present it is not so. The number of disciplined persons is more that the presons who create disturbance in society. This is the reason why this country is still stable and democracy is flourishing in this country for the past 50 years. We have faced many challenges and we will grow strength to strength and will be established among the galaxy of the great nation of the world. No one should have any doubt about it. I have tried to amend this Bill for one small purpose. Hon'ble Members have broadly supported this. Instead of naming each Member, I thank all of them. Some of the hon'ble Members have raised their finger on the basics of the Bill that the system is faulty and it is not complete. I think that the complete system is the one on which our cultivation has been based for five thousand years. We will have to adopt that system while encouraging it. I want that all Members should support this Bill and with this request I again thank all hon'ble Members and seek their support to the Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has brought a very good bill before us. This Bill has three objectives—first, to check the ill-effects of pesticides on human beings, secondly, to make the punishment severe for guilty persons and thirdly, early disposal of such cases so that the same may have salutary effect. These objectives are very good and these will definitely be achieved. But alongwith this, he has said one more thing in his speech and that too in an apt manner. He has mentioned about biological control of pests which is a good thing but in this connection I would like to know whether the Government is providing the amount required for biological control of pests? This is my first question. My second question is that we have also acquired the technique of genetic control of pests and it is our good luck that this kind of experiment is being done in Jorhat National Laboratory.

There are several species of trees in the Himalayas which do not get infested by pests. The genes of those plants are being isolated and injected into the seeds of different crops which in turn makes these crops resistant to the pest. Such kind of experiments can prove to be the harbinger of new revolution and for this huge amount of money is required today. Hence, there is a need to pay attention towards that. Whether the Central Government is providing the required amount for completing this work, this is what I would like to know.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I welcome the suggestion of hon'ble Patil Saheb. My reply to it is only that which I had given just now that I welcome all the latest and appropriate techniques which have been proved to be useful for us. I agree that the budget allocations for biological control of pests is not sufficient but its reason is that there is not much awareness about its ill-effects. Secondly, I can say that various lobbies are so powerful that perhaps it will take sometime for the unorganised sector to stand. I agree with you that at many places, several kinds of experiments have been conducted. Recently our Ministry had organised an Indigenous Science Fair (Swadeshi Vigyan Mela). In that, it was told that if the cow dung and urine of cow is put in its horn is pitched beneath the earth at certain position of stars on a certain date and after sometime if it is sprayed after mixing it with water then all types of those insects which are harmful to crops will be destroyed and beneficial insects will remain intact. This experiment is very old one, but at present it is in experimental stage. It is not publicised. Perhaps time will come soon when people will accept indigenous science and also accept its importance and virtues.

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968, 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 clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.12 hrs.

## FOOD CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up item number 13.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into Consideration."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The Food

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Corporation of India Act was passed in the year 1964. The main purpose for which this Act was enacted in those days was to trade in foodgrains and foodstuffs. In this connection, Section 13 of the Act is quite relevant. It says :

"It will promote, by such means as it thinks fit, for production of foodgrains and other foodstuffs and to take up trade and sending foodgrains and foodstuffs to different people."

In discussing the amending Bill today, we have to go into the details for which this amendment was necessitated. The foodgrains are meant for the people. Buffer stocks are to be maintained so that people do not suffer. For this purpose, Government of India have decided that buffer stocks would be maintained in a different manner. It had been indicated that in April the wheat stocks should be 40 lakh tonnes and that of rice should be 118 lakh tonnes; in July the wheat stock should 143 lakh tonnes and that of rice should be 100 lakh tonnes and in October the wheat stock should be 116 lakh tonnes and the rice stock should be 65 lakh tonnes.

In January, it has been indicated that it should be 84 lakh tonnes of wheat, and 84 lakh tonnes of rice. What was the necessity? It was necessary because keeping in view the Rabi and Kharif crops, it was decided that procurement of buffer stocks would be decided. So, in July only, the maximum buffer stock has been indicated, that is, 243 lakh tonnes. Over the years, it has been seen that the Food Corporation of India, may be in its anxiety or for the purposes of squandering money or for allowing the rodents to take it away or to be misappropriated by human beings, had kept more buffer stocks than that was necessary. You may kindly see that as of 1.2.2000, the buffer stock was 325 lakh tonnes. It was not necessary.

17.16 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The Food Corporation of India, the Central Warehousing Corporation, which is a part of the Food Corporation, and the 16 Food Corporations of the States have been functioning in a different manner, and because of the different manner of functioning, there have been lot of difficulties.

As you are aware, the Minimum Support Price of foodstuffs is prescribed; along with it, incidentals are prescribed. Incidentals include transportation, loss etc. Taking into consideration the Minimum Support Price and the incidentals that are required, the Central Issue Price is decided. Therefore, the Government has decided that half the money of Central Issue Price will be charged

towards PDS. Now, over the years, what was happening is that the Food Corporation of India has been spending about 33 per cent, 35 per cent or 40 per cent as incidentals over the Minimum Support Price that is being given. The Government, in its welfare measures, has been deciding the Minimum Support Price from time to time so that the cultivators, the producers, are not put to jeopardy or difficulty.

The price of foodstuff is increasing; the Minimum Support Price is increasing, and even in the sugarcane, the support price is also increasing. As the price is increasing, the incidentals of the FCI are also increasing. There is no governing principle as to how the FCI has to be harnessed. That is why, it was thought necessary that there should be proper control by a neutral body. In the original Act, it may be seen at Section 34 (2) and (3) that the FCI would be appointing the auditors. You may kindly go through that Section. The accounts of the Food Corporation of India are to be audited by the auditors, and the auditors are appointed by the FCI itself. Now, because of mismanagement over the years, the FCI in its wisdom was appointing the auditors who toe their line because of which what was happening in the FCI was not coming into picture.

You may kindly recall, Sir, in 1995, the FCI's Annual Report was placed before the Parliament. After that, there has been no Annual Report at all. I tried to search out the Annual Report today, but I could not get it.

In the years thereafter, after 1964, the FCI Act was slightly amended to give more powers to the FCI for getting money from loans etc. You may kindly see Section 27 of the FCI Act wherein it has been amended for the purposes of carrying out its functions under this Act. It says, "The FCI may take advances against stocks of foodgrains of other foodstuff." As I said, apart from the buffer stock, they have been taking more stock so as to take the advantage of getting more advances from other banks or borrow money from other people. When an institution or an organisation or a corporate body takes advances or borrows money against the stock, which is available with it, it is necessary that the Auditor and the Comptroller General of India should have some say in the matter.

For that purpose—I am being very brief on this—this enactment has been made. This amendment has been brought so that some sort of a control would be exercised.

Sir, Section 13 indicates the functions of the Food Corporation of India wherein matters like purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of foodstuff and foodgrains and matters that are supplemental and consequential thereto are taken into consideration. Now, when matters, supplemental and consequential thereto

come, then the Food Corporation of India may say anything they like, and where matters supplemental and consequential to obtaining and storage of it is concerned, then what type of decision has been taken by the Management is required to be taken up by the auditor. If you have an auditor who has been selected by the Board of Directors, then he would definitely throw no light. In selecting the auditor, the old Section 34 says, auditors will have access to the papers, but they would not have the right to see. It has created problems. The Board of Directors of the Management for that matter may withhold some of the vital information required for that purpose.

Sir, I would like to give you one experience of mine. I was the Inspector General of Police. I resigned my job and within one year of my resigning my job, I was to be arrested in an agitation that I was leading. The Superintendent of Police who was to arrest me had been trained by me. He was embarrassed. He said, 'kindly come to the Circuit House'. I said, 'No. I will go to the police station along with the other agitators'. We went to the police station and food was arranged for us. I could not take the food. The Superintendent of Police, out of sheer courtesy, sat with me to take food. The rice served to us had more pebbles than probably rice. It was very difficult to eat. Jocularly I asked the SP, 'are you taking revenge on me?' He said, 'No, Sir. We had procured this rice from the Food Corporation of India'. I said, 'Let us strain this rice and find out how many pebbles are there'. We took a kilogram of rice and we strained it. We found that about 50 grams of small and big pebbles were there in one kilogram of rice! This is the reputation of the Food Corporation of India.

There is also a lot of Trade Unionism in the FCI. It also creates a lot of difficulties. The FCI must employ a particular group of people to transport the articles. Fortunately for the FCI, the rodents have a say in the matter! Rats and such other things eat away about five to six per cent of the foodstuff. Then, there is appropriation and misappropriation by human beings. All these things need to be verified by an independent agency, by a Constitutional authority like the Comptroller and the Auditor General of India. Otherwise, it would be difficult to work.

Now, I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly go through Section 34(i). It says, '...the balance sheet in such a form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India...' The Government of India would prescribe the balance sheet, the manner in which it has to be prepared. The Food Corporation of India cannot have a say in the matter and it has to be prescribed by the Government of India in consultation with the C&AG. That is the most important thing. Previously, the Food Corporation of India was deciding as to the manner in which they would prepare their balance sheet. Now, the format would be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the C&AG.

Sir, I would, through you Sir, like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 3 of the Amending Act. It says :

"The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of a Food Corporation shall have the same rights, privileges and authority in connection with the audit of Government accounts...?"

Now, we are taking away the powers of the FCI so far as the appointment of an auditor is concerned. I do not know why a redundant sentence has been included in clause 3. The redundancy is regarding 'any person appointed by him'. It means that the 'auditor' who has been appointed by the FCI may also be appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly look into these three to four words which say, 'any person appointed by him in connection with this.' I think, if we keep these words, then the FCI may, in its wisdom, try to influence the C&AG and indicate that such and such person should be the auditor. This aspect requires a little bit of thinking. Otherwise, we may again have to go in for an amendment later on.

Sir, now when we are thinking of this amendment, let us also think of certain subsidies that are being given to the FCI. For example, the levy sugar subsidy of rupees two crore. This money has been provided for in this year's Budget. I do not think it is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Sir, kindly give me a few more minutes. With your kind help only I would be able to formulate my ideas here.

Now, what is the necessity for a subsidy of rupees two crore in levy sugar? They are already getting a subsidy of Rs. 110 crore in sugar. This rupees two crore subsidy on levy sugar is not necessary. The FCI has been provided Rs. 25 crore in this year's Budget for running its functions. But in the Act itself it has been indicated that it would give a portion of its profit to be kept for security for different purposes. It has been indicated that a portion of it has to be kept. Section 33 says, 'allocation of surplus as reserve fund to which shall be created as portion of its annual profit'. When you are thinking of the annual profit of FCI, we are giving them money, but what type of action is FCI taking to create that reserve fund? Like all other PSUs, I think, the FCI also is going from bad to worse. It is now necessary that a separate agency, like the C&AG, should look into the working of the FCI. That is why, these amending provisions have been brought in. I fully support this Amendment Bill.



SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I fully support the proposed Amendment Bill. I think, the time has now come when amendment of this particular provision, that is amendment to section 34, has become extremely necessary.

Sir, without casting any aspersion on any individual of the FCI, the way the system is functioning, I very strongly feel—with my deep involvement as a trade unionist in the Central Warehousing Corporation and because of my close interaction with the employees of the FCI—that if there is any place where the CBI has to investigate, then the proper place is the FCI in order to find out as to what has happened in the FCI in the last few years.

Sir, the farmers, the agricultural workers of the country, the mute wage earners in the agricultural field are working day and night for producing food grains. That is being managed by our own system in the country. But things are taking a different direction.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a few areas. The provision of this amendment is related to Section 34. Now, why is it that today the Government, as well as we all feel that the C&AG should directly audit the whole affairs of the FCI? Why has it become necessary? Why are we not following the past practice where the FCI used to do their own audit which was supplemented by the C&AG? The reason is that the Government must have definite information and the Government must be convinced that something wrong is going on in the entire accounting method of the Food Corporation of India.

They do not have any basic accountability or responsibility. Food Corporation of India is facing two problems. First of all, it is not exactly a public sector company in the sense that it is not managed under the Companies Act. If this amendment had not been proposed by the Minister with a view to making this organisation accountable – I think the hon. Minister for bringing this – FCI would have been left free to go on playing, I use that word consciously, the kind of fraud that they have played for the last so many years; and we would not have been able to caught hold of them at any time.

My distinguished friend from BJP who initiated the discussion has said that he did not see any the Annual Report after 1995. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that in this year's Annual Report, the network and the functioning FCI is very casually mentioned in a paragraph, which I feel is not proper.

The accounting process of FCI relates to the following areas : (a) The stock; (b) the stock which is finally reported; (c) the price; (d) the distribution pattern; (e) the wastage; (f) transportation and loss occurred due to wastage in transportation; and (g) hire of godowns.

There is a provision to take other godowns on hire besides CWC. Do FCI have a uniform pattern or norm for signing lease deeds and for taking private godowns on rent? The norm varies from State to State. It happens in such a clandestine manner that I cannot explain it in this discussion. The Minister may inquire further into what happened in the past.

Transportation is another problem. I know of a case that took place in my region where a particular quantity of foodgrains was loaded in a truck and the quantity changed dramatically at the time of unloading of the truck. It was all done on the way. Connivance begins at the distribution point and extends up to the transporting point. This has been going on for long. Abundance of foodgrains in the country which is made possible by workers and agriculturists is being manipulated in this fashion. In whose interest is this being done?

A paper audit by C&AG is not enough in this case. I demand the hon. Minister to conduct a quarterly physical audit. If a quarterly physical audit is meticulously and mandatory done, huge quantities of foodgrains can be saved from being wasted and misused and they can be put to proper use. In many godowns, fresh stocks that arrive today are partly replaced by rotten stock within fifteen days. Once the wastage norm is fixed, it is maintained forever whether there is wastage or not; whether there are rats in the godowns or not. This has become a regular feature.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : As much quantity of foodgrains is wasted in the country as is produced by Australia as a whole.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am thankful to Dr. Nitish Sengupta for reminding me of this. It is there in my reference notes.

Hon. Minister was kind enough to grant foodgrains to Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. If the wastage norm had not been manipulated by the FCI authorities in their respective areas, we would have been able to take care of thrice the quantity of foodgrains required in these areas. Therefore, in addition to paper audit, a physical audit is extremely necessary.

The most vital point that I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to is protection of quality of foodgrains inside the godowns.

After all, the food stocks consumed by all of us – from children to the senior citizens. But its quality with total neglect or through manipulation is deteriorating in such a manner that I cannot explain it. I can give you an example. In my constituency, in North Malda, there is a block called Chanchal Block-II. The hon. Minister will be surprised that the Government of India assured a guarantee for the Mid-

Day Meals Scheme to the school children there. I say it with full authority that for 16 months under the Mid-Day Meals Scheme, the items including grains were not supplied to the school children there. After all, I was elected from there. When it was brought to my notice, I advised my party people to find out the exact position. What did they find? After demonstrating before the BDO just 15 days back, they came to know about it. They found a flimsy ground for not providing the children the grains.

The hon. Minister, Shri Tapan Sikdar must be knowing about it because he is from that district. Our people found that in connivance with some panchayat authorities and the dealers of the stock which was maintained, a deliberate plan was made not to respond to the requisition of the FCI in time and to replace these stocks to some open market. But when the people got agitated, somehow or the other, they managed to show the stocks with the rotten quality of rice which could not be consumed by the school children at that point of time. So, these kinds of things are going on. Even they are cheating the children in regard to their Mid-Day Meals Scheme!

Then, I referred this matter to the District Magistrate. I sent all the facts to the Government to take criminal action against those who cheated the school children. What I want to say is that these kinds of things are happening.

I want to tell the House that the network of this connivance is so huge that if you try to protest, more you become unpopular. Not only you become unpopular but you will also incur physical threat while moving in your constituency or travelling in that area. Such kinds of things are going on.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister not to merely think of passing of this Amendment Bill but also think in a wider perspective. He should see how an independent vigilance, how an independent surveillance on FCI could further be engineered from his side. It is because the name of the institution, FCI, itself implies that it is the custodian of the foodgrains which is essential for the PDS system and which is essentially required during the time of crises. We may produce more. We may give it to Cuba, we may give it to Iran I do not mind. You improve your international diplomacy. But if the stock manipulation which is going on in the name of waste is not stopped, nothing will come out. The C&AG may only give you their findings on financial audits. They may give their findings on cost analyses. But what is most important is the quarterly physical audit of the stock. Unless it is done by an independent mechanism, I think, whatever commitment may be done by the Agriculture Ministry, whatever commitment may be given by the Prime Minister to the august House for the abundance of the foodgrains and all other things, nothing will move forward because there will be no parity between

the stock and production, between the requirement of the country and the supply.

Therefore, with these words, I humbly submit to the hon. Minister to kindly apply his mind on this regard and do everything possible. He should talk to the employees of the FCI, cutting across the party lines, affiliation and union. They are not here to frustrate his cause. They are here to help him. They may also reveal to the hon. Minister some information which may be very serious in regard to the future of the FCI.

So, again I would request the hon. Minister that besides amendment of this Act, he should think of an independent surveillance and vigilance on the physical stock checking of the FCI at the same time.

With these few words, I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Food Corporation of India was incorporated in 1964 the idea to see that the farmers get better prices and also the consumers get very reasonable distribution of price system.

After a long time, we find that the purpose with which we originally started to give the food at the prices which was fixed by the Government of India is not served. The main purpose of it was to ensure that there was no middlemen, there was no hoarding of the food grains and see that there is enough quantity of food grains which is released as and when required and which gives a better support to the distribution system.

Today you can see that there are about 62,000 to 63,000 people employed in the Food Corporation of India and its branches, and sub-zones have been widely expanded and the turn-over has also increased to nearly Rs. 33,000 crore. But unfortunately the purpose for which it has been originally started has not really been served. They never open the Purchasing Centre in time when the prices are fixed at the time of procurement by the Government of India and when the season is ready and the foodstuffs are available with the farmers. The middlemen do not procure for the millers at the right time, but later on they come into the picture and substantial quantity is bought through the middlemen but not direct from the farmer. That is why the farmer is not getting the price which he is supposed to get and the middleman is taking advantage. As hon. Members have already mentioned, at every stage of storage, distribution and transportation, there is a lot of inefficiency and corruption. That is the reason why they also had incorporated what is called the Vigilance Department. I would like to see the reports of the Vigilance Department also because we have substantial number of people in the Vigilance Department

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

also in addition to the staff for procurement and distribution of foodgrains. We have to see whether there are good quality storage facilities and whether there is wastage due to various reasons like dryness, negligence and damage caused by various insecticides or rodents and we should try to minimise the damage. That is why, I strongly urge that Section 34 of the Act should be amended and C&AG should have the authority to appoint auditors. Quarterly auditing is more important. Though they have also mentioned that they have monthly review of auditing, I am not sure how far it has been working properly. Real auditing from outsider will give you a lot of more information on the performance of this Food Corporation.

Some hon. Members have mentioned that we would have checks of the type of food that is supplied by the Food Corporation to the various Distribution Centres. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has mentioned about supply to the drought affected areas. It should be seen that the storage centre is located at such a place from where distribution much easier than transporting foodgrains to longer distances. That is what happened in case of sugar. They distributed sugar from Production Centre to some other places of long distance. They want to incur more expenditure on transportation and they want the burden should be added to that in spite of the subsidy given by the Government of India and they still want more subsidy. It is because of inefficiency of planning and implementation.

In regard to seeds, we have to see how the Warehousing Corporation and the Food Corporation have been operating together and how much support they are able to really give for the different types of storage of various crops like rice and wheat and what they are doing to properly store some of the fertilisers and insecticides connected with agriculture. We should be able to make correct assessment of all the operations and then only the main purpose for which this amendment has been brought forward would be served.

They also mentioned that last year they were not able to get the panel of auditors from C&AG.

I do not know they are able to say that. The panel is sent by the C&AG and out of this panel, they have to decide who is the best. In any case, I think, the C&AG will be able to get directly all the selected people to audit this and the Report should come to the House and to the Government. Then only will it serve the purpose. In any case, this requires a lot more of monitoring from the Government on whether the farmer is getting the proper price from the Food Corporations and whether the middlemen are purchasing all the stocks. Unless we know

these things, the purpose for which the Food Corporation was started will not be served. So, regular monitoring is very important.

I support the amendments suggested to Section 34 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964. I would suggest that the C&AG should be given full powers to conduct independent audit through their auditors and see that the Report comes to the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this amending piece of legislation is for a limited purpose. The main purpose is to make the FCI more accountable.

The existing system of auditing as per the Food Corporations Act of 1964 is provided for in Section 34 as :

"A Food Corporation shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare annual statement of accounts including the profit and loss account and the balance sheet . . ."

It further provides :

"The accounts of a Food Corporation shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under section 226 of the Companies Act, 1956."

This is what is prevalent in other public sector undertakings. The same system is being pursued by the Food Corporation of India. The Government now proposes to amend this Section by replacing the existing Section in regard to auditing of Food Corporation on India.

As per Section 34(2) of the amending Bill :

"The accounts of a Food Corporation shall be audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. . ."

Now, instead of the auditors selected by the Food Corporation of India, the C&AG would directly audit the accounts of the Food Corporation of India. I also agree with Shri Anadi Sahu on the point he has raised in connection with Section 34(3) of the amending Bill. It says :

"The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of a Food Corporation shall have the same rights, privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General has. . ."

Why has it been mentioned here as '... and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of accounts of a Food Corporation'? Why has it not been limited to

the C&AG? Why is the necessity of including this Section here while amending the existing provision of the Food Corporations Act.

I support this piece of legislation because as per the existing provision, there is multiplicity of audit and the Government wants to reduce it to one audit system. The Food Corporation of India was set up in 1965 by an Act called the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

It was set up under an Act of Parliament. What were the objectives of setting up the Food Corporation of India? The Food Corporation of India was set up for effective price support operation and for safeguarding the interests of farmers. That is the prime objective of the Food Corporation of India. The second objective of this is to distribute foodgrains throughout the country for the Public Distribution System and other schemes of the Government of India. The third objective is to maintain satisfactory levels of operation of buffer-stock of foodgrains, to ensure national food security.

These are the three objectives for which the Food Corporation of India was set up in 1965. We have to examine whether the Food Corporation of India has achieved these objectives or not.

Today, in our country, we have more than 1600 godowns. There are two types of godowns. One is covered godowns and another is CAP godowns. The FCI has hired godowns also. The number of hired godowns is more than what is owned by the FCI. The FCI has its own covered godowns, numbering 531. It has hired godowns numbering 810. It has 213 owned CAP godowns and it has hired CAP godowns numbering 124. Thus, the total number of CAP godowns is 337 and the total number of FCI godowns is 1678.

So, we have created enough capacity for storage of foodgrains. But the problem is that a large quantity of foodgrains is lying in the godowns from two to five years. The wheat lying in the godowns from two to five years is 29,08,587 tonnes and the rice lying in the godowns is 67,06,612. So, the quantity will be more than 96 lakh tonnes of foodgrains lying in various godowns from two to five years. If such foodgrains are lying in the godowns from two to five years, what will be the quality of foodgrains? Will it be fit for human consumption? Out of 31 million tonnes of buffer-stock of foodgrains that we have today in our various godowns, a substantial portion of foodgrains are lying for more than five years. Why are foodgrains lying in the godowns for more than three or five years?

Why does Food Corporation of India maintain buffer stock which is more than our requirement? We agree that we should maintain buffer stock for our food security, but there should be some minimum requirement. Since the food grains are lying for more than three or four or five years, the operation cost off storage and other costs increase.

As a result of that, the subsidy provided by the Government to benefit the people below the poverty line, is virtually spent on the storage and mismanagement of food grains. There is rampant corruption in Food Corporation of India which has been pointed out by various Committees. There exists not only corruption but also mismanagement in this Organisation. The handling contractors are engaged at a higher rate. The people at the management level, like District Manager, Regional Manager, Zonal Manager etc., are in league with the contractors. They adopt various corrupt practices. There was a proposal to abolish contract system in Food Corporation of India. Out of 631 godowns, in fifty per cent of the godowns direct payment system has already been introduced. When the United Front Government was in power, when you, Mr. Chairman, was the Food Minister, a proposal was finalised to introduce direct payment system in all the godowns in order to reduce expenditure and corruption to a certain extent. The contract system for handling food grains should be abolished and direct payment system should be introduced. If direct payment system is introduced in Food Corporation of India, then the operation cost and transportation cost could be reduced to great and the burden which the Government now wants to put on the poor of this country could be lessened.

Sir, Food Corporation of India is still violating the ILO Convention. The handling workers are carrying bags which weigh more than 50 kgs. Sometimes, they have to carry bags which are about one quintal in weight. As per the ILO Convention, workers should not be forced to carry more than 50 kgs of weight.

18.00 hrs.

In Food Corporation of India, the workers still have to carry more than 50 kgs. of foodgrains. Thus, the ILO Convention, which the Government of India has also ratified, is being violated. What is the policy that the Government of India has adopted? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pleased conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have spoken for just ten minutes. I have a number of points to make. I will continue my speech tomorrow.

[Translation]

I will speak on this tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Consent of the House was to sit till sugarcane Bill is passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How this Bill be passed today? It is already 6 o'clock. We can pass it tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was the consent of the House.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this should be passed today. You get it shortened a bit and we will also do likewise.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How will it be passed today? You get this passed tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Consent has already been achieved. It has already been consented that this bill be passed today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When it was consented. I am sitting here since morning.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : It was agreed upon that all three Bills would be taken up, but this is not possible in any condition. After getting this Bill passed, Sugarcane Bill, which is a small one and would not take much time should be taken up and rest of two bills be taken up tomorrow.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the consent of the House that till Food Corporation of India Bill and sugarcane control (Repeal) Bill is passed House will not adjourn.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When it was consented? I am sitting here since morning . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

The argument being put forth by the Government is that it is spending more than Rs. 8,000 crore on subsidy. It was more than Rs. 9,000 crore last year. This year, it has been reduced to Rs. 8,350 crore. Is ours the only country which is spending on subsidy? There are a number of developing countries, even the developed countries also, which are spending more on subsidy than what the Government of India is spending. As against the subsidy of Rs. 8,000 crore, the non-Plan expenditure of the Government of India is Rs. 2,50,000 crore. The Government of India is spending on subsidy for its 35 crore people. As a percentage of GDP, what per cent of subsidy is on account of food? It is only 0.64 per cent. It is much less than the money spent by a number of developed countries.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is not talking about the bill

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is very much relevant. We are discussing the Food Corporation of India Bill. Food Corporation of India was set up for public distribution and the Government of India is bent upon destroying this Public Distribution System. What was the

purpose of introducing the Public Distribution System? Its purpose was to provide foodgrains to the people of our country at a cheaper price.

For that, the Government of India will have to spend subsidy for foodgrains. If the Public Distribution System is destroyed then what is the necessity of having Food Corporation of India? Its main objective was to provide foodgrains to the poor and middle class people of our country at cheaper price. But the Government of India wants to destroy the Public Distribution System instead of strengthening it.

At the time of replying to debate on price rise, the hon. Minister referred to the policy, which was adopted by the United Front Government. What was stated at that time in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan? Sir, food and nutrition security had been recognised as one of the primary objectives of the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member has been speaking for long, you asked three times to conclude but there was no action. He is not listening to. Why junior and senior are treated differently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright Achariaji, now you put an end to your speech, Shri B.C. Khanduri.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am concluding. Sir, what will happen to food security of our people? That is the concern of the people of our country. I urge upon the Minister to re-consider the policy which has been adopted by the Government in regard to Public Distribution System by increasing price of foodgrains like wheat and rice for the below poverty line people as well as for the above poverty line people. The Government should reconsider this decision. The Public Distribution System should be strengthened.

The corruption and mismanagement which is there in the Food Corporation of India should be looked into and the entire stock of the Food Corporation of India should be subjected to physical audit. The financial audit is required by the C&AG. There should be some accountability of Food Corporation of India. But physical audit is also required to assess the food stock which is there in the various godowns of Food Corporation of India.

Sir, the Government should also try to minimise the operational cost of the Food Corporation of India. It should also reduce the demurrage charges and the loss which is putting burden on the people of the country. The Government should also try to improve the functioning of Food Corporation of India by reducing its operational cost.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support Food Corporation of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000. It is a matter of happiness that to improve working of Food Corporation of India and to reduce wasteful expenditure, Government have taken initiative. For that I congratulate the Government and hope that this procedure would be carried forward. The Food Corporation of India was constituted in 1964 and after sometime it started witnessing some problems and I hope that hon'ble Minister will try to remove them. It is a good thing that instead of two agencies only CAG has been asked to look after the accounts and audit of FCI. Accounting and monitoring system of CAG is also better. Even then I would like to draw attention of Minister that the Food Corporation of India is a very big organisation and the way our foodgrain stock has increased their responsibilities have also increased.

18.10 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair]

And due to this only besides corruption on large scale inefficiency has crept in it. It is very necessary to look into it. When will CAG start the audit and I am doubtful whether CAG would be able to remove all those shortcoming which have developed for such a long time. Therefore, I request that when whole work is handed over to CAG, a special audit team should be sent in the beginning and Food Corporation of India is audited in such a way that the accounts and audit of it till date could be looked into so that CAG should start work on a clean state after taking over the responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Achariaji said many things and has given figures also. To some extent I agree with him. The image of Food Corporation of India is not good. Accusations of corruption on large scale are levelled against them. I came from hilly area where cent percent foodgrain is sent by Food Corporation of India because very less foodgrain is produced there. Since 1991 when I came here after getting elected as Member of Parliament for the first time I have been raising this issue again and again that foodgrain supplied by Food Corporation of India and its agencies is of very poor quality. I had produced a sample in this House which was supplied by the Food Corporation of India in my area. In it all types of pebbles, stone, mud were present. It is necessary to do something to improve this system.

In the present circumstances when the concept of APL and BPL was started in that also there was no proper arrangement of foodgrains and due to lack of proper arrangement and large scale corruption foodgrain is not

reaching the people. This is matter of worry. Weight of foodgrain is also less. It is a general experience that in bag of 100 kg five to seven kg of foodgrain is found less. This fact has been raised again and again. FCI people say that they despatch in right quantity but becomes less in States. It is not fair to accuse each other. Finally, when the goods reach the ration shop, no shopkeeper would give foodgrain from his own pocket and therefore he gives less foodgrain to customers. It is also the reason for rampant mismanagement. Minister should also look in detail so that weight of foodgrain is correct and it is neat and clean. There should be surprise checks on the goods being despatched to the States so that guilty people are brought to book, good message reaches to masses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not taking much of time I am coming to the basic point. We have made APL and BPL system. With regard to foodgrains and with the Grace of God, favourable monsoon and hard work of farmers there is enough stock of foodgrains. We have to see how much foodgrain is to be kept in Reserve stock for emergency. Basu Deb ji has rightly stated that five year old foodgrain is rotting in godowns which is not even fit for consumption of animals. Therefore the Minister should see the arrangement which has developed in detail and present structure of FCI should be downsized, wastage checked and it should be ensured that customers get good quality foodgrains. A separate enquiry committee should be constituted and it should be seen how FCI can be developed into an Emergency Stock Holding Agency.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not doing so because we have lot of foodgrains for storage and lot more is to be procured from the farmers. We should not allow it to rot after procuring it from farmers. It will be better to offer higher price and other concessions to the farmers. It is not fair that we keep the foodgrain under tarpotin after getting from the farmers and allow to rot lakhs of tonnes of foodgrain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Minister of Food is a very capable and experienced Minister. He is doing a fine job in this subject and is taking good steps. He is making efforts not only to curb corruption but also to make the system efficient and I hope that improvement will definitely take place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill and thank you for giving me time to speak. With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which the hon'ble Minister has brought forward to amend the F.C.I. Act is a good step. In 1997, the stocks of FCI were checked. During the inspection, it was found that the FCI stocks shown in the

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

books did not tally with the actual stocks and there was a difference of lakhs of tonnes. From this point of view, the Government decided to get the inspection done by the C.A.G. as there was a big difference between the actual stocks and stocks shown in the books by F.C.I. After this, I do not know whether the C.A.G. has submitted its report or not but hon'ble Minister will tell this thing in his reply. The Hon'ble Minister has done a very good thing by introducing this amendment Bill according to which either the C.A.G. or any person appointed by the C.A.G. will check the stocks of F.C.I. Since the C.A.G. is already overburdened, therefore it is a good step that someone else will check the stocks of FCI on behalf of CAG and submit its report to Government within a specific period.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, F.C.I. was entrusted with the task of food procurement, food storage and food distribution. In this way, F.C.I. had to perform these three functions. Besides, it was to make arrangement for the following things also i.e. to provide minimum support price to farmers and to ensure that they get reasonable price for their foodgrains, to see that foodgrain is stored properly in various parts of the country, to ensure availability of foodgrain to control price in PDS, to ensure that there should not be any price rise in deficit states and to ensure proper distribution in all parts of the country through P.D.S.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the views, expressed by the hon'ble Members of both sides i.e. ruling party and the opposition, it is clear that there is a lot of mismanagement, corruption and irregularities in the F.C.I. At the time when enquiry was conducted it was found that the stock of rice was lying in the godown for the last 3-12 years. Some stocks were lying in the godown for the last 5 years, some 7 years, some 10 years and some 12 years. F.C.I. has one principle 'FIFO' i.e. first in and first out according to which it functions. It means that the foodgrains which are procured first will be distributed first. But after it is found that 9 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are lying in the godown for the last 5-12 years it is clear that the principal of 'FIFO' is not being implemented and there are irregularities in the F.C.I.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform on the basis of my knowledge that during the last 10-15 years lakhs of tonnes of fertilizer have got destroyed in the godowns of FCI and sugar too has also got destroyed. After observing the sacks of sugar it seemed that someone has painted it with coal-tar as it was lying unused for years. Thousands of tonnes of sugar are not consumable. In this way, the foodgrains are getting destroyed there. I would like to say that all the foodgrains whether it is wheat, sugar or rice, remain lying for years in the godowns of F.C.I. and are getting destroyed. At some places we saw that the sugar had turned into liquid and was kept in drums. In this

way the foodgrains of farmers get destroyed. The foodgrains which are procured from farmers get destroyed in the godowns of F.C.I. Earlier fertilizers were also stored in the godowns of F.C.I. but now there is no such provision. Fertilizers remained lying there and gradually it used to lose its potency. There is a need to improve the management of F.C.I.

You have kept the provision for 2% loss. I would like to know the total amount of loss on the basis of 2%. Similarly, there is transportation loss also. I would like to give one example as to how these losses occur. You have fixed the minimum support price of wheat at Rs. 5.80. You have claimed that you have increased the price of wheat procured from big farmers to Rs. 5.80 which was earlier Rs. 5.55. You have stated that the economic cost of wheat which was procured at Rs. 5.55 is Rs. 9/- I cannot believe this. There is no question of accepting that the economic cost of wheat procured at Rs. 5.55 is Rs. 9/- and the economic cost of wheat procured at Rs. 5.80 is also Rs. 9/- which is 1½ times more than the actual cost. In 1 kg. you have charged Rs. 3.20 as maintenance cost this is not an economic cost. What kind of management is this? In this way, this cost becomes 1½ times more than the actual cost.

Similarly, you have claimed that you are working for the welfare of the poor people. Why you are deceiving the people. The Government has fixed the procurement price of wheat at Rs. 5.80 but where there are no purchasing centres the farmers are compelled to sell wheat at Rs. 5.50. In open market the price of wheat is not more than Rs. 6/-. In Delhi and other big places it would be Rs. 7/- on papers.

He has said that we are only following the United Front Government. My submission is that he cannot work like United Front Government which was looking after the welfare of the poor people boldly. You are misleading the people. The foodgrains which were earlier sold at Rs. 2.50. per kg. You have increased that by 100% and made it Rs. 5/- per kg. It is never seen in the history of the world that prices have been increased by 100%. You could have increased the minimum support price from 2 to 15% but you have increased that by 100%. You have criticised the Congress Government for increasing prices though prices were not increased much. You have increased the price from Rs. 2.50 Rs. 5.00 instead you should have said that you will not provide foodgrains to those people who come above poverty line. You are saying that the economic cost of foodgrain, which are being given to people living above poverty line, is Rs. 9/-. You have increased the economic cost or Rs. 9/- which is not appropriate. This is wrong. You should have reduced this price by 10% but you did not do so. In the market wheat is available at Rs. 6/- whereas

you have fixed Rs. 9.00 for the people living above poverty line.

When the Government is selling wheat at Rs. 9 per kg. then why will the traders sell at a price less than Rs. 9/-. Today wheat is being sold at Rs. 6.00 per kg. in market. The price is less in those areas where there is no purchasing centre. Such a grave injustice is being done with poor people by doubling the prices but you are saying that you are giving foodgrains to poor people. Since you have increased the prices by 100%, I request you to increase the quantity also by 100%. If the poor people have to purchase foodgrain at Rs. 8.00, Rs. 9.00 and Rs. 10.00 then why they will go to fair price shops. You are trying to create misunderstanding among people by saying that you have given benefits to the poor people. You have done a wrong thing. You have shown that you have procured wheat at Rs. 5.80 per kg. this year though it was procured at Rs. 5.55 per kg. Prior to this, you might have procured wheat at Rs. 5.25 per kg. which you are selling at Rs. 5.00. The subsidy amount is only 25 paise or 30 paise. The reason for giving subsidy is mismanagement, pilferage and irregularities in FCI and not giving benefits to the poor. Thus giving wrong statements should be stopped. In the name of poor attempts are made to cover up the mismanagement and mishandling. They should state clearly that they have procured wheat at Rs. 5.00 and are now selling at Rs. 5.85 per kg. If we take this year's cost itself then the subsidy is 85 paise only. You can calculate yourself as to how much amount has been spent on giving subsidy to 6 crore families. You have increased the rate to Rs. 9/- for people living above poverty line. You have increased the price of sugar and you have also doubled the price of rice. You should say that you are not capable to give foodgrain to people living above poverty line. Why you want to link the subsidy of FCI with the poor people. FCI is a white elephant and there is a lot of corruption, wastage, transportation loot, mismanagement and pilferage in this organisation. All the evils plaguing FCI are being said to be due to the subsidy being given to the poor. But the facts are otherwise. Do not play with the interests of the poor.

18.28 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER, *in the Chair*]

It has never been heard that prices of wheat or rice have been increased by 100%. This Government is doing grave injustice to the poor. They are blaming the poor people for their irregularities, incapability and mismanagement. You are saying that you have given subsidy of Rs. 8000 crore to poor people, but I challenge this economic cost of Rs. 9/-. How will you prove that the economic cost of a thing which was procured at Rs. 5.00 is Rs. 9.00. Is it possible? Why traders are not selling wheat at Rs. 9.00 per kg. in the market. This Government is more

dangerous for the country and poor people than the traders. Charges are levelled against traders that they are profiteers. There is a law against profiteering and when they are selling a thing at Rs. 9.00 which was procured at Rs. 5.85, then how can you say that they are not profiteers—you should prove this. Is there any place in the world where a thing is sold at a price which is 1½ times more than its actual cost—this is profiteering. In this Article which was published in 'Navbharat Times' under the heading T.P.D.s, the hon'ble Minister has written that Public Distribution system is meant only for the poor people. You have also quoted wrongly that as per 1991 census it was estimated that there would be 16 crore families in India but now there are 20 crore families. Similarly, it was estimated that there were 6 crore families below poverty line but now there are 8 crore families. The Government have not issued red cards to two crore people and their names are also not there in the BPL List. The hon'ble members of both sides might have visited villages and have information that there is no provision for these two crore people who are living below poverty line. Why Government is not making any provision for them. As per the 1991 census upto the year 2000, the population during the nine years has increased by 2%. But the number of poor increases much more. These two crore people have not been issued red cards and their name are also not there in the BPL List. Further, a person whose annual income is Rs. 6000/- has been considered BPL and a person whose annual income is Rs. 6200/-, Rs. 6500 and Rs. 7000 has been considered APL. I would like to say that persons whose annual income marginally higher than those living below poverty line i.e. Rs. 6200, Rs. 6500, Rs. 7000, Rs. 8000, Rs. 9000, Rs. 10,000 are also poor. It is true that according to the formula they cannot be considered as people living below poverty line but since they are very close to BPL, they should be considered as BPL. The Government is giving foodgrain to people living APL at Rs. 9 though its price is Rs. 6/- in open market. Such a grave injustice has neither been heard of nor seen. I am unable to understand as to what kind of economics and arithmetics is this. You are saying that you are giving subsidy to poor people. This hypocrisy should end and the Government should not blame poor people for its own mismanagement and irregularities. The Government is unable to give foodgrains to the people living below the poverty line and claims that its philosophy is subsidy and reservation. The provision of reservation has been made in the Constitution because in our country discrimination is prevalent since thousands of years. Similarly the people who do not get two square meals, don't have clothes to put on and a house to live, cannot provide education and medical facilities to their children are considered as people living below poverty line. They have mortgaged their land but they do not have any documentary proof. The poor and the hard-working



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have a contribution in the making of India. The country is functioning on their hard work, the foodgrain is produced through their effort and factories are being run due to their hard work. The Government is withdrawing a subsidy being given to the poor, in the name of economic reforms and overcoming the fiscal deficit. It is not going to work and therefore I once again request the Government to do something for the poor and do not do injustice to them. Hundred percent price has been revised for the 10-20 kg. foodgrains being supplied to them at cheap rates. All these injustices are difficult to tolerate.

The amendments brought forward need to be further improved. With these words I conclude my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : He has brought this Bill to amend the auditing system of FCI.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You should do something to check the noise pollution in the House.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome the Food Corporation (Amendment) Bill introduced by the hon. Minister.

The Bill has been introduced to bring about a small change in the previous provisions. This Bill seeks to bring a simplicity in the accounts and also to put an end to the practice of double audit in which firstly the accounts were audited at the level of corporation and after that by the auditors of comptroller and Auditor general office as supplementary audit. It was a time consuming process. With the provisions of this Bill coming into force, I will not only save the time but also the expenditures involved in appointing the auditor and chartered accountants and other personnels involved in the process of double audit. It will save all those expenditures. In this regard, I would like to say that some irregularity had crept in the corporation in 1997-98. The principal Auditors could not be appointed in 1998-99 due to the non-availability of the panel of auditors from CAG office. They kept on waiting for the panel to be sent to them and that is why Auditors could not be appointed. Due to the reason, the final accounts could not be given last touches. There is not an iota of doubt that the passage of this Bill would lead to the simplicity in preparation of Audit Reports and in doing audit of accounts.

The FCI is incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 300 crores per annum. However, the hon. Minister is committed for doing away with the corruption and providing full benefits to the people living below poverty line. Just now my friends were talking about subsidy. I would like to tell that the quantity of the foodgrains available to the people living below the poverty line under the PDS scheme, has been doubled. Earlier they had to purchase the foodgrains of their

need from outside but now it has been doubled. Despite all this, the manner in which they are trying to politicise the matter of subsidy only shows that— "Jaaki Rahi Bhavana Jaisi, Prabhu Murat Dekhi Tin Taisi." I think that the hon. Minister is very much sensitive in this regard. He is as much concerned about the welfare of the poor as our other hon. Members. The reason why FCI has to incur losses upto Rs. 300 crores per annum is that when the bags full of wheat and rice are loaded in the railway wagons, some bags are found missing at the destination due to lack of clear indication in the railway receipt about the no. of bags and also due to the fact that 'sent to contents' is written on the railway receipt. When a private trader loads his material, he receives a clear receipt for his goods but the foodgrains or other material owned by FCI is in such huge quantity that Railway personnel are forced to take the pretext that they are lacking in staff as well as the advanced weighing machines to find out the exact weight of the foodgrains. Hence instead of doing the exact weight, they write down 'sent to contents' for it. Resultantly, some bags are found missing due to pilferage. Hence FCI should try to evolve such a method by consulting the Railway authorities by which this situation could be avoided. Hence how far the issue of Rs. 300 crores per annum loss to FCI is true, let the hon. Minister try to apprise us in his regard.

Many governments have since changed but none has either tried to check this thing or tried to find a solution for it. The FCI do not have instruments of measuring the weight of its foodgrains. Hence it is not possible to ascertain as to how many bags are being loaded into wagon and only on the basis of rough estimate it is said that 250-300 bags have been loaded into a wagon.

There is also a shortage of godowns to store the foodgrains. The bags full of foodgrains are kept in the open and they are covered with tarpaulin so that the rain water may not affect them. But the rats cause a great deal of damage and a lot of food grain is destroyed by them. Consequently a lot of foodgrain get spoiled in the godowns and it is not preserved properly. I have figures with me to support this thing. It was reported in a newspaper that foodgrain worth crores of rupees rots as it remains stored in the godowns for five to seven years. A similar incident had come to light. The hearing of a case took place in 1994. Three and a half lakh tonnes of paddy was procured in Punjab but the FCI did not have enough godown for their storage, hence it was kept in the compound of a black listed company. Consequently, all the paddy was spoilt and loss worth billions of rupees was suffered. Efforts should be made to avoid such kind of incidents.

Bungling also takes place at the time of purchase of bags by the FCI. The bags of substandard quality are

procured and the officers as well as the staff of the FCI are a party to it. This way, they cause loss to the FCI.

This Bill is a right step in the direction of bringing about clarity and simplicity in accounts. It will also lead to transparency in accounts. The Hon. Minister is fully committed to doing away with all the deficiencies which are prevailing in FCI and will try to overcome all of them.

With these words, I support this Bill and conclude.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for having given me time to speak a few words about the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000. It is a good piece of legislation. I have no words except to welcome these amendments. These amendments have been passed by Rajya Sabha also and this is absolutely necessary to monitor the activities of the Food Corporation of India. The scrutiny of its accounts is a must.

Sir, the Government has substituted four Clauses wherein they have proposed to take strict action against the guilty; wherein the C&AG has got every right to inspect the books of accounts pertaining to the Food Corporation of India. The C&AG can inspect its books any time and they have to be placed before the Parliament after these have been duly certified by the C&AG. It is a good step and I welcome these amendments.

In this regard, I would like to place before the Government that the Food Corporation of India was established with good intention to procure food, store it and transport it on behalf of the Government of India. It has got many branches all over the country and a substantial number of staff is also appointed in it. Since, 1964, when it came into existence, the functioning and management of the FCI is not up to the mark. Several cases of pilferage, fraud and abnormal leakage are there. Due to mal-administration, the purpose, for which it has been meant is not achieved. It is a sorry state of affairs as far as the Food Corporation of India is concerned. According to the reports, there are 764 cases pending since 1991 and this has resulted in losses to the tune of Rs. 300 crore. So far, they have taken no action against any officer and have not taken it seriously. Even the previous Governments have taken it lightly. This is serious in nature and the Government should come forward to take stringent action against all those who are guilty.

Sir, there is also lot of non cooperation among the officers and the workers. In Karnataka, the workers have given several memoranda about their problems to the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the hon.

Minister of Consumer Affairs and the hon. Minister of Labour. They have demanded a CBI Inquiry into all these affairs amounting to a loss of Rs. 500 crore to the Corporation. Even then no action has been taken. These are all genuine demands of the workers. Therefore, I strongly demand that a CBI Inquiry should be conducted and the officers who are guilty should be punished in order to make the Corporation efficient.

I would like to mention one more point that some States have got sufficient storage facilities and some States do not have sufficient storage facilities. Even in Karnataka, they are not having sufficient storage facilities and due to that, the foodgrains are becoming rotten.

According to the reply given by the Food Minister in the month of February, 2000, in 1991 the foodstock had become rotten and it was not fit for human consumption. I would like to know as to why the Government is keeping quiet since 10 years without using the stock. The reply given on 24.2.2000 says :

"The matter about accumulation and non disposal of such huge quantity of rice stocked by the Food Corporation of India has been investigated by a senior officer of the Department of Public Distribution. Instructions have been issued for fixing the responsibility against the officers in FCI who have been found guilty and also for early disposal of stocks."

This answer will not bring any good name to the civilised Government. So, it is a clear case of fraud. They are not functioning well. The officers are committing so much of mistakes but you are saying that enquiry would be held and guilty officers would be punished. Just giving a reply like this is not sufficient. As our senior Member has put it, it is a fraud on the common man. It is an important issue in the country. You will have to take a serious action and send the officers who are guilty to jail. This was the reply that you had given. Nobody will be satisfied with this reply and also with the administration and management, that you are doing.

Hence, I am strongly emphasising to the Minister of Food to take serious action and have an eye over these anomalies. So, all the officers have become rajas and they want to eat whatever they want. Money is flowing like water. Nobody is accountable in this Corporation because they are all residing in their respective States and the State Governments have no power to take action against them. Hence, I am pressurising the Government, through you, Sir, to take a stringent action against the guilty officers.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would first like you to relax. Let us have a meaningful discussion on this very important Bill.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

The Bill has a very limited purpose but a very highly significant purpose, which concerns the auditing of the accounts of the Food Corporations. At present, the practice is that the accounts are audited and certified by the Chartered Accountants and then we have a supplementary audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Now, according to this Bill, this double check is being reduced to only a single check and we will have only one auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Before I proceed, I would first like the Government to clarify certain matters. Sir, I understand that the accounts for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been finalised but are pending for audit by the principal auditors. Now, what is the position here? One would like to know definitely as to why there is a great delay. Perhaps this delay is because of the delay by C&AG in appointing the panel of auditors, from which panel the Food Corporation of India has to select its auditors.

Sir, the appointment of the principal auditors for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 could not be made for want of panel of auditors from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Why? One would like to know what was the difficulty with the C&AG in forming the panel of auditors? As a result of the delay, accounts for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are pending and have not been audited. So, one would like to be enlightened on these particular aspects.

Now, why is this changes that instead of a double check, we come down to a single audit by the C&AG? The Statement of Objects and Reasons gives us two reasons. One is to avoid needless expenditure on Audit fees, and second is to provide a more meaningful audit by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who is well aware of the Government policies being implemented by the FCI. I am surprised and, I may say most disappointed. We talk of avoiding needless expenditure on Audit fees. We should take a more constructive attitude as far as the Audit fees are concerned. This is a very critical area, and any cavalier attitude may be non-productive, counter-productive, and may create a lot of difficulties. Sir, we should not grudge the Audit expenditure, specially, when we emphasise upon greater accountability. I would also like to know this. If by reducing your Audit or your double check to a single check, what will be the extent of saving that will be made by you? Let us know that also. Then, in the case of needless expenditure, we must know and remember the extent and the scale of operations of the FCI. It deals in

thousands of crores of rupees. Therefore, I am speaking of the importance of even a double audit without grudging the audit expenditure. As I said, the practice may result in greater difficulties and may prove counter-productive. It should also be remembered that it would be inadvisable to reduce the audit checks. Of course, needless expenditure should be avoided. But here why the audit alone? It is through the removal of inefficiencies in administration that you can avoid needless expenditure, and about that a lot has already been said in the House and I will not repeat.

We know the rampant corruption that is over there and that there is a need for proper and stern action. We also know of the food-stocks. Records are not properly maintained. I understand no stock tally has been made for the last several years. These and various other things will have to be taken into account when we talk of needless expenditure, rather than grudge the question with respect to the audit fees without even taking the House into confidence as to the extent of the savings that will be made from the audit fees, as a result of this particular Bill. Of course, we have all referred to rampant corruption, fraud and mismanagement. Everything is true. But then let us be fair and fair to FCI also. In this darkness, there are certain silver linings and we should be fair to accept that silver lining. I am referring to them because the Bill refers to a meaningful audit. When we talk of meaningful exercises, we have to remember these silver lining also.

For example, the rate of economic costs to procurement prices, according to one study has declined for wheat and remained constant for rice during this decade of the nineties. This indicates improved operational efficiency of the FCI. So, no doubt, we are talking of corruption, we are talking of fraud, we want proper administration, we want stern action, but then there are certain areas of efficiency which cannot be ignored.

Again, the share of losses in total distribution costs had fallen from 8.2 per cent in 1990-91 to 2.4 per cent in 1998-99. For rice, it had been from 8.26 per cent to 2.4 per cent during the period and then the losses have declined. This is the situation. But then the position remains. That is when we are reducing the check, we have to be very careful. One would like to strengthen the hands of the hon. Minister as far as the question of getting greater accountability is concerned. But there is a need for a re-look at the formula which has been thought of.

A second reason that has been given is that we will have a more meaningful audit from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Is it a slur on the auditing done by the Chartered Accountants. Who are the Chartered Accountants who are appointed? Not anyone is appointed

at the whims and fancies of the FCI. They have to be selected from the panel that is with the CAG.

There are various aspects of auditing. We have financial auditing; we have a material and physical auditing. As far as material and physical auditing is concerned, there is room for much improvement. But then I really feel that a double check should be there and should continue. It will bring a greater and greater accountability.

There are various things that can be considered. Allow me a small digression for example because that is a very important aspect today. When we talk of stocks and material auditing we also know the accumulation of stocks in our godowns that is taking place. Now recently, because of the lesser offtake due to the chaotic public distribution system and the price rise, the stock has accumulated, the offtake even for below the poverty line has reduced and the accumulation of stock recently went up to 42 million tonnes, with the result that a sum of Rs. 41 thousand crore of public money has got locked up in this. These are things that have to be considered. And when we talk of physical auditing, the work has further increased in this particular respect. We talk of subsidy but then the fact remains that food subsidy as a share of GDP, has not changed much during the last 20 years. It has hardly been from 0.31 per cent to 0.64 per cent. What is the percentage of food subsidy to our total Central Government expenditure? It is hardly 2.35 per cent!

19.00 hrs.

Here, we are grudging this subsidy being given to the poor. We need to correct our attitude in all these respects.

As far as the food subsidy and its percentage to the GDP are concerned, please look at the world situation. In Sri Lanka, they have the food subsidy double the proportion than what it is there in India. In Tunisia, the food subsidy is four per cent. Later they reduced it to two per cent. Ours is 0.31 per cent. In the case of Egypt, the food subsidy is 15 per cent. These are various facts which have to be considered.

Now, I have a very small and a brief digression on one point which has been disturbing us the most. It is about the question of adequate storage capacity. Then, I will conclude. Attention has to be paid to this question of adequate storage capacity especially when we talk of decentralisation of storage for the purposes of greater food security.

Sir, please allow me to refer to only one point. In my constituency, Ponnani of Kerala, there is a place called Tinunavia. The Government decided on the question of food security and on vital questions to have the FCI godowns

over there. The proposal was accepted, the work was started and then stopped. Why? They said, 'No funds'. I represented the matter. The work started and again stopped. Why? There is no answer.

Now, after a lot of persuasion, we are being told that the work will be taken up by the Central Warehousing Corporation. It is all right. But, then, look at the delay that has taken place. The Central Warehousing Corporation has to take up the matter, which requires formalities of agreements, etc. These formalities about agreements are now hanging in balance. These require an expeditious attitude, the attitude to understand the realities of the situation.

Sir, with these few words, I would conclude and would like to emphasise upon the Government the need to see that we do not look at the economy as far as audit fees are concerned, but to really ensure that we have an effective check, even a double check in place of a single one.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I won't take much time. I would like to submit only this much that the audit system introduced by hon. Minister is worth welcoming. There are no two opinions about it. It will not only save the time but also expenditure. FCI is incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 300 crore per day.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will provide free of cost the foodgrains to Rajasthan and Gujarat or will he give it at concessional rates or normal rate will be charged therefor. One thing out of these three needs to be clarified. The Central government decides the rate at which the wheat is to be procured and wheat and sugar are to be sold. This right rests with the government of India. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for introducing this Audit system.

I would like to submit two more points. There is a delay in the transportation of wheat due to the mistake on the part of Railway Department. Wheat remains in the open even in rainy season. As the wheat is not covered, it gets damaged due to coming in contact with rain-water. A lot of bungling takes place in the purchase of the empty bags. I have with me the figures of wheat damage due to rats. Every year the rats consume a lot of wheat. They also spoil it. We have also noticed that a lot of foodgrains are wasted as it remains stored for quite a long time. If the foodgrains are stored for two to five years, its contents decrease and it also loses much of its nutritional value. Foodgrains also get spoilt when it is wet. The sugar is sold at control rate. I am of the view that the foodgrains are cheaper in the open market. And sometimes the wheat and sugar are

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

costlier at control rate and the people do not like to buy them. It is my submission to the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it. I welcome your suggestion of one way Audit.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to thank the government for bringing about proposal for conducting CAG Audit of the Food Corporation of India. It cannot be denied that it is definitely a good amendment. The question arises that earlier also audit and physical verification might have taken place and accountability too might have been fixed but as we are aware, during the last few years nine lakh tonnes of foodgrains have perished. The hon. Minister had given an advertisement in the newspaper a few day back. Even otherwise, a lot of foodgrains are lying stored in the godowns for the last 2-5 years. The money of the government has been spent but the real benefit of subsidy has not percolated down to the poor man. Result was that a lot of stock of foodgrains perished as it is not possible to keep a perishable stock intact for a longer period. It is a practice of FCI to follow the first come first serve principle. Firstly, that item should be drawn out from the storage which was stored first. It is rather surprising that despite physical verification and audit mechanism and accountability, no attention was paid towards drawing out that stock of foodgrains as per the time and duration of its storage. It is alright that arrangement for audit has been made but I am of the view that audit will be done by the Indians and not by any foreign agency. What is the responsibility of CAG? Did the panel of audit which was entrusted with the responsibility of doing audit earlier successfully carry out to responsibility? Will the CAG be able to deal with Audit work effectively and whether or not it has been properly apprising the administration about its audit reports and what is the reaction of the government in this regard? It is a good thing that the audit is done by the CAG. My submission is that the powers and functions of the CAG should be codified and a legal binding should also be imposed on it. Shortcomings and deficiencies should be severely dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Food Corporation of India have two types of godowns one is closed type and the second is open type. The Food Corporation of India was set up in 1963. Today the population of India is increasing at a fast pace. This has led to increase in procurement of foodgrains, but there is no corresponding increase in the number of godowns. You cannot deny that you take more godown on rent than you actually own. A lot of bungling takes place in this process of taking the godowns on rent due to the prevailing corruption. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that it may be possible

that the government may be paying more amount as rent than the actual rate. It may just be possible that the godowns may be available at lower rents and more money is being given by the government as rent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Food Corporation of India has to keep the foodgrains in open. At the time of procurement gunny bags are purchased for the purpose. A lot of bungling takes place in FCI at the time of purchasing the foodgrain as the capacity of the content varies from bag to bag. When the bags of FCI are used by the cold storages or traders of potatoes it becomes evident that the capacity of the bag to hold contents varies from one bag to another. Hence my submission is that enough attention should be paid towards the quality of the bags while purchasing the empty bags. One more surprising thing is that when the wheat is procured from a poor peasant, it is done through grading and selection but when the same is distributed under PDS scheme. It is found adulterated and mixed with a lot of dust and stones. It is a matter of surprise. It needs to be monitored closely and I hope you will certainly pay attention towards it. Besides, if the foodgrains are kept stored for longer duration, it will lead to deterioration in its quality and when its quality has deteriorated why do you want to force the poor to consume this sub-standard food stuff. I would like to say that right now our friend Shri Rasa Singh Rawat and Shri Bhargavaji spoke on the Bill but they have not read a news report for they are the members of the treasury benches. Recently, the foodgrains which were sent to the drought affected areas as a relief measure are still lying on the railway station and it is further perishing as the rain has also started. That stock of foodgrain is going to perish. The wastage to the extent of two per cent is permissible in the FCI but what is the reason that it is increasing continuously and today FCI has been suffering damage to the extent of 4 per cent and you are tolerating it without showing any reaction? I request that you should pay attention towards it.

As the subject of subsidy was being discussed, what is the reason that Food Corporation of India has get a subsidy of Rs. 8500 crores this year as compared to Rs. 9000 crore last year. What emergency has arisen that the government was forced to cut the subsidy by Rs. 500 crore. When the population and the number of poor is on the increase then why has the government decided to reduce the subsidy being given to Food Corporation of India, it is a point to ponder over.

19.12 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a opportunity to speak and I definitely support the Bill and expect that the CAG will do a good job so that the welfare of the poor could be ensured.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to welcome this piece of legislation. Section 34 of the Food Corporation of India Act is clearly dealing with auditing. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the multiplicity of auditing is avoided by this in order to curb the expenditure and to have a meaningful exercise. Now we are going to have only one kind of audit and that is by the Accountant-General and he will be the sole auditor of accounts of the Corporation.

The main question here is whether we can have a proper accounting in Food Corporation of India. It is immaterial whether it is by the auditors or by the Accountant General. The people of India want that there should be proper accounting and auditing in the Food Corporation of India.

The broad objective of the food policy of our country is to make available food to the people at a reasonable price and that a remunerative price should be made available to the farmers and the supply of food should be at a subsidised rate. The Food Corporation of India has been set up for ensuring these goals. This is an organisation which implements the Government's policies on food and food security. It deals with the purchase of food from the cultivators at the Government-announced prices because FCI is not fixing the prices.

Fixing prices is outside the purview of the Food Corporation of India. We all know that the remunerative prices for the food articles are normally decided by the Government. The Government, of course, has to take into account various aspects, mostly on political considerations. We all know that prices are determined by the Government.

Sir, the point is whether we are able to ensure quality of the food. The off take is less in certain State like Kerala. Time and again we have raised this issue, of low percentage of off take of food because of poor quality of foodgrains. Sir, the hon. Minister had mentioned :

"The stocks of foodgrains procured on behalf of Government are done so by the FCI, and managed by them for proper storage and preservation as per the guidelines laid down in the Quality Control Manual. These include :-

- (i) Periodic maintenance of the godowns to avoid damage through leakage, flooding etc.
- (ii) Use of monofilament nets, cover tops, nylon ropes etc. to protect the LDPE covers used in the CAP storage to cover each stack; and

- (iii) Periodic turnover of stocks, timely segregation, salvaging/reconditioning of affected stocks and retrieving good stocks thus avoiding further damage/deterioration to the foodgrains."

These are the measures that have been taken by the FCI for preservation of the food articles. But for all practical purposes we see that the quality of the foodgrains that are stored in the FCI godowns are very poor. The off-take of foodgrains is less in most of the States because of the poor quality of the foodgrains.

Sir, I come from a State where there has been statutory rationing from the year 1984 onwards. Whenever there are good quality foodgrains, even rice and wheat, the off-take has been high. At the same time, when the quality of foodgrains is poor, naturally the people would not like to take those foodgrains and the off-take would be less.

Only yesterday I was listening to Food Minister of Kerala, Shri Chandrasekharan Nair. He was saying that the total rationing system in the State of Kerala has been affected by the recent policies of the Government. I would not go into all this. It is because we have already discussed that issue very extensively in this House. Now, the stock is piling up in the godowns. It is a very serious issue before the Government now. The difference in price between the open market and the PDS is only fifty paise. So, nobody is buying from the PDS outlets and stock is piling up. This is going to become problem for the State Government of Kerala.

Sir, regarding the storage facilities I would like to submit that the percentage of storage facilities including the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporation is not adequate as per the records of the Government. So, there is a strong demand for further expansion of the storage facilities in our country.

Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House. My colleagues have elaborately discussed the issue pertaining to the employees of the FCI. Their issues would have to be dealt with separately. There are certain important demands from their side. I think, the Government has to view it very seriously.

Sir, the BICP Committee has recommended for greater autonomy of the FCI and has suggested major organisational changes. This has to be viewed very seriously. There should be greater transparency and accountability in the working of the FCI. Mention has also been made about the rampant corruption that exists in the system. Action has also been taken. I have a report here which has appeared in 'The Hindu' that says, 'FCI officer suspended in Faridkot'. The allegation was accepting substandard rice from millers and tampering with official records.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

This is on the classic examples of the working of the FCI. After checking, it was found that the rice and wheat had been taken from the millers the quality of which was also very poor. But it is also a fact that the action has been taken against the persons concerned.

Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister had taken certain stringent actions against the corrupt officials. He had visited Calicut and had taken some very important steps which have been appreciated by the people at large.

I think that the functioning of the FCI has to be reviewed properly. There should be more transparency. The loopholes have to be plugged out and the corrupt officials should be punished severely.

Sir, there should be a full-fledged discussion on the functioning of the FCI. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, I also want to speak on this. Please give me just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Your name is not there in the speakers' list. How can I allow you to speak?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, within two to three minutes, I will conclude.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Sir, please allow him to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. But do not take more than two minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak after so much of pleading.

First of all, I would like to support this Amendment Bill because the activities of the FCI have necessitated this legislation. It is because the Auditors whom they used to appoint have not been able to give their reports in time, and for the last three years, the accounts have not been audited. Therefore, it has necessitated this Government to get a legislation of this kind and they have got it.

But within the ambit of the Bill, I would like to say that the Food Corporation of India deals with procurement, storage and distribution. In regard to procurement, I would like to share my experience before the august House. I hail from the most backward district of Kalahandi which is in Orissa. There, you will be surprised to know that none of the farmers who produce paddy gets the procurement price at all. It has been that the fine variety of paddy known

as the sworn variety which is grown by most of the farmers of the district is being procured as coarse variety.

Even in regard to the BPL, rice which is being sent to the farmers, through the trucks for distribution, it has been found that there is always a shortage of four kilograms to five kilograms of rice in each bag. Umpteen times, I have written to the hon. Minister. About three years back, we had an agitation against the FCI. But that too had fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would use this opportunity and request the hon. Minister to take stern steps in regard to distribution and procurement of foodgrains in the distressed pockets of India, be it Kalahandi, be it Bundelkhand, or Palamau in Bihar, or be it the backward areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat which are facing acute drought now, he should take stern steps in regard to distribution and procurement. It is the procurement which completely deals with the lifeline of every farmer. If a farmer does not get the right market procurement price, his entire budget of the year gets destroyed completely because he completely depends upon his produce. If he does get a proper price of his produce then he is forced to live a life of destitute. It is not only the condition of the paddy growers but also the conditions of the oil seed growers and wheat growers. You will see that such type of procurement is taking place all over the country.

When this procurement takes place, you will see that most of the officers are in connivance with the millers and the agents who completely cheat the farmers. So, the Government has to protect their interests.

Every hon. Member has pointed out that there should be proper storage facilities as otherwise pilferage and destruction of food grains will take place. The hon. Member from Purulia has rightly mentioned that due to lack of proper storage facilities, the seeds are getting destroyed. Therefore, the Government should adopt modern and scientific methods of preservation of food grains because food grains is a valuable commodity in a populist country like India.

With these few words, I thank for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the august House for extending support to this amendment. I am also grateful towards the facts being described about Food Corporation of India and the Concern expressed as also the constructive criticism made in this regard. Considering all

these facts a decision was taken to make an amendment. The main objective is that Food Corporation is a big organisation. It has an annual business of around Rupees 25000/- crore. Around 280 lac tons is procured, stored and distributed. We are concerned about the fact that audit for the last three years has not been conducted. I do not want to go into the reasons behind this, but it was necessary that the work of total audit of this corporation should be entrusted to CAG and amendment is being introduced for this very reason. I am grateful that the House has given its support to this amendment.

Some important facts regarding FCI have also been brought into light. I am thankful for the suggestions that have come and also say that we shall take utmost care of them. I would like to give some clarification regarding a few points that have come into light. There is variation in the figures, as somewhere it was mentioned that 16 lac tons have been wasted and somewhere it was mentioned 9 lac tons. So, there is discrepancy in the figures. The right position is that too much of foodgrain has not been wasted, there is not too much of old foodgrain, it is a little less. But I have not stood to justify this. I just want to set the figures right, that we have 2 lac and 6 thousand tons of rice and 57 thousand tons of wheat kept for the last five years. 3.41 lac tons rice, 2.03 lac tons of wheat stored for the last two to three years, 0.55 rice, 0.14 wheat stored for the last three to four years, 0.43 rice stored for four to five years, so it is not too much. Only this much quantity is left, which is five years, two years or three years old.

This can be issued under the D category of Prevention and Food Adulteration Act, but the government has come to the conclusion that its quality is not good and that is why it is not issued. We have 2 lac, 15 thousand tons of foodgrains of D category. In this, wheat is 19 and Rice is 196. I would like to submit that there is also under relaxed specification, which is in large quantity. Then there is 2 lac 80 thousand tons of 1997-98 and 15 lakh, 51 thousand tons of 1998-99 which is due to the crop that was destroyed on the onset of the rains. Specification has been relaxed. The government procured, so it was stored and today, the situation is that people are not ready to take this rice. People from Kerala have expressed their grievances, which really has weight. In this regard I would say that it is not as high as you said, it is less, but I agree to the fact that it should not be even this much. We have given orders that wherever the foodgrain is not proper, although it is fit for consumption, but the quality is not good, the foodgrain may not be issued. We have also asked various governments not to take it. 15 lac ton of rice of relaxed specification is lying unused. We have decided that this shall not be issued in the PDS as the quality of this rice is not good. It has been decided not to give it under the PDS. The disposal of this rice is a different matter. First

thing is that it is not as much as you are saying, but even a little amount should not be there. One of the basic points that we are discussing is that why such a huge amount of foodgrain is lying unused for even five years. Rules are being amended in this regard, process of de-centralisation of power is also going on and rules are being made so that such a situation may not occur again. The foodgrain may be given, or issued, or auctioned, or tenders for it may be invited before it becomes useless. There are drawbacks in the rules also, the officers do not have powers of various levels, they write letters to their seniors, but this process of writing letters takes a lot of time. So after de-centralization of powers, efforts are being made that such a situation may not arise, foodgrains may not become useless, it may be disposed off before this.

The second fact that has come to the notice is that a lot of mismanagement is there, but no one is brought to book, but it is not like that. I would not elaborate this, but wherever there someone is found indulging in illegal activities in the corporation, he is caught and punished according to the law. In 1997, around 549 people were punished in the corporation, in 1998, 750 people were given various punishments and in 1999, 1004 people were punished. Certain cases are also going on in CBI, certain demands have also been made. I just want to say that wherever it will be deemed necessary, the CBI would be handed over appropriate cases.

It was also pointed out that the losses in transportation and storage are very high. The figures that were stated were also not actual. In all, our losses amount to 1.85 thousand tons, and the percentage mentioned therein is also not as high as has been told. But I do feel that whatever is mentioned, should also not be there. According to the figures of corporation, in 1998-99 it was 11.7 per cent of transit losses. The percentage of storage losses is 0.40 per cent but maximum losses in this are due to the railways. A few hon'ble ministers have very rightly said that it is a great problem of the Food Corporation of India that whenever we give our foodgrain to the Railways, it does not give a clear R.R. Rather they use set Two B and as a result, when we receive the foodgrain at the destination, responsibility for less quantity cannot be fixed. 96 per cent of the transit losses are due to the railways. Now we have decided to have a serious meeting with the railways in this regard and both the departments would decide that if other private people get a clear R.R. then why not the government departments get it. What is the problem? If there is any problem, then we shall sort it out, but I agree to the fact that all such losses should be reduced. The value of these losses is Rs. 328 crores. It is also a matter of concern that so much of material is stored or transported from one place to another, and it can also get misplaced, this shall also be discussed.



[Shri Shanta Kumar]

Some more facts have also been raised about the I.L.O. Convention, but we have not ratified this convention though we have accepted the feelings behind this. Directions have been issued that sacks of 50 k.g. may be used instead of 100 kg. sacks. Many states have asked for relaxation for sometime and that has been granted to them. But principally we have accepted this fact.

Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasadji has very angrily, said two things. Firstly that the economic cost is too much. It is right that the economic cost is Rs. 900 when it is purchased at Rs. 580 from the farmer. Not only you but I also feel that it is too much. The whole matter is being considered so that deduction, wherever possible, could be made. But the Food Corporation of India has certain limitations as compared to the private traders. We have to buy from the Mandis and so have to pay all the taxes. In this manner, around 100-125 rupees go in taxes, that cannot be concealed by the FCI. There are many expenditures which cannot be reduced. Even then we are considering it very seriously. It has been referred to the Hyderabad Staff College for extensive study and expert opinions are also going to be obtained. We shall get the report by June and then shall make efforts to reduce the economic cost. But it is my request to Prasadji that the way he said in anger as if the economic cost has increased only after I assumed the office. The situation was same during the tenure of United Front government, when you were the Minister, the cost at that time was Rs. 840 and if we add the minimum support price which has been increased comes at Rs. 9.00. So the condition was same as it is today. It was neither good at that time nor it is good at present. I do not know whether you accepted this anomaly or not, but I do accept that efforts should be made to reduce the economic cost. We are doing this and decision would be taken at the earliest.

One more thing - it has been mentioned in the amendment that CAG would itself do it. There is one more provision in this that the CAG would appoint one more person. Why is it so, I feel that this is a standard phrase. We had also corresponded with them in this connection. I am quoting here four lines out of the answer given by him :-

[English]

"While the draft amendment provides for order by CAG or any other person authorised by CAG, it is our intent to perform the order ourselves and the mention of any other authority is a provision to meet any unforeseen contingency."

[Translation]

Sometimes special order is to be made and sometimes other things are done, but actually the main aim is that

CAG shall look after the audit work. There should be no doubt in this regard.

One more fact was told here that our storage capacity is very low. FCI's own godowns are very few and rented ones are more, the rent on which is too high. I wish to set the record right. The FCI's covered godowns capacity is 60 per cent, 20 per cent is that of CWC and only 14 per cent is rented one. This is not too much. It is adjusted according to the need. Physical verification is done in FCI and the Chairman decides different godowns for this every year. Efforts are made to do physical verification. But I am not ready to accept that physical adjustment in it, is made through different criteria. The CAG has given his report, that matter is under the consideration of the government. Moreover the rules of weighing are so different from each other that many problems arise due to this. We have asked the India Statistical Institute, Calcutta to suggest a scientific system of physical verification, so that the whole weighing process could be done as per this system.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Hon'ble Minister, you kindly make a study of the 14 per cent Private storage done, 26 per cent of SWD and of the FCI godowns. You should make a study to find out whether manipulation is more in FCI or in CWC or in the private godown? You will get complete statistics in this.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : We shall look into this. I do not say that there is no medley. There are a few things that we shall see, we shall try to complete this by making a certain criteria for scientific weighing. It has been said that there is too much of storage of foodgrain in our stores and the reason thereof is that the farmers of our country have produced in abundance and we have to buy from all the farmers, who come to Mandi to sell their produce. But it is not 42 million tons, it is only 28 million tons. Talks regarding Rajasthan and Gujarat, had taken place as to how foodgrains was given there. The government has certain rule in this regard. We also gave this in Orissa that was hit by cyclone. It is given on concessional rates. It is given on the BPL rate. It was said that even in Bengal, it is also done with the children who are given mid-day-meal. So many facts regarding corruption and mis-management have been disclosed. I agree that FCI is a big organisation and is also performing very well. But all the employees there are not corrupt. There are even persons who are working very well, so there are good people also. In all, around two lac fifty thousand to two lac seventy five thousand persons including labourer, workers and officers are working there and are looking after a big system of the country. But I accept the fact that there are many flaws. There are many cases of corruption that have come to our notice. And I promise that whatever cases of corruption that will come to our notice, shall be taken care of. It is my principal that wherever I go, e.g. yesterday

I went to Rajasthan for discussing the drought situation, I myself tried to see the godowns. I want to say to hon'ble members that the image of FCI is not as it should be, this is a matter of concern for all of us and we shall strive hard to improve its image. Efforts would be made and all matters, that will come to us, shall be taken due care.

Summing up in the end, I would thank all of you and we shall consider all the suggestions that have come to us. Although it is a small amendment, but it is a very important amendment. You have given your support, I extend my thanks to you and kindly pass amendment. Thanks.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I request that as I have informed you about the mid day meal cheating case, so kindly get this matter investigated.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, 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 :

"The clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"The bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.45 hrs.

## SUGARCANE CONTROL (ADDITIONAL POWERS) REPEAL BILL

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :-

"That the Bill to repeal the sugarcane control (Additional Powers) Act, 1962, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The motion moved :-

"That the Bill to repeal the sugarcane control (Additional Powers) Act, 1962 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA-NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Sir, this Bill has only two clauses which seek to repeal two sections of the previous Act. Section 2 of the earlier Act says :

"Notwithstanding that no provision has been made in section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, for making an order under that section with retrospective effect, the Central Government may, if satisfied that public interest so requires, by order notified in the Official Gazette, amend either prospectively or retrospectively the Sugarcane (Control) Order in respect of any matter for which provision has been made in clause 3A and the Schedule of that Order, and any such amendment may contain such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as the Central Government may deem necessary :"

We may read Clause 3(A). This Bill has actually been brought to empower the Central Government to amend the Sugarcane Control Order 1955. The Sugarcane Control Order 1955 came into force on the basis of the Essential Commodities Act, Section 3. Clause 3(A)(i) says :

"If the Central Government is of opinion that it is necessary so to do for controlling the rise in prices, or preventing the hoarding, of any food-stuff in any locality, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the price at which the food-stuff shall be sold in the locality in compliance with an order made with reference to clause (f) of sub-section (2) shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of this sub-section."

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

I would like to submit that this provision was made to control the rise in price and also to prevent the hoarding. These two things were necessary in 1962, that is at the time of Indo-China war. Subsequently also it was very important to make available sugar to the ordinary people, especially to the Government employees and the middle class people at the reasonable price. Therefore, this Act was necessary to give retrospective and prospective effect to Clause 3(A).

What is the necessity to repeal this Act? Even now, the Government servant, poor people, middle class people and white-collared labourers are all suffering due to the rise in price of sugar. The peasants, the sugarcane growers or the labourers working in the field are not getting any benefit of the rise in prices. Only the factory owners are getting the benefit. The businessmen who are hoarding the sugar are getting this benefit. Why was there the necessity to repeal this Act? The same situation has even today. People are not getting sugar at a reasonable price. We have to question the bona fide of bringing this particular Bill before this august House.

I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should rethink about its repeal.

It is because if this Act is repealed then I feel the blackmarketeers and others who hoarded the sugar and deserved forfeiture of stocks as well as imprisonment for one year or two years, would escape the clutches of the law. Therefore, I would like to suggest that this Bill is not necessary at this juncture because the Government should have more powers to control the market. The Government should be in a position to help the ordinary people and especially the middle class people. So, I would request the Government to consider this aspect as this Bill is not helpful for the common man especially the middle class and labourers who are suffering as they getting sugar at a reasonable price.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, normally, I would have supported this repealing Bill but the reason advanced for this is not at all convincing. As per the provisions of the Bill, the reason advanced for the repeal of this Bill is that it has outlived its purpose. I do not understand this reasoning.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may also remember that this is an area which is of special significance. Sugar has created much problems in our country. It is an area where the traders will prosper. It is an area where the politicians who are power will prosper. It is an area where our patriotism disappeared and we imported sugar. When the Kargil war was going on, our Government was very much

interested in getting sugar imported from Pakistan. There was no duty on it and the people were free to import sugar from Pakistan and other countries. Our national interest did not stand in the way and our self-respect did not stand in the way. When the aggression was taking place in Kargil, these people were dealing with Pakistan for the import of sugar.

A situation had arisen to the extent that the cane growers in India were very much affected as the sugar was stored in the godowns. It was not available in the outlets. During elections, it was a very good issue for our politicians to capture votes. This practice was going on for a long time. The Press also reported this matter. Various articles appeared in the Press on this. Information was leaked to the Press that sugar is being imported from Pakistan and some underhand dealings were taking place. All these matters were taking place very recently.

The Government was forced to come to the House for imposing 40 per cent customs duty for import of sugar. They again came to the House to raise it to 60 per cent to safeguard the interest of the sugarcane growers. But the transactions has taken place.

Now, this was done when this Act was in force. The Sugar Control Order was still in force. So, we will find that the Sugar Control Order of 1962 has replaced 1955 Order and 1955 Order has replaced 1952 Order. All these arguments are advanced in favour of repealing. I do not find any reason being this argument.

There is no harm in having the order in the Statute Book. Of course, some preceding administrative committee has represented to the Government to repeal this Act. But there is no harm to retain it in the Statute Book. So I argue that it need not be repealed. After all, these dealings have already taken place during the last one year. It is an admitted fact. Not only during this regime, but in the previous regime also this import was going on. Shri Shanta Kumar's tenure is not the only one. In their tenure also this was going on. For this there is no political difference. There is no colour of the Government. When the BJP-led Government or any other Government was in power, this sugar dealing, was going on without being prevented.

The poor man is ruined. To that extent the public distribution system is completely paralysed. I come from a State called Kerala where public distribution system is completely paralysed because of the policy now being followed. The poor people used to get sugar at controlled price. That has been taken away. The Government is not in a position to supply through the public distribution system, the sugar that is required by the common man.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Even taxpayers are not allowed to buy sugar at reasonable price. There is no guarantee that the poor man will get sugar at reasonable price. The entire system is in difficulties, in chaos and is jeopardised.

So, I would request the Government, particularly the Minister concerned, to see that the public distribution system is maintained at least in the case of sugar which you can do without any difficulty. With these words, I conclude that there is no reasoning behind repealing the Bill.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while speaking on the Sugarcane Control Repeal Bill. I would like to present the problems faced by sugarcane growers, in brief. Sugarcane growers are facing a lot of problems. Dues worth Rs. 600-700 crore are outstanding against government mills. But the mills are not paying this money. I request the government to make arrangements for its payment with interest. There is such provision in the law also but it is not enforced in the case of farmers.

Farmers are facing a lot of problems due to closure of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. So far 15 sugar mills, which were functioning under the corporation of Bihar Government have been closed down.

When gross production of sugar in the country was 9 lakh tonnes. Bihar alone used to produce 3 lakh tonnes of sugar and now the gross production of sugar has increased to 164 lakh tonne, the production of sugar in Bihar is stagnant at 3 lakh tonnes. The people are of the view that crushing capacity should be increased and sugar mills should be modernised. Earlier it was believed that sugar mills start making profit with capacity of 2500 tonnes but no experts believe that sugar mills become viable with crushing capacity of 5000 tonnes per day. 2-3 days ago officials of Bihar met the officers of central Government and discussed this issue with them. In 1997-98 Sugar Technological Mission Expert Committee went there. Sugar Technological Mission submitted its report regarding Motipur Sugar Mill and Garoul Sugar Mill.

20.00 hrs.

In this report recommendations have been made to start the Motipur Sugar Mill again as it is believed to be a viable unit and start Garoul Sugar Mill for the production of Gur and Khandasari. State Government also wants that these mills should be revived. Standing Committee also expressed its concern over it and gave recommendations that Union Government should come forward to revive the closed mills of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. There

is a sugar Development Fund also. It has been stated in the report that capacity of Sugar mills should be increased while amending the rules. The Union Government should take initiative to revive the closed mills. There should be no objection to privatisation of those mills. It will be a welcome step if union government take initiatives to privatise these government sugar mills for making them functional to protect the interests of the farmers. Two days ago the secretary of Bihar government discussed this issue with the Joint Secretary and the Sugar Technology Mission of your department. An agreement was reached for sending and Expert Committee of the Sugar Technology Mission. So far reports have been submitted regarding 15 closed Sugar Mills of the country and 2 closed sugar mills of Bihar. I request you to issue instructions to officers, experts and Sugarcane Technology Mission to examine the viability and submit a report regarding closed sugar mills I admit that state government is not vigilant in this regard, so Union Government should act as guardian. Support is provided to those who lag behind. I would like to say that experts should be sent to Bihar for revival of the closed sugar mills through privatisation, if possible. Farmers are in favour of revival of sugar mills so that sugarcane produced by them could be utilised. Farmers want to grow more crop of sugarcane as it is economically viable for them. Therefore, the closed sugar mills should be revived at the earliest. The Union Government should take initiatives for revival of closed sugar mills in other states as well.

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason for repealing such an Act because this Act itself is giving small power to the Government for controlling the prices in the market. Secondly, it is a deterrent to the hoarders and the present one is helpful for the people. At the same time, by repealing this Act, we have an apprehension that this is going to help the hoarders and blackmarketeers. . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : This is Sugarcane Control Repeal Bill. So, there is no question of hoarding. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very simple issue. The fact is that this Bill was brought for making amendment in an order of 1955. That order stands lapsed for amendment of which this bill was brought. Thus there is no justification in retaining the legislation which was brought for its

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

amendment. Therefore, a commission was constituted to suggest the laws which can be repealed. The commission made its recommendations and we have moved it in accordance with the suggestion of the commission.

Now I would like to say something on the points raised here. A new complaint was made regarding public distribution system of Kerala. We heard the points raised here but for the first time I received the complaint that levy sugar is not being provided in Kerala. So far the department has not received any such complaint. You have told me about it just now. Levy sugar is being provided throughout the country and state government should take measures if there is any lacuna in distribution system.

The second complaint was regarding payment of dues of sugarcane growers. The Government has taken some measures during last 4-5 months i.e. import of sugar has been banned, the quantity of levy sugar has been reduced by 10 percent, relief has been provided and thus and additional payment of Rs. 200 crore has been made to sugarcane growers. Just now an issue was raised regarding closure of mills of Bihar. The State Government of Bihar has put forward a demand that an expert committee should be constituted. That demand is under consideration with the Government. But the State Government of Bihar should take initiative in this regard. Besides several other points which are considered to be important are also under consideration.

With these words I request that this Bill be passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Act, 1962, 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.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 2, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 9th May, 2000 at 11 a.m.

20.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 9, 2000/ Vaisakha 19, 1922 (Saka)*

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