

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 02, 2001/Sravana 11, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): We had submitted a notice for Adjournment Motion on the UTI scam.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing it today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the Adjournment Motion today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it during the 'Zero Hour'.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Discussion on Enron Issue

*161. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Godbole Committee appointed by the Government of Maharashtra have *inter alia* recommended cancellation of the present tariff structure with regard to the power supplied by Enron;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in regard to the Enron has now been considered;

(c) if so, whether agreement in this regard has been reached after having discussions with various partners on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details of the final agreement?

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

Statement

(a) The Energy Review Committee constituted by the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Madhavrao Godbole has made several recommendations with regard to the Dabhol Power Project including tariff related issues. It has recommended restructuring of the Dabhol project to bring down the cost of power. As per recommendations of the Energy Review Committee, the GOM has constituted a Negotiating Committee on 30.4.2001 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Madhavrao Godbole to carry out discussions with the concerned parties with a view to reducing the tariff as well as sale of power of the Dabhol power project. The Government of India has appointed Shri A.V. Gokak, former Secretary to the Government of India as its nominee on the Negotiating Committee. The Committee has had a few rounds of meetings with concerned Organizations.

(b) No, Sir. Final decision in the matter is to be taken by the GOM. The Government of India is committed to facilitating an early resolution of the issues by the MSEB and DPC.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Dabhol and Enron issue is very important but the Government have not taken it seriously. This has made the lives of nine crore people of Maharashtra living hell besides proving as the lump in the throat of the Government there. It is not new issue for Dabhol project and the Enron project have been the contentious issues for the last one decade. Several Governments have changed in the Centre and the State in the meanwhile but none of them took any concrete decision in regard to Enron. It is a matter of regret that even today the Centre has not been showing any inclination for resolving the Enron dispute. The Enron Project in itself was a novel experiment which has never happened in any other State of the country. The Government are of the view that if

the Union Government take over the Enron project then it will lead to similar demands from other States also. The cost of this project is of Rs. 1,2000 crores out of which approximately 92 per cent has been spent. The financial institutions have given the guarantee for providing 550 crore rupees. The Enron project has been suffering losses due to non-utilisation of its full capacity. The Union Government are the counter guarantors of this project in view of this. I would like to ask the Government whether any difference between the Centre and the States exist in regard to the recommendations of the Godbole Committee and if so, what is the scheme of the Government to resolve the differences? At the same time I would also like to know whether the Government of Maharashtra have made a demand to handover the project to the Centre? If it is not possible to transfer the entire project to the Centre, whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for handing over the second phase of the project to the Centre and what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto? Besides, I would also like to know as to what steps the Government are taking to check the indiscriminate increase in the rate of power tariff by the Enron Power company so that national interests could be protected?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has made a good preamble before asking the question. He has expressed a desire that any decision taken in this regard should be in the national interest. The Centre also shares the same sentiment that the solution of this problem should be found by keeping in view the national interest. The Centre took various steps to resolve this problem by keeping the national interest. In view, Firstly, I would like to apprise the House that this project is a joint venture involving two companies. One is the Dabhol power company in which the Enron power corporation and its associate company which had invested money in the USA and the other is the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. The Centre gave the counter guarantee for the first phase of the project subject to the condition that in case of failure by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board to carry out its responsibility State Government will assume the responsibility of payment and if even the State Government failed to bear the responsibility the Centre will have to make payment as counter guarantee default as per the law. However there is no such guarantor for the phase II of the project and this counter guarantee is limited in its nature even for phase I, i.e. it is not an unlimited counter guarantee. It is also true that MSEB has asked the Centre for the cancellation of the agreement and the Centre has always extended its full help whenever the State

Government have sought it from the Centre for the implementation of the decision given by the Centre in regard to the future of this project. First of all the Centre constituted the Godbole committee. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra requested the Centre in a written letter that a nominee of the Centre should be sent to the Committee. The Government immediately nominated Shri A.V. Gokak, a former Secretary to the Government of India and a renowned bureaucrat to the Committee and he has done a commendable job which even Dr. Godbole has appreciated. Hence any action by the Centre is not desirable at this juncture. It is upto the parties to the contract i.e. MSEB and DPC to arrive at some conclusion and I don't appreciate their passing the truck to the Centre of the case be so. This kind of attitude will not be in national interest. The Government want to resolve the problem to ease the suffering of the State Government and keeping the national interest in view, I would once again like to apprise the House of the suggestion made from a quarter that this power generated from the project be purchased by the NTPC, the contributor of one third of the total power being generated in the country at present. I would like to apprise the House that NTPC signs back to back power purchase agreements with various States for each of its project wherein the cost of the power is fixed by NTPC itself. Besides I would also like to say one more thing that the draft of the PPA has been prepared. If this power from Enron is purchased then its cost will definitely escalate and if the Governments of all the States agree to purchase the power then the Centre will also be ready to share the burden.

[English]

Second thing is that NTPC is a generator of power; it is not a trader of power. NTPC sells power, it does not buy power.

[Translation]

NTPC has been entrusted with the responsibility of generating power over 20,000 MW in the near future and this target will have to be further revised from 20000 MW to 30000 MW in view of the crisis that could arise in regard to the short term investment in power sector owing to the Enron tangle. Hence in view of the fact that the power generating capacity of the NTPC could be hampered if it is burdened with the extra responsibilities. The Government have disapproved the proposal. The Government are fully preoccupied for the expeditious resolution of this problem and the Centre would extend whatever support and assistance the State Government need from it.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said that the Union Government is taking this issue seriously, however the Union Government have not taken any initiatives to provide assistance to Maharashtra. The Godbole committee has been set up on their initiative. The Centre on the request of Maharashtra Government. Sir, the centre is showing the same treatment with other States. How they are helping the NDA ruled States? During his reply hon. Minister has said that NTPC does not do trade in power and it intends to undertake the expansion of power Centres at Kavar and Gandhar in Gujarat. They have sought a World Bank assistance of Rs. 4700 crore. Today there is a total shortfall of 2400 MW power in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Goa. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the NTPC, instead of taking up development work of these plants, will takeover the phase-II of the Dabhol power project so that all the centres in the Western Electricity grid could be supplied electricity I would also like to know whether any agreement has been signed between NTPC and Enron to remove the shortfall of electricity in this region consequent upon which financial institutions are also ready to invest money in phase II of this project? What decision has been taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, I have the right to ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: But ten minutes have already been over. Your time is up.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It is a very serious question.

MR. SPEAKER: You must understand that other questions are also important.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: I conclude, Sir.

[Translation]

Sir, the per unit rate of power produced by the MSEB is Rs. 1.28, in case of NTPC it is Rs. 1.70 while for Enron, the rate is Rs. 7. At present the Government of Maharashtra has to spent Rs. 4000 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't give so many explanations. Please ask the question.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, if, the Government of Maharashtra have to spend so much, half of its budget would be gone. In such circumstances what will be the fate of the people of Maharashtra, if the Union Government do not provide help. Through you, I would request the Union Government not to discriminate against the Government of Maharashtra and extend full support to it so that Maharashtra could be saved from falling into the trap of Enron. Hon. Minister also belongs to Maharashtra.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the hon. Member for remembering that I am also from Maharashtra. We have to find out a way keeping in view the interests of country as well as that of Maharashtra. We are taking initiative in that direction...(Interruptions) it is totally wrong to suggest that we are discriminating against Maharashtra. If there is anything, we are biased towards Maharashtra as both the Minister of State and I belong to Maharashtra. Therefore, we will try and keep trying to secure maximum possible benefits for Maharashtra.

Secondly, NTPC is implementing projects in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and at some other places. Implementing projects at several places does not mean that this project is not needed. For example, if we need Rs. 100 is it enough to take it in the left hand from the right. In the near future, our country is going to need more power and for that new plants are being set up. The position of power supply is not going to improve simply by purchasing power.

Thirdly, you have said that the dispute arose with Dabhol company and to resolve the dispute, Godbole committee has been set up by the State Government and not by the Union Government.

[English]

The parties to the contract are the MSEB and DPC. Obviously, the appointment of the committee would be done by the Maharashtra Government. So, there is nothing to say that in appointing the committee the Government of India did not take any initiative. What we are doing, in fact, is that we appointed a nominee and the nominee has participated fully in the deliberations of the committee.

We stand fully committed to find a solution which will be beneficial to the Government of Maharashtra and also all other parties concerned as this will be in the national interest.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the atmosphere developed with regard to Dabhol and Enron is creating a serious and impractical situation. Second generation reforms are already underway. In our country where the per unit rate of Rs. 1.70 was considered very high the power rate of Dabhol and Enron is Rs. 7 per unit. It has given rise to an explosive situation, particularly in view of the difference of opinion between the State Electricity Board and the Union Government. I want to know the details of agreements arrived at during the last 10 years among State Government, Electricity Board, Union Government and the partner of Dabhol, Enron. What dialogues took place and in what circumstances, such a situation arose? Situation has come to such a stage that Enron now wants to...*(Interruptions)* Enron wants to go back after handing over Dabhol to Union or State Government.

Government want to issue white paper regarding various aspects of the agreement. The prevailing situation is mainly the result of counter guarantee. The release of white paper will clear the picture. It will also clear the position of our country in the world in the context of liberalisation. I want to know whether the Government wants to clarify the situation through the white paper or not? If so, by what time the white paper is going to be issued.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked that whether the Government would issue a white paper. If the white paper is needed and the House wishes so, then it will be issued. Godbole committee has studied the whole project and the Government of Maharashtra has recently decided to publish all documents relating to the project and the contract signed in this regard. In understand that if it is necessary. Union Government have decided during last few months that the projects coming first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: My question is whether you want to issue the white paper or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Government of Maharashtra have submitted all the documents. If you wish, we also have no problem in publishing the documents,...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I had also asked when do you propose to issue the white paper.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, Dabhol Project is a very important project for the country as a whole, not necessarily for Maharashtra alone. If you see the requirement, Maharashtra requires about 13,000 MW of power while there is a generation of hardly 8,000 to 9,000 MW. Therefore, it is also in short supply as far as power is concerned. Similarly, since Dabhol Project came ten years ago, there have been so many Governments. Various parties or partners who have negotiated and discussed it in detail and have implemented the decisions. Now what I feel is that the State Government is making a political issue of it. They should have sat together and decided to do something. This is very important and vital from the point of view of overcoming shortage of power. It is not agreed upon. The Godbole Committee has said that you negotiate, discuss and decide something. But the State Government, I think, is not in that mood. They are always taking an adamant view.

In the State of Maharashtra there is a shortage of power with more than two lakh farmers and several industries waiting for electricity connection. There is a lot of shortage in the villages and other areas of the State. If the situation regarding Enron is deteriorated or is going out of hand, what is the State Government going to do?

Therefore, my question to the hon. Minister is whether the Central Government is going to intervene — not necessarily by sending a representative — by way of asking the State Government or directing the State Government to take some fruitful action in the interest of the nation. The foreign investors are always doubtful. They are thinking that if this is the fate of this agreement, the fate of any other agreement in the State will be no different. Therefore, I want to know whether the Centre is going to intervene in this matter asking the State Government or directing the State Government to take some fruitful action.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is already asked.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, we will do everything that is possible to resolve the dispute. But the responsibility for resolution of the dispute also lies on the parties to the contract. If the parties to the contract are going to take a plea that they have nothing to do and they raise their hands, this issue cannot be resolved. The Central Government will offer all the necessary assistance to resolve the dispute in the national interest.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I am going to be very brief. As far as the negotiations between Maharashtra State and the Dabhol Power Corporation are concerned, what has come before the House and before the people is only one aspect and that is purchase of power from the Dabhol Power Corporation. But there is a larger and bigger interest than that and that is the transportation of LNG. Only 30 per cent of the LNG is going to be used by Dabhol and 70 per cent is going to be used by the rest of the country. The total outflow is going to be to the tune of 1.20 crore U.S. dollars per year which includes transportation cost.

I sympathise with hon. Minister Shri Manohar Joshi because at that time he was against this project but it was forced on him. Now the hon. Minister of Power at the Centre is saying that the Ministry has no responsibility. May I point out to him that the Central Electricity Authority is the sole organisation responsible in the country for sanctioning any power projects? I know from the documents that the Central Electricity Authority did not sanction this one. The Ministry of Finance at that time had sanctioned the project without clearance from the Central Electricity Authority. There are two issues here which I would like to know in the interest of the settlement being negotiated; firstly, whether the Central Government is going to reconsider the guarantee that has been given because under the articles 292 and 293, the guarantee can be given only to market borrowings and not to commercial transactions which are taking place and secondly whether he is going to review the guarantee and if he is going to review it, within how many days he is going to review it.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, my good friend and the hon. Member has raised an issue about counter guarantee. The first counter guarantee was given on 15th September, 1994 by the Government. Since re-negotiation took place thereafter in 1996, the counter guarantee was again confirmed by the Union Cabinet when our 13-days Government was in power. Subsequently, the United Front Government, in July 1996, confirmed the whole counter guarantee in the same manner in which it was given. Now this counter guarantee is first given by the

Government in 1994 and then in 1996 and this counter guarantee, as I have said earlier, has a restrictive clause that it is not an open-ended one and the amount of exposure that the counter guarantee puts on the Central Government is restricted to various courts.

However, in view of the deliberations that are now taking place, we will also keep this point in mind.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Can the Minister give a categorical answer as to whether he is going to review it or not?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The entire project is under review, and the counter-guarantee is a part of the project. We will definitely consider it.

Violation of JPM Act

*162. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various industries and organisations are violating the compulsory packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packaging) Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such industries/organisations so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal for mandatory jute packaging use in sugar and foodgrains cent-percent, particularly in respect of rice and wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) No such violation has been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has not yet decided the norms of compulsory packaging for the jute year 2001-2002.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that the reply is completely vague; it is an evasive reply. Contrary to the reply, with the permission of the Advisory Committee, there has been a gross violation of the norms. The Act was passed in 1987. After 1993-94, not a single jute bag has been used for packing cement. As you know, the jute growers in the entire Eastern India are very much dependent on earnings from jute production. There are 16 lakh jute growers in

West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. There are three lakh workers in the industry, and the Government is very callous about them because in the month of August, they are giving the reply that they have not yet decided the norms of compulsory packaging for this jute year.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on the 15th of May. In that meeting, it was decided that the reservation level in respect of foodgrains packaging would be 20 per cent, which means it is not one hundred per cent and that it is only 80 per cent. It was also decided that the reservation should not continue in respect of fertilisers. In respect of cement, it is free. If it is so, it has been done under the pressure of the synthetic lobby. I would like to know as to why such a decision was taken in the Advisory Committee meeting.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I categorically deny the charges made by the hon. Member that such a decision has been taken under the pressure of the synthetic lobby. That charge is totally baseless.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Your answer is also wrong. It is totally contrary to the facts.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is true that the Advisory Committee meeting was held in May.

MR. SPEAKER: Every day, the Members are becoming more emotional !

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: That is because the answer is wrong.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The final decision has not yet been taken because ultimately the decision has to be taken by the CCEA.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: It is now August, but the Government has not yet decided the norms of compulsory packaging for the jute year 2001-2002. My question is whether you would like to kill the jute growers and destroy the jute industry or you would like to save them. If you want to save them, you have to make it compulsory to the extent of one hundred per cent to package the foodgrains like rice, wheat, sugar etc. in jute bags. In respect of fertilisers and cement, the reservation level should be up to 50 per cent.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government does not want to kill the poor jute growers. As far as the Government of India is concerned, it has always taken the decision to strengthen the position of our poor jute

growers. I request the hon. Members to impress upon the State Government to take some decisive action for the upliftment of poor jute growers.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Why is this Act there then?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why can you not strengthen the JCI?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, let him complete his reply. Please hear him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the hon. Members here want to know the position in regard to the JPMA reservation.

Sir, for the jute year 2000-2001, the norms for the period 1st July...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I have asked for the decision of the Government for the period 2001-2002.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, in October it was 90 per cent foodgrains and sugar, and 15 per cent urea. But from 25th of October to 30th June, 2001, it was 100 per cent for foodgrains and sugar, and 20 per cent for urea. But keeping in view the orders of the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad, a notification was issued providing for 90 per cent for foodgrains and sugar, and 15 per cent for urea. This was only in compliance of the Judgement of the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, there are about four lakhs agriculturist families engaged in the jute industry. Out of this, about two and a half lakh jute industry workers in the country are facing uncertainty. The attitude of the Government is not being reflected properly and its actions are not reaching the jute growers at the grassroots level. That is the problem and this is why disputes are arising.

Synthetic bags are emerging as the alternative of jute bags. Naturally, people involved with the jute industry are passing their days in great anxiety. Synthetic bags cannot be compared in price with jute bags. Synthetic bags are available at a much cheaper rate. But one jute bag could be used four to five times. So, jute bags are profitable in the long run. Moreover, synthetic bags are

not modernised to the extent they should be. So, jute bags could naturally be used more number of times. My question is the same as was asked by Shri Roy Pradhan. I would like to know whether the Jute Packaging Material Act of 1987 would be continued or not and whether the Government could assure the jute growers that their interests would be protected. I would also like to add here that jute is not environmentally hazardous and is not a pollutant.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I would like to clearly state the policy of Government in this regard. The Government tries to ensure consumption of all the jute products available in the country. On the one side the production of jute goods in this country has remained stagnant for a long time. Its production has not been increasing. On the other hand, the crop sizing of foodgrains and sugar is increasing. But whenever the situation has arisen, to meet the requirements and demands, the Government has taken this decision. Otherwise, the Government always favours the jute growers.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, keeping in view the importance of the jute industry and its contribution to the economy of the Eastern part of India, particularly, West Bengal, we had repeatedly urged upon this Government to take a holistic view to improve the condition of the jute sector in matters like cultivation and in giving protection to the jute growers in this country. One important component of this is to give encouragement for mandatory use of jute bags. I would not like to take names here. But there have been people in the Government who are hand in glove with the synthetic lobby and are encouraging dilution of jute.

I am not naming the people who are going to court. Some of us met the Prime Minister also on 28th and 29th of June and urged that if the Government did not take a decision at the CCEA level by 30th June, something serious was going to happen. But, no step has been taken till today. There is no shortage of jute bags. Foodgrain production has not outpaced the production of jute bags. Jute industry is ready to supply any quantity of jute bags that is required for packaging of foodgrains and urea.

May I know whether the Government is ready to take a decision urgently in CCEA for continuation of the Mandatory Order that has been there for the last few months?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, for the Jute Year 2001-2002 the Government and particularly the CCEA, will definitely take a decision soon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Order has already expired on 30th June. When will Government take the matter up with the CCEA for continuation of that Order?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government will take a decision in this regard as early as possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is a very important matter. Please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already taken half-an-hour. Question No. 163, Prof. A.K. Premajam.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I may please be allowed to ask a question on jute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone to the next question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is already on her legs to ask the question. We will see. Please sit down.

Implementation of Recommendations of Khanna Committee

*163. ⁺PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was Justice Khanna Commission Report submitted to the Government;

(b) whether the Government have taken action on the basis of recommendations of the Commission, especially with regard to the safety of Rail bridges which are obsolete; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Railway Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, has submitted its report in two Parts. Part-I of their Report was submitted in August, 1999 and the same has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament. Part-II (Final) report has been submitted in February, 2001 and is presently under consideration of the Government. 'Views of M/o Railways' on the recommendations of Pt I Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 have been sent to Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Action has already been initiated to implement accepted recommendations of Part-I of the Khanna Committee Report depending upon availability of resources.

The Committee recommended a super check of 'distressed' bridges and bridges over 100 years in age or made of early steel by a task force within one year and rehabilitation of 'distressed' bridges within a time span of 5 years along with fresh accruals. The Committee had noted that 262 bridges are classified as 'distressed' on Indian Railways as on 01-4-1999. As on date, 171 bridges out of these 262 have been rehabilitated. Indian Railway has an elaborate system of inspection of all bridges and of carrying out required repairs/rehabilitation.

The Committee also stated that Indian Railways' present inventory of overaged assets when expressed into money terms is Rs. 15,000 crores. Committee recommended that in the interest of safety, the Central Government should provide a one-time grant to the Railways so that arrears in renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signal gears are wiped out within a fixed time frame.

The Government has agreed in principle to set up a Non-Lapseable Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 Crores. The detailed modalities for sourcing and operation of fund are being worked out.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, on 22nd June, 2001 a major train tragedy - I do not call it an accident - took place in the Calicut District of Kerala. It had taken a toll of 52 lives. Hundreds of people had been injured in that tragedy. It is in the backdrop of that grievous human tragedy that I am asking this question.

The Kadalundi bridge over which that tragedy took place, according to our knowledge, is at least 100 years of age. Local people say that it is at least 120 years old.

Naturally it is more than a century old. The answer given by the hon. Minister says that action has already been initiated to implement the accepted recommendations of Part-I of the Khanna Committee Report depending upon the availability of resources. This amounts to playing with human lives. The Committee recommended a super check of distressed bridges, and bridges above hundreds years in age or are made of early steel, by a Task Force for one year, and rehabilitation of distressed bridges within a time span of five years along with fresh guidelines. The Committee had noted that 262 bridges are classified as distressed on Indian Railways as on 1st April, 1999. Rehabilitation of 171 bridges had already been taken up. We feel that no scientific evaluation technique is available to Indian Railways. If scientific evaluation technique had been made use of by the Railway authorities, this tragedy would not have occurred on 22nd June of this year.

As regards the recommendations, the first part had already been submitted in August, 1999. Since then, two years have almost elapsed.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. A.K. Premajam, please ask your supplementary.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, my question is about the subjectivity involved in identifying the distressed bridges. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways the definition accepted by the Railway authorities in regard to the word 'distressed' used by the Khanna Committee. If it has been a distressed bridge, Kadalundi bridge would have fallen in that category.

We feel that there is subjectivity involved in it. It is at the discretion of the Railway authorities that the definition whether any bridge is a distressed bridge or not is given. I want to know the definition of the word 'distressed' in "distressed bridge". I also want to know whether the Kadalundi bridge has been identified by the Railway authorities as a distressed bridge as per the recommendations. Then I want to know...

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. A.K. Premajam, you will have the second supplementary also. You may ask your next question in the second supplementary. Now, let the hon. Minister reply to your first supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern of hon. Members is but natural. The whole country was shocked at the accident in Kadalundi. Hon. Member referred to other committees and also recommendations

of Khanna Committee. It is true that Khanna Committee has given its recommendation in two parts. As far as, part-I is concerned, railways have expressed its opinion that many recommendations have been accepted and are being worked upon. As far as the condition of bridges is concerned, a special committee of experts went into the problem and had given many recommendations. On the basis of their report, railways continued to work after 1988. As far as the inspection of bridges is concerned, there is a rule in this regard and every year bridges are inspected. As far as Kadalundi bridge is concerned, even the committee formed in 1988 had not said that the bridge is dangerous or in distressed condition. The bridge in question was inspected recently and just before the passing of the ill fated train, another train had also passed from there. Whatever happened, had happened suddenly and a statutory inquiry was conducted by CRS in this regard. After that we decided for a high level inquiry which was conducted by Chief Commissioner, Railway safety. His provisional findings have already been submitted to the railways. He has given some provisional recommendations. Final report is expected soon and action will be taken on the basis of that. The report of Khanna Committee as mentioned by the hon. Member, had identified 202 distressed bridges as on 1999. Out of those, 171 have been replaced or strengthened. As on April 1, 2001, the number of distressed railway bridges is 515 and this year we are taking up 200 bridges.

Besides this, as has been observed by the Khanna Committee for the replacement of over aged assets like tracks, signal bears, the distressed bridges on the stations or rolling stocks, the Government of India should provide Rs. 50,000 crore as one time safety grant. On 2 July, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. In that meeting it was decided to create a Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crore. As per the previous year's report the amount was Rs. 15,000 crore which has been enhanced to Rs. 17,000 crore for the proposed special Railway Safety Fund. The modalities of funding and the renewal of overaged assets are being decided and very soon the entire process will be completed in this regard. Then we will be able to take action for the renewal of the old and distressed bridges. The hon'ble Member has also asked about the definition of the distressed bridges. The bridges which have visible physical signs like cracks in them are regarded as distressed bridge by the engineers. Mr. Speaker, Sir,

so far as age is concerned, I have made efforts to collect fresh information about the ages of bridges particularly after the Kadalundi accident. The railways engineers have said that as such there is no age for the bridges. It is a fact that there are more than fifty thousand bridges in the country which are more than 100 year old. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please take your seat. This will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members is asking supplementary of supplementary. If you kindly permit, I shall also reply that. However, whatever I am saying in the House, I am saying it with full responsibility and I am saying all this on the basis of inputs that have been given by the railway engineers to me. I am not saying anything of my own. I can say anything in the House only on the basis of information given by the experts. The experts are of the view that as such there are not separate bridge age of the railway bridges. Of course, as per the financial rule certain fund is allocated each year for the machinery and concrete and notional year had been fixed for them; but there is no age of the structure of the bridges. I have all the financial rules with me that you are referring to here and if you want I can read them are here or if so you desire I can also lay the same on the table of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: O.K. The financial rules about bridges state as to how much fund will be allocated for the replacement of railway bridges and how much amount will be deposited in the fund, however no amount has been deposited in that fund for last several years as the financial condition of the Railway is not good enough so that it could deposit money in bridge replacement fund.

So far as the distressed bridges are concerned, the engineers every year inspect the bridges falling under their jurisdiction as a part of the established procedure and whenever they find any visible sign of cracks, efforts are made to repair the bridge and as a precautionary

*Not recorded.

measure restrictions are imposed on the speed of the trains passing through such bridges. It is their laid down drill. They do it every year. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Kadalundi bridge is concerned, it was not identified under the distressed bridge category.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The answer given by the hon. Minister has not touched my point. He may talk in terms of technicalities. The hon. Minister himself has admitted that he talks on the basis of advice or suggestion given by the Railway authorities, and action is being taken accordingly. That means, the Railway authorities, including the Railway Board, the General Manager of Southern Railway and officers of all other categories, have failed in their duties to give correct information to the Railway Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You can include all these things in your second supplementary.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The other thing is that on 26.07.01, in reply to an Unstarred Question, which appears in the name of hon. Minister Shri Rajagopal, it is stated that no bridge or culvert had been declared dangerous by any Expert Committee, in any Zonal Railway. This is the record that I received from Parliament. This is contrary to the Report given by the Khanna Commission. So, he is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary?

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Even by the normal standards — let us forget the distressed bridges — every year an inspection is to be conducted. I have understood that it is to be done by an Assistant Engineer. In the case of Kadalundi Bridge, I would like to know whether the routine inspection has been done there; if yes, why then it was not found that there were cracks in the pier of the bridge?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a specific question with regard to the bridge.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that Kadalundi bridge was inspected and the people are not aware of the fact that has been brought to my notice. The Railway Department has a major problem in inspecting those bridges the pillars of which are submerged in water especially in sea water or back water

because the Railways do not have any equipment to measure and assess the magnitude of damage to the portion of bridge under water. The RDSO has once again been instructed to find out if such equipments are available anywhere in the world and to purchase them. However, the present practice of assessing the strength of bridge is based on simple observation and there after the bridges are strengthened as per the requirement. The strength of the pillars is assessed on the basis of the soil structure around the pillars. The underground structure of Kadalundi bridge is a screw pipe foundation which is more than 125 year old and is made up of cast iron. In the inquiry report of Chief Commissioner of railway safety, it has been stated that it is very difficult to assess the exact condition of the underground structure of bridges, especially the cast iron structure. Earlier also an Expert Committee was set up which has made some efforts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Is this the way the Indian Railways has taken up the major project in Malaysia?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper. The Minister is giving reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am giving information to the House regarding the difficulties faced by the Railway system. Hon. Members must know that also.

[Translation]

The Southern Railways had also made efforts to procure these equipments from outside out it was not available. Once again the RDSO, Lucknow has been asked to find out under-water inspection equipments Machine, mechanism or technology anywhere in the world and produce it. But till now no positive result has been achieved in this regard, we are helpless in this regard. That is why it has been decided by the Government that all the cast iron bridges will be replaced whether they have screw pipe foundations or sunk foundation. It has been decided to replace all of them so that there are no such structures any more. As on date there are total 47 such bridges out of which work is in progress on 17 bridges and the rest of the bridges will be replaced once the special railway safety fund is raised for this work. Kadalundi bridge

will also be totally replaced. Presently it will be strengthened by some other method and peers will not be used. The trains will be allowed only after erecting pipe structure from all sides. Thereafter it will be replaced.

[English]

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: One of the important recommendations of Justice Khanna Committee was that the Ministry of Railways, as a mark of respect to the dead and injured in various train accidents, should announce an immediate and complete moratorium on all types of celebratory and ceremonial functions for at least three years and dedicate this period wholeheartedly and completely to improving safety in the railways. I would like to know from the Minister whether any circular or direction has been issued in this regard to the Railways Authorities and whether this has been implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as railway function is concerned, the railways has close relationship with the common people so whenever a new train is introduced or any new project is launched, the hon'ble Members and the common people want to associate themselves with it. So it is not possible to impose complete moratorium on all functions as the Members will demand that function should be held in their areas. However, no celebration will be held. It will only be a function and in that also efforts are being made to minimise the expenditure to be incurred on it.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Railways, has been using third generation board. The railways started from steam engines, switched to diesel engines and now the electric engine are being used. Our ruling stock belongs to the steam engine age in most of the trend. The number of bogies of a pair of a train have doubled. The number of seats in bogies have increased from the earlier 16 to 25. The speed of the trains has been increased to such an extent that the old railway tracks shake while the train pass. Whether the hon. Minister has got a study conducted to know the state of rolling stock, signal system, bridges etc. view of the expansion of power board track. None of these railway systems is good enough due to which the accidents after accidents are taking place. The maintenance fund of Railways has been decreasing every year. The maintenance fund has gone down too much in your budget that Railway has become completely out born and depressed.

I feel that the Railway Minister and even this Government have become distressed. I would like to know as to whether the Government will conduct any study to this effect after Khanna Committee submitted its report? Thousand of people lost their lives in Punjab and Kerala due to the negligence and inefficiency of the Ministry of Railways. The material used in various railway system has become totally outdated and there is no maintenance of it. Hence so many casualties have taken place. Whether the hon. Minister will get a study done to make the entire railway system moderate and whether the Government intend to provide sufficient funds to Indian Railways so that it may achieve the best place in the world?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has an old association with Railways and his knowledge cannot be questioned. He might be aware that Railways has always been concerned about the safety of the passengers, hence Committees have been constituted from time to time in view of reviewing the safety aspects in Railways. Recently, the Railway Safety Revise Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Justice Khanna has submitted its report and the question asked by the hon. Member is related to it. In its report, the Committee has made several recommendations one of which is that all the overaged assets like tracks, signals gears bridges and rolling stock should be replaced within 5 to 7 years. The Committee has recommended that the Government of India should provide safety grant to Railways for achieving this target. I have informed just now that in the meeting hold by the hon. Prime Minister on 2nd July it was decided to set up a separate railway safety fund of 17000 crore rupees. All the work which is due will be taken up by utilizing this fund within next five to seven years. Provision for grant arising is made in the budget. For the sake of giving information to the hon. Member, I would like to tell that an outlay of 2600 crore rupees has been made in the Budget of this year which is 21 percent more as compared to the outlay of previous year. A provision of 434 crore rupees has been made for signalling and telecommunications in the budget of this year which is 25 percent more than the revised outlay of previous year. It is because railway is concerned about the safety aspect that it has taken and has been taking steps towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Khanna Committee. The most important thing is that the setting up of a special railway fund will solve the condition of Railways to a large extent and Buta Singh ji will be relieved of his concern in this respect.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Safety Departments in the Railways, especially in the Divisions, are not given any importance. At times, the Assistant Commercial Officers are being appointed as Divisional Safety Officers. Will the Government think in terms of strengthening the Safety Department by giving them punitive powers like the Vigilance Department?

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Though the vigilance Department is separate I fully appreciate the suggestion given by the hon. Member that we should further strengthen the safety organisation in Railways. The Government is making efforts in this direction. The setting up of railway safety fund will also play a big role in strengthening the safety network in Railways.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I do not want to go into the recommendations of the Khanna Committee. The hon. Minister has said that all the recommendations of the Khanna Committee are going to be implemented in a phased manner. A non-lapseable fund to raise Rs. 17,000 crore is going to be set up. We have a very efficient Minister here in the person of Shri Nitish Kumar. Sir, I would like to point out that the response of the Railways to accidents is very bad.

12.00 hrs.

We have a very bad experience way back in 1988 when a train accident took place at a place called Peruman where the train plunged into Ashtamundi Lake in which about 100 people died and several hundreds of people were wounded. The Railway Safety Commissioner made an inquiry. What was the first result? He said that the accident occurred due to a tornado...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: This is a very important point. On the second inquiry, it was found that the accident occurred due to the defect of the tracks and wagons. What action has been taken against that particular Railway Commissioner who gave a wrong report? Is that gentleman still around in Railway service? I would like to know from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, please allow an 'half an hour' discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Mr. Minister, you may send the reply to the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, this is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: He will send a written reply to you.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

T and D Losses by SEBs

*164. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission and distribution losses suffered by State Electricity Boards during 2000-2001;

(b) whether these losses are more than double as compared to the developed countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have directed all the State Governments to initiate action for improving distribution losses in the power sector;

(e) if so, the details of reports sent by the State Governments in this regard to the Union Government; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) As per the information made available by SEBs/Eds/Utilities to CEA, a statement-I indicating the T&D losses from the year 1992-93 to 1998-99 in various SEBs/Eds is enclosed.

The estimated T&D losses for various SEBs/Eds for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as per the Annual Report on the working of SEBs & Eds brought out by Planning Commission (June, 2001), are indicated in statement-II.

(b) and (c) In the developed countries these losses range between 6-12%. The losses for the country as a whole as compared to the losses of developed countries are given at statement-III.

(d) to (f) All the State Governments have been directed to initiate action for reducing distributing losses in the power sector. Funds are being provided to the power utilities under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for improving distribution system and reduction of T&D losses. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores for R&M of thermal and hydro power stations and improvement of distribution systems was provided in the year 2000-2001. Rs. 1500 crores is to be allocated to the utilities during the year 2001-2002.

The steps being taken to reduce such losses are as under:

The responsibility for the distribution of power rests with the State Governments/Electricity Boards. In order to reduce the T&D losses Central Electricity Authority had issued Guidelines which *inter-alia* provide for the following:—

- Upgradation of Operating voltages
- Reduction of length of LT lines
- Location of Transformers near load centres
- Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumer premises.
- Installation of shunt capacitors.
- Improvement in construction and operation techniques and
- Systematic and methodical approach for planning and design of distribution system on long-term basis.

Central Electricity Authority had also issued guidelines for conducting Energy Audit. These Guidelines lay down the procedure for conducting Energy Audit studies for identification of losses and reduction of the same.

The Indian Electricity Act 1910 has been amended to make theft of energy and its abetment of cognizable offence with deterrent punishment upto 3 years imprisonment.

In the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers' Conference held on 3.3.2001, it was resolved that State Governments/State Power Utilities would take the following steps to reduce technical and commercial losses:

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

In the MoU executed between Ministry of Power and State Governments, reduction of T&D losses, metering and energy audit have been included and performance milestones indicated.

Statement-I

Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

Region/SEB/ED	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region:							
Haryana	26.78	25.00	30.80	32.39	32.77	34.04	33.81
Himachal Pradesh	19.51	18.31	18.21	16.09	18.02	20.13	20.13
Jammu & Kashmir	48.28	45.69	48.74	47.52	48.27	49.95	47.07
Punjab	19.24	19.37	16.70	18.49	19.10	18.94	16.83
Rajasthan	22.74	25.00	24.78	29.27	26.28	26.41	29.43
Uttar Pradesh	24.43	24.08	21.69	21.84	24.84	26.18	26.86
Chandigarh	26.21	27.27	28.44	33.72	21.88	23.38	NA
DVB (Delhi)	23.56	31.79	34.56	48.57	49.08	47.91	40.0
Western Region:							
Gujarat	22.03	20.34	20.02	20.08	17.14	21.57	19.69
Madhya Pradesh	21.35	20.26	19.61	17.84	19.24	19.58	20.92
Maharashtra	17.83	16.22	16.33	16.95	16.55	18.75	18.14
D&N Haveli	17.98	12.64	11.35	09.31	08.80	12.90	NA
Goa	21.85	24.50	26.87	26.06	23.50	31.02	NA
Daman & Diu	15.67	22.34	16.30	12.80	08.15	14.69	NA
Southern Region:							
Andhra Pradesh	19.88	19.91	17.95	19.34	33.19	32.14	31.8
Karnataka	19.55	19.55	19.41	19.06	18.73	19.31	30.08
Kerala	21.95	20.00	20.05	21.12	20.59	18.73	17.75
Tamil Nadu	17.50	17.18	17.11	16.19	17.65	17.29	16.9
Lakshadweep	18.72	16.99	17.84	17.23	15.11	15.70	NA
Pondicherry	15.31	15.80	15.00	16.54	17.38	13.56	NA
Eastern Region:							
Bihar	22.00	20.35	19.76	15.91	25.31	16.26	23.0
Orissa (GRIDCO)	25.25	22.43	23.03	24.17	50.15	50.10	48.44
Sikkim	22.55	22.60	21.22	16.47	29.24	22.87	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Bengal	24.87	20.82	21.51	19.26	18.01	19.67	25.5
A&N Island	23.62	23.71	22.38	19.25	19.15	20.59	NA
North Eastern Region:							
Assam	21.41	22.44	24.18	26.91	25.97	27.32	23.0
Manipur	22.35	23.92	25.30	24.85	22.95	21.09	NA
Meghalaya	11.79	18.03	18.47	12.55	19.75	12.28	20.17
Nagaland	27.26	33.45	36.12	35.17	26.81	29.79	NA
Tripura	30.64	30.53	31.96	30.86	30.11	31.11	NA
Arunachal Pradesh	32.32	42.04	45.30	37.12	32.62	34.10	NA
Mizoram	29.04	31.89	29.76	25.18	34.35	46.84	NA
All India (Utilities)	21.80	21.41	21.13	22.27	24.53	24.79	25.62

* As reported by SEBs/ Electricity Deptt. and subject to change after reconciliation of Inter-State sale of energy and are provisional.

Statement-II

T&D Losses as percentage of Availability

SEBs/EDs	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3
Haryana	27.0	25.0
Himachal Pradesh	17.6	17.3
Jammu & Kashmir	47.0	46.5
Punjab	16.8	16.9
Rajasthan	29.5	22.0
Uttar Pradesh	25.5	25.0
Delhi	47.0	45.0
Gujarat	19.6	19.4
Madhya Pradesh	20.7	20.5
Maharashtra	17.0	16.7
Goa	24.3	24.0
Andhra Pradesh	31.4	31.0
Karnataka	30.0	30.0

1	2	3
Kerala	21.1	20.8
Tamil Nadu	16.7	16.5
Pondicherry	13.3	13.0
Bihar	23.0	22.0
Orissa (GRIDCO)	6.0	6.0
Sikkim	20.0	20.0
West Bengal	28.0	28.0
Assam	37.0	35.0
Manipur	40.0	30.0
Meghalaya	20.4	20.3
Nagaland	28.5	29.2
Tripura	28.0	28.0
Arunachal Pradesh	20.5	18.0
Mizoram	42.5	40.0

Note: The losses in Distribution Companies in Orissa are not included in the estimates.

Statement-III**Percentage Transmission and Distribution Losses in Developed Countries**

Country	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Austria	7.19	7.34	7.44	7.15	7.59
Belgium	5.64	5.82	5.59	5.51	5.60
Canada	9.45	8.44	8.74	8.46	8.25
Czechoslovakia	7.91	7.86	—	8.50	10.34
Denmark	5.65	5.20	6.92	6.70	6.93
Finland	5.64	5.10	5.04	5.48	5.01
France	8.25	8.19	8.28	7.64	8.02
Germany	—	5.45	5.17	4.87	5.08
Greece	8.12	9.05	8.88	7.92	8.66
Hungary	11.11	11.09	11.06	9.43	13.66
Iceland	8.58	8.88	8.74	7.65	6.72
Ireland	9.70	9.78	10.00	9.71	9.61
Israel	5.06	5.22	5.43	5.06	4.65
Italy	8.54	7.83	8.15	7.84	8.31
Netherland	4.53	4.58	4.52	4.59	4.94
Norway	8.53	7.49	7.40	7.51	8.13
Poland	10.58	9.15	12.43	13.85	15.19
Portugal	12.31	12.31	12.27	12.32	12.46
Romania	6.16	8.96	10.16	10.85	11.25
Spain	9.10	9.85	10.01	10.05	10.10
Sweeden	7.20	6.98	6.57	7.25	7.72
Switzerland	8.03	7.97	7.97	8.03	7.98
U S S R	9.45	9.32	—	—	—
Russian Fed	—	8.84	8.98	9.53	9.26
Ukraine	—	9.03	9.53	10.21	10.85
Ukraineian SSR	8.50	—	—	—	—
U.K.	8.53	8.39	8.80	7.49	7.85
U.S.A.	5.70	9.93	7.93	8.40	8.66
Uzbekistan	—	10.40	9.43	10.09	9.72
Yugoslavia	9.89	—	10.25	—	—
India@	23.28	22.89	22.83	21.80	21.41

Note/Source

1. From Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe, U.N. publication
2. General Review published by Central Electricity Authority
3. NA - Data not available/Not applicable
4. @For Financial Years

[*Translation*]

Theft and Dacotties in Trains

*165. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cases of theft and dacoity in trains are increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the past one year; and

(c) the action taken to ensure safety of passengers and their belongings?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The information available with this Ministry indicates that the cases of theft and dacoity in trains are showing a decreasing trend.

(b) During the year 2000-2001, 106 cases of dacoity and 6924 cases of theft of passenger belongings were reported as compared to 109 cases of dacoity and 7259 cases of theft of passengers belongings reported during 1999-2000.

(c) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Railways have taken the following steps to check crime.

1. Accommodation is provided to the Government Railway Police Personnel for escorting the trains. Accommodation is also provided to Mobile Police Stations, on selected trains.
2. Monitoring through CCTV and announcements through Public Address System are made at important Railway stations to alert the travelling public against theft etc.
3. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and the trains by Railway personnel.
4. Regular Coordination Meetings are held between the Railways and the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security to the passengers.
5. Exchange of intelligence on crime and criminality is done between the Railways and the Police Authorities.

Improvement in Financial Condition

*166. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to improve the poor financial condition of the railways and to strengthen the railway safety system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways are taking steps to improve the financial condition by increasing revenues and also by controlling expenditure. Earnings are expected to improve with increased economic activity coupled with aggressive marketing and improved service. Apart from this, Railways have also initiated steps to raise revenue by mobilising resources from non-traditional sources such as leasing of 'right of way' for laying Optic Fibre Cables, commercial utilisation of land and air space and commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings. Measures have been taken to control expenditure by right sizing staff strength, improving staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption and by ensuring austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc. Efforts are also being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

As regards Railway Safety, the 'Railway Safety Review Committee' in its interim report has recommended that the Central Government provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 Crores for rehabilitation of their over-aged assets. The Government has agreed in principle to set up a Non-Lapseable Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 Crores. The detailed modalities for sourcing and operation of fund are being worked out.

[*English*]

National Policy on Cooperatives

*167. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised any National Policy on Cooperatives;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is finalising the National Policy on Cooperatives in consultation with the State Governments. The major thrust of the National Policy is to give greater functional autonomy to cooperatives, professionalisation of the management, democratic functioning and financial independence of cooperatives with a view to ensuring their greater viability and efficiency. The Government role will be restricted to mainly timely holding of elections, conduct of audit etc.

(c) The Policy is in an advanced stage of formulation and as such no time-frame can be given at this stage.

Restructuring of Railways

*168. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee report on restructuring of Railways;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken to overhaul the organisational set up of the Railways/Railway Board;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any staff has been or proposed to be declared surplus as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the number of posts to be surrendered/ persons retired at various level?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (f) The Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan has submitted an Interim Executive Summary of the Report on 17.2.2001. The Interim Executive summary is under examination by a Committee. The Expert Group is yet to submit its final report. Restructuring of the organisational set up will be considered after receipts of final report.

Railways have been undertaking rightsizing initiatives. The staff rendered surplus due to closure/shrinkage of activities are trained and redeployed in other areas where vacancies and need exist.

[Translation]

Revival of Textile Mills

*169. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of textile mills declared sick/closed during each of the last three years, till date, and the number of workers affected as a result thereof, mill-wise/ State-wise;

(b) the reasons for closure of such mills;

(c) the dues outstanding against the mills by way of salary etc. of the workers of these mills;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to revive the closed mills by selling its surplus land;

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

(f) whether the Government are contemplating to increase investment and ensure availability of loan for modernisation of textile mills; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) (There were 33 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI, State-wise) which were reported closed during the last three years (from 1.6.1998 to 31.5.2001) and registered with BIFR. Details are as follows:

(i) From 1.6.1998 to 31.5.1999, a total of 13 mills were closed as follows:

State	Name & Address of the mill	No. of Workers affected
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Madanpalle Spg. Mills Pvt. Chittoor.	993
	Pengune Textile, Hyderabad	154
	Shri Maruthi Textiles Ltd., Chittoor	432
Haryana	GTN Synthetics Ltd; Sirsa,	801
Karnataka	Devangere Cotton Mills, Gadag,	543
Kerala	Trivandrum Spinning Mills Ltd. Balaramapuram,	280
Maharashtra	Matulya Mills Ltd. Lower Parel, Mumbai	643

1	2	3
Tami Nadu	Shree Janardana Mills Ltd. Singanallur, Coimbatore.	400
	Vasantha Mills Ltd. Singanallur, Coimbatore.	1327
	Madhu Spg. & Wvg. Mill, Coimbatore	237
Uttar Pradesh	U P State Yarn Co. Ltd. Meeja, Allahabad,	1350
West Bengal	Anantpur Textiles Ltd. Howrah	1005
Rajasthan	Sagar Spg. & Wvg. Udaipur	275

(ii) From 1.6.1999 to 31.5.2000, a total of 14 mills were closed as follows:

State	Name & Address of the mill	No. of Workers affected
Andhra Pradesh	Shree Mfg. Co. Ltd., Medak	649
Gujarat	Madhu Textiles A'bad Ltd. Mehsana,	925
	Maheshwari Mills Ltd. Shahibaug Rd, Ahmedabad	853
	The Raipur Mfg. Co. Ltd. Saraspur Gate, Ahmedabad.	2311
Haryana	B R D Textiles Ltd. Rewari,	64
Maharashtra	Kamala Mills Ltd. Lower Parel, Mumbai.	43
	Marathe Textile Mills Miraj, Sangli,	734
	Swan Mills Ltd. Sewaree, Mumbai.	933
Rajasthan	The Krishna Mills Ltd. Ajmer,	431
Tamil Nadu	Karur Mills Ltd. Chinnamalai,	641
	Ayyappan Textiles Ltd. Ramnathpuram	323
	Sri Nadiambal Textiles Mills Pudukkottai	350
	Neo Intex Mills Ltd. Dindigul	113
	Muruganathan Mills Ltd. Dharmapuri	79

(iii) From 1.6.2000 to 31.5.2001, a total of 6 mills were closed as follows:

State	Name & Address of the mill	No. of Workers affected
Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah Spg. Mills, Cuddapah	720
Bihar	Dumaraon Textiles Ltd. Buxar	1029
Gujarat	P.G. Textiles Mills Ltd. (Anand Cotspin Ltd.) Baroda	260
Haryana	Gee Kay Textiles Ltd, Hissar	51
Orissa	Orissa Textile Mills Ltd. Cuttack	3186
Tamil Nadu	Veeraghava Textiles, Chengalput	319

(b) The mills are closed for a variety of reasons. The main reasons for closure are —sickness, technological obsolescence, lack of modernisation, financial crisis and labour problems.

(c) to (e) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by BIFR also includes the outstanding dues of salary etc. of workers and mobilization of resources through selling of land by the promoters. However, dues outstanding by way of salary are not maintained by BIFR.

(f) and (g) Government of India have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f., 1.4.99, for modernisation of textile and jute industry, for a period of 5 years. The scheme provides the reimbursement of 5% interest on the loan sanctioned by the financial institutions and their co-opted agencies to the eligible units. The scheme is being operated by the Nodal Agencies, viz., IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI. As on 31st May, 2001, 953 applications were sanctioned loan of Rs. 4439 crore; and Rs. 2673 crores were disbursed.

[English]

Oil Pool Deficit

*170. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) the present oil pool deficit;

(b) the reasons for increase in oil pool deficit and the corrective measures taken to check the deficit;

(c) whether his Ministry has urged the Ministry of Finance to reduce custom duty on crude oil and petroleum products to bring down oil pool deficit; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Finance Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The estimated oil pool deficit as on 31-3-2001, was around Rs. 12,600 crore.

(b) The position of the Oil Pool Account depends upon the international prices of crude oil/petroleum products, variation in exchange rate, demand of petroleum products in the country, domestic selling prices of controlled petroleum products (motor spirit, high speed diesel, kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG)

etc. To contain the oil pool deficit, Government take various corrective measures which *inter-alia*, include corrections in the consumer prices of petroleum products, adjustment in rates of duties, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No decision has been taken as yet.

Policy on Import of LNG

*171. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared Liquefied Natural Gas Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented and the countries from which LNG is likely to be imported;

(d) whether the Government has now proposed that regulator will not fix any ceiling on import price of LNG;

(e) whether his Ministry and Department of Economic Affairs have worked out the demand and supply position of LNG for the next 10 years while freezing location and sizes of all future LNG terminals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) On consideration of the recommendations of Group of Officers, the Committee of Secretaries in its meeting held on October 11, 2000 recommended formulation of an Integrated Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Policy covering various aspects including Regulation, LNG shipping and fiscal regime. A proposal in this behalf is under active consideration of the Government.

Development of Inland Waterways

*172. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to boost inland waterways activities with private participation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the private companies who have offered their services in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the present Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Government has formulated a policy package which envisages Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to enter into joint ventures with private sector, equity participation upto a maximum of 40% by Govt. of BOT projects, tax exemption as available in infrastructure sector, enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean going vessels. Vessels Building Subsidy of 30% for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyards and for levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development of inland waterways. Conferences to explain the salient features of the new policy to interested entrepreneurs have been held. The list of Companies that have shown interest in the IWT sector is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Necessary amendments to IWAI Act, 1985 have been proposed to empower IWAI to raise bonds from the market, to form Joint Venture with interested parties to encourage investment in this sector and for equity participation by Govt. in BOT projects.

Statement

Name of some of the Private and Public Sector Shippers/Carriers who have shown interest in IWT Sector

1. Oswal Group of Companies
2. J.P. Rewa Cement
3. Prism Cement
4. Cement Manufacturers Association
5. Indo-Gulf fertilizers
6. Kundan Rice mills
7. Ruchi Soya
8. Jute Corporation of India

9. Hindustan Levers
10. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.
11. Assam Oil Division
12. Rajmahal Quartz and Sand
13. Shri Behari Enterprises
14. Aditya Fuels
15. Pioneer Industries
16. A.K. Enterprises
17. Tea Merchants Association
18. Patna Timber Merchants Association
19. CONCOR
20. NTPC
21. OCC
22. Vivada inland Shipping
23. Shahi Shipping
24. Chowgley Shipping
25. Goa Barge Owners Association
26. Eastern Navigation

Opening of Uninhabited Islands

*173. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

- (a) whether there is a great potential to develop uninhabited islands as a international tourist sports;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are planning to boost tourism in uninhabited islands;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and funds earmarked for the purpose, location-wise; and
- (d) the details of facilities to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) There is potential to develop uninhabited islands from tourism view point. This is, however, subject to clearance from Ministries of Environment & Forest and Home Affairs.

Strategy to Attract Cargo and Freight

*174. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have prepared any comprehensive marketing strategy for attracting cargo and freight in sufficient quantities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reasons for industries shying away from the railway for transporting of their products and raw materials; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve railway's earnings from freight?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a), (b) and (e) Yes, Sir. Railways have already prepared a comprehensive marketing strategy for attracting cargo and freight. The broad strategies are briefly mentioned below:

Bulk Traffic

Special care to premier customers, freight rebate on incremental traffic, Station-to-Station rates, setting up of rail terminals by private entrepreneurs and setting up of warehousing facility near rail terminals, special lumpsum rates for movement in merry-go-round circuit over short stretches, launching the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) to provide real-time information to customers, running time-tabled freight trains, etc.

Non-Bulk Traffic:

Attention to Multimodal traffic through Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), Leasing out Brake Vans in passenger trains, leasing out Parcel Vans, introduction of Chartered Parcel Express etc.

- (c) Does not arise.

(d) Apart from Railways, freight traffic is moved by various modes such as trucks, pipeline, coastal shipping, etc. Railways share in total freight traffic was high when roads, pipelines, shipping etc. were not developed. As various modes of transport developed in course of economic development, relative growth of rail transport has been moderate. In absolute terms, however, Railway freight traffic has grown steadily over the years.

[Translation]

Damage to Crops Due to Untimely Rains

*175. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to untimely rainfall during harvesting season of Rabi crops, foodgrains become wet and the farmers are forced to sell especially wheat, gram and mustard at throw away price;

(b) if so, the details of loss caused to the farmers by untimely rains in the Rabi season viz., April-May, 2001, State-wise;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to the farmers by the Central Government to Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to pay compensation to these farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) The State Government of Haryana had informed that excessive rainfall and hailstorm during March-April 2001 had caused damage to various crops in the State and requested for special assistance amounting to Rs. 607.33 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). A Central inter-ministerial team was deputed to the State of Haryana on 18th-19th May, 2001 to assess the situation. The situation as per the findings of the team was not such as would warrant provision of assistance from NCCF,

which was possible only in case of calamity of 'rare severity'. The main demand of the affected farmers was for payment compensation, which was not admissible under the NCCF. Such a dispensation is available under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme in areas where it has been made applicable. No proposal for financial assistance was received from the State Governments of Punjab and Rajasthan. However, requests were received from the State Governments for relaxation of prescribed specifications, as a result of adverse effect of unseasonal rainfall on wheat stocks during procurement operations and standing crops in advanced stage of maturity. Accordingly, the Government of India allowed procurement of wheat with luster lost grains up to maximum extent of 50% in Punjab, and parts of Haryana with an instruction that the stocks with luster lost grains be disposed of on over riding priority keeping in view the poor storability of such stocks.

As per latest information available, a record quantity of 20.62 million tonnes of wheat has been procured so far during the rabi marketing season 2001-02 as against 16.27 million tonnes during corresponding period of last year. 3.30 lakh tonnes of mustard seeds has so far been procured during the rabi marketing year 2001-02 since the market prices came below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) from April to third week of June. As the market prices of mustard seed increased beyond MSP during the third week of June, 2001, the procurement was suspended. There has been no procurement of gram since the market prices are ruling higher than the Minimum Support Price.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of SEBs

*176. SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahluwalia Committee set up to review the position with regard to the pending power dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) have recommended to waive 50% interest and surcharge component of the total outstanding dues of Rs. 41,473 crores;

(b) if so, whether these recommendations have been examined and the views of the SEBs sought in the matter; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the State Governments and SEBs to clear the outstanding due?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report of the Expert Group was considered in the Empowered Group of Chief Ministers which endorsed the recommendations with minor modifications. Following this, a letter addressed to CMs of States and UTs urging them to initiate steps for implementation of the scheme at the earliest.

Visa-on-Arrival Scheme

*177. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

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

(a) whether to attract tourists, a proposal is in hand to issue visa-on-arrival in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the impact of scheme on security risk has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expected increase in tourist traffic with the implementation of this scheme and the amount of foreign exchange proposed to be earned?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) In order to facilitate tourists and increase tourist arrivals the proposal of "Visa-on-Arrival" was taken up by the Department of Tourism for consideration of the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2000. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs did not agree to this proposal and therefore the scheme has not been implemented. The issue is being taken up at by the Minister of Tourism with the Minister of Home Affairs.

Raising of Funds by IRFC

*178. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Finance Corporation proposes to raise funds from overseas market for its mandated borrowings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present national and overseas outstanding borrowing of IRFC?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) has availed an export credit of US Dollars 20.4 Million (about Rs. 96 crore) in May '2001 from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada to finance the import by Ministry of Railways, of 10 numbers 4000 Horse Power Diesel Electric Passenger Locomotives manufactured by General Motors Corporation, USA. There is no other proposal to raise funds from overseas market at present.

(c) The outstanding borrowings of IRFC as on 31.03.2001 are as under:—

Domestic borrowings— Rs. 12,730.36 crore

External borrowings — US Dollar 317.30 Million

Japanese Yen 8.85 Billion

Euro 19.53 Million

Replacement of Tracks

*179. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 12,000 km of Railway tracks are, very old and over aged;

(b) whether the signalling gear at several hundred of stations are also very old and over aged; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to replace the over aged tracks and the signalling gears?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. About 12500 km of Railway track on Broad Gauge and about 5000 km on Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge is over aged and due for renewal as on 0.1.04.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir. At 2519 stations, Signalling gears are over aged.

(c) Railway is making all efforts to overcome the resource crunch to wipe out arrears of renewals of its assets.

Repayment of Rail Bond

*180. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the repayment of Rail Bond is completed;
- (b) whether many small investors have not received back the payment;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) the manner in which the railways are going to repay to the small investors;
- (e) whether the Railways have incurred heavy losses due to its investments in Canfina;
- (f) if so, whether the investment of the railways could not be recovered due to 1993 securities scam; and
- (g) the manner in which the railways are going to recover its money?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. All Railway Bonds which have matured have been redeemed on their respective due dates.

(b) No, Sir. All investors in Railway Bonds have been repaid on the due dates.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Sufficient funds are provided each year by Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) for meeting the repayment liabilities in full.

(e) No, Sir. Recovery of Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC) entire investment of Rs. 486.17 crore in Canbank Financial Services Limited (CANFINA), together with interest thereon, have been fully secured through an agreement between IRFC and the CANFINA/Canara Bank.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Research on Cardamom

1627. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of scientists engaged in cardamom research work;
- (b) the benefits accrued from the achievements in the above research work;
- (c) whether the scientists conducting research in this field have ever been sent abroad;
- (d) if so, the details of such visits during the last three years;
- (e) whether a delegation of the Spices Board had visited Latin America during the above period;
- (f) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (g) whether the requisite prior approval for the visit was taken from the competent authority; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Forty one scientists are engaged in Cardamom research in the country.

(b) Through systematic selection and evaluation, five high yielding varieties of Cardamom have been released. Protocol for micropropagation of small cardamom and integrated pest and disease management has been worked out.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Four scientists of Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce, Cochin were sent abroad.

(e) No research delegation of Spices Board has visited Latin America. However, a business delegation has visited Latin America during 13-22 June, 1999. The delegation was headed by Chairman, Spices Board with two exporter members.

(f) The expenditure incurred on the delegation is as follows:

Airfare : Rs. 1,94,660/-

Expenditure: US Dollar: US Dollar 4786

(g) All requisite prior approval was taken from the Ministry of Commerce.

(h) Replies given above.

Food Processing Industries in Bihar

1628. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to encourage establishment of food processing industries in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing industries provided Central assistance during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of steps to promote or to encourage establishment of food processing industries. Under the plan scheme of the Department of Food Processing Industries financial

assistance is extended to cooperatives, non-Government organizations, private industries etc. for the development of processed food sector. These schemes are project oriented and not state or area specific.

(c) Financial assistance under the Plan Schemes of this Department has been extended to set up 10 food processing projects in the State of Bihar during the last 3 years. In addition financial assistance for conducting seminars, Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) and study has also been extended.

Establishment of Apparel Parks

1629. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of setting up of Apparel/Textile Parks in the country;

(b) the details of project proposal received from the States for setting up of Apparel/Textile parks, till date, State-wise;

(c) the details of projects cleared by the Union Government, location/State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and released therefor, till date, project-wise; and

(e) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) A Scheme titled "Apparel Park for Exports" has been announced in the Union Budget 2001-02. The objectives of the scheme are as under:—

(i) To give a focussed thrust to setting up of modern apparel manufacturing units of international standards in clusters of excellence which will work as one-stop-shop for reputed international buyers.

- (ii) To give fillip to domestic production to meet competition from imports and to promote exports in this sector.

(b) and (c) In anticipation of launch of the Scheme, project proposals for setting up of Apparel Parks had earlier been received from a few State Governments like that of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. However, these project proposals would need to be reformulated keeping in view the guidelines to be framed under the Scheme, which are yet to be finalised.

- (d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of above.

[English]

Drought Conditions in J&K

1630. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prevailing drought conditions has severely affected the agriculture and horticulture throughout the J&K State with the result that Rabi crop especially wheat, fodder and vegetables have suffered heavy losses;

(b) if so, whether the water resources have also dehydrated and the water table had gone down; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that crops like wheat, pulses, oilseeds, fodder, vegetables etc. during Rabi season 2000-2001 were severely affected by drought in several districts of the State. Availability of water for irrigation and drinking purposes also came under strain.

(c) The primary responsibility of dealing with natural calamities including drought rests with the State Governments. The main source of financing relief expenditure is the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for which 75% share is contributed by the Central Government. For major calamities, where amounts in the CRF do not suffice, assistance is admissible from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). These arrangements are in

accordance with the award of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC). Apart from releasing the first instalment of the Central share of CRF for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 13.74 crores, a special assistance of Rs. 23.20 crores has also been sanctioned from the NCCF.

Import Duty on Cash Crops

1631. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to raise the import duties on rubber, coconut and other cash crops to the maximum level in view of the lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports;

(b) whether the Union Government also propose to negotiate with the WTO for declaration of coir as agricultural product instead of industrial product;

(c) if so, the time by which coir is likely to be declared as agricultural product; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) There is no proposal at present to raise the import duty on these items.

(b) and (c) In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, India has stressed the need for the rationalization of the product coverage of the Agreement by including primary agricultural commodities like coir. The said mandated negotiations are under way.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Power Supply in U.P.

1632. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power is not being supplied to Uttar Pradesh as per its demand;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure power supply to Uttar Pradesh as per its demand; and

(c) the extent by which the Government has got success in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April-June, 2001, the energy requirement in U.P. was 11505 MU while availability was 10297 MU showing a shortage of 10.5%.

(b) and (c) The power shortage in U.P. is attributable mainly to low generation from its own sources and financial crunch limiting its paying capacity for purchase of adequate power against its entitled share from the central sector stations in the Northern Region. As a result, the state's firm shares from some of the central projects having high energy cost had been diverted to other constituents of the region. The following steps have been taken to enhance power availability in the State:

- (i) out of the diverted shares of 460 MW, 300 MW has been restored to U.P. w.e.f. 3.2.2001 at their request.
- (ii) U.P. has been allocated 14% out of unallocated central share from central sector power stations in the Northern Region.
- (iii) U.P. has also been given 100 MW out of the power imported from Eastern Region to Northern Region.

The energy and peak shortages in U.P. have reduced to about 11% and 13% respectively during April-June, 2001 as compared to corresponding shortages of 13% and 14% during the same period in last year (April-June, 2000).

[English]

Setting up of Energy Parks in the Country

1633. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Ministry of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to help State Governments to set up "Energy Parks" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of States assisted under this scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. An Energy Park Scheme under Special Area Demonstration Programme is under implementation for setting up of energy parks in the States. Energy Parks are set up at educational institutions and at institutions where there is large inflow of public with the main objective to create awareness and give publicity amongst the students, teachers, rural and urban masses to the extent possible about the use and benefits of the renewable energy systems and devices. As per the guidelines of Energy Park Scheme, the energy park projects are sanctioned to the Institutions through State Government Nodal Agencies/Departments. Central Grants-in-aid are provided to the State Government Nodal Agencies/Departments towards procurement of energy systems and devices and for their installations.

(c) A total of 26 States/UTs i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, A&N Islands and Chandigarh have been assisted during the last three years under Energy Park Scheme.

[Translation]

Cut in Power Supply

1634. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has failed in making timely payment to NTPC;

(b) if so, whether the NTPC can effect a cut in power supply to M.P. Electricity Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The outstanding payments by Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) for energy supplied by NTPC, as on 30.6.2001 works out to Rs. 1742.87 crores. MPSEB has been defaulting in payments to NTPC, as indicated below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Billing	Payments	Shortfall
1997-98	1352.64	1302.82	49.82
1998-99	1666.10	1505.97	160.13
1999-2000	1980.80	1690.57	290.23
2000-2001	2143.26	1559.63	583.63
April 2001	192.65	100.00	92.65
May 2001	194.02	100.00	94.02
June 2001	189.35	100.00	89.35

(b) and (c) In case, MPSEB, fails to make payments, NTPC can effect a cut in its power supply based on the provisions of Bulk Power Supply Agreement entered between NTPC & MPSEB as well as the Power Purchase Agreements signed on 8.11.1998 by MPSEB with NTPC. Following notice for Regulation of Power supply by NTPC, MPSEB has increased its Letter of Credit for purchase of power from Rs. 100 crore per month to Rs. 120 crores per month and indicated its willingness to settle outstanding dues.

[English]

Setting up of Yarn Depot at Sircilla

1635. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to ensure timely supply of cone yarn for the powerloom weavers at Sircilla, the National Textile Corporation has agreed to set up a separate yarn depot at Sircilla;

(b) whether it has been proposed that the yarn will be supplied to weavers at the mill gate price;

(c) whether the technical team of NTC visited Sircilla to identify suitable premises to locate the yarn depot;

(d) whether the Government have also accepted for concession on sales tax of the yarn to be supplied through NTC depot; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this depot is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir, as a special case, NTC has set up a separate yarn depot at Sircilla.

(b) The yarn is being supplied to the weavers at Depot price.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State Government has agreed in principle to grant exemption of sales tax.

(e) The depot has already started functioning w.e.f. 1.6.2001.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Farmers for Drip Irrigation

1636. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide subsidy to the farmers for adopting drip irrigation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area of land irrigated by the drip irrigation system in the country and the amount of subsidy provided during 2000 and 2001 so far, State-wise with particular reference to Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether only big farmers are getting the benefit under the said scheme; and

(e) if not, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government has been providing subsidy @ 50% of the total cost of the drip irrigation system to the Small, Marginal, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and women farmers and 35% of the total cost to other category farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Interventions. With effect from October 2000, this Scheme

was amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans.

(c) The target fixed for drip irrigation under the Plasticulture Scheme during the year 2000-01 and the amount earmarked for different States under the Scheme is given in the enclosed Statement. An amount of Rs. 5.19 lakhs was provided to Government of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01 under the Plasticulture Scheme for covering 15 hectares under drip irrigation and 4 hectares under drip demonstration. The State

Government covered an area of 84.23 hectares under drip irrigation for which subsidy assistance of Rs. 16.51 lakhs was provided to the farmers. An amount of Rs. 34.50 lakhs have been earmarked by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in the Work Plan during 2001-02 for covering 200 hectares under drip irrigation and 10 hectares under drip demonstration in the State.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Under the Scheme, at least 25 per cent of the assistance is to be provided to Small, Marginal, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes farmers.

Statement

(Area in Ha., Rupees in lakh)

State	Drip Installation						Drip			
	SC/ST/S/M/Women		General		Total		Demonstration			
	Phy.	Fin. T. Cost	Phy.	Fin. Total Cost	Phy.	Fin. Total Cost	Fin. Central Share	Phy.	Fin.	Total Fin
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	500	112.50	50	8.00	550	120.50	108.45	10	3.40	111.85
Arunachal Pradesh	15	4.28	0	0.00	15	4.28	4.28	2	0.86	5.14
Assam	10	2.85	0	0.00	10	2.85	2.85	2	0.86	3.71
Bihar	10	2.60	5	0.91	15	3.51	3.16	2	0.78	3.94
Goa	10	2.60	5	0.91	15	3.51	3.16	4	1.56	4.72
Gujarat	650	146.25	180	28.80	830	175.05	157.55	20	6.80	164.35
Haryana	80	20.80	25	4.55	105	25.35	22.82	10	3.90	26.72
Himachal Pradesh	10	2.85	5	1.00	15	3.85	3.47	4	1.72	5.19
Jammu & Kashmir	10	2.85	5	1.00	15	3.85	3.47	4	1.72	5.19
Karnataka	1000	225.00	100	18.20	1100	243.20	218.88	15	5.10	223.98
Kerala	300	67.50	50	8.00	350	75.50	67.95	5	1.70	69.65
Madhya Pradesh	300	78.00	100	18.20	400	96.20	86.58	5	1.95	88.53
Maharashtra	1300	292.50	100	16.00	1400	308.50	277.65	10	3.40	281.05
Manipur	30	8.55	0	0.00	30	8.55	8.55	4	1.72	10.27
Meghalaya	20	5.70	0	0.00	20	5.70	5.70	4	1.72	7.42
Mizoram	20	5.70	0	0.00	20	5.70	5.70	4	1.72	7.42
Nagaland	25	7.12	0	0.00	25	7.12	7.12	4	1.72	8.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orissa	10	2.60	10	1.82	20	4.42	3.98	2	0.78	4.76
Punjab	60	15.60	30	5.46	90	21.06	18.95	6	2.34	21.29
Rajasthan	500	130.00	150	27.30	650	157.30	141.57	10	3.90	145.47
Sikkim	10	2.85	5	1.00	15	3.85	3.47	4	1.72	5.19
Tamil Nadu	500	112.50	100	16.00	600	128.50	115.65	10	3.40	119.05
Tripura	50	14.25	0	0.00	50	14.25	14.25	2	0.86	15.11
UP (Plains)	300	78.00	50	9.10	350	87.10	78.39	5	1.95	80.34
UP (Hills)	10	2.85	10	2.00	20	4.85	4.37	0	0.00	4.37
W Bengal	5	1.30	5	0.91	10	2.21	1.99	2	0.78	2.77
Sub Total States	5735	1348	985	169.16	6720	1516.76	1369.93	150	56.36	1426.29
A&N Islands	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
D&N Haveli	5	1.30	2	0.36	7	1.66	1.66	2	0.78	2.44
Delhi	5	1.30	2	0.36	7	1.66	1.50	3	1.17	2.67
D & Diu	3	0.78	2	0.36	5	1.14	1.14	2	0.78	1.92
L. Dweep	3	0.78	0	0.00	3	0.78	0.78	2	0.78	1.56
Pondicherry	3	0.78	2	0.36	5	1.14	1.03	2	0.78	1.81
Sub Total UTs	19	4.94	8	1.46	27	6.40	6.12	11	4.29	10.41
Total	5754	1353	993	171	6747	1523	1376	161	60.65	1436.69

[English]

Macro Management of Agriculture

1637. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims, objectives and role of Macro Management of agriculture and the manner in which the States are provided assistance to their work plan, objectives and targets;

(b) whether the regional priorities are likely to be taken up for identifying the areas under the Macro Management with a view to integrate all schemes of the same nature under control and monitoring of the States; and

(c) the terms and conditions to be followed by the Central and States under the Macro Management programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Macro Management Scheme aims at all round development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States. The benefits, apart from better targeting of scarce financial resources, include:

- reflection of local needs and crop/region specific priorities;
- greater flexibility and autonomy to States;
- optimum utilization of scarce financial resources;
- removal of regional imbalances.

Integration of Central Schemes will weed out duplication and enhance the productivity of the support programmes and accord greater flexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities on the basis of regional priorities. The Central Government will supplement/complement the State Governments' efforts through regionally differentiated Work Plans comprising crop/area/target group specific interventions, formulated in an interactive mode and implemented in a spirit of partnership with the States.

The outlay of the Work Plan would be shared by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 90:10. In the case of North-Eastern States, however, the entire expenditure will be borne by the Government of India. Central assistance for Work Plans will be in the ratio of 80% by grants and 20% by loans. The Scheme was started in November, 2000.

PCRA

1638. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual amount spent on administration and on research in Petroleum Conservation Research Association during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements of PCRA in terms of savings in consumption of petroleum products during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to merge PCRA with R&D Division of one of the Public Sector Undertaking; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Information is in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Expenditure Reforms Commission in its 6th Report to the Hon'ble Finance Minister has rather stated that the Government has a very good structure in the form of PCRA to take care of conservation activities.

Statement

(a) Annual amount spent on Administration and on research in Petroleum Conservation Research Association during the last three years are as given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
(I) Administration	146.71	182.98	189.99
(II) Research related activities & studies:—			
• Field Activities	213.51	238.04	202.98
• Mass Awareness	257.64	466.26	574.01
• Sponsored Research and Development	20.30	2.46	14.65
Sub Total	491.45	706.76	791.64

(b)

Year	Annual Savings	
	Quantity of oil in '000 tonnes	Value in Rs. (Crores)
1998-99	271	186
1999-2000	374	380
2000-2001	326	349

Closure of Power Station

1639. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajghat Power Station and one unit of Badapur Thermal Power Station has been closed during the current summer season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these units are likely to resume their normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Out of the two units (67.5 MW each) of Rajghat Power Station, Unit No. 1 was closed for scheduled overhauling with effect from 19.3.2001. The unit started generation on 27.5.2001 and was stabilized on 14.6.2001. Unit No. 2 developed some technical fault on 19.5.2001 which was rectified and synchronized on 21.6.2001. This unit has been taken for overhauling now and is expected to resume operation by the 3rd week of September, 2001.

In the case of Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Unit No. 4 (210 MW) was closed due to annual overhauling, for better availability and sustainability of generation, *w.e.f.* 29.3.2001 to 26.4.2001. The Unit resumed normal functioning *w.e.f.* 26.4.2001.

Introduction of Urban Haats

1640. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce more urban haats on the analogy of "Dilli Haats" in various parts of the country to help craftsmen to sell their handicrafts;

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

(c) the other steps proposed to improve the plight of craftsmen in textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to providing permanent marketing infrastructure to the artisan community, a new plan scheme titled "Setting up of Urban Haats" was launched during the 9th Plan. The scheme envisages setting up of Haats on the pattern of Dilli Haat. 18 such haats were proposed to be set-up during the 9th Plan itself at commercially important and tourist oriented urban centres in the country, out of which 10 have already been sanctioned at Ahmedabad, Agra, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Ranchi, Karnal, Jammu, Tirupathi, Allahabad and Bhopal. The scheme allows for allotment of built up stalls to artisans, on fortnightly rotation basis. In the Haats, artisans will get opportunity for direct sale of their products to the consumers without involving any middlemen.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the plight of craftspeople include:— training for skill upgradation; marketing development support; identification of important craft clusters and their sustainable development through an integrated package of assistance; revival of languishing crafts; design and technology upgradation; setting up of Craft Development Centers and Common Facility Centers; setting up of workshops and workshops-cum-housing etc..

[Translation]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in MP

1641. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new LPG agencies and petrol pumps are proposed to be opened during 2001-2002 in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, 304 LPG distributorships and 122 Retail Outlets are pending for commissioning by Public Sector Oil Marketing companies under various Marketing Plans in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The selection is made in a phased manner and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact number of allotments for Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships during 2001-2002.

[English]

Deployment of Agriculture Scientists for Non-Scientific Works

1642. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the scientists in Indian Council of Agricultural Research have been deployed for non-scientific works that are purely meant for administrative wing resulting in sharp decline in research activities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of scientists deployed in administrative wings; and

(d) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being complied and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Development of Ram Mandir at Ramtek in Maharashtra

1643. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have turned down the proposal of beautification and conservation of Ram Mandir at Ramtek forwarded by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDCL);

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made by MTDCL; and

(c) the reasons for turning down the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Every year State Governments including Maharashtra bring a list of proposals for prioritisation by Government of India. These proposals are discussed with representatives of the State Governments based on availability of financial resources and tourism potential of the projects. The proposal for beautification and conservation of Ram Mandir at Ramtek was not prioritised in the context of the priorities of other projects proposed by Government of Maharashtra in view of the resource constraints.

(b) The proposal of the Government of Maharashtra did not contain full details of the project for beautification and conservation of Ram Mandir at Ramtek since they are not required to spell out full details at the prioritisation stage.

(c) The priorities were given to other projects proposed by Government of Maharashtra in consultation with the representatives of the State Government and resource constraints of the Government of India.

Enquiry Report of Gaisal Train Accident

1644. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1791 dated March 8, 2001 regarding enquiry report on Gaisal Train Accident and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Ray Commission on Gaisal train accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The Inquiry Commission headed by Shri Justice G.N. Ray, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, was appointed to inquire into the accident at Gaisal station of Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway has submitted its report on 28.1.2001. As per findings of the Commission the accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff".

Action against the staff & officers, as recommended by the Commission has been initiated as per Discipline and Appeal Rules. The Commission has made a total of 21 recommendation of which 18 have been accepted.

Ports Handling Container Ships

1645. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ports which are handling container ships;

(b) whether there is any plan to develop more ports to handle container ships; and

(c) if so, the number of ports identified for its development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Amongst the major ports, Kolkata, Haldia, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai Ports are handling container ships.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, containers handling facilities need to be modernized and augmented continuously to cater to the increased traffic volumes and various Port Trusts are taking steps in this regard.

Bangalore Division of Southern Railways

1646. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Division of Southern Railways has taken some measures to compete with the private tour operators as a part of new marketing strategies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these measures are likely to help the Railways for improving the marketing strategies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A special effort has been made by Bangalore Division to provide Bus Service on arrival of trains through Kerala Transport Corporation.

(c) These measures greatly improve the passenger satisfaction.

Gauge Conversion of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Rail Line

1647. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the progress made regarding gauge conversion of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Rail line;

(b) whether no work has been taken up so far in Kerala stretch;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the conversion work of said rail line in Kerala is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The earthwork and bridges on Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur are in progress. Final location survey to ease gradient and sharp curves suiting for BG has been completed between Quilon and Punalur and is in progress on Punalur-Tenkasi section.

(d) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed for completion of this project.

Completion of Bankura-Damodar River Railway Project

1648. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bankura-Damodar River Railway project is on the way of completion;

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. However, the work is in progress.

(b) No target date for completion of the project has yet been fixed.

(c) The work is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

[Translation]

Agricultural Universities in Bihar

1649. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities set up in the country so far, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more agricultural universities in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are in all 30 State Agricultural Universities, one Central Agricultural University and five Deemed to be Universities. State and location-wise details of the universities are given in enclosed statements I & II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

*The Number of State-wise Agricultural Universities
in the Country*

S.No.	State	Number of State Agricultural Universities as Recognised by the I.C.A.R.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1 (one)
2.	Assam	1 (one)
3.	Bihar	1 (one)
4.	Chhattisgarh	1 (one)
5.	Gujarat	1 (one)
6.	Haryana	1 (one) + 1 (one) = 2 (Two) S.A.U. + D.U.
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2 (two)
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2 (two)
9.	Jharkhand	1 (one)
10.	Karnataka	2 (two)
11.	Kerala	1 (one)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1 (one)
13.	Maharashtra	4 (four) + 1 (one) = 5 (five) S.A.U.'s + D.U.
14.	Manipur	1 (Central University)
15.	N.C.T. of Delhi	1 (D.U.)
16.	Orissa	1 (one)
17.	Punjab	1 (one)
18.	Rajasthan	2 (two)
19.	Tamil Nadu	2 (two)

1	2	3
20.	Uttaranchal	1 (one)
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2 (two) + 2 (two) = 4 (four) S.A.U.'s D.U.'s
22.	West Bengal	2 (two)

Note:— (1) S.A.U. means State Agricultural University.
(2) D.U. means Deemed University.

Statement-II

Location-Wise List of Agricultural Universities in India

Sl. No.	State/S.A.U.s/Institute/Central University
1	2
1.	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i> Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) -500 030.
2.	<i>Assam</i> Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat (Assam) 785 013.
3.	<i>Bihar</i> Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar) 848125.
4.	<i>Chhattisgarh</i> Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Krishinagar, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)-492 012.
5.	<i>Gujarat</i> Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar, Banaskantha (Gujarat) 385 506.
6.	<i>Haryana</i> i. CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana) 125 004. ii. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal 132001 (Haryana)
7.	<i>Himachal Pradesh</i> i. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) 176 062.

1	2
	ii. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan (Himachal Pradesh) 173 230.
8. <i>Jammu & Kashmir</i>	
	i. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Railway Road, Jammu Tawi (J&K) 180004.
	ii. Sher-e-Kashmir University, of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar (J&K)
9. <i>Jharkhand</i>	
	i. Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand) 834 006.
10. <i>Karnataka</i>	
	i. University of Agricultural Sciences, Post Bag No. 2477, Bangalore (Karnataka) 560 065.
	ii. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) 580 005.
11. <i>Kerala</i>	
	Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur (Kerala) 680 654.
12. <i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	
	Jawaharal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) 482 004.
13. <i>Maharashtra</i>	
	i. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (Maharashtra) 415 712.
	ii. Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani (Maharashtra) 431 402.
	iii. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri (Maharashtra) 431 722.
	iv. Dr Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Krishinagar, Akola (Maharashtra) 444104.
	v. Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Jaiprakash Road, Seven Bungalows, Versova Mumbai-400058 (M.S.)
	vi. University of Animal & Fisheries Sciences, Nagpur (Maharashtra)*

1	2
14. <i>Manipur</i>	
	Central Agricultural University, Imphal-795 001
15. <i>N.C.T. of Delhi</i>	
	Indian Agril. Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi-110012.
16. <i>Orissa</i>	
	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar (Orissa) 751 003.
17. <i>Punjab</i>	
	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab) 141 004.
18. <i>Rajasthan</i>	
	i. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, (Rajasthan) 334 002.
	ii. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan).
19. <i>Tamil Nadu</i>	
	i. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, (Tamil Nadu) 641 003.
	ii. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) 600 007.
20. <i>Uttaranchal</i>	
	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar-263 145.
21. <i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	
	i. C. S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) 208 002.
	ii. Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) 224 001.
	iii. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar-243 122.
	iv. Allahabad Agricultural Deemed University, Allahabad. (U.P.)

1	2
v.	Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut (U.P.)*
22.	<i>West Bengal</i>
i.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, P.O. Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya Mohanpur, Nadia (West Bengal) 741 252.
ii.	West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Belgachia, Kolkata-700037 (West Bengal).
iii.	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Cooch Behar (W.B.)*

* These three new State Agricultural University are yet to be recognised by the ICAR.

Fishery In Saline Water

1650. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishery in saline water is still done in various States including Maharashtra particularly in the Adivasi and scheduled castes dominated areas;

(b) if so, the details of fish production during each of the last three years, place-wise/State-wise;

(c) whether inland fishery is banned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Coastal aquaculture in brackish water areas is carried out in all the coastal States of the country including Maharashtra.

(b) A statement indicating State wise production of cultured shrimp through coastal aquaculture during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Cultured Shrimp Production during 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(In Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UT's	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44856	46270	53100
2.	Goa	590	840	966
3.	Gujarat	256	340	424
4.	Karnataka	2690	2890	2733
5.	Kerala	7660	7150	7327
6.	Maharashtra	409	390	315
7.	Orissa	6000	3400	7360
8.	Tamil Nadu	1847	2940	3792
9.	West Bengal	18326	21780	21079
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	N	N	N
11.	Daman & Diu	N	N	N
12.	Pondicherry	N	N	N
Total		82634	86000	97096

*N- Negligible quantities

[English]

National Pulses Development Project

1651. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which "National Pulses Development Project" is being implemented and the funds allocated under this programme during the last two financial years and in 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) whether any substantial results have been achieved under this programme;

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

(d) the districts of Andhra Pradesh covered thereunder;

(e) whether some more districts of the country are proposed to be covered under this programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) National Pulses Development Project is being implemented in 30 States/U.T. The State-wise allocation of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is given at statement-I.

(b) and (c) With the implementation of NPDP the production of pulses which was at 12.86 million tonnes in 1989-90 has increased to a record level of 14.91 million tonnes during 1998-99. The State-wise production of pulses during 1998-99 is given at statement-II.

(d) The 22 districts of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the scheme. Names of the districts are given below:

1. Adilabad 2. Anantapur 3. Chittoor, 4. Cuddapah 5. East Godavari 6. Guntur 7. Karimnagar 8. Khammam 9. Krishna 10. Kurnool 11. Mahboobnagar 12. Medak 13. Nalgonda 14. Nellore 15. Nizamabad 16. Prakasam 17. Rangareddy 18. Srikakulam 19. Viskhapatnam 20. Vizianagaram 21. Warangal 22. West Godavari.

(e) and (f) In order to increase the production of pulses in the country, State Government are empowered to include more number of districts with the approval of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India depending upon the potential of such districts to grow pulses in reasonable area. As and when such proposals are received from the State Government, the same are considered by this Ministry (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) and necessary approval is conveyed to them accordingly.

Statement-I

National Pulses Development Project

		(Rs. in lakhs)		
S. No.	Name of State/UTs.	1999-2000 Allocation	2000-2001 Allocation	2001-2002 Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125.00	91.00	75.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	50.00	30.00
3.	Assam	10.00	70.00	40.00
4.	Bihar	120.00	72.00	100.00
5.	Goa	1.00	1.00	1.00
6.	Gujarat	130.00	100.00	80.00
7.	Haryana	70.00	49.00	38.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	8.50	7.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.00	18.50	12.00
10.	Karnataka	150.00	112.00	87.00
11.	Kerala	12.00	6.50	5.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	630.00	398.00	200.00
13.	Maharashtra	430.00	272.00	212.00
14.	Manipur	25.00	115.00	62.00

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	5.00	50.00	25.00
16.	Mizoram	—	40.00	20.00
17.	Nagaland	18.00	105.00	62.00
18.	Orissa	180.00	145.50	90.00
19.	Punjab	22.00	15.00	10.00
20.	Rajasthan	525.00	315.00	245.00
21.	Sikkim	15.00	10.00	8.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	150.00	115.00	85.00
23.	Tripura	25.00	110.00	63.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	550.00	330.00	214.00
25.	West Bengal	25.00	20.00	20.00
26.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	60.00
27.	Jharkhand	—	—	15.00
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	30.00
29.	A & N Island	1.00	1.00	1.00
30.	Delhi	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total		3270.00	2620.00	1898.00

Statement-II**Statewise Production of Pulses during 1998-99**

(Lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Production
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.07
3.	Assam	0.69
4.	Bihar	7.92
5.	Goa	0.09
6.	Gujarat	6.34
7.	Haryana	3.53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.18
10.	Karnataka	7.47
11.	Kerala	0.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	36.19
13.	Maharashtra	22.55
14.	Manipur	—
15.	Meghalaya	0.03
16.	Mizoram	0.09
17.	Nagaland	0.12
18.	Orissa	2.49
19.	Punjab	0.51

1	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	24.44
21.	Sikkim	0.06
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.04
23.	Tripura	0.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23.24
25.	West Bengal	1.26
26.	A&N Island	0
27.	Delhi	0
28.	Others	0.07
Total		149.1

Upgradation of Place of Rishi Gautam In Bihar

1652. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to upgrading the place of Rishi Gautam in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has not received any proposal for upgrading the place of Rishi Gautam in Bihar for grant of Central financial assistance during the current year i.e. 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Oil Reserves with ONGC

1653. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to double its reserve base and to raise the global recovery factor beyond 40 per cent by 2020;

(b) if so, whether ONGC propose to have 12 billion tonnes equivalent oil under its control;

(c) if so, the manner in which ONGC propose to have such a reserve of oil;

(d) the present oil reserve of ONGC; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve target of 12 billion tonnes equivalent of reserves?

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 Short & Medium-Long term Exploration and Production strategy of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) being formulated envisages establishing in a high case scenario, 6-7 billion tonnes of oil & oil equivalent gas (O+OEG) over and above 6.029 billion tonnes of O+OEG of its initial hydrocarbon inplace. ONGC will also attempt to enhance the overall oil recovery factor to 40% in the next twenty years.

(c) The exploration strategy of ONGC being formulated has been phased into Short term covering the 10th V-year Plan and Medium-Long term, covering 2007 to 2020, with corresponding exploration programme and the expectations of implace hydrocarbon establishment which is to be monitored periodically for required course corrections.

In order to have such a level of inplace hydrocarbon base, it is planned to step up the deep water exploration and spread ONGC's activities into non-producing, poorly explored and 'yet to be explored' basins, besides continuing intensive exploration in the producing basins.

(d) The position of Initial hydrocarbon inplace of ONGC operated areas and fields under Joint Ventures (JV) as on 1.4.2001 is 6.029 billion tonnes of O+OEG.

(e) The strategy being formulated encompasses the following exploration objectives and programmes to realise them during Short and Medium-Long term periods for achieving the envisaged quantum of initial hydrocarbons inplace.

Short term strategy (2002-07):

(i) Prospectivity analysis of each acreage with integration of available Geological & Geophysical (G&G) data for sector prioritisation and exploration programme formulation.

- (ii) Time scheduled G&G activities for prospect recognition and drilling.
- (iii) Prioritisation of exploration activities and implementation as fast track projects for enhancing Reserve accretion.
- (iv) Pre-drill 3D data seismics acquisition in deep water.
- (v) Blanket 3D key growth areas viz. Upper Assam and North Cambay etc. for exploring deeper objectives and new hydrocarbon plays.
- (vi) Knowledge building in less explored sectors of producing as well as frontier basins.

Medium-Long term strategy (2007-20):

- (i) Intensive exploration in the producing basins to upgrade yet to find (YTF) hydrocarbon resources to in place volume.
- (ii) Exploration spread in non producing, poorly explored & 'yet to be explored' basins to establish potential and knowledge building.
- (iii) Major shift to deep offshore, the unexplored frontier, as major thrust and contributing sector for future.

The exploration programme to realise the objective has been formulated. The strategy will be monitored for suitable course correction based on the results, acreage available and fiscal regime applicable.

Reservation Policy Implemented by RITES

1654. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RITES Ltd. is implementing the Reservation policy of Government in fresh recruitment and departmental promotions;

(b) if so, whether the vacancies reserved for SC/ST/OBC in all cadres and disciplines have been filled up;

(c) whether reservation policy has been implemented while recruitment of manpower on deputation;

(d) if so, the number of employees on deputation in RITES Ltd. during the last two years and the number of SC/ST/OBC employees out of them;

(e) the backlog of SC/ST vacancies and the action taken to fill up the backlog;

(f) whether any SC/ST liaison officer has been appointed by RITES Limited to monitor effective implementation of reservation policy and to look after the greivances of SC/ST employees; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Reservation does not apply to deputation in terms of Department of Personnel & Taining Circular: letter No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2.7.97.

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

(e) Against the requirement of 262 for SC and 118 for ST as per the prescribed percentage, RITES have recruited/regularised over the years 200 SC and 27 ST candidates. As a result of special recruitment drive held in 1997, RITES have recruited 3 Assistant Managers & 30 Engineers in the reserved categories. Out of these 02 Assistant Managers and 22 Engineers have joined. Since, there are no vacancies as existing will be filled up with provisions of reservation as per rules as and when vacancies occur.

(f) and (g) While there is no SC/ST Liaison Officer particularly appointed for the purpose, care is taken to ensure that reservation policy is followed. One member of the panel of Board nominated for selections and promotions is from SC/ST category.

Promotion of Tourism in Daman and Diu

1655. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for the promotion of tourism in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose during the said period; and

(c) the utilisation of funds by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism, Government of India extends Central financial assistance to the State Govts./UT Administrations for the projects relating to development and promotion of tourism every year in consultation with them. During the last three years no project was sanctioned as the UT of Daman & Diu did not submit any project for prioritisation. However, 7 projects for an amount of Rs. 2.04 crores have been prioritised for current financial year i.e. 2001-2002.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Generation of Power

1656. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether extensive efforts are being made for co-generation of power from bagasse in most of the sugar factories in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme for promotion of optimum surplus power generation from bagasse in sugar mills. The Programme provides for Central Financial Assistance by way of capital subsidy or interest subsidy for various types of projects in cooperative, public and private sector sugar mills. Fiscal and promotional incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, soft loans etc. are also available for these projects.

A total surplus power capacity of 213 MW has been installed through 36 bagasse based-co-generation projects in six States. These comprise seven projects (62.50 MW) in Karnataka; six projects (9.0 MW) in Maharashtra; one project (2.0 MW) in Punjab; four projects (11.50 MW) in Andhra Pradesh; ten projects (81.50 MW) in Tamil Nadu; and, eight projects (46.50 MW) in Uttar Pradesh. A further surplus power capacity of 263 MW is under implementation through 29 bagasse based co-generation projects in seven States.

[*English*]

Setting up of New Railway Station at Nedumbasseri

1657. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a new Railway Station at Nedumbasseri near Cochin International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A new Railway Station at Nedumbasseri near Cochin is not considered necessary at this stage. If and when a proposal is made, then it will be given due consideration.

Passenger Ships between Chennai and Andaman Islands

1658. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have operated any passenger ships between Chennai-Andaman Islands; and

(b) if so, the details with fare structure and durations of journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration is operating two passenger-cum-cargo vessels viz. m.v. Nancowry and m.v. Swaraj Dweep between Chennai-Andaman Islands;

(b) the fare structure is as follows:

Class of accommodation	Fare for islanders (In Rupees)	Fare for non-islanders (In Rupees)
Deluxe	2,280.00	4,140.00
"A" Cabin	2,050.00	3,420.00
"B" Cabin	1,520.00	2,700.00
Bunk	400.00	1,150.00

The duration of the journey is approximately 55-65 hours depending on weather conditions.

Animal Welfare in Legal Studies

1659. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
 SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) whether the Legal Education committee of the Bar Council of India has recommended that animal welfare should be included as a subject in the curriculum for legal studies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a memorandum in this regard from the Bar Council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) On a request received from Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, the Legal Education Committee of the Bar Council of India at its meeting held on 30.03.2001 recommended to the Council that the compulsory subject of "Environmental Law" in both the five-year and three-year law Courses might be substituted by the subjects of "Environmental law including laws for the protection of the wild life and other living creatures including animal welfare."

(b) to (d) The Bar Council of India in its meetings held on 31.03.2001 and 01.04.2001 accepted the above recommendation and amended the relevant rules for the purpose. The function of prescribing the curriculum for Law Courses has been assigned under the Advocates Act, 1961 to the Bar Council of India, to do so in consultation with the Universities. The Bar Council of India has also issued a Circular dated 11.6.2001 to all the Universities imparting legal education and all Law Colleges informing them about its decision and directing them to incorporate the aforesaid new subject in the LL.B. Courses.

Regularisation of Casual Labourers in Chennai Circle

1660. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual labourers regularised in various sub-circles of Chennai Circle and in the Government Museum, Chennai during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the norms, rules and regulations are not followed in the regularisation of casual employee/temporary status employee in Government Museum, Chennai;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard and conducted any probe thereon; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No regularisation/appointment was made as far as various sub-circles of Chennai Circle are concerned, whereas one Group 'D' appointment was made in Fort Museum, Chennai Circle.

(b) to (d) A complaint has been received relating to the Group 'D' appointment in the Fort Museum, Chennai. Action has been initiated to obtain clarifications in this regard.

[Translation]

Permits for Import of Fruits etc.

1661. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to make the "import permit" mandatory for the import of fruit, seeds and plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said decision is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) For seeds and plants meant for propagation and sowing, provision for import permit in the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989 has already been there. However, the Government have issued a notification dated 1.5.2001 to make requirement of import permit mandatory for the import of plants and

fruits for consumption also. However cut-flower, garlands, bouquets, fruits & vegetables weighing less than two kilograms for personal consumption are exempted from import permit. The said Notification came into effect from 1.6.2001.

Mushroom Spawn Culture by 100% export oriented units & tissue culture materials of any plant origin & flower seeds continue to be imported without permit as provided in the notifications dated 16th July, 1993 and 11th October, 1993 respectively.

[English]

Recommendations of Murari Committee on Fishing

1662. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken decision to accord licenses to Taiwanese fishing vessels while Murari Committee clearly stated in its report that no foreign fishingship be allowed in Indian water; and

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the recommendations of Murari Committee on Fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the EXIM Policy in-force, new trawlers and other fishing vessels as well as second hand vessels up to ten years old are allowed to be imported freely subject to approval or guidelines issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture. However, import of second hand trawlers and other fishing vessels above ten years is restricted and is allowed only against a license. As regards Murai Committee Report and its implementation, required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

National Sugarcane Research Centre

1663. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the "Dainik Jagran" (Varanasi) dated June 1, 2001 under the caption "Rashtriya Ganna Shodh Sansthan Ko Hataye Jane Ke Sanket";

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to shift the institute to another place; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to shift the National Institute of Sugarcane & Sugar Technology, Mau to Bangalore. However, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Central Monitoring Group of the Ministry of Finance, the Government is considering a proposal to transfer the assets of NISST to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This proposal is under examination.

[English]

Permission to Across the Irrigation Canal Under Railway line in Orissa

1664. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2750 dated March 15, 2001 regarding permission to across the irrigation canal under railway line in Orissa and to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has deposited the full amount and proposed any new canal crossing through railway embankments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Service in Trains

1665. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone service had been introduced in certain trains during the last year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, train-wise;
- (c) whether the said facility has been withdrawn; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. No such service has been introduced during last year i.e. 2000-2001.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Contract of Catering in Lucknow Swarna Shatabdi Express

1666. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract of catering in Lucknow Swarna Shatabdi Express has been given by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation to such a firm against whom six cases of vigilance (Railways) have been registered; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Management of catering licence for Lucknow Swarna Shatabdi Express was awarded to M/s. R.K. Associates by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation, a public sector company under the Ministry of Railways, on the basis of competitive bidding through a process of pre-qualification on the basis of expression of interest. M/s R.K. Associates fulfilled the eligibility criteria and the firm is not blacklisted by Railways. The tender committee examined the credentials of the applicants with an objective criterion.

Preventive checks are made to maintain service standards by various agencies including Vigilance. During the last three years 14 cases of irregularities/deficiencies have been reported by the Vigilance Department against this firm. While fines were imposed in 3 cases, 11 irregularities were of very minor nature.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plants

1667. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States to which proposals has been sent by the Union Government for setting up of thermal power plants for providing cheap electricity in the country;

(b) the names of the States with which Memorandum of Understanding has been signed after deciding the location for setting up thermal power stations;

(c) whether such a scheme is proposed to be launched in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The capacity addition programme in Central Sector by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) during the 10th Plan is as follows:—

Project/Location	MW
A. NTPC	
Simhadri/Andhra Pradesh	500
Talcher-II/Orissa	2000
Ramagundam-III/Andhra Pradesh	500
Rihand-II/Uttar Pradesh	1000
Sipat/Chhattisgarh	1320
Kahalgau-II/Bihar*	660
Barh/Bihar*	660
North Karanpura/Jharkhand*	660
Total	7300

- * Approved by the Government as Mega Power Project. As mega power projects, benefits of customs duty exemption, exemption from sales tax and other State levies will be available to these projects for them to generate power at lower cost.

Project/Location	MW
B. DVC	
Mejia Thermal Power Station	210
Extension Unit-4/West Bengal	
Chandrapura Thermal Power Station Stage-II/Jharkhand	250
Durgapur Thermal Power Station/ West Bengal	250
Bokaro 'B' Thermal Power Station Extension/Jharkhand	210
Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project*/Jharkhand	1000
Total	1920

* A joint venture project between DVC and Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company.

Opening of Cafeteria in National Museum

1668. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cafeteria has been opened in the National Museum ignoring the objections raised by the concerned departments, which may result in a major mishap;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the objections and under whose order the cafeteria has been opened;

(c) whether the Government would issue orders to maintain *status quo ante* in this regard;

(d) whether punitive action would be taken against the concerned persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Cafeteria has been opened in the National Museum premises. Initially, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) had some reservations against opening of the cafeteria. However, after a detailed discussion between National Museum authorities and CPWD officials, the matter has been settled.

[English]

Vacant Post of Language Librarian

1669. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of language librarian posts lying vacant in Regional Languages Library (CSL) under the Department of Culture along with its reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken to fill up those vacancies along with the other sanctioned posts to run the Regional Languages Library; and

(c) the number of titles procured by this library in each language on Kashmiri, Konkni, Manipuri and Nepali?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Two posts of Language librarians — one each in Kannada and Punjabi have been lying vacant in the Regional Languages Library of the CSL which is under the Department of Culture. These two posts fell vacant on account of promotion and superannuation of the two incumbents.

(b) Timely action for filling up the post of ALIO (Kannada) was sent to the UPSC but the UPSC were unable to find a suitable candidate. A requisition has been sent again in May 2001. The post of ALIO (Punjabi) was advertised by the UPSC in June 2001. The remaining 7 posts are filled up.

(c) No books have been procured in the Kashmiri, Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali languages because of non-availability of ALIO having knowledge of these languages.

Tehri Dam Project

1670. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the implementation of the Tehri Dam Project;

(b) the extent to which it is behind schedule, item-wise;

(c) the cost escalation suffered by the project stage-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Tehri Hydro-electric Power Project Stage-I (4x250 MW) is under execution by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC). The construction activities are in full swing. Only 70 meters of the Main Dam is left to be raised against the height of 260.5 meters. All the four Diversion Tunnels have been completed and are in operation. The spillway and chute spillway works are in progress. Electro-mechanical equipment is under erection in the underground Power House.

The first unit of 250 MW of the Project which was scheduled for commissioning in March, 2002 has been rescheduled because of non-closure of diversion tunnels T-3 and T-4. Closure of these tunnels is required to make available the dry area for construction of stilling basin. This could not take place on account of non-vacation of Old Tehri Town consequent to the agitations resorted to by the local population. The shifting of Old Tehri Town paving the way for closure of tunnels T-3 and T-4 is now receiving the attention of the State Government of Uttaranchal and these tunnels are now proposed to be closed in October, 2001 following which about 18 months are required to complete the work of spillway and stilling basin.

The revised cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 5209.10 crores (at August '99 Price Level) excluding

interest during construction and financial charges as against the approved the cost of Rs. 2963.66 crores (at March, 1993 Price Level) excluding IDC.

Staff Working in PSUs

1671. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff/officers working in each Public Sector Undertaking under his Ministry as on May 31, 2001;

(b) the total number of staff/officers working on deputation basis in each PSU as on May 31, 2001;

(c) the total number of staff/officers working after retirement in each PSU as on May 31, 2001;

(d) the total number of staff/officers belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category working in each PSU as on May 31, 2001;

(e) the total number of posts cadre-wise & ex-cadre wise lying vacant in each PSU as on May 31, 2001; and

(f) the time limit fixed to fill up cadre-wise and ex-cadre wise vacant posts in each PSU as on May 31, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (f) Positions as on 31.05.2001 is given below:

S.No.	Name of PSUs	No. of staff/officers working	Staff/officers on deputation	Staff/officers working after retirement	Staff/officers belonging to SC/ST	No. of posts vacant in cadre/ex-cadre	Time limit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	IRCON International Ltd.	1804	228	17	204	Nil	Filling up of
2.	RITES Ltd.	2196	348	309	229	Nil	vacancies is
3.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	12	Nil	Nil	5	3	continuous process.
4.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	703	56	Nil	125	186	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	3394	209	Nil	360	237	
6.	Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd.	60	36	7	2	12	
7.	Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd.	—	—	—	Nil	3	
8.	Railtel Corporation of India Ltd.	02	01	NIL	NIL Posts are yet to be created.		

⊗ Being construction/consultancy companies, the requirement of staff varies with assignment in hand and as such there is no concept of vacant post.

CBI Report on Cranes

1672. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI report regarding inquiry into the purchase of eight 140 T cranes from M/s Gottwald of Germany, in which involvement of some officers of Railway Board are suspected, has since been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the enquiry report alongwith the officers found involved therein;

(c) the loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against those involved in the scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Dry Farming in Adivasi Areas

1673. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts for dry farming in the Adivasi areas;

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

(c) the work done by the Government in this regard in South Gujarat and the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have accorded the highest priority for increasing the production and productivity in the dry farming/rainfed areas. The major initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard is the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), which was launched in VIII Plan in 25 States and 2 Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and continues to be implemented during IX Plan. This scheme was being implemented as independent Centrally Sponsored Scheme till November, 2000, after which it has been subsumed under the Macro Management mode of operation. This, however, continues to be a component of Macro Management.

This project covers the tribal (Adivasi) areas falling under watershed project in the States/Union Territories. During the VIII Plan, 2554 Watersheds were treated covering an area of 4.23 Million hectares all over the country.

Impact evaluation studies both on the ground and through remote sensing techniques have shown that watershed based interventions have led to ground water recharge, enhancement of cropping intensity, changes in cropping pattern, higher yield of crops and reduction in soil losses. During the IX Plan, it is proposed to treat an area of 2.25 million hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 1020.00 crores.

(c) Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Narmada, Valsad, Navsari and Dangs districts of South Gujarat have been covered under NWDPRA and an area of 29312 ha. has so far been developed with a cost of Rs. 357.99 lakh during IX Plan.

[English]

Doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur-Calicut-Kuttipuram Rail Line

1674. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur-Calicut-Kuttipuram rail line;

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) About 136 km out of total 307 km of doubling has so far been completed and commissioned to traffic.

(b) The work is likely to be completed by 2002-03 depending upon availability of resources.

(c) Rs. 430.51 cr. up to 31.3.2001.

[Translation]

Formation of Additional Zones

1675. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of six new railway zones and eight divisions were approved by the Parliament in 1996;

(b) if so, the names of the zones/divisions alongwith the location of their headquarters;

(c) the total cost involved therein, zone and division-wise;

(d) the funds provided the progress made so far regarding construction of infrastructure and jurisdictions, zone/division/year-wise;

(e) whether there have been a demand to create some more zones/divisions;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) The proposal to create six new railway zones was approved by the Cabinet in 1996. Another new zone was approved by the Cabinet in 1998 with headquarters at Bilaspur. The Government's decision to set up eight new divisions was announced in the Parliament in 1995 while placing the supplementary demands for grants for the 1995-96 budget.

(b) The names of the proposed seven new Zones and eight new divisions with their headquarters are as under:

<i>Name of the Zone</i>	<i>Headquarter</i>
East Central Zone	Hajipur
East Coast Zone	Bhubaneswar
North Central Zone	Allahabad
North Western Zone	Jaipur
South Western Zone	Bangalore (later changed to Hubli in 1999 by the Cabinet)
West Central Zone	Jabalpur
Bilaspur Zone	Bilaspur
<i>Name of the Division</i>	<i>Headquarter</i>
Agra Division	Agra

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ahmedabad Division/Ahmedabad	0.25	0.50	0.10	2.00	0.20	0.95
Guntur Division/Guntur	0.25	0.30	0.10	1.50	0.10	0.40
Pune Division/Pune	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.98	0.40	0.10
Raipur Division/Raipur	0.25	0.25	0.10	2.00	0.20	0.10
Ranchi Division/Ranchi	0.25	0.50	0.48	3.90	2.20	1.50
Rangiya Division/Rangiya	0.28	1.25	0.10	1.32	0.30	0.10
Singrauli Division/Singrauli	0.50	1.20	0.10	0.50	0.20	0.20

Based on the available funds, some infrastructure development has been done for the construction of Zonal Hqs buildings and staff quarters.

The jurisdiction of only two new zones out of seven viz. East Central Zone/Hajipur and North Western Zone/Jaipur and eight new divisions has since been finalised. However, no notification has been issued so far in this regard.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) The State-wise break-up of representations received by the Government in last 5 years for setting up of new zones/divisions is as under:

Name of the State	No. of representations received for	
	Zonal Headquarters	Divisional Headquarters
Andhra Pradesh	3	13
Assam	—	26
Bihar	19	10
Gujarat	5	9
Karnataka	20	1
Kerala	8	5
Maharashtra	1	9
Madhya Pradesh	34	4
Orissa	4	4
Rajasthan	8	—
Tamil Nadu	—	6
Uttar Pradesh	3	3
West Bengal	1	—

(g) New Zones/Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements rather than on territorial considerations. However, the entire issue of reorganisation is under review in view of the severe resource crunch currently being faced by the railways, technological developments on IT sector and improved communication facilities now available.

[English]

Theft of Railway Property

1676. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a notorious gang in connivance with the officials of the Railway Police Force is involved in theft of railway property worth crores of rupees in the Butibori and Umred section of Nagpur Division under Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether any probe has been ordered in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last five years only 3 cases of theft of Permanent Way materials were reported in this section. In the case reported during this year allegation of corruption and negligence against five members of the Force was levelled and a departmental enquiry was conducted.

(c) Disciplinary action has been initiated against the concerned staff.

(d) Does not arise.

Time Table for Summer Special Trains

1677. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been running about 1900 summer special trains every year but advance time table has been issued for only 200 summer special trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as a result of which some trains are running empty at the originating point or on the return direction; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that advance time table is issued in respect of all the summer special trains in advance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Scheduled Summer Special trains are covered in the All India Summer Specials Time Table. In addition, extra summer specials are also run to cater to exceptional rush of traffic at major junctions stations after giving due publicity.

[*Translation*]

Catering Service in Trains

1678. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the railways to dispose of complaints regarding catering services in trains;

(b) the number of complaints received by the Railway Vigilance Department during the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) the number of cases in which action has been taken as recommended by the Vigilance Department by the Zonal railways during the said period;

(d) whether the railways have formulated a policy that new contracts will not be awarded and existing contract could also be scrapped to those catering firms against whom more than five complaints have been lodged; and

(e) if so, the names of the firms whose contract has been scrapped so far and which have been black listed and disqualified during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Whenever complaints are received, investigations are conducted by the zonal railways and in case the allegations are substantiated the departmental action is initiated against staff in case of departmental catering and fines imposed or licence/supply discontinued in case of private licensees/suppliers.

(b) and (c) Details of complaints received by the Railway Vigilance and the number of cases in which action has been taken on the recommendations of the Vigilance Department during the last three years, zone-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Catering contracts are awarded by the Zonal Railways after following prescribed procedure and guidelines. Among the other eligibility criteria, the past experience and professional ability of the applicants are taken into consideration. At the time of renewal of the existing licences, past performance including any complaint of a serious nature is examined by the Screening Committee.

In case of any serious irregularity even the existing licence can be terminated. One catering/vending licence was disqualified and one contractor was terminated by the zonal railways during this period.

Statement

Railway	No. of complaints received by the Railway Vigilance during the last three years	No. of cases in which action has been taken as recommended by the Vigilance during the last three years
Central	4	4
Eastern	1	under enquiry
Northern	6	6
North Eastern	Nil	Nil
N.F.	Nil	Nil
Southern	17	1
South Central	Nil	Nil
South Eastern	2	1
Western	13	13

[English]

F.P.I. in Orissa

1679. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any food processing industry exists in Orissa to extract the pulp of citrus fruits especially Pineapple, Orange, Mango, Jackfruit and Cashew etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh initiative taken by the Government to set up any such industry during 2001-2002 in the tribal districts of Orissa especially in Koraput and Rayagada and other parts of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Food Processing Industries exist both in organized and unorganized sectors. However, under the Fruit Products Order, 1955, administered by the Department of Food Processing Industries, 48 licenses have been granted in Orissa for processing of fruits & vegetables including Pineapple, Orange and Mango etc.

(c) Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing units on its own. However, it provides financial assistance for setting up of Food Processing Industries. Recently, the Department of Food Processing Industries has modified the pattern of assistance whereby the financial assistance for Private Sector will now be in the form of grant instead of soft loan. The financial assistance to Private Industry will now be restricted to 25% of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas including Integrated Tribal Development Project areas.

Internationalisation of Indian Textile Industry

1680. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stressed the need for internationalisation of the Indian textile industry to face the challenges of the rapidly changing world textiles scenario; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the extent to which the textile industry has changed its course of operation in view of the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government is fully committed to face the challenges of changing global scenario in textiles and has decided to encourage investments for modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry.

Government announced National Textile Policy - 2000 (NTxP-2000) to provide an enabling environment to make the domestic textile industry strong enough to face growing global competition and de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment sector to allow the industry to achieve desired economies of scale. In order to implement promises and announcements under

NTxP-2000, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-02 to encourage investment in the textile sector. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:—

- (i) Excise duty structure on textile items has been generally rationalized to achieve growth and maximum value addition.
- (ii) Customs duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textile and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from countervailing duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.
- (iii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest is available to textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.
- (iv) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centers.

[Translation]

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in Bihar

1681. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has asked for some clarification from the Union Government about the implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to expedite this matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. In the recent past State Government of Bihar has not sought any clarification.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion between Chikballapur and Kolar

1682. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for gauge conversion of missing link between Chikballapur and Kolar;

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

(c) the amount required to complete the missing link; and

(d) the time by which the missing link is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A survey for conversion of the narrow gauge rail line to broad gauge from Kolar to Chickballapur has been recently completed. As per the survey report the cost of conversion of the 87 km long lines has been assessed as Rs. 53.45 cr. with negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider the proposal for the present.

[Translation]

Administrative Control of Tribunals

1683. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to bring all the Tribunals under the administrative and budgetary control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India on

18.3.1997 in the matter of L. Chandra Kumar Vs. Union of India & Others, *inter-alia*, had observed that until a wholly independent agency for the administration of all Tribunals can be set up, it is desirable that all such Tribunals should be, as far as possible, under a single nodal Ministry which will be in a position to oversee the working of these Tribunals. That Ministry, they felt, should appropriately be the Ministry of Law. It would be open for the Ministry, in its turn, to appoint an independent supervisory body to oversee the working of the Tribunals. The Hon'ble Court further recommended that the Union of India initiate action after consulting all concerned and place all the Tribunals under one single nodal Department, preferably the Legal Department. In pursuance of the above, the proposal to set up a 'Central Tribunals Division' in the Department of Legal Affairs, is under consideration.

(c) Setting up of the Central Tribunals Division will bring about uniformity in the administration of the Tribunals.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Rail Line

1684. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received necessary clearance to implement the gauge conversion of the existing Naupada-Gunupur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to expedite the necessary clearance;

(d) the funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred thereon during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(e) the time by which the said conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal has already been appraised by Planning Commission and considered by Expanded Board. The proposal is now being processed for further clearances.

(d) Outlay provided for this work has been Rs. 1000/- during 1999-2000, Rs. 5.10 cr during 2000-01 and Rs. 10 lacs during 2001-02. The expenditure on the work will be incurred after obtaining requisite clearances.

(e) Time for completion of work would depend upon getting the requisite clearances and availability of resources in the coming years.

[Translation]

Production of Power by NTPC

1685. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of electricity by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the production in different NTPC units during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the target set by NTPC in regard to generation of electricity and production of coal till 2002;

(d) whether electricity generated by NTPC is the cheapest in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The year-wise, unit-wise and State-wise details of production of electricity by NTPC power stations during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given in enclosed statement.

(c) NTPC does not produce coal. The targets set by NTPC for production of power for the years-2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given as under:

Year	Generation Target in million units
2000-2001	1,28,228
2001-2002	1,37,800

(d) and (e) The average cost of sale of power from NTPC projects for the year 2000-2001 was 157.20 P/kwh (provisional).

Statement**State/Year/Station wise Electricity Generation (MUs).**

State/Station	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coal Based						
Delhi						
Badarpur	4300	4867	4300	5022	4600	5181
Orissa						
T'cher Old	1800	2240	2000	2327	2100	2494
T'cher STPS	3190	4318	3646	5322	3600	5248
Uttar Pradesh						
Singrauli	15000	15814	15000	16460	15308	16408
Rihand STPS	7500	6815	6590	7605	7000	7720
Dadri (Th.)	5900	6728	6050	7093	6700	6886
Unchahar	2840	3023	4000	3631	5200	5375
Tanda	0	0	0	0	1050	1189
Madhya Pradesh						
Korba STPS	15500	15903	15500	15780	15500	16254
Vindh STPS	8500	9810	11000	9897	13270	14199
Andhra Pradesh						
R' Gundam STPS	16000	15863	15120	16649	16000	16422
West Bengal						
Farakka ST	5100	5470	4800	6792	6860	8238
Bihar						
K' Gaon STP	2670	3989	3000	4284	3440	4826
Total Coal	88300	94840	91006	100862	100628	110440
Gas Based						
Haryana						
F'Bad CCGT	0	0	322	1066	2500	2290
Rajasthan						
Anta(GT)	2800	2926	2800	3189	2900	2881
Uttar Pradesh						
Auriya GT	3900	4157	3900	5085	4150	4686
Dadri GT	4000	5098	4100	5126	4000	5643

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat						
Kawas GT	2700	4354	2276	4788	3700	4697
Gandhar GT	2500	2165	1400	2282	2060	2791
Kerala						
Kayamkulam	0	216	1500	1249	1590	1945
Total Gas	15900	18916	16298	22785	20900	24933
Total NTPC	104200	120863	113604	130996	128228	143048

*[English]***Repeal of Old Laws**

1686. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission on review of Administrative Laws had recommended repeal of about 1382 Central Acts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Acts have been repealed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which these Acts are likely to be repealed/amended?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revival of Oil Palm in Karnataka Through MIS

1687. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to revive oil palm in Karnataka through Market Intervention Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any steps to upgrade the processing capacity in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) MIS for oil palm was approved by Union Government for the quantity of 5000 MTs during 2000 season. This quantity has been increased to 8000 MTs during 2001 season.

(b) There is no provision for taking up such a scheme under Oil Palm, Development Programme.

(c) Question does not arise.

Subsidies to Exporters of Agricultural Commodities

1688. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give direct subsidies to exporter of all agricultural commodities disadvantaged in world markets because of minimum support price;

(b) if so, whether the traders who export commodities with an ever-increasing MSP like wheat, rice, sugar and pulses are likely to be paid back the difference between their total cost and the final realized export price; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision for export subsidies for farm goods is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No such decision has been taken, so far.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Ranjit Sagar Hydro Power Project

1689. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the construction of Ranjit Hydro Power Project was completed and the time taken in its construction;

(b) whether the said project was not completed within the stipulated time;

(c) if so, whether the amount spent on construction of the said project was more than the amount required for its completion;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the present power generation capacity of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) All the four units of Ranjit Sagar H.E. Project (4x150 MW) have been commissioned during the year 2000 against the original completion schedule of September 1992.

(c) and (d) The latest cost of the project is Rs. 3601.58 crores at June, 2000 price level against the original estimated cost of Rs. 816 crores at June, 1986 price level. Delays were mainly due to shortage of funds, natural calamities and technical snags.

(e) The installed capacity of the project is 600 MW (4x150 MW).

[*English*]

Procurement of Coconut Crops

1690. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are purchasing coconut and pulse crops in the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, its quantum procured during the last year and in the current year till date, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Government to attract farmers towards the cultivation of coconut and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Procurement of Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) is being undertaken by NAFED as Central Nodal Agency in these States. The prices of pulses are ruling above the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government of India. therefore, no procurement of pulses is being made at present.

(b) NAFED so far has procured a total quantity of 2,29,253 MTs of milling copra and 5962 MTs of ball copra under the PSS during 2000 and 2001 season. The State-wise procurement of copra under PSS so far are as under:—

State	Qty. Purchased (MTs)
<i>Milling Copra</i>	
Kerala	84385
Tamil Nadu	112023
Andhra Pradesh	16257
Lakshadweep	5531
A&N Islands	10035
Goa	1022
Total	229253
<i>Ball Copra</i>	
Andhra Pradesh	3
Karnataka	5959
	5962

(c) For promoting coconut cultivation, Government of India is implementing the following programmes:—

(i) Production of quality planting material;

- (ii) Area expansion;
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;
- (iv) Technology demonstrations;
- (v) Marketing promotion and statistics; and
- (vi) Information technology.

For promotion of cultivation of pulses, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) in the country for increasing the production and productivity of pulses. Under the Scheme, assistance is being provided for inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seeds minikits, improved farm implements, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, integrated pest management and distribution of sprinkler sets etc. In addition field demonstrations and farmers' training are also being organised for the transfer of improved production & protection technologies to the farmers' fields for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam

1691. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are irregularities in the construction work of Tehri Dam Project;

(b) if so, whether cases have been filed against some officers of Tehri Dam Project; and

(c) if so, the details of the officials against whom cases have been filed along with details of charges framed against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered the following two cases for investigation into alleged irregularities by some officers of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) in connection with some construction works at Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW):

- (i) case involving four officers (including one retired officer) relating to irregularities in the construction of one-room flats at New Tehri Town for economically weaker sections of people; and

- (ii) case involving ten officers in connection with the work of excavation of Chute Spillway.

The investigations are in progress and the THDC is providing all relevant records to the CBI.

New Varieties of Crops

1692. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government have been drawn news-item published in "Dainik Tribune" dated February 17, 2001 captioned "Aprachlit Faslon Ki 15 Kisme Viksit"; and

(b) if so, the names of these 15 new varieties of crops thereof?

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

(b) 18 new varieties have been identified/released under different underutilized crops by the All India-Co-ordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, as per details given below:

1. Grain Amaranth	Annapurna, GA-1, Survana, PRA-1, PRA-2
2. Buckwheat	Himpriya, VL-7, PRB-1
3. Winged Bean	ADWB-1
4. Faba Bean	Vikrant (VH 82-1)
5. Rice Bean	RBL-1, RBL-6, PRR-1, PRR-2
6. Kalingada	Gujarat Karingada-1
7. Guayule	Arizona-1, HG-8
8. Jojoba	: EC-33198

Foreign Collaboration in Agricultural Projects

1693. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have signed any agreements with foreign countries for agricultural projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the salient features of each project along with the targets fixed for completing these projects; and

(d) the extent of improvement in the status of agricultural production expected by the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. It may be mentioned that under the provisions of the Constitution, the executive powers of a State extend to borrowing only within the territory of India. Also, under the VII Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under the Union List.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Safety Policy

1694. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increasing rail accidents the Government intend to enunciate any Railway Safety Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJGOPAL): (a) and (b) Safety is accorded highest priority in train operation. Since safety is an on going and continuous process, Safety of train is ensured by adopting various methods like mechanized maintenance of track, Radio communication between driver, station staff and control, Auxiliary Warning System, intensive training by modern methods of training and frequent inspections at various levels to check lapse on the part of staff and others.

Entry of Foreign Legal Consultants in India

1695. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Advocates Act., 1961 to permit foreign law firms and legal consultants to practise in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bar Council of India (BCI) has opposed to the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (b) and (e) Presently, there is no proposal to amend the Advocates Act, 1961 to permit foreign law firms and legal consultants to practise in India.

(c) and (d) Bar Council of India is opposed to permitting foreign law firms and legal consultants to practise in India.

Train Accidents in Mumbai Suburban Area

1696. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents took place in Mumbai during the last one year;

(b) whether average nine fatal train accidents take place daily in Mumbai sub-urban railways;

(c) if so, the main accident prone area in Mumbai;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such accidents;

(e) whether some special budget has been provided to control such accidents in Mumbai Sub-urban railway; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) During the last one year, there were 5 consequential train accidents in Mumbai Sub-urban area;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The important steps being taken to check accidents in future are given below:—

- (i) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (ii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- (iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- (iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (v) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.
- (viii) Periodical Safety Audit of Different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.

(ix) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(x) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.

(xi) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.

(xii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/ removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. No special provision is made in the Budget to control accidents in Mumbai Sub-urban railway.

Death of Elephants Due to Foot and Mouth Disease

1697. SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some elephants living along the banks of Yamuna in Delhi have recently died due to mouth ulcer and foot rot commonly known as Foot and Mouth Disease;

(b) whether about 10 months back, this disease was detected in elephants in Kerala also;

(c) if so, the preventive steps taken to stop the spread of this disease in other animals;

(d) the main reasons of originating of FMD;

(e) whether the latest prescription for the FMD treatment is available in our country;

(f) if not, the steps taken to procure help from international organisations to curb the spread of disease; and

(g) the present status of FMD disease in the country showing the decrease in Milk Production, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No death of Elephants living along the banks of Yamuna in Delhi due to Foot and Mouth disease has been reported in recent past.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Foot and Mouth Disease is caused by a Picorna virus, which can set up infection through infected/carrier

animals and their secretions/excretions carried by animate and in-animate objects. The virus can travel a long distance through air and water.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does Not arise.

(g) Foot and Mouth Disease is endemic in India and the State-wise incidence of the disease during last three years is given at statement-I. Due to efforts made to control the disease, the total milk production of the country has not been adversely affected. The figures of milk production during last 5 years show that there has been an increase in the production of milk. State-wise estimates of milk production is given at statement-II.

Statement-I

Incidence of Foot and Mouth Disease in India during the last three years (1998, 1999 & 2000)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Species	1998			1999			2000		
			OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT	OB	AT	DT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	bov	221	6092	159	108	4502	6	42	1406	2
		ovi/cap.	17	657	41	24	257	72	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	bov	12	80	0	4	273	2	7	686	0
3.	Assam	bov	7	9	1	4	451	0	2	370	0
4.	Bihar	bov	19	963	31	7	15	0	3	36	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0
6.	Goa	bov	0	0	0	17	558	17	3	204	0
		buf	0	0	0	4	102	0	2	42	0
		sui	0	0	0	2	135	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	bov	48	1674	0	49	1116	18	29	1283	0
		ovi/cap.	1	100	0	4	15	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	bov	12	28841	0	3	9629	0	16	572	1
		buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	bov	10	1881	52	3	83	0	8	268	0
		ovi/cap.	6	3263	10	0	0	0	6	521	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	bov	20	3267	9	3	1319	0	9	2353	12
		ovi/cap.	2	112	0	1	100	0	0	0	0

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
31	D&N Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	<i>bov</i>	5	81	0	45	141	0	10	67	0
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
34.	Lakshadweep	<i>bov</i>	10	16	0	2	845	0	7	56	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	47	4
35.	Pondicherry	<i>bov</i>	0	0	0	5	183	0	0	0	0
Total		<i>bov</i>	1100	79461	2444	1436	88602	884	1519	35825	237
		<i>buf</i>	0	0	0	4	102	0	3	74	0
		<i>ovi/cap.</i>	65	5288	92	32	429	72	9	568	4
		<i>sui</i>	0	0	0	7	346	50	6	16	2

bov: bovine*buf*: Buffalo*ovi/cap*:

ovine/caprine

sui: Swine

OB: Out Break

AT: Attack

DT: Death

Statement-II*Estimates of Milk Production-1996-97 to 2000-01*

(000 tonnes)

S.No.	States	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	2000-01*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4471	4473	4842	4730	4904
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	43	45	51	53
3.	Assam	714	719	725	822	852
4.	Bihar	3410	3420	3440	3740	3878
5.	Goa	37	38	41	43	45
6.	Gujarat	4831	4913	5059	5124	5313
7.	Haryana	4204	4373	4527	4673	4845
8.	Himachal Pradesh	698	714	724	745	772
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	992	979	990	1000	1037
10.	Karnataka	3460	3970	4231	4925	5108

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Kerala	2258	2343	2420	2673	2771
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5224	5377	5442	5600	5806
13.	Maharashtra	5127	5193	5609	5810	6024
14.	Manipur	61	62	65	67	69
15.	Meghalaya	58	59	61	65	67
16.	Mizoram	9	17	20	10	10
17.	Nagaland	46	46	48	49.5	51
18.	Orissa	687	672	733	795	824
19.	Punjab	6755	7165	7394	7700	7984
20.	Rajasthan	5874	6487	6923	5820	6034
21.	Sikkim*	34	35	35	42	44
22.	Tamil Nadu	3976	4061	4273	4256	4413
23.	Tripura	44	57	76	49	51
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12387	12934	13618	15176	15735
25.	West Bengal	3376	3415	3441	3750	3888
26.	A&N Islands	21	22	22	23	24
27.	Chandigarh	42	43	43	42	44
28.	Daman & Diu	4	4	8	10	10
29.	D. & N. Haveli	1	1	1	1	1
30.	Delhi	264	267	290	295	306
31.	Lakshadweep	1	1	2	1	1
32.	Pondicherry	38	36	36	35	36
All India		69147	71940	75182	78123	80998

Note: * - Provisional

Source: State Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Resources Departments.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

1698. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation is received by the Government to reduce the premium rate for sugarcane crop; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is implemented in the country from rabi 1999-2000. The scheme is voluntary for the States/Union Territories and has larger scope of coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risk. The details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has submitted a representation for reduction in the premium rate of sugarcane crop.

(d) On annual horticultural/commercial crops including sugarcane actuarial premium rates are charged. These rates are worked out by the Implementing Agency based on actuarial method of premium calculation. The same is being communicated to the State Government of Maharashtra.

Statement

Salient Features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

The Government have introduced NAIS from Rabi 1999-2000 season to widen the scope and contents of Crop Insurance Scheme:

- Scheme is available to all farmers — loanee and non-loanee both-irrespective of their size of holding.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, seven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion and turmeric are presently covered.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.

- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance i.e. Gram Panchayat.
- It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

German Assistance to Indian Railways

1699. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has agreed to provide funds to Indian Railways for signalling and telecommunication system in Railways;

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

(c) the terms and conditions under which the loan amount has been given by the Germany; and

(d) the details of the strategies of the Government to invest the said loan and the time by which the entire signalling and telecommunication system in Railways is to be modernised and upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a Loan Agreement signed on 1st August, 1997 between the Government of India (in the Ministry of Finance) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the German Government have extended a loan of up to DM 185 million to finance the foreign exchange cost of goods and services for the project of Modernisation of Signalling between Delhi and Kanpur. The loan funds are to be made available to the Railways as part of budgetary support from the General Revenue, entailing normal dividend liability. A separate agreement has also been executed between Ministry of Railways and KfW in June, 2001 detailing out the modified scope of the project.

(c) This loan carries interest liability at the rate of 0.75% per annum and commitment charge at the rate of 0.25% per annum on the undisbursed loan amount. The loan is repayable in semi-annual instalments over a period of 30 years, such repayment commencing after a grace period of 10 years.

(d) Main elements of the project are introduction of Modern Solid State Interlocking systems on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section, Automatic Block Signalling on Ghaziabad-Aligarh section. Optical Fibre Cable communication on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section and Rehabilitation/upgradation of Train Radio System on Ghaziabad-Mughalsarai section. These sub-systems are to be provided with state-of-the-art technology to enhance reliability of the Signalling and Telecommunication systems for improving capacity, safety and efficiency of the train operations in Delhi-Kanpur section. KfW project is expected to be completed in about 4 years time schedule.

Modernisation & upgradation of entire Signalling & Telecommunication system on other sections of Indian Railways would be taken up on programmed basis within available resources.

[Translation]

Booking of parcel under Rajkot Division in Gujarat

1700. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parcel booking facility at Hapa railway station under Rajkot Division of Western Railway in Gujarat had recently been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Divisional Railway Manager Rajkot has received any letter for restoring the said facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to restore the parcel booking facility at Hapa railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stations where parcel traffic is meagre are closed for parcel traffic as they are not profitable. Accordingly, Hapa Station which had very meagre traffic, has been closed for parcel traffic.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The matter will be decided on merits.

Working Group on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure

1701. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers and also the Task Force on Agriculture on various matters relating to production and marketing of agricultural produce and allied activities as well as the impact of globalization etc.;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on each of the recommendations submitted by each of the above two bodies, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Commission to look into and suggest improvements in all agricultural scientific and research institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to develop and modernize the marketing infrastructure in the country and the districts selected therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers and the Task Force on Agriculture have not yet submitted their recommendations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Questions does not arise.

(e) The Government has recently approved two new schemes namely, Scheme for Agricultural Marketing Information Network and Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce for bringing about improvements in the present Agricultural Marketing facilities and marketing infrastructure in the country.

Under the scheme for Agricultural Marketing information Network, it is proposed to establish a nationwide information network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information/data for their efficient and timely utilization. Under this scheme, all important Agricultural Produce Markets and State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Departments all over the country will be linked up through a computer network.

Under the scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages Subsidy is provided to eligible promoters for construction, expansion and modernization of cold storages.

[English]

Outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation

1702. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation during 2000-2001;

(b) whether outlay for the current year has been reduced as compared to the preceding year;

(c) if so, the justification therefor; and

(d) whether Gujarat is likely to be adversely affected due to this reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The budget outlays approved by the Government for Rural Electrification Corporation for the year 1999 and 2000 are given below:

Year	Normal	Minimum Needs Programme (Rs. in cores)
1999-2000	430	175
2000-01	480	NIL*

*During the year 2000-01, the funds under Minimum Needs Programme has been released directly to the States instead of routing it through REC.

Thus, it would be seen that the normal budgetary support for REC has been increased as compared to the budgetary allocation of 1999-2000.

REC sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 702 crores to Gujarat Electricity Board and disbursed Rs. 536 crores during the year 2000-01.

[Translation]

Testing of Imported Equipment

1703. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to test the standard and quality of imported rail equipments, boggies, engines and other items in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the number of approved/disapproved samples of such imported items during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the existing rule to test the imported items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a well defined system to test the standard and quality of imported rail equipments, coaches, engines and other items.

(b) Status of major imported items inspected during last three years is under:

(i) Twenty one 4000 HP freight & Ten passenger Diesel Locomotives have been inspected and approved.

(ii) Three 140T Brake down Cranes have been inspected. Out of them One crane has been commissioned and accepted after testing and the remaining two cranes are in the process of commissioning and acceptance.

(iii) 1.45 lakh Metric tones of rails were inspected and passed.

(iv) 56967 Nos. Locomotive Wheel Discs were inspected and 1100 Nos. were rejected after receipt in India. The total cost of rejected wheels have been recovered from the firm.

(v) 24 Coaches have been imported and were put into service. However, presently these have been temporarily withdrawn from service for rectification under warrantee and other clauses of the contract.

(vi) 2 Track machines are imported. One had certain defects and is under rectification under warrantee and other clauses of the contract.

(c) Existing rules provide for nomination of Inspecting Authorities (IO) in the purchase orders and the items are inspected by IO as per the contract specifications prior to dispatch to India. In case of cranes, Locomotives and other rolling stock, after receipt in India, the vehicles are commissioned and subjected to Mandatory Oscillation Trials by Research, Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), the technical wing of Indian Railways. These are finally accepted on successful completion of such trials and commissioning.

[English]

Gauge conversion of Kottur-Harihar rail line

1704. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work of gauge conversion on Kottur-Harihar rail line was started;

(b) the estimated cost of the said project;

(c) the expenditure spent on the said project so far;

(d) the amount proposed to be spent during 2001-2002;

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

(f) whether additional funds would be released for the early completion of the said project; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) This is a new line work which was included in the Budget 1995-96.

(b) Rs. 124.13 cr.

(c) Rs. 16.37 lakh upto 31.3.2001.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 1 cr. has been provided during 2001-02.

(e) No target date has yet been fixed

(f) and (g) This would depend upon availability of resources.

Processing of fruits and vegetables

1705. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a 10 year plan to enhance the level of processing of fruits and vegetables from the present 1.8% to 10%;

(b) whether any estimates has been made of the investment to achieve such targets of processing of fruits and vegetables;

(c) if so, the details of financial requirements for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government have identified the likely sources of such investment; and

(e) the steps proposed to obtain and utilise such capital for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a draft Policy has been prepared. It is envisaged that for increasing the processing capacity in fruit and vegetable sector alone from 2% to 10% of annual production over a period of 10 years, the investment would be approximately Rs. 1,40,000 crores.

(d) The substantial investment will have to come mainly from private sources.

(e) A task force has been constituted by the Department of Food Processing Industries. The functions envisaged for the Task Force include *inter alia* the steps required for boosting such investment from domestic as well as foreign sources.

Establishment of ICVR at National Level

1706. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) at national level;

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

(c) whether any requests have been made by State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A request from the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanctioning an Institute of Indian Council for Veterinary Research at the centre was received during August, 1997. As the proposal for establishing the council was under consideration of the Department at that time, the letter was replied accordingly.

Report on Tourist Traffic

1707 SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has recently released any report on tourist traffic in the country;

(b) if so, the details of points mentioned in the report;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether India's tourism draft policy (1993) envisages three million tourist arrivals by the turn of the century;

(e) if so, the extent to which the target has been achieved;

(f) whether the Government would consider setting up a Tourism Promotion Board and lay emphasis on attracting more rich and serious tourists rather than backpackers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has released a report which talks of the outbound traffic from India.

(c) Government of India's attempt has been to enhance growth of tourism of India.

(d) There is no draft Tourism Policy prepared in 1993 which envisaged 3 million tourist arrivals by the turn of the century. The Action Plan for development of tourism recommended by the Task Forces set-up by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, which was released in the year 2000, has suggested to set a target of 5 million foreign tourist arrivals within the next 5 years.

(e) The total number of foreign tourist arrivals in India by the end of 2000 was 2.64 million and the estimated figure for the same by June 2001 is 1.31 million.

(f) and (g) A Group of Ministers on Tourism Industry and Trade has been constituted for coordination among different agencies involved in development and promotion of tourism.

Encroachment/Unauthorised Construction In Monuments

1708. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) the name of protected monuments de-encroached successfully by the Government during the last three years, till date location-wise;

(b) the details of protected monuments still under encroachment/unauthorised constructed, location-wise;

(c) the problems likely to be faced by the Government in removing such encroachments; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for removing encroachments/unauthorised construction from the protected monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A list is enclosed as statement-I and statement-II.

(c) The litigation involved in such cases is often time consuming.

(d) Apart from taking legal action, active co-operation of the State Governments at various levels is sought regularly. The Archaeological Survey of India had also stepped up its programme of fencing the protected monuments and sites.

Statement-I**List of Name of Centrally Protected Monuments De-Encroached During the Last Three Years**

Name of Monument	Location/State
1	2
Calcutta Circle	
1. Hazarduari Place and Imambara (from the area within fencing)	Murshidabad, West Bengal
2. John Pierce's tomb	Midnapore, West Bengal
Bhopal Circle	
1. Shiv Temple, Bhojpur	District Raisen (Madhya Pradesh)
2. Monuments at Mandu, viz. Taveli Mahal, Jama Masjid and Daria Khan Tomb	Distt. Dhar, Madhya Pradesh
Patna Circle	
1. Ancient mound at Kurkihar	Distt. Nalanda, Bihar
Chandigarh Circle	
1. Prithviraj Chauhan's Fort, Hansi	Distt. Hissar, Haryana
2. Ancient Site Rakhigarhi	Distt. Hissar, Haryana
3. Raja Harsh Ka Killa, Thaneswar	Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana
4. Ancient Site, Narurangabad	Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana
5. Ancient site Sunet	Distt. Ludhiana
6. Nurmahal Sarai	Nurmahal, Distt. Jullundur, Punjab
Aurangabad Circle	
1. Shaniwarwada Fort	Distt. Pune, Maharashtra
2. Dhulla gateway	Village Elichapur, Distt. Amaravati, Maharashtra
3. Haripura gateway	Village Elichapur, Distt. Amaravati, Maharashtra
4. Tivan puragateway	Village Elichapur, Distt. Amaravati, Maharashtra
5. Hardulate Ki-Tekdi	Pawani, Distt. Bhandra, Maharashtra
6. Daulatabad Fort	Distt. Aurangabad, Maharashtra
Delhi Circle	
1. Sher Shah Gate, Purana Qila (partly de-encroached)	Delhi
2. Khairul Manzil Mosque (partly de-encroached)	Delhi

1	2
3. Purana Qila (partly de-encroached)	Delhi
4. Qutb Minar, (partly de-encorached)	Delhi
5. Vijay Mandal, Kalu Sarai (partly de-encorached)	Delhi
6. Begumpuri Mosque, Kalu Sarai (partly de-encorached)	Delhi
7. Gandhak Ki Baoli, (partly de-encorached)	Mehrauli, Delhi
8. Nai Ka Kot (partly de-encorached)	Tughluqabad, Delhi
9. Tughluqabad Fort (partly de-encorached)	Delhi
Bangalore Circle	
1. Krishna Temple Complex	Kadirampuram
2. Hemakuta Jaina Temple	Krishnapuram
3. Kodandarama Temple	Kamalapuram
4. Pattabhirama Temple	Kamalapuram
5. Mandapa Close to Taiwargatta Gate	Nimbapuram (Hampi)
6. Yendamaragunda	
7. Bhoganandeeshwara Temple	Hampi
8. Someshwara Temple	Nandi
	Kolar
Jaipur Circle	
1. Gate of Taragarh Hill	Ajmer
Hyderabad Circle	
1. Attarah Sidi area in Golconda Fort	Hyderabad
Dharwar Circle	
1. Jumma Masjid	Bijapur
Lucknow Circle	
1. Naubatkhana/Nakkar Khana of Bara Imambara	Lucknow
2. Plateform and staircases of Amjad Ali Shah's. Mausoleum	Lucknow
3. Cemetery near fort Machhi Bhawan	Lucknow

1	2
4. Bargawan Cemetery	Lucknow
5. Mahibullahpur memorial pillar	Lucknow
6. Panch Mahal of Jhansi Fort	Jhansi
7. Compound of Sikanderbagh building	Lucknow

Chennai Circle

1. Gangaikondacholapuram	Ariyalur Distt.
2. Darasuram	Thanjavur Distt.

Vadodara Circle

1. Shah Alam's Tomb with surrounding buildings	Ahmedabad
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Srinagar Circle

1. Sangeen Darwaja	Srinagar
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Statement-II*Details of Centrally Protected Monuments which are Still Under Encroachment/Unauthorised Construction*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument	Location
1	2	3

Agra Circle

1.	Small chatri on Agra-Mathura road.	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
2.	Rambagh	Agra
3.	Chini Ka Rauza	Agra
4.	Jaswant Singh ki Chhatri	Agra
5.	Itimad-ud-Daula	Agra
6.	R.C. Cemetery	Agra
7.	Mosque and Sarai at Jajau	Agra
8.	Dakri-ka-Mahal	Agra
9.	Siddi gate	Agra
10.	Kala Gumbad	Agra
11.	Baria-ka-Tal	Itimadpur
12.	Jama Masjid (Dargah complex) including Lal Darwaza	Fatehpur Sikri

1	2	3
<hr/>		
13.	Hamam Agra	Fatehpur Sikri
14.	City wall Agra	Fatehpur Sikri
15.	Buland Darwaza Agra	Fatehpur Sikri
16.	Baoli Agra	Fatehpur Sikri
17.	Akbar's Tomb Agra	Sikandara
18.	Tomb of Najibudaulah Bijnor	Bijnor
19.	Akbari Sarai Mathura	Chhata
20.	Fortified Sarai Mathura	Chhata
21.	Katra Mound Mathura	Mathura
22.	Mound Mathura	Girdharpur
23.	Kankali-ka-Tial Mathura	Mathura
24.	Mound of Adig Mathura	Mathura
25.	Madan Mohan Temple Mathura	Brindavan
26.	Kos Minar Mathura	Mathura
27.	Govind Dev Temple Mathura	Brindavan

1	2	3
28.	Gopeshwar Temple Chamoli	Gopeshwar
29.	Pandukeshwar Temple Chamoli	Pandukeshwar
30.	Adibadri Temple Chamoli	Adibadri
31.	Vir Bhadra Temple Dehradun	Dehradun
32.	Lakhamandal Temple Dehradun	Dehradun
33.	Ashokan Rock Edict Dehradun	Kalsi
34.	Mahasu Temple Dehradun	Hanol
35.	Shahpeer Tomb Meerut	Meerut
36.	Mud Fort of Dayaram Jat	Hathras
37.	Chamunda-ka-Tila Mathura	Mathura

Calcutta Circle

1.	Mound known as the Devi's Sect and Raja Karna's Sect. Palace	Rangamati, Distt. Murshidabad
2.	Tomb and mosque of Murshid Kuli Khan	Sabji katra, Distt. Murshidabad
3.	Tomb of Azimunisha Begum, daughter of Murshid Kuli Khan	Azimnagar, Distt. Murshidabad
4.	Hazarduari Palace and Imambara, Kella Nizamat, (area outside fencing in the protcted zone)	Murshidabad

1	2	3
5.	Mound at Bangarh	Bangarh, Distt. Dinapur (S)
6.	Temple of Basuli	Namur, Distt. Birbhum
7.	Mosque and Dargah of Zafar Khan Gazi	Tribeni, Distt. Hooghly
8.	Haneswari and Basudev Temples	Bansberia, Distt. Hooghly
9.	Ancient Mound known as Baraha Mihirer Dhibi	Daulia and Kaukipara, Distt. (N) 24 Paraganas
10.	Cooch Behar Palace	Cooch Behar, Distt. Cooch Behar
<i>Chandigarh Circle</i>		
1.	Ancient site, Khokra Kot,	Distt. Rohtak, Haryana
2.	Gateway of Mughal Sarai, Gharonda	Distt. Karnal, Haryana
3.	Raja Karan Ka Kila,	Distt. Kurukshetra, Haryana
4.	The Mound	Sirsa, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana
5.	Ancient Site	Asand, Distt. Karnal, Haryana
6.	Gateway of Old Sarai	Amanat Khan, Amritsar, Punjab
7.	Mud Fort	Abohar, Distt. Ferozpur, Punjab
8.	Nurpur Fort	Nurpur, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
<i>Delhi Circle</i>		
1.	Qudsia Mosque	Delhi
2.	Lothian Road Cemetery	Delhi
3.	Sunehari Mosque	Delhi
4.	Razia Sultan Tomb Delhi	Delhi
5.	Feroz Shah Kotla	Delhi
6.	Purana Qila	Delhi
7.	Sarai Shah Ji	Delhi
8.	Tughluqabad Fort	Delhi
9.	Gandhak Ki Baoli	Delhi
10.	Bara Khamba (Nizamuddin)	Delhi
11.	Tomb of Shaikh Kabiruddin (Lal Gumbad)	Delhi
12.	Arab Ki Sarai	

1	2	3
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Aurangabad Circle

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Kolla of Twelve Imam | Ahmadnagar |
| 2. Macca Masjid | Ahmadnagar |
| 3. Ancient Site at Ladmod | Newasa Distt. A'Nagar |
| 4. Ancient Mound | Paithan |
| 5. Gurisheshwar Temple | Ellora |
| 6. Ellora Caves | Ellora |
| 7. Jogeshwari Caves | Majas |
| 8. Mandapeshwar caves | Borivali |
| 9. Bassein Fort | Bassein, Distt. Thana |
| 10. Ancient Site at Bahal | Bahal |
| 11. Kopeshwar Mahadeo Temple | Khidrapur, Distt. Kolhapur |
| 12. Ancient Site | Brahmapuri, Kolhapur |
| 13. Ancient Site | Pauni |
| 14. Fort Wall and Gate | Chandrapur |
| 15. Gondraja Tomb | Chandrapur |
| 16. Temple of Mahakali | Chandrapur |
| 17. Fort wall with the ruins of palace and Gateway | Ballarsha |
| 18. Fort Wall | Bhandak |
| 19. Anchaleshwar Temple | Chandrapur |
| 20. Old Math | Mehkar |
| 21. Wall near Chandni Talao | Sindhkhedraja |
| 22. Khirki Gate | Akola |
| 23. Panch Buruj and Buruj Hazrat Yab | Akola |
| 24. Fort Wall | Pauni |
| 25. Patur Caves | Patur, Distt. Akola |
| 26. Bibi-ka-Maqbara | Aurangabad |
| 27. Aurangabad Caves | Aurangabad |
| 28. Daulatabad Fort | Aurangabad |
| 29. Ardhanari Nateshwar Mahadev Temple | Velapur Distt. Solapur |
-

1	2	3
30.	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta
Guwahati Circle		
1.	Chaturdas Devta Temple Complex	Udaipur, South Tripura
Patna Circle		
1.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri	Sasaram, Distt. Rohtas
2.	Tomb of Hasan Shah	Sasaram, Distt. Rohtas
3.	Attached land Sasaram	Sasaram, Distt. Rohtas
4.	Jai Singh's Observatory, Man Mahal	Varanasi. (U.P.)
Bhopal Circle		
1.	Shiv Temple	Badgaon, Distt. Katni (M.P.)
2.	Shah Burj	Distt. Mandla (M.P.)
3.	Old Fort	Lanji, Distt. Balaghat
4.	Chaturbhuj Temple	Near north-eastern side Khajuraho
5.	Dulhadev Temple	Near north-western side Khajuraho
6.	Western Group of Temples near Southern side Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
7.	Western Group of temples near north-eastern side in front of tourist office, Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
8.	Western Group of temples near western side Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
9.	Vishwanath temple eastern and western side, Khujaraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
10.	Hanuman Temple, Near Eastern side Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
11.	Ghantai temple near eastern and southern side, Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
12.	Vaman Temple part of south-eastern side Khajuraho	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
13.	Chaunsath Yogini Temple	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
14.	Khakramath	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
15.	In front of Vishwanath Temple	Khajuraho, Distt. Chhatarpur
16.	Jain Temple	Kundalpur, Distt. Damoh
17.	Shiv Temple	Kodal, Distt. Damoh
18.	Siddhanatha Temple	Nemawar, Distt. Dewas (M.P.)

1	2	3
19.	Bhojshala	Distt. Dhar
20.	Gadha Shah Shop	Mandu, Distt. Dhar
21.	Delhi & Dholia Gate	Chanderi, Distt. Guna
22.	Chanderi Monument	Distt. Guna
23.	Jain Collosi (Taksal (Group))	Distt. Gwalior
24.	Tomb of Mohd. Gaus	Distt. Gwalior
25.	Adamgarh	Distt. Hoshangabad
26.	Kakrata Mound	Dehora, Distt. Jabalpur
27.	Sanchi	Distt. Raisen
28.	Shiv Mandir	Bhojpur Distt. Raisen
29.	Gaurjhamar Fort	Distt. Sagar
30.	Khimlasa Fort	Distt. Sagar
31.	Caves at Udaigiri	Distt. Vidisha
32.	Monuments of Gyaraspur	Distt. Vidisha
33.	Virateshwar Temple	Distt. Shahdol
34.	Bijamandal	Distt. Vidisha
35.	Besnagar	Distt. Vidisha
36.	Bhimgaja	Distt. Vidisha
Srinagar Circle		
1.	Shiva Temple	Fategarh
2.	Fort	Akhnoor
3.	Shiva temple	Billawar
4.	Palaces at Ramnagar	Ramnagar
5.	Trilochan Nath Temple	Mahedera
6.	Avantiswamin temple	Awantipur
7.	Patthar Masjid,	Srinagar
8.	Group of temples	Naranag
9.	Kathidarwaza	Srinagar
10.	Sangeen Darwaza	Srinagar
11.	Ancient Site	Burzahom
	Samadhi of Queen of Raja Suchet Singh	Ramnagar

1	2	3
Bhubaneswar Circle		
1. Excavated Buddhist site Lalitgiri		Distt. Cuttack, Orissa
2. Excavated Buddhist site Udaigiri		Distt. Jajpur
3. Barabati Fort		Distt. Cuttack
4. Ruins of Fortress		Chaudwar, Distt. Cuttack
5. Sun Temple, Konark		Puri
6. Haripurgarh Fort		Mayurbhanj,
7. Ashokan Rock edict		Jaugada,
8. Dakshya Prajapati Temple		Banpur
9. Chandreswar Pillar		Jajpur
10. Ananta Vasudev Temple		Bhubaneswar
11. Khandagiri & Udaigiri Jain Caves		Bhubaneswar
12. Sisupalgarh		Bhubaneswar
13. Rock cut Vishnu		Kaniha
14. Lingaraj Temple		Bhubaneswar
15. Vaital Temple		Bhubaneswar
16. Papanasini Tank		Bhubaneswar
17. Ramachandra Temple		Rajim, Madhya Pradesh
18. Mahadeo Temple		Adhachar, Madhya Pradesh
19. Malhar Fort		Malhar, Madhya Pradesh
20. Danteswari Temple		Dantewada, Madhya Pradesh
Bangalore Circle		
1. Fort, at Devanahalili		Devanahalli
2. Fort, at Mercara		Mercara
3. Gowreeswara Temple		Yelandur Halebid
4. Hoyasaleswara Temple		Halebid
5. Parsvanatha Basti		Chitradurga
6. Fort		Moodabidri
7. Seventeen Jain Tomb		Melkote
8. Narayanaswamy Temple		Mangalore
9. Sultan Battery		

1	2	3
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Jaipur Circle

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Adhai Din Ka Jhopra | Ajmer |
| 2. | Date Gate | Ajmer |
| 3. | Tripolia Gate | Ajmer |
| 4. | Sola Khambha | Ajmer |
| 5. | The Marble Pavilions and Bulustrade on the Anasagar Bund and the ruins of the hammam behind the Anasagar Bund and Saheli Bazar | Ajmer |
| 6. | Kos Minar | Ajmer-Jaipur Road, Ajmer |
| 7. | Moat surrounding the Fort | Bharatpur |
| 8. | Deeg Palaces | Deeg |
| 9. | Lal Mahal | Rupvas, Distt. Bharatpur |
| 10. | Bhatner Fort | Distt. Hanumangarh |
| 11. | Ancient Mound, Abaneri | Distt. Dausa |
| 12. | Baori, Abaneri | Distt. Dausa |
| 13. | Harshat Mata Temple, Abaneri | Distt. Dausa |
| 14. | Laxmi Narain Temple | Amber, Distt. Jaipur |
| 15. | Jaisalmer Fort | Jaiselmer |
| 16. | Ranthambhor Fort | Ranthambore |
| 17. | Kumbhalgarh Fort | Kumbhalagarh |
| 18. | Chittaurgarh Fort | Chittaurgarh |

Hyderabad Circle

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Large bastion and old gateways at Madaksira | Anantapur Distt. |
| 2. | Chintalavenkataramana Swamy at Tadipatri | Anantapur Distt. |
| 3. | Hill Fort at Penukonda | Anantapur Distt. |
| 4. | Ruind Fort at Dharanikota | Guntur Distt. |
| 5. | Rock Cut Caves at Mogalrajapuram
Vijayawada | Krishna Distt. |
| 6. | Golconda Fort | Hyderabad |
| 7. | Gateway and basion of Old Fort at Kumool | Kurnool Distt. |
| 8. | Sri Uma Maheswara
Swamy temple, Yaganti | Kurnool Distt. |
-

1	2	3
9.	Srinivasa Mangapuram temple at Chandragiri	Chittoor Distt.
10.	Fort at Chandragiri	Chittoor Distt.
11.	Fort at Gurramkonda	Chittoor Distt.
12.	Buddhist Site at Neelavati	Vizianagaram Distt.
13.	Sri Soumyanadha Swamy Temple at Nandalur	Cuddapah Distt.
14.	Sri Kodandaramaswamy temple at Vontimitta	Cuddapah Distt.
15.	Sri Kodandaramaswamy temple at Peddamudiam	Cuddapah Distt.
Dharwar Circle		
1.	Ali Shaheed Peer Mosque	Bijapur
2.	Allahpur Gate	Bijapur
3.	Ambar Khan	Bijapur
4.	Badi Kaman	Bijapur
5.	Bahumani Gate	Bijapur
6.	Bathulla Khan's Mosque	Bijapur
7.	Fort wall (from Managoli gate to Bahumani Gate)	Bijapur
8.	Gol Gumbaz & other structures within the protected area	Bijapur
9.	Haji Hassan Saheb's Tomb	Bijapur
10.	Jamma Masjid	Bijapur
11.	Managoli Gate or Fateh Gate	Bijapur
12.	Moats of the Fort wall (from Bahumani gate to Mangole gate)	Bijapur
13.	Mubarak Khan Mahal	Bijapur
14.	Mustafa bad Gun	Bijapur
15.	Nustafa Khan Mosque	Bijapur
16.	Nagthan Gate	Bijapur
17.	Nov Gumbaz	Bijapur
18.	Padshapur Gate	Bijapur
19.	Water Pavilion to the North of Mubarak Khan's Mosque	Bijapur

1	2	3
20.	Water tower No. 114 with inscriptions to the south of Asar Mahal	Bijapur
21.	Water tower No. 115 to the south of Chinch Didi mosque	Bijapur
22.	Water tower No. 142 to the north west of Nav Gumbaz and to the west of Kawas Khan 'Sect. Mahal	Bijapur
23.	Water tower No. 147 to the south of Badi Kaman	Bijapur
24.	Water Tower No. 286 to the north east of Mecca Masjid	Bijapur
25.	Water tower No. 289 to the east of Chinch Didi Masjid	Bijapur
26.	Sunda Burz	Bijapur (West)
27.	Sharpur Gate	Bijapur (West)
28.	Jorapur Gate	Bijapur (West)
29.	Mecca Gate	Bijapur (West)
30.	Gun Farangi Shahiburz	Bijapur (West)
31.	Sarwad Diddi	Bijapur (West)
32.	Landa Khaspa Gun	Bijapur (West)
33.	Small Pavilion in front of Akash Mahal	Bijapur (West)
34.	Water Pavilion	Bijapur (West)
35.	Ariquilla Moat	Bijapur (West)
36.	Chinch Didi Mosque	Bijapur (West)
37.	Andu Masjid (16)	Bijapur (West)
38.	Ibrahim Old Jami Mosque	Bijapur (West)
39.	Gummat Bavdi	Bijapur (West)
40.	Sikandar Shah Tomb	Bijapur (West)
41.	Chota Assar Mahal	Bijapur (West)
42.	Yakub Dabuku's Mahal	Bijapur (West)
43.	Ikhlas Khan Mosque	Bijapur (West)
44.	Shah Nawaz Khan's Mosque/tomb	Bijapur (West)
45.	Moti Darga (Mahal)	Bijapur (West)
46.	Hyder Khan's. tomb	Bijapur (West)

1	2	3
47.	Nityanavara mosque	Bijapur (West)
48.	Sangeet nari Mahal at Torvi	Bijapur (West)
49.	Bathulla Khan mosque	Bijapur (West)
50.	Tomb No. 47	Bijapur (West)
51.	Sonehi Masjid	Bijapur (West)
52.	Chand Bavadi Tomb No. 22	Bijapur (West)
53.	Masjid Katijapur	Bijapur (West)
54.	Aqueduct running from Bhat bavadi south west of Joravi village to Taj Bavadi	Bijapur (West)
55.	Chand Bavadi	Bijapur (West)
56.	Mulla Mosque (3)	Bijapur (West)
57.	Grave of Aurangazeb's. wife	Bijapur (West)
58.	Bhukari Masjid	Bijapur (West)
59.	Zanziri mosque of Jahan Begaums mosque (20)	Bijapur (West)
60.	Malik Sandal mosque	Bijapur (West)
61.	Fort, Gulbarga	Gulbarga
62.	Haft Gumbaz	Gulbarga
63.	Khan Jahan Barid Tombs	Bidar
64.	Bidar Fort	Bidar
Chennai Circle		
1.	Shore Temple and Five Rathas	Mamallapuram
2.	Maingurdgate,	Trichy
3.	Iravatheswara Temple and Piravathaneswara Temple	Kanchipuram
4.	Kundanguzhi Mahadev Temple, Madagadipattu	Pondicherry
5.	Siva Templee	Thiruverumbur, Trichy Distt.
6.	Hill Fort	Namakkal
7.	Fort St. George	Chennai
8.	Fort, Attur	Salem Distt.
9.	Megalithic Site, Thiruporur	Kanchipuram Distt.
10.	Early Historic Site, Pallavamedu	Kanchipuram Distt.

1	2	3
<i>Lucknow Circle</i>		
1. Small high mound Allahabad		Bara
2. Ruined Forts of Samudra-Gupta and Hansagupta Allahabad		Jhusi
3. Extensive mound called Hatgauha Dih, Allahabad		Shivpur
4. Large mound, Allahabad		Sringverpur
5. Large brick strewn khera being the ruins of an Bahraich apparently Buddhist city		Chahardarh
6. Jama Masjid, Banda		Banda
7. Mound called Chauki, Fatehpur		Aphui
8. Large mound covered with broken bricks Fatehpur		Asni
9. Extensive brick strewn mound, Fatehpur		Asothar
10. Bagh Badshahi, Fatehpur		Khajuha
11. Hathikhana mosque or Jaichandi mosque Fatehpur		Hathgaon
12. Circular mound, Fatehpur		Khairai
13. Old Fort, Fatehpur		Nahar Khor
14. Extensive ruins of an ancient fortified town Fatehpur		Paina
15. Two brick temples, Fatehpur		Sirhar Amauli
16. Three mounds known as Maniparbat, Kuber Parbat Faizabad and Sugrib Parbat		Ayodhya
17. Tomb of Bahu Begum, Faizabad		Faizabad
18. Tomb of Shuja-ud-Daula, Faizabad		Faizabad
19. Tomb of Hazi Iqbal, Faizabad		Faizabad
20. Mound covered with bricks, Gonda		Hathili
21. High irregular khera, Hardoi		Hardoi
22. Mound, Hardoi		Kanaur
22. Tomb of Nawab of Sadar Jahan, Hardoi		Pihani
23. Certain mounds, Hamirpur		Kachawa
24. Jain temple mounds, Hamirpur		Sumerpur
25. Mosque, Jalaun		Orai

1	2	3
25A.	Rani Laxmi Bai Mahal Jhansi	Jhansi
26.	Jhansi Fort Jhansi	Jhansi
27.	Mound Kanpur	Bithur
28.	Three images and a Gupta pillar in the compound of a temple Kanpur	Behta
29.	Memorial Wall Garden Kanpur	Kanpur
30.	Sawada Kothi Kanpur	Kanpur
31.	Ancient site Kausambi	Kausambi
32.	Karra Fort attributed to Jay Chandra Kausambi	Kausambi
33.	British monument Kheri, Lakhimpur	Aurangabad
34.	Bundela Temple Lalitpur	Banpur
35.	Ganesh Khera Lalitpur	Banpur
36.	Jain Temple Lalitpur	Banpur
37.	Pali Khera Lalitpur	Banpur
38.	Champa Lalitpur	Madanpur
39.	Large Temple in front of Panch Marhia Lalitpur	Madanpur
40.	Panch Marhia Lalitpur	Madanpur
41.	Modi Marh Lalitpur	Madanpur
42.	Mundi Marh Lalitpur	Madanpur
43.	Jain Temple Lalitpur	Siron Khurd

1	2	3
44.	Cemetery near Kaiser pasand Lucknow	Kaiserbagh
45.	Kalan-ki-Lat Lucknow	Aminabad
46.	British Cemetery at Chiria Jheel Lucknow	Sapru Marg
47.	Two Cemeteries Lucknow	Lucknow-Faizabad Road
48.	Janab-e-Aliya Lucknow	Lucknow
49.	Bara Imambara/Asaf-ud-Daula's Imambara Lucknow	Lucknow
50.	Asafi Masjid Lucknow	Lucknow
51.	Maqbara Shahnajaf or Tomb of Ghazi-ud-din Haider, Lucknow	Lucknow
52.	Rauza-e-Kazmain/Kazmain building Lucknow	Lucknow
53.	Picture Gallery Lucknow	Hussainabad
54.	Jama Masjid Lucknow	Hussainabad
55.	Chhota Imambara/Tomb of Mohammad Ali Shah Lucknow	Lucknow
56.	Tahsin Ali Masjid Lucknow	Lucknow
57.	Amjad Ali Shah's mausoleum Lucknow	Jahraila Road
58.	Sher Darwaza/Neil's Gate Lucknow	Lucknow
59.	Kaiserbagh Gate Lucknow	Lucknow
60.	Marpha Fort Chitrakut	Karvi
61.	Two Chandella Temples Mahoba	Akona
62.	Chakariya Dai Mahoba	Bhagwa

1	2	3
63.	Ruins of a Palace on a hill Mahoba	Kulpahar
64.	Granite Pillar Mahoba	Mahoba
65.	Jama Masjid Mahoba	Mahoba
66.	Lake of Kirat Sagar Mahoba	Mahoba
67.	Lake of Madan Sagar Mahoba	Mahoba
68.	Like of Vijay Sagar Mahoba	Mahoba
69.	Palace of Raja Paramardi Deva Mahoba	Mahoba
70.	Alha-ki-Lat Mahoba	Mahoba
71.	Makarbai Temple & ruins of a large granite temple Mahoba	Makarbai
72.	Two ruined granite temple Mahoba	Mohari
73.	Sijari temple Mahoba	Sijari
74.	A Flat roof temple	Urwara, Mahoba
75.	Fort Gate	Rae Bareli
76.	Issauli Mosque	Sultanpur
77.	Large dih called Majhangaon	Sultanpur
Vadodara Circle		
1.	Malik Alam's Mosque Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
2.	Saiyed Usman Mosque Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
3.	Great Mosque Ahmedabad	Sarkhej
4.	Bhadra Tower Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
5.	Small Stone Mosque Ahmedabad	Paldi

1	2	3
6.	Achyut Bibi's Mosque Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
7.	Bahlol Khan Mosque Ahmedabad	Dholka
8.	Ancient Site Gohilwad Timbo Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
9.	Fort of Pavagarh Ruined Hindu temple & Jain temples on the top of Pavagadh	Pavagarh
10.	Mir Abu Turab Tomb	Ahmedabad
11.	Nawab Sardarkhan's Rouza with its compound bearing CS No. 6811	
12.	Tombs of Queen of Ahmed Shah	Ahmedabad
13.	Malik Alam's mosque	Ahmedabad

Meeting of GMs

1709. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called a meeting of Railway General Managers recently and stressed the need to maintain safety, plugging revenue leakages and meeting financial targets;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out to meet the various challenges before the Railways;

(c) whether corruption in Railways are primarily responsible for various draw backs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to root out corruption in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Strategy to meet various challenges faced by the Railway is not formulated in a single meeting with General Managers. During the meeting, stress was laid on innovative marketing, expenditure control, rightsizing, plugging revenue leakage, regular Safety Audits and clearing arrears of asset renewals.

(c) and (d) Although Corruption of Railways is not primarily responsible for various drawbacks, a number of steps have been taken by the Government to root out corruption in Railways. These steps include frequent checks in areas of public/user interface and mass contact areas, random checks in auctions and scrap disposal, random scrutiny of major contracts and ongoing works etc. to detect and curb irregularities/malpractices. While staff is educated to inculcate awareness about proper procedures, strict disciplinary action is also taken against staff involved in irregularities.

[Translation]

Sahitya Akademi Award

1710. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of literary works of the Indian languages which are conferred upon awards by the Sahitya Akademi every year;

(b) whether this award is given on the basis of one State, one, language; and

(c) if so, the reasons for giving only one award in Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Sahitya Akademi gives 22 awards annually to outstanding books published in the 22 languages recognized by it.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy of the Sahitya Akademi is to give one award in each of the 22 languages recognized by it.

[English]

Centre for Corporate Excellence

1711. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1048 dated March 1, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Academic institutions called "Centre for Corporate Excellence";

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

(c) whether the Government have received some representations to locate such centres in States where major industries and technological institutes are existing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) One of the important recommendations made in its report by the Study Group on Corporate Excellence, set up by the Government, relates to setting up an independent, autonomous Centre for Corporate Excellence to mainly accord accreditation and promote policy research and studies, training & education and awards etc. in the field of corporate excellence through improved corporate governance. The exact location of such institute has not yet been decided by the Government even though some representations have been received from the State Governments.

Coconut Plantation in Kerala

1712. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programme chalked out by Coconut Development Board for encouragement of coconut plantation in Kerala;

(b) the total amount spent thereon during the current year;

(c) whether the Government have received any new plan from the Board in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) For promoting cultivation of Coconuts in Kerala, the Coconut Development Board has sanctioned following programmes with an outlay of Rs. 481.13 lakh for the year 2001-2002;

- (i) Expansion of area under coconut;
- (ii) Production and distribution of tall X Dwarf Hybrid Seedling
- (iii) Aid to government approved/registered/private nurseries;
- (iv) Management of disease affected palms;
- (v) Laying out demonstration plots;
- (vi) Establishment of organic manuring units.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation to Farmers for Sale of Paddy at Lower Rates

1713. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab is compensating the farmers for the losses suffered by them for sale of their paddy at lower price;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to extend the same facility to the farmers of other States also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) As per the decisions taken in the meeting of Punjab delegation led by the Chief Minister of Punjab with the Union Finance Minister and Minister of Consumer Affairs, & Public Distribution on 15.10.2000, it was decided that in respect of farmers whose paddy has been purchased at below MSP from 21.9.2000 to 14.10.2000, the State Govt. will make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this difference shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs. 100 crores. Ministry of Finance shall compensate to an extent of 50% to the Punjab Govt. for this expenditure.

As per the information received from Govt. of Punjab, the State Govt. has released a fund of Rs. 100 crore to compensate the farmers. Accordingly, the work of compensation has been started in the State and as on 26.7.2001 Rs. 61.30 crore has been distributed to the farmers concerned.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

[English]

Utilisation of Railway Land

1714. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under Railways, zone-wise;

(b) the area of unused land under Railways, zone and division-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to utilise such land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the area of land that have been encroached upon zone-wise; and the steps taken to vacate from unauthorised occupants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Details of total land, land laying vacant zone-wise and Division-wise are as under:

Zone	Total land (in hec.)	Area lying vacant (in hec.) at present (zone-wise)	Division	Area lying vacant (in hec.) at present
1	2	3	4	5
Central	49328	3114	Mumbai	249
			Bhusawal	513
			Nagpur	908
			Jabalpur	246
			Solapur	339
			Jhansi	452
			Bhopal	407
Eastern	41188	2223	Sealdah	757
			Howrah	195

1	2	3	4	5
			Asansol	575
			Dhanbad	221
			Mughalsarai	48
			Maldah	123
			Danapur	304
Northern	56731	2815	Allahabad	63
			Bikaner	866
			Delhi	73
			Firozpur	542
			Jodhpur	210
			Lucknow	280
			Moradabad	175
			Ambala	606
North-eastern	37670	1647	Izzatnagar	486
			Lucknow	241
			Varanasi	147
			Sonepur	565
			Samastipur	208
Northeast	43224	1744	Alipurduar	418
Frontier			Tinsukia	115
			Katihar	801
			Lumding	410
Southern	33245	2200	Chennai	153
			Palghat	442
			Trivandrum	Nil
			Bangalore	302
			Mysore	64
			Tiruchirappalli	746
			Madurai	493
South Central	33418	1928	Secunderabad	453

1	2	3	4	5
			Hyderabad	425
			Vijayawada	252
			Guntakal	474
			Hubli	324
South	77918	501	Adra	28
Eastern			Bilaspur	25
			Chakradharpur	31
			Khurda Road	139
			Kharagpur	25
			Nagpur	50
			Sambalpur	192
			Vishakhapatnam	11
Western	50726	573	Mumbai	23
			Vadodara	11
			Ratlam	302
			Kota	111
			Ajmer	24
			Jaipur	Nil
			Rajkot	33
			Bhavnagar	69
Total	4,23,448	16,745		

(c) and (d) The vacant land is required by Railways for their operational and maintenance requirements as well as for future developmental works. Wherever feasible vacant railway land are also put to short-term uses like afforestation, temporary licensing for purposes related to railway working etc.

(e) Railways make continuous efforts to remove unauthorised occupants from their land. Fresh encroachments are removed as soon as noticed. Old encroachments are removed under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Railways also use Section 147 of Railways Act, 1989 to deal with unauthorised occupants. As removal of encroachments often develop into a law and order problem, help from the Civil Police is also required. The

details of area of Railway land under unauthorised occupation are as under:

Zone	Area under encroachment (in hec.)
1	2
Central	63
Eastern	46
Northern	1218
Northeastern	65
Northeast Frontier	291

1	2
Southern	77
South Central	53
South Eastern	251
Western	98
Total	2162

Gas in K.G. Basin

1715. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and some private companies have struck natural gas wells in Krishna-Godavary Basin in East Godavary District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gas from this reserve;

(c) the time by which commercial production of gas is expected from this reserve; and

(d) the share of the Government out of this production?

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 June 2001, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has struck gas in the exploratory well, Pasarlupudi No. 32, located in Pasarlupudi field in East Godavari District

of Andhra Pradesh. No gas has been discovered in East Godavari District by any private company.

(b) and (c) The production potential of this well needs to be evaluated to reassess the volume of gas already estimated in the Pasarlupudi field. As this field is having established infrastructure, the well will be put on production after completion of assessment.

(d) ONGC owns the entire production from its reserves.

PGCIL In Construction of Transmission Lines

1716. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is contemplating of laying and construction of transmission lines/towers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of major projects completed so far or likely to be completed along with the details of company executing the project on behalf of the PGCIL; and

(c) the details of cost of each project, distance covered (area-wise), names of the firms executing the project the number of towers constructed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) PGCIL is engaged in the business of laying and construction of transmission lines and towers in the country. The details of major projects of POWERGRID completed from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 and those which are likely to be completed during 2001-2002, length of the transmission lines, names of the executing agencies, number of towers erected, completion date and cost of the lines are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Major projects Completed/Commissioned by Powergrid

1998-99

S.No.	Description	Length (Ckm)	Agency	Towers Erected	Compln.	Cost of the line (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	400 K V D/C Bongaigaon — Siliguri Line	440	B&C	587	05/98	82.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	400 KV D/C Ranganadi — Balipara Line	333	RPG	428	06/98	109.61
3.	400 KV D/C Jeypore — Gazuwaka Line	442	JSL	602	06/98	155.62
4.	220 KV S/C Kopili — Misa Line	76	KEC	228	07/98	13.45
5.	220 KV D/C Kayamkulam — damon Line	156	Jyoti	228	08/98	40.16
6.	220 KV D/C Unchahar — Kanpur I Line	288	RPG	445	01/99	28.71
7.	220 K V D/C RAPP — Udaipur Line	230	Kalpataru	699	02/99	29.23
8.	132 KV S/C Dehri — Karamanasa Line	86	L&T	301	02/99	7.48
9.	132 KV S/C Khandong — Khleiriat Line	41	RPG	132	02/99	4.71
10.	132 KV S/C Badarpur — Badarpur Line	1	RPG	6	02/99	0.21
11.	132 KV S/C Khandong — Khleiriat (LILO)	13	RPG	44	03/99	1.51
12.	400 KV D/C Satna — Bina Line	552	KEC	709	03/99	117.56
1999-2000						
1.	220 KV D/C Faridabad — Samaypur Line	35	L & T	60	04/99	4.42
2.	132 KV S/C Badarpur — Jiribam Line	95	RPG	223	04/99	7.55
3.	400 KV D/C Kaiga — Sirsi Line	124	Jyoti	171	05/99	37.45
4.	400 KV D/C Vindhyachal — Satna Line	534	Kalpataru	738	05/99	139.95
5.	220 KV D/C Buddipadar — Korba Line	182	L&T	567	06/99	28.07
6.	400 KV D/C Rowta — Bongaigaon Line	412	KEC	547	06/99	71.69
7.	400 KV D/C Abdullapur — Bawana Line	334	RPG	438	08/99	118.29
8.	132 KV S/C Badarpur — Bairabi Line	85	RPG	287	08/99	11.29
9.	132 KV S/C Bairabi — Aizwal Line	85	RPG	243	08/99	9.53
10.	400 KV S/C Nalagarh — Hissar Line	499	KEC	676	09/99	195.69
11.	220 KV D/C Kayamkulam — Pallom Line	94	Jyoti	145	09/99	23.14
12.	400 KV S/C Korba — Raipur Line	200	EMC	550	10/99	81.79
13.	400 KV D/C Unchahar — Kanpur II Line	290	RPG	449	11/99	29.66
14.	132 KV S/C Badarpur — Kumarghat Line	118	RPG	397	11/99	12.83
15.	400 KV D/C Dulhasti — Kishenpur - I Line	44	RSCo	136	12/99	16.93
16.	220 KV D/C Faridabad — Palla Line	33	L&T	54	12/99	5.01
17.	132 KV S/C Khleiriat — Badarpur Line	77	RPG	218	12/99	9.12
18.	220 KV S/C RAPP B — Anta Line	114	Hythro	247	03/00	15.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2000-2001						
1.	400 KV D/C N' Jhakri — Abdullapur Line	360	Jyoti	431	06/00	165.26
2.	220 KV S/C Neyveli — Bahoor Line	53	L&T	160	06/00	7.50
3.	220 KV D/C Pani — Manipuri (LILO) Line	21	RPG	48	10/00	3.33
4.	132 KV S/C Agartala—Kumarghat Line	104	EMC	353	11/00	12.15
5.	220 KV D/C Jallandhar — Dasuya Line	99	RPG	159	12/00	10.41
6.	800 KV S/C Kishenpur — Moga (Ckt I)	275	COBRA	710	12/00	257.16
7.	220 KV D/C Jallandhar— Hamirpur Line	248	NBCC	353	02/01	31.56
2001-2002						
1.	400 KV D/C N'Jhakri — Nalagarh Line	290	RPG	373	05/01#	181.57
2.	400 KV D/C Sasaram — Biharshariff Line	388	TATA	506	05/01#	93.81
3.	400 KV D/C Neyveli — Trichy (LILO) Line	11	L&T	37	07/01	13.68
4.	400 KV D/C Sasaram — Allahabad Line	435	L&T	583	07/01 **	107.16
5.	Series Comp. for 420 KV S/C Kanpur Ballabhgarh (FACT)	—	BHEL	11/01	11/01	12.90
6.	800 KV S/C Tehri — Merut I Line	180	KEC	452	03/02	159.90
7.	800 KV S/C Tehri — Meerut II Line	182	RPG	458	03/02	162.02
8.	400 KV S/C Meerut — Mandoula Line	120	EMC	161	03/02	34.24

Completed

** Completed upto Samath in May '01 (terminated at UPPCL)

Holidays in Courts

1717. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether judicial fraternity in India gets more holidays than any other Government Department;

(b) if so, the number of holidays enjoyed by judicial officers *vis a vis* Government officials;

(c) if so, the number of holidays observed in High Courts and the Supreme Court in a year;

(d) whether former Chief Justice of India had ruled that High Courts should function for at least 210 days a year; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in view of the mounting arrears of cases pending for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government offices having five working days per week, enjoy seventeen Gazetted holidays and two restricted holidays in a year.

The Estimates Committee of the 8th Lok Sabha had desired a review of the working days in the Supreme Court/High Courts. The examination revealed that all High Courts were normally having 210 working days in a year.

The working days/vacations of the subordinate Courts in the States are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

The question of working days was further examined at different intervals. The matter was also referred to the

former Chief Justice of India on 25.6.86. The Chief Justice of India informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full Court had decided to add two more working days. The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as Judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices' Conference held in 1987.

The Department of Justice has recently requested all High Courts and State Governments to re-examine the annual vacations and working days in High Courts.

(e) Various steps have been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of mounting arrears of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judges, strengthening of judicial infrastructure by construction of courtrooms and residences of judges etc. simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of cases involving undertrials on priority.

[Translation]

Private Participation in Modernisation of Technology

1718. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow private sector participation for modernisation and technology upgradation of the Indian Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Private sector participation for modernization and technology upgradation of Indian Railway already exists.

(b) Modernization & technology upgradation is a continuous process on Indian Railways. A large number of industries and companies in the private sector are already participating in modernization & technology

upgradation of Indian Railways encompassing all the technical departments. These relate to modernization and upgradation of locomotives; passenger coaches; track fittings; track machines and signalling and telecom systems.

Some of the important products that have been/and are being modernized and developed with private sector participation in the recent past are:

- Rail-cum-road vehicle
- Fibre Reinforced Plastic sleepers
- Train actuated warning system
- Centre buffer couplings for main-line coaches
- Electronic fuel injection equipment for Diesel locomotives
- Microprocessor based engine governing systems
- Composite brake blocks
- Bogie mounted brake systems
- Air springs
- New generation turbochargers for diesel locos
- Plate-type lube oil filters
- Modern lube-oil filters
- Development of LED-based lighting systems for signal and locomotive lights
- Integrated power supply for signalling requirements
- Low maintenance and Maintenance-free batteries

[English]

Opening of Level Crossings on Luni - Barmer - Munabao Rail Line

1719. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings closed during the last three years on Luni-Barmer-Munabao rail line;

(b) whether this rail line is being converted from metre gauge to broad gauge which is very vital for defence preparedness;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for re-opening and provision of additional/existing level crossings on Luni-Barmer-Munabao broad gauge to facilitate smooth flow of vehicular traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of level crossings re-opened so far and the number of level crossings being provided on broad gauge under conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No level crossing has been closed during the last 3 years on Luni - Barmer — Munabao Section.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations received for re-opening/conversion of 'D' class cattle crossing into regular crossing, provision of new level crossing and shifting of existing level crossing are as under:—

1. The representations were for reopening and conversion of 'D' class cattle crossings No. 309-D at km. 772/11-12 and 332-D at km. 863/1-2 into regular 'C' class manned. But these level crossings have not been closed.
2. New level crossing at km. 943/4-5 near Hamiraji.
3. New level crossing at km. 883/14-15 near village Bhanpur.
4. New level crossing at km. 810/10-11 near village Baniya Sanda Dhora.
5. New level crossing at km. 737/4-5 near Balotra Jn. yard.
6. New level crossing at km. 769/2-3.
7. New level crossing at km. 806/8-9 near Nimbaniyo Ki Dhani.

8. New level crossing at km. 902/11-12.

9. New level crossing at km. 763/1-2.

10. Shifting of level crossing No. C-339 from km. 906/6-7 to km. 90-8/15 - 909/1.

(e) No level crossing has been reopened. Level crossings on broad gauge will be the same as existing on metre gauge.

Projects Launched by NHPC

1720. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects launched by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in various States;

(b) the capacity of each of those projects and investment made therein, project-wise;

(c) the details of sources through which these projects are funded;

(d) whether any power project has been launched by NHPC in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Five hydro electric projects are under execution by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in various States of the country. Details of the Projects, including their capacities and expenditure incurred on each of them are given in the enclosed statement. NHPC has also taken up as a Joint Venture with Government of Madhya Pradesh, the execution of Indira Sagar (1000 MW) and Omkareshwar (520 MW) Hydro-electric Projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Besides these projects, NHPC has been entrusted with the execution of a number of projects for which activities related to Survey & Investigation for preparation of prefeasibility reports and Detailed Project Reports have been taken up as indicated below:—

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Krishnaganga	330	Jammu & Kashmir
2.	Uri-II	280	Jammu & Kashmir

1	2	3	4
3.	Bursar	1020	Jammu & Kashmir
4.	Sewa-II	1000	Jammu & Kashmir
5.	Pakal Dul	1000	Jammu & Kashmir
6.	Nimmo Bazgo	30	Jammu & Kashmir
7.	Chutak	18	Jammu & Kashmir
8.	Teesta Low Dam St. III	132	West Bengal
9.	Teesta Low Dam St. IV	168	West Bengal
10.	Purulia Pumped Storage	900	West Bengal
11.	Chamera-III	231	Himachal Pradesh
12.	Subansiri (Lower, Middle & Upper)	7300	Arunachal Pradesh
13.	Siang (Lower, Middle & Upper)	13400	Arunachal Pradesh

(d) and (e) No, Sir. No project located in Orissa has been entrusted to NHPC.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity	Latest Sanctioned cost	Equity	Total Expenditure as on 31.3.01 (Provisional)
Ongoing Schemes					
1.	Dulhasti, J&K	390	3559.77 (11/96 PL)	1779.88	2834.26
2.	Chamera-II, H.P.	300	1684.02 (8/98 PL)	600.00	639.39
3.	Dhauliganga-I, Uttranchal	280	1578.31 (8/99 PL)	436.41	413.66
4.	Teesta-V, Sikkim	510	2198.05 (4/99 PL)	1099.03	163.64
5.	Loktak D/S, Manipur	90	578.62 (4/99 PL)	289.31	13.99

Revival of Jute Mills

1721. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have referred to BIFR to prepare a package for the revival of six jute mills under the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BIFR have prepared the revival package in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details of revival package and the action taken by the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said package is likely to be prepared by the BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) NJMC was referred to BIFR in 1993 under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 (SICA).

(c) to (e) BIFR directed the Government to consider chances of revival of individual mills of NJMC and/or the company as a whole either through privatization or under the ownership/management of Government of India. As per the directions of BIFR, the Ministry of Textiles, keeping in view the interest of the workers, has prepared an Action Plan for NJMC which inter alia proposes sale of units to workers cooperatives first, failing which to State Governments, public sector/private sector. It has been proposed that the mills may be handed over to the buyers with the condition that they will continue to run these mills at least for 10 years and safeguard the interests of permanent workers. This plan has been submitted to the BIFR on 27.06.2001. BIFR considered the proposal of the Government and directed Operating Agency (IIBI) to submit draft rehabilitation scheme within 14 weeks.

[Translation]

Handing Over of Small and Medium Oilfields to Private Companies

1722. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and medium oil-fields identified so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of oilfields proposed to be handed-over to private companies for their development and details of progress made for the development of these oilfields so far;

(c) whether a survey was conducted in Jabalpur and Bina to identify oilfields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Out of the large number of small and medium size field discovered by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. 43 small and medium oil and gas fields in the country, including offshore areas, were offered for joint venture or private participation in the first such offer of fields in 1992. Out of these, 14 oil fields have been awarded to private companies or the Joint Venture consortium having private companies as partner, and Production Sharing Contracts have been signed. The details of these oilfields are at Statement-I. Out of these 14 oil fields, 11 fields are under production. In 1993, 41 medium and small size oil and gas fields were offered under the second offer. Out of these, 10 oil fields have been approved for award to private companies or their consortium and contracts for 8 oilfields have been signed. The details of these oilfields are in statement-II.

(c) and (d) ONGC has carried out exploration activities in Damoh-Jabera-Katni Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) block covering north-west part of Jabalpur district in Vindhyan basin. A total of 2316.2 GLK 2D Seismic data has been acquired and drilling of one well has been undertaken in Damoh PEL block. No exploration has been carried out in Bina.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of field	State
1	2	3
1.	Asjol	Gujarat
2.	Bhandut	Gujarat
3.	Bakrol	Gujarat
4.	Cambay	Gujarat

1	2	3
5.	Dholka	Gujarat
6.	Indora	Gujarat
7.	Lohar	Gujarat
8.	Matar	Gujarat
9.	Sabarmati	Gujarat
10.	Wavel	Gujarat
11.	Kharsang	Arunachal Pradesh
12.	Ravva	East Coast Offshore
13 & 14.	Panna & Mukta	West Coast Offshore

Statement-II*Medium Size Fields*

Sl. No.	Fields	Location/State
1.	Ratna & R-Series	Mumbai Offshore

Small Size Fields:—

2.	North Kathana	Gujarat
3.	Allora	Gujarat
4.	Unawa	Gujarat
5.	Kanwara	Gujarat
6.	Dholasan	Gujarat
7.	Mdhera	Gujarat
8.	Ognaj	Gujarat
9.	Sanganpur	Gujarat
10.	Amguri	Assam
PSC signed		

Development of Textile Industry

1723. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme being implemented for the development of conventional textile industry;

(b) the work executed and funds allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether corruption is prevailing in the implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) For development of textile industry including conventional textiles the Government of India, have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), w.e.f. 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e., up to 31.3.2004. The scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement on the loan sanctioned by the nodal agencies (IDBI, SIDBI and IFCI) and their co-opted agencies to the eligible projects.

There are other sector specific schemes for development of conventional textiles. Main schemes, sector-wise are as under:—

- (i) *Powerlooms*: Modernisation of powerlooms and strengthening of support system organisations.
- (ii) *Handlooms*: Modernisation of Handlooms under, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protshan Yojana.
- (iii) *Silk*: Modernisation and development of Silk through Catalytic Development Programmes etc.
- (iv) *Wool*: Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project: Area Based Project for Wool and Woollens Development.
- (v) *Handicrafts*: Training for upgradation of skill of the existing craft-persons and imparting skills to new craft-persons; Design and Technological Development; Marketing and Market Development Support etc.

The details of total amount sanctioned by the Government under these schemes during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme/ Sector	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)	*	100	7000
Powerlooms	363	931	687
Handlooms	8335	8092	10145
Silk	6249	6700	7818
Wool	452	506	371
Handicraft	2034	2267	2915

(c) and (d) Appropriate action is taken on complaints relating to corruption in implementation of schemes.

[English]

Spare Parts of Metro Railways

1724. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries which are supplying spare parts to the Metro Railway;

(b) whether the supply of spare parts is being delayed from the said countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) France, Germany and England.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Foreign Debt with ONGC

1725. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as on date;

(b) the purpose for which ONGC has taken such loan and under what terms and conditions; and

(c) the steps taken by ONGC to refund the loan?

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 outstanding amount of foreign debt of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) as on 31.3.2001 and 30.6.2001 has been about Rs. 4037 crore and Rs. 3156 crore, respectively. These outstanding loans consist of multilateral loans from World Bank (IBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), External Commercial Borrowings (ECB); and Loans from a single bank or consortium of banks.

(b) The loans outstanding as on 31.3.2001 were taken for investment in Gas Flaring Reduction Project in western Offshore, which included components of L-II Development in Bombay High North, L-III (In-fill) Development in Bombay High South, ICP-Heera Trunkline, Second Bassein-Hazira Trunkpipeline and Expansion of Shore Terminal Facilities at Hazira.

In brief, the terms of the loans are:

(i) Interest Rates: The Multilateral Loans bear interest rate equivalent to the Cost of Qualified Borrowings (COQB) of these institutions plus a margin. The loan from World Bank is a multi-currency loan and is subject to currency pool adjustment. The ECBs carry either fixed or floating rate of interest.

(ii) Repayment: All the loans are payable in semi annual instalments.

(iii) Prepayment: The Loans can be prepaid by giving a certain number of days (like 30 days etc.) notice to the lender(s). In some loans prepayment charges are also applicable on such prepayment. Prepayment of all these loans are, however, subject to existing guidelines on the subject and require prior approval from the regulatory authorities, like Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Finance etc.

(c) As a result of its sustained efforts, whenever permitted by the respective loan agreement terms and with the approval of the Government and RBI, ONGC has been able to prepay foreign loans aggregating Rs. 1360.74 crore during the last three years.

Subsidy on Power Tillers

1726. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that withdrawal of subsidy on power tillers has adversely affected the prospects of Kerala Agro Machinery Ltd., the only State owned power tiller maker in the country;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to restore the subsidy on power tillers; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The State Government of Kerala has informed that the withdrawal of subsidy on power tillers had affected the prospects of sale of power tillers manufactured by M/s. Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation (KAMCO) during the period in which the subsidy stood withdrawn.

(b) and (c) Requests to restore the subsidy were received from the State Government of Kerala as well as from some other State Governments. On the basis of Test Reports released by the Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute at Budni on the improved version of Power Tillers, subsidy has been allowed on KAMCO KMB-200, which is manufactured by KAMCO, as well as on three other models of Power Tillers. A letter dated 17th July 2001, in this regard has been issued to all State Governments and Union Territories.

Technology Mission on Coconut

1727. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal of setting up a Technology Mission on coconut stands at present

(b) the details of progress made therein so far;

(c) whether any research is going on to find out the use of treated coconut oil as engine oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Coconut Development Board prepared a draft report of Technology Mission on Coconut which was thoroughly discussed in a meeting with all stake holders in the coconut industry including representatives of coconut producing States. The participating State Governments were requested to give their suggestions, if any, for further modification. Suggestions have been received only from Government of Kerala. Based on suggestions the document on Technology Mission is being finalized.

(c) and (d) Research on use of coconut oil as engine oil is not reported. However, for taking up research on use of coconut oil in automobiles, the Coconut Development Board has requested Engineering Institutes to submit detailed and economically viable research projects.

Gauge Conversion of Rangiya-Rangapara-Tezpur-Murkong Selek Rail Line

1728. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to drop gauge conversion of Rangiya-Rangapara-Tezpur-Murkong Selek section under North-east Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as per earlier schedule the work had to be started immediately after completion of gauge conversion up to Dibrugarh; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking work of improvement of Rail track facilities in Tezpur and Lakhimpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to heavy throw forward and large shelf of projects under gauge conversion, it has been decided not to take up the gauge conversion from Rangiya to Murkongselek and Rangapara North to Tezpur for the present and to consider the project for being taken up after other gauge conversion works in the region get completed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Functioning of Training Institute

1729. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a training institute in Eastern Railway which has its own building instructors and several laboratories for imparting training to Trade Apprentices and First Class Special Apprentices;

(b) whether the said institute has been praised by a team from Japan; and

(c) if so, the reasons for making this institute disfunctional during the last few days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes Sir, there is an Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering at Jamalpur in Eastern Railway for imparting training to Special Class Railway Apprentices, serving and probationary officers and supervisors of mechanical department of Indian Railways. Trade Apprentices are not trained at this institute. The training institute has adequate infrastructure and other facilities.

(b) A team from Japan had visited the institute in 1987.

(c) The institute has not been made dysfunctional.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of ITDC

1730. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some PSU's/Government Departments have not paid the bills of ITDC since long;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues against them as on date, Department-wise/PSU-wise; and

(c) the action initiated to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and it will be submitted in due course.

(c) Realisation of outstanding dues is a continuous process. The measures taken/being taken to recover the outstanding dues include: (i) Personal contacts and periodical reminders; (ii) Periodical review both at unit and corporate level; (iii) Seeking assistance from the administrative Ministry; (iv) Stoppage of credit facility to defaulting parties and (v) Resorting to legal action wherever necessary.

LPG Pipeline From Gujarat to UP

1731. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 1,240 km. long LPG pipeline from Jamnagar, Gujarat to Loni UP on Delhi border was inaugurated on May 10, 2001;

(b) if so, the areas likely to be catered by this pipeline by way of supply of piped gas; and

(c) the precautions taken to prevent any leakages and pilferages?

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) Through the Jamnagar/Kandla/Loni Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline of Gas Authority of India Limited LPG is being supplied in bulk along the pipeline to oil marketing companies namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for bottling and supply to the consumers in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and UP.

(c) The pipeline laid 1.0 to 1.2 meters below ground is equipped with sophisticated equipment and the system is being supplemented with Supervision Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Application Software (APPS) and leak detection system. Patrolling through helicopter and line walk on regular basis are conducted to ensure security and safety of the pipeline.

Development of Tourism

1732. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal/programme to organise fairs, festivals and exhibitions in Bihar and other States during 2001-02 to promote domestic/international tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released therefor, State/project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Fairs, festivals and exhibitions are primarily organised by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for such events prioritised in consultation with them every year.

(b) During the year 2001-2002 sixty four fairs, festivals and exhibitions in various States have been prioritised for financial assistance amounting to Rs. 405.50 lakhs. This includes the following events in Bihar.

S.No.	Name of event	Amount Prioritised (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	International Buddha Mahotsava	20.00
2.	Rajgir Mahotsava	10.00
3.	Vaishali Mahotsava	5.00

Settlement of NTC Dues

1733. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions and banks have taken an in-principle decision to accept the proposal for one-time settlement of their dues by the subsidiaries of the National Textile Corporation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One-time settlement (OTS) is proposed to be through Government guaranteed NTC bonds as a part of the revival plan to be sanctioned by BIFR.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion at Tejnaranpur Railway Station

1734. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tejnaranpur railway station under Northeast Frontier Railway was cut off due to soil erosion about six years back; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rebuilt the said railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Tejnaranpur Railway station yard and the station building were washed away by flood water of the river Ganga due to soil erosion of the bank and the change in course by the river on 14.9.1997.

(b) The river Ganga has changed its course and consumed portions of Railway bank. The train services are now being terminated about 2 kilometers short of the location where Tejnaranpur station existed. Until river changes its course again to release the land, it is not possible to restore the old Tejnaranpur station.

Ban on Import of Wool

1735. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to ban the import of wool;

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

(c) whether any scheme in regard to wool trade of Rajasthan is pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and the time by which this scheme is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir. There is no scheme with regard to wool trade of Rajasthan pending with the Ministry of Textiles.

(d) Does not arise.

Search of Rajasthani Books and Scriptures

1736. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work to search out the five thousand old Rajasthan books and scriptures is on the progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance given by the Union Government to Rajasthani Research Institute for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the result achieved therefrom till now?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government does not undertake such activities directly but provides financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations for purchase of manuscripts and Rare Books.

(c) The financial assistance given by the National Archives of India to the Rajasthani Research Institute which is a Non-Governmental Organization over the preceding three years as well as in the current year is as follows:—

1998-99	Rs. 25,000/-
1999-2000	Rs. 60,000/-
2000-2001	NIL
2001-2002	NIL

- (d) (i) In 1998-99, Rs. 25,000/- was granted for lamination of books. The Institute has furnished an utilization certificate to the effect that the amount has been utilized for the purpose.
- (ii) In 1999-2000, a grant of Rs. 60,000/- was sanctioned for preservation and purchase of manuscripts. The Institute has furnished an utilization certificate for Rs. 45,000/-. Utilization certificate for Rs. 15,000/- is awaited.

[English]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of Raw Cotton

1737. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed all restrictions on raw cotton exports to boost the trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government has removed all restrictions on raw cotton exports with effect from 2nd July, 2001. Accordingly, the exporters will not be required to obtain certificate from the Textile Commissioner on the registration, allocation, quality and quantity of export.

Electrification of Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Gandhidham Rail Line

1738. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry are aware about the fact that rail line between Delhi and Jaipur has been electrified and that Jaipur-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Gandhidham Railway lines have not been electrified so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said lines are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Delhi-Jaipur rail line is not electrified. There is also at present no proposal to electrify Jaipur-Ahmedabad or Ahmedabad-Gandhidham sections.

(b) Due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.

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

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Agriculture in U.P.

1739. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of each of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to development of agriculture in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilised by the State during the said period, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The details of funds released and utilised by the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1998-99 to 2000-01 implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are given in enclosed statement.

The Area, Production & Productivity of total foodgrains as a result of implementation of these schemes in the State were as follows:—

Year	Area (000'ha)	Production (000'tonnes)	Productivity (Kgs/ha.)
1997-98	20500.8	41589.2	2029
1998-99	20778.5	40417.2	1945
1999-2000	20707.7	45238.4	2185

1	2	3	4	5	6		
17.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices	5.00	14.00	52.25	56.70	60.92	36.71
18.	Development of Mushroom	5.63	0.00	11.50	53.00	54.22	58.74
19.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture	217.49	115.59	132.75	234.57	266.62	259.62
20.	Bee Keeping	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.00
22.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser	0.00	49.00	0.00	15.60	0.00	0.00
23.	Promotion of agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers	207.90	287.94	287.70	195.60	195.60	75.60
24.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)	980.29	1750.00	2327.45	1512.00	2273.69	0.00
25.	Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers	1885.89	2154.90	1780.13	1612.03	2014.56	0.00
26.	Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Usuar) Soil	131.81	0.00	53.58	75.00	0.00	0.23
27.	Strengthening of State Land Use Boards	17.40	17.11	13.11	14.00	18.00	4.83
28.	Assistance to Co-operative credit institutions in the under dev. States and special Areas (Non Over due)	400.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
29.	Agricultural Credit Stabisation Fund	100.00	60.00	40.00	100.00	60.00	100.00
30.	Special Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Tribes	0.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.17
31.	Assistance to Weaker Section Co-operatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Assistance to Co-operatives for Women	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.80	0.00	0.00
35.	Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)	41.19	31.50	47.65	54.00	52.24	20.22
36.	Establishment of Agency for Reporting Statistics	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37.	Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)	69.78	62.60	69.99	62.00	79.98	27.11
38.	MACRO MANAGEMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4033.00
39.	Agriculture Census	0.00	68.00	18.27	26.95	20.41	22.27
Total		6839.64	7929.08	7882.42	6628.36	8150.99	4607.18

*[English]***Draught Animal Power**

1740. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subject of Draught Animal Power (DAP) has been allotted to your Ministry;

(b) if so, whether while going through Annual Report and advertisements, there is no mention of DAP;

(c) whether Planning Commission recommended that DAP be transferred to Department of Animal Husbandry; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Draught Animal Power has not been included in the Annual Report, 2000-2001 and advertisements of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) because Ministry of Finance had decided that Animal Energy would be one of the programmes of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources which would be weeded out and therefore only a provision of Rs. ten lakhs was made in the Annual Plan 2000-2001 for meeting committed liabilities.

(c) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has not received any communication from Planning Commission regarding the transfer of DAP to Department of Animal Husbandry. However, MNES had taken up with the Department of Animal Husbandry regarding the transfer of the Draught Animal Power Programme from MNES to the Department of Animal Husbandry (DAH), but DAH had not accepted the transfer.

(d) The Ministry has decided to again take up the transfer of the Draught Animal Energy Programme to the Department of Animal Husbandry.

*[Translation]***Handing Over of Land to Himachal Pradesh**

1741. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new track has been constructed between Guler and Nandpur Railway stations in Kangra valley, Himachal Pradesh replacing the old railway alignment;

(b) if so, whether the land of the old track now is lying surplus with the Railways;

(c) if so, whether the Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh has sought permission for construction of road on the said surplus land which has been principally cleared by the Executive Director, Land Management Board, Delhi; and

(d) if so, the date on which the clearance was given and the time by which the said surplus land would be handed over to the Government of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After joint survey by the Railway and the State Government officials, railway land measuring 56578.68 Sqm. was identified surplus to Railway's requirement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Approval for transfer of land to the Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh, was conveyed on 23.01.2001, on payment of market value of land prevailing at the time of transfer of land. Accordingly, the State Government was advised to deposit the cost of the land. The land will be handed over to the State Government on receipt of payment of the cost of the land.

*[English]***National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1742. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was started from Rabi season of 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in each of the State, season-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers in some of the States were not involved with the scheme neither in Rabi nor in Kharif season and the scheme could not reach to all the States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) State-wise and season-wise details of farmers benefited are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All the farmers have not participated in the scheme, as only 18 States and 2 Union Territories have opted in favour of NAIS so far, because of voluntary nature of the scheme.

Statement

The Details of State-wise and Season-wise farmers benefited under NAIS

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Farmers Benefited	
		Rabi 1999-2000	Kharif 2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not implemented	1,17,227
2.	Assam	34	52
3.	Bihar	Not implemented	15,093
4.	Chhattisgarh	Part of Madhya Pradesh	4,16,585
5.	Goa	33	58
6.	Gujarat	7,915	9,74,167
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Nil
8.	Kerala	2,726	9,370
9.	Karnataka	Not implemented	21,734
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4,891	4,26,298
11.	Maharashtra	12,391	8,69,176
12.	Meghalaya	Not implemented	43
13.	Orissa	15	Claims under process
14.	Tamil Nadu	Not implemented	Claims under process
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Not implemented	93,480
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	No season	23
17.	Pondicherry	172	Nil
Total		28,179	29,43,306

Power Shortage in Delhi

1743. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to meet power deficit in Delhi, the Centre has been approached to supply 300 MW of power;

(b) whether the Centre has agreed to release an additional 150 MW of power from the Eastern Grid to meet the power crisis; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Centre is arranging to supply the remaining power so as to avoid frequent load shedding in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Delhi met the Minister of Power for additional allocation of power from central sector stations.

(b) and (c) In order to meet the increased demand during summer months, besides enhancement of allocation out of "Unallocated Quota" from 11% to 25% with effect from 1st April 2001, following special allocations have been made to Delhi:

- (i) 100 MW of surplus power from Eastern Region with effect from 12th June, 2001.
- (ii) 100 MW from unallocated quota of central generating stations during peak hours.
- (iii) 110 MW from Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (unit no. 4) during peak hours.

In addition, Delhi Vidyut Board has also entered into following agreements with other utilities for supply of additional power:

- (i) 140 to 180 MW of power from HPSEB upto 30.9.2001.
- (ii) 200 MW during peak hours and 100 MW during off-peak hours from Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board.
- (iii) 70 MW of power from Malana Hydro-electric Project in Himachal Pradesh for a period of one year effective from 1.7.2001 through PTC.

Unlicensed Coolies at Kerala Railway Stations

1744. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Railway stations in Kerala where unlicensed coolies are being engaged by contractors instead of licensed porters for loading and unloading parcels;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this decision has been implemented in all the stations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented in all the railway stations in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) There are no such stations in Kerala.

(b) No, Sir

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Powerloom Service Centres

1745. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Powerloom Service Centres (PSC) functioning in the country under various Government Organisations, State-wise, and location-wise;

(b) the number of persons, who were imparted training by Powerloom Service Centres during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to upgrade these PSCs so that they can equip to meet the training and other needs of a modernized industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) There

are 44 Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) in the country
as follows:

State	Location	Total	Administrative Agency
Andhra Pradesh	Nagari Hyderabad	2	SITRA State Govt.
Assam	Guwahati	1	IJIRA
Bihar	Gaya	1	Textile Commissioner
Gujarat	Surat	5	Textile Commissioner
	Ahmedabad, Dholka		ATIRA
	Sachin, Pandesara		MANTRA
Haryana	Panipat	1	NITRA
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	1	Textile Commissioner
Karnataka	Belgaum	4	Textile Commissioner
	Doddballapur, Bangalore, Gadag-Betageri		SITRA
Kerala	Thrissur	1	Textile Commissioner
Madhya Pradesh	Burhanpur	2	Textile Commissioner
	Jabalpur		State Govt.
Maharashtra	Malegaon	6	Textile Commissioner
	Ichalkaranji, Madhavanagar/VITA, Solapur		BTRA
	Bhiwandi-I, Bhiwandi-II		SASMIRA
Orissa	Cuttack	1	Textile Commissioner
Punjab	Amritsar	2	Textile Commissioner
	Ludhiana		NITRA
Rajasthan	Kishanganj	3	Textile Commissioner
	Bhilwara, Jaipur		NITRA
Tamil Nadu	Erode	8	Textile Commissioner
	Sankarankoil, Palladam, Trichengode,		SITRA
Uttar Pradesh	Komarapalayam, Salem, Somanur, Karur	5	Textile Commissioner
	Maunath Bhanjan		NITRA
West Bengal	Tanda, Meerut, Kanpur, Jalapur	1	Textile Commissioner
	Kolkata		Textile Commissioner
Total		44	

(b) The details of number of persons, State-wise, imparted training by Powerloom Service Centres during the last 3 years are as follows:

State	Persons trained		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	51	23
Assam	52	8	*
Bihar	36	24	31
Gujarat	252	287	128
Haryana	27	55	80
Jammu & Kashmir	20	105	27
Karnataka	263	151	189
Kerala	74	66	*
Madhya Pradesh	63	174	106
Maharashtra	802	252	333
Orissa	12	22	23
Punjab	20	111	141
Rajasthan	172	333	139
Tamil Nadu	306	197	282
Uttar Pradesh	230	211	122
West Bengal	11	41	23

* Not yet reported.

(c) To enable the Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) to meet the training and other needs of the modernized industry; Central Government has taken steps to modernise the looms and upgrade the textile testing laboratories of the PSCs.

Attachment of AC-3 Tier Coaches

1746. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains in which AC-3 tier coaches have been provided so far; and

(b) the names of trains in which AC-3 tier coaches are likely to be provided during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Closing of Original Contract

1747. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG had pointed out in para 15(1) (vii) of the Report for the year 1982-83 that due to non-availability of land, the original contract had to be closed and a fresh contract entered into at higher rates subsequently and the Railway Board issued instruction emphasizing the need to foresee all delays and yet the Northern Frontier Railway entered into a contract resulting into avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 1.03 crore as has been brought out by the CAG in their Report 9 of 1999 (Railways) in Chapter 3: Works and Contract Management;

(b) the other points taken up by the CAG in the said Chapter;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon, point-wise; and

(d) the action taken against the erring officials of Northeast Frontier Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(b) to (d) Position is given as under:—

Para No.	Particulars	Position and Action taken
3.3.8	Loss due to inefficient contract management.	<p>There is no failure of any individual. However, N.F. Railway vide their circular dated 16.10.98 have advised all the field units about the procedure to be followed for issuing the Railway materials to the contractors.</p> <p>Proper monitoring is being done at Head Quarters' level of zonal Railway to recover the amount from outstanding dues of the contractors wherever recovery is due.</p> <p>Apart from Para 3.3.8, there are 32 paras included in Chapter-3 of C&AG's Report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways). As per laid down procedure, Action Taken Notes on paras included in C&AG's Report, duly vetted by Audit, are submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.</p>

Appointment of M/s McKinsey by ONGC

1748. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has appointed M/s. McKinsey to study the administrative set up and to suggest the structural changes in the functioning of the Corporation so as to improve its working and to reduce the administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, whether M/s. McKinsey has since submitted their report;

(c) if so, recommendations made by them;

(d) whether the Government have since examined these recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had, in March, 1997, initiated a project for restructuring of the Corporation in consultation with M/s. McKinsey and Company Incorporated, international management Consultants. The consultants had submitted their recommendations on Organisation Transformation Project (OTP) of ONGC to its management. The

recommendations of the Consultants were received by ONGC in phases over a period of time during the years 1997 to 1999. The recommendations of the Consultants highlighted the need to have a greater focus on ONGC's core activities of finding and producing oil and gas, better management of skills and expertise in oil field services, greater commercial and performance accountability and quicker decision making by decentralisation. The operative recommendations of the Consultants, inter alia, included the need for focussed attention on structural changes; and also changes in systems and procedures in the areas of exploration, reservoir management, drilling, material management, logistics, human resources, budgeting & costing, performance management systems research and development Institutes and information services. ONGC as a 'Navratna' Public Sector Undertaking enjoys substantial autonomy in its operations. While some of the recommendations of the consultants are already under various stages of implementation, the rest are receiving attention of the management of ONGC. The Board of ONGC, in its meeting held on 27.2.2001, has considered the implementation of OTP with certain modifications/corrections throughout the organisation. Necessary action plan is being drawn by ONGC accordingly for its implementation. At present, the Government has no proposal under its consideration for any change in the organisational structure of ONGC. However, the process of review by the Government of the performance of Public Sector Undertakings, like the ONGC, is a continuous one.

**UNDP Assistance for Agriculture
Extension Schemes**

1749. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agriculture Extension Scheme are being implemented for promoting agricultural development and providing farmers with information and training with the help of UNDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of schemes at present being implemented under this programme;

(c) the total foreign aid received by the Government under UNDP and National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP);

(d) the number of States where these schemes are being implemented at present; and

(e) the total funds allocated to States under these schemes during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following six sub-programmes are currently being implemented with UNDP assistance.

- Development and large scale adoption of hybrid rice by ICAR.
- Maize-based cropping system for Food Security in India.
- Empowerment of women farmers for Food Security in Uttar Pradesh.
- Sustainable Dryland Agriculture by Mahila Sangham, Andhra Pradesh.

— Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management for women of tribal Orissa and supplementary sub-programme on additional support to cyclone affected districts of Orissa.

— Management Support to Food Security Programmes.

(c) Total foreign aid received by the Government so far under United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and National Agricultural Technology Project (N.A.T.P.) is Rs. 14.64 crores and Rs. 192.54 crores respectively.

(d) States where agricultural extension schemes are being implemented at present are

(i) UNDP - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and all rice growing States.

(ii) N.A.T.P.

• Seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab under Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component operated by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

• 22 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the ITD Component operated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

(e) As given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Total Funds allocated to the States on Agricultural Extension Schemes under UNDP and N.A.T.P. during last 3 years

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Project	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5
UNDP	—	6.42	8.22	14.64

1	2	3	4	5
NATP				
(a) ITD Component-DAC	2.08	6.55	9.66	18.29
(b) ITD Component-ICAR	3.36	15.66	16.14	35.16
	5.44	28.63	34.02	68.09

Development of Bhimeshwari Temple

1750. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existence of a great historical Bhimeshwari temple in Village Beri of Jhajjar District in Haryana associated with Kurukshetra War between Pandavs and Kauravs; and

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take to develop this site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Bhimeshwari Temple in Jhajjar District in Haryana is not a centrally protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer Policy in RITES

1751. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RITES Ltd. does not have any specific transfer policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the promotion prospectus of regular employees of RITES Ltd. are hampering due to induction of a large number of Railway/other department officers on deputation/permanent basis at the top level; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Report of Committee on Agricultural Marketing

1752. SHRI A. BRAHAMANAI AH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on Agricultural Marketing has recommended 50 national exchanges for farm produce;

(b) whether any outline has been given to the shape and form of such national farm produce exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the cost of such exchanges recommended by the Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) An Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing constituted by this Ministry has in its Report recommended that more and more commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for futures trading to facilitate integration of domestic market with international market.

(b) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee and provide their feedback to the Task Force on the implementation of the recommendations.

Free Rail Passes to Kidney Transplant Patients

1753. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue free rail passes to kidney transplant patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the difficult financial position faced by the Railways, it is not possible to provide a new facility of issuing free rails passes to kidney transplant patients.

Food Processing Park at Ernakulam

1754. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala submitted any proposal for setting up of a Food Processing Park at Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details of proposal along with the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Food Processing Industries, has received a proposal seeking financial assistance, under its plan schemes, for setting up of a Food Park at Kalamassery, District Ernakulam, Kerala from Government of Kerala. The project is proposed to be implemented by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA), a statutory body of Government of Kerala. Assistance has been sought from the Department of Food Processing Industries in the form of Grant in aid. Details/clarifications relating to allotment of land, appraisal report from Bank/Financial Institution, Means of Finance etc. have been sought from Government of Kerala for processing the request for assistance further.

Farm Accidents with Threshers

1755. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farm accidents with threshers are reportedly continued to take a heavy price due to its poor design despite the designs and claims of many Agricultural Universities and R and D institutions over the past several decades causing a serious setback to rural development and employment as appeared in the 'Times of India' dated March 28, 2001;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that specialised Agricultural engineering institutions at ICAR and Agricultural Universities look into this and fix responsibility in the matter to protect our agricultural workers;

(c) whether a compulsory insurance cover is proposed to be provided to each of such thresher operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The farm accidents due to use of threshers appear to have decreased during the years due to the availability of better designs of threshers and providing proper safety measures, improved designs of feeding chutes etc., formulation of BIS standards on threshers and passing of Dangerous Machine (Regulation) Act by Govt. of India in 1983. This Dangerous Machine Act has been implemented in only 4 States namely, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This needs to be implemented in all the States to reduce accidents on the threshers. The R&D Institutions and SAU's have designed threshers which are safe but some of the threshers manufacturers in the market are not making the threshers as per BIS standards, whereby some accidents are still taking place. Once the Dangerous Machine (Regulation) Act of 1983 is adopted by all the States, this problem will be overcome.

(b) To look into the problems of accidents in Agricultural Machinery and make further design improvements, the ICAR is running an All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Human Engineering and Safety in Agricultural (HESA) with 4 co-operating Centers. This AICRP is involved in carrying out surveys to collect data on agricultural accidents, identify machines causing accidents and to further modify these machines by taking into consideration ergonomics and safety aspects.

It is the responsibility of the States to ensure that the threshers sold in the market conform to BIS standards and it is their responsibility to implement dangerous machines Act 1983 in their respective States.

(c) and (d) There is no separate proposal for insurance cover to be provided on threshers. However, this has been taken care of in section 24 of the Dangerous Machine (Regulation) Act passed by Govt. of India in 1983.

Section 24 of this Act provides for each employer to take out insurance policy providing for contracts of insurance, whereby he is insured against any liability to make payment of compensation to the operator of a dangerous machine (power thresher in this case).

The progress of enforcement of the Act is reviewed periodically in the Rabi and Kharif Conferences of the Ministry of Agriculture and also through correspondence with the State Governments who are the enforcement agencies for the Act in their respective areas.

It is very important that Dangerous Machine (Regulation) Act be adopted by all the States.

Expansion of NTPC

1756. SHRI RAJAIHA MALAYALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expansion activities of Ramagundam Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether there is an increment in power production in the plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Plant - 2100 MW (Stage-I-1100 MW and Stage-II — 1000 MW) of National Thermal Power Corporation is proposed to be expanded by adding one more unit of 500 MW capacity in Stage-III. The bids for main plant package are under evaluation and award is expected to be placed shortly. This expansion project is scheduled for commissioning during the 10th Plan period.

(b) and (c) The total generation of Ramagundam STPP (2100 MW) from the year 1999-2000 onwards was as follows:

Year	Generation in Million Units
1999-2000	16642.2
2000-2001	16417.7

From April, 2000 to July, 2000, the total generation was 5295.1 Million Units. During the corresponding period in the year 2001, the plant had increased generation, the total generation being 5358.6 Million Units.

National Tourism Policy

1757. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared draft of National Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, whether the proposed policy will open floodgates to private sector investment in the tourism sector;

(c) if so, whether this policy would, for the first time, stress upon a need for collaborative effort on the part of Ministries of Tourism, Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Home and Culture in developing tourism into a major industry;

(d) if so, the extent to which this policy has been accepted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A draft of the National Tourism Policy suggesting establishment of effective coordination mechanism to achieve linkages and synergies in the policies and programmes of public and private agencies has been formulated.

Central Programmes to Assist Tomato and Cabbage growers in Karnataka

1758. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had announced its intension to aid the helpless tomato and cabbage growers in Karnataka by implementing several programmes and procurement of copra by NAFED will continue;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had decided to setting up five agro food parks in the Karnataka as a long term solution to the problems of farmers;

(c) if so, the main schemes prepared in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which it helped the farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Union Government is helping the farmers through implementation of a scheme for Macro-Management of Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plans which provides flexibility to States/UTs to prioritise their needs including assistance to tomato and cabbage growers. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation is continuing procurement of copra in Karnataka and other States.

(b) to (d) Department of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, has sanctioned Rs. 4 crores each for establishment of two food processing parks in Karnataka. These parks would have fruit concentration/pulp making units, cold storage and warehousing facilities with uninterrupted water and power supply; affluent treatment and quality control systems. The parks envisage backward linkages with the farmers in the vicinity which would benefit them.

[Translation]

Processing of Fishes

1759. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the development of infrastructure for conservation and processing of fishes in the country;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide grant-in-aid to private entrepreneurs and other agencies for procurement of fish processing machines and construction of cod stores;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of amount sanctioned as grant-in-aid during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the names of companies/private entrepreneurs and agencies, particularly of Maharashtra State, which have been sanctioned grant-in-aid for purchasing fish processing machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Development of Infrastructural facilities of this Department, there is provision to provide assistance for creation of additional facilities for preservation and processing of fish.

The pattern of assistance of the Scheme is as under:—

NGOs/Co-operatives

50% of the cost of Capital equipment and technical civil works up to Rs. 25 lakhs in general areas and up to Rs. 50 lakhs in difficult areas (GRANT).

PSUs

50% of the cost of Capital equipment and technical civil works up to Rs. 50 lakhs in difficult areas (GRANT).

Private Sector

25% of the Capital cost (Plant & machinery & technical civil works) subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the Capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas (GRANT).

(d) Year-wise amount released as grant & loan during the last three years.

Years	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Grant	Loan
1998-1999	397.56	—
1999-2000	53.34	200.00
2000-2001	77.26	300.00

(e) No grant to any company/private entrepreneur/agency in Maharashtra was released during last three years.

*[English]***Poultry Industry**

1760. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Poultry Industry is trailing behind as a result of steep increase in the prices of the poultry fodder;

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

(c) the quantum of poultry fodder being exported to other countries;

(d) the quantum of poultry fodder that is required for consumption in the country; and

(e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to curtail the adverse situation caused by this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Question does not arise as in industrial poultry farming fodder are not usually fed to poultry.

(c) No export of poultry fodder has been made during 1997-98 to February 2001.

(d) In industrial poultry farming fodder are not usually fed to poultry.

(e) Does not arise.

Purchase of Power Directly from NTPC by CIL

1761. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has requested the Union Government to allow it to purchase power directly from the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to enact amendment in the Electricity Bill for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) To ensure reliable source of power supply at reasonable tariff.

(c) No final decision has been taken in the matter.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Library Building for Regional Language Library

1762. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a permanent library building for Regional Language Library (Tulsi Sadan) to accommodate the Vernacular languages in a proper building in the Bahawalpur House Annexe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time frame fixed for its construction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No such formal proposal has been made for the construction of a permanent building for Tulsi Sadan Library.

*[Translation]***Allotment of PCO Booths on Railway Stations**

1763. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision not to allot PCO booths on railway stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are likely to provide telephone facility to the railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) It has been decided to re-examine various

issues contained in the policy on allotment of STD/ISD/PCO/FAX/Internet booths at railway stations which was issued in April 2000. Pending this review and examination, the operation of the policy has been stayed.

(c) Action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of the revised policy when notified.

Captive Power Generation Projects

1764. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed certain industries to launch captive power generation projects for meeting their power demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of power generated through these projects during 2000-2001 and the annual generation capacity thereof;

(d) whether excess power is being generated as compared to the actual demand under these projects; and

(e) if so, the estimated additional quantum of power likely to be generated and the scheme formulated by the Government for the utilization thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have been requested to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

(c) to (e) Details regarding the total installed capacity and the quantity of power being generated by captive power plants are not available as under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the State Electricity Boards give consent to setting up of captive power plants by various industries. However, as per information available with the Central Electricity Authority, as on March 31, 1999, 20 selected industries (having an installed capacity of 1 MW and above) have set up a captive

generating capacity of 13,932 MW in the country which generated 48354 GwHr of power. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

On July 11, 2001 the Ministry of Power has circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared by the Ministry of Power in consultation with the CEA to all the State Governments and Union Territories. In this policy, the following has been reiterated:

- If captive plant is of Hydro or cogeneration, such plant, irrespective of its size, may be permitted liberally.
- If captive power plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas such plant may be allowed and capacity of the plant permitted up to 200% of the requirement of industry (If the State is deficit in power).
- Captive power plant may be allowed if State/SEB or successor entity are unable to supply the required power supply. Such a captive power plant can be considered for the uninterrupted power supply to the industry even if the State is surplus in power.
- If the industry requires quality power supply which is not available, the proposal for installation of the captive power plant can be considered.
- If the cost of generation from captive power plant is found to be lower, the proposal may be considered after examining the cost and tariff.
- Units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial estates may be allowed to set up captive power plants liberally.
- Banking facilities are proposed to be provided to CPPs. The rates for banking may be determined on mutually agreed terms.
- Prior approval of SEB has to be obtained for wheeling of power. Wheeling will be done to any service (HT or LT). Wheeling charges may be worked out based on pooled rates worked out by Central/State Transmission Utility of that region.
- The tariff for sale of power from thermal CPPs, may be fixed after mutual discussion and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power stations operating in the SEB plus some

percentage of the pooled variable charges as incentive. Tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower and

some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.

Third party sale is also permissible with the approval of SEB.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Industry	Installed Capacity (MW)	Energy Generation (GWH)
1.	Aluminium	1742	11182
2.	Automobiles	231	371
3.	Cement	1466	3528
4.	Chemicals, Mineral Oil & Petroleum	1993	7091
5.	Fertilizers	1155	4322
6.	Food	115	60
7.	Heavy & Light Engineering	453	263
8.	Iron & Steel	1686	7416
9.	Mining & Quarrying	38	21
10.	Non-Ferrous Metal	424	1187
11.	Paper	599	2205
12.	Sugar	786	1771
13.	Textile	1884	5161
14.	Sub-Total (1 to 13)	12572	44578
15.	Other Industries	1360	3776
Total (14+15)		13932	48354

[English]

Relief for Recent Flood in Orissa

1765. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide relief and restoration work to the persons/families affected due to recent flood in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government to Orissa to meet this calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States. A High Level Delegation led by the then Agriculture Minister visited Orissa on 19th July, 2001 for an aerial survey and review of the situation. Later, Prime Minister also visited Orissa on 29th July, 2001 for an on the spot assessment of the flood situation. The Army, Air Force

and Navy have assisted the State Government in rescue and evacuation and air-dropping of relief material. An immediate adhoc assistance of Rs. 100 crore has been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The over draft of Rs. 220 crore was also earlier cleared to enable the State to undertake relief measures. Prime Minister has announced release of 3 lakh tonnes of rice for Food for Work Programme and construction of one lakh units of houses under Indira Awas Yojana for below poverty line families. The Ministries of Railways, Road Transport & Highways and Power have taken action for restoration of rail, roads and power supply. A Team of the Union Health Ministry has visited Orissa and is in touch with the State Government to ensure that no epidemic breaks out. Action for revival of kharif crops has also been initiated.

Privatisation of ICF

1766. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government for the privatisation of the integral coach factory;

(b) if so, whether some scheme have been formulated to protect the legitimate rights of the employees working in the factory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Cost Analysis of JPM Act, 1987

1767. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 have proved very costly to the domestic consumers and the National Economy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any cost analysis of the act in force since 1987;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received an estimate in May, 2000 that the cost has been more than one lakh crore rupees;

(e) whether the same has been verified on actual estimates made; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) No cost analysis of the impact of JPM Act since 1987 has been prepared by Government. However, a study, sponsored by the Government has been conducted by IIT, Kharagpur on "Comparative Study of Jute and Polypropylene in respect of their relative costs and advantages". The study report, inter alia, mentions that the jute sacks give more economy to the users over its lifetime.

(d) No such estimate has been received. However, the Government has received a representation from All India Flat Tape Manufacturers' Association, wherein such figures have been mentioned.

(e) and (f) The figures have not been verified.

On-going Railway Projects

1768. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail lines laid/converted and doubled during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, till June 2001;

(b) the details of on-going projects/surveys alongwith their time schedule for completion and the progress made so far in each project, zone/State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far in each of these projects;

(d) the details of rail lines in respect of which survey has been completed for laying of new line/gauge conversion and doubling of rail routes, zone/State-wise;

(e) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started, project-wise;

(f) whether the Union Government have received representation for doubling of rail-lines during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Setting up of Quality Silk Centres

1769. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Quality Silk Centres set up in country, particularly in J&K, State-wise;

(b) the details of the units modernised in the country, State-wise;

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government for this purpose, centre-wise; and

(d) the other measures taken to make the silk industry financially more viable in J&K and in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The number of Quality Silk Centres set up in the country including Jammu & Kashmir is given in the enclosed statement.

Post cocoon sector covering silk reeling twisting, weaving and processing areas have been strengthened to ensure use of new technologies for quality products. In the traditional sericulture States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. modernization is resorted to by supplying multi-end reeling machines and setting of Common Facility Centres for processing and dyeing of silk yarn. In the Non-Mulberry sector also mechanization has been introduced to contribute towards improved ergonomics and enhanced quality of Non-Mulberry silk yarn. Further, two silk reeling units each in Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have been modernized. J&K industries have been assisted in preparation of feasibility report for modernization.

(c) The financial assistance provided under the Catalytic Development Programmes during the IXth Plan (till June, 2001) is as under:

Sr.No.	States	Multi-End Reeling	Growth Centres	CFC (Silk Dyeing)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	0.011	—	0.115
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.582	0.187	0.410
3.	Bihar	—	—	0.130
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	0.90
5.	J&K	0.389	0.515	—
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.058	—	—
7.	Kerala	—	—	0.99
8.	Karnataka	3.545	0.440	0.248
9.	Orissa	—	—	0.160

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Punjab	0.05	—	—
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.927	0.277	0.435
12.	Tripura	—	—	0.095
13.	U.P.	0.096	0.506	0.210
Total		5.658	1.925	1.992

(d) The J&K Govt. is being assisted in the establishment of multi-end silk reeling units, subsidy on reeling machinery, interest subsidy on working capital borrowed and incentive for the production of bivoltine silk and in establishing growth centres to promote high quality raw silk production. Besides these, CSB is implementing following sericulture developmental schemes in the country:

I Catalytic Development Programme:

With a view to assist the silk industry and to supplement the efforts of the State Govts. 36 Catalytic Development Schemes are being implemented.

II Project for Promotion of Popularising the Practical Bivoltine Sericulture Technology (PPPBST):

The CSB has been implementing this project with the assistance of Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

III United Nations Development Programme:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with Govt. of India has initiated a sub-programme on development of non-mulberry silk viz. tasar, muga and eri in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Meghalaya, Nagaland and West Bengal under Fibers and Handicrafts Programme of Country Co-operation Framework—1 (CCF-I).

Statement

The State-wise Quality Silk Centres Established by CSB in Different States is in the Table given below:

Name of State	Name of Quality Silk Centre	No. of Unit
1	2	3
Karnataka	1. Silk Conditioning & Testing House, Bangalore	1
	2. Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centre, Dharwad	1
	3. Eco Testing Lab, Bangalore	1
	4. Common Facility Centre	2
	5. Growth Centres	2
	6. Multi-End Reeling Units	134
Total		141
Andhra Pradesh	1. Silk Conditioning & Testing House, Dharmavaram	1

1	2	3
	2. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Hindupur	1
	3. Common Facility Centre	3
	4. Growth Centres	1
	5. Multi-End Reeling Units	37
	Total	43
Tamil Nadu	1. Silk Conditioning & Testing House, Kancheepuram	1
	2. Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centre, Dharmapuri	1
	3. Common Facility Centre	3
	4. Growth Centres	1
	5. Multi-End Reeling Units	23
	Total	29
West Bengal	1. Silk Conditioning & Testing House, Malda	1
	2. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centres, Malda, Berhampore & Bakreswar	3
	Total	4
Kerala	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Palakkad	1
	2. Common Facility Centre	1
	Total	2
Bihar	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Bhagalpur	1
	2. Eco Testing Lab, Bhagalpur	1
	3. Common Facility Centre	1
	Total	3
Chhattisgarh	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Champa	1
	2. Common Facility Centre	1
	Total	2

1	2	3
Uttaranchal	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Dehradun	1
	2. Multi-End Reeling Unit	1
	Total	2
Uttar Pradesh	1. Demonstration-cum-technical Service Centre, Varanasi	1
	2. Eco Testing Lab, Varanasi	1
	3. Common Facility Centre	2
	4. Growth Centres	2
	5. Multi-End Reeling Units	5
	Total	11
Orissa	1 Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Nuapatna & Fakirpur	2
	2. Common Facility Centre	1
	Total	3
Maharashtra	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Bhandara	1
Assam	1. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Sualkuchi	1
	2. Common Facility Centre	1
	3. Multi-End Reeling Units	1
	Total	3
Jammu & Kashmir	1. Silk Conditioning & Testing House, with Eco Testing Facilities, Jammu	1
	2. Silk Conditioning & Testing House Srinagar	1
	3. Demonstration-Cum-Technical Service Centre, Jammu	1
	4. Growth Centres	2
	5. Multi-End Reeling Unit	14
	Total	19
Madhya Pradesh	1. Multi-End Reeling Unit	1
Punjab	1. Multi-End Reeling Unit	1
Tripura	1. Common Facility Centre	1

*(English)***Construction of Kottayam-Erumeli-Punalur Rail Line**

1770. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Preliminary survey for construction of Kottayam-Erumeli-Punalur rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said line is likely to be constructed alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the survey report of 1995, the cost of construction of this 137.15 km long line was assessed as Rs. 583 cr. with a negative rate of return.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The work of new line from Kottayam to Erumeli was included in supplementary budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances, the action for which has already been initiated. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 200 crores. The completion of this line would depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Availability of C.N.G.

1771. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI MANJAY LAL:

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Delhi has recently asked the Union Government to provide adequate CNG for buses and other commercial vehicles in the capital;

(b) if so, whether CNG filling stations in the Capital are ill-equipped to provide CNG to vehicles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps Union Government propose to take to set up more CNG stations to meet adequate supply of CNG for buses and other commercial vehicles in the Capital?

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) to (d) As on date 72 CNG filling stations are in operation in Delhi. Out of these 72 stations 39 stations are still without booster compressors which are being imported. The following steps have been/are being taken to further enhance the supply of CNG in Delhi.

- Orders have been placed for higher capacity compressors.
- The total CNG stations would be increased to 87 by September 2001 and to 120 by March 2002.
- The existing 39 daughter stations are proposed to be upgraded to daughter booster stations progressively by December 2001.
- Action has been initiated to lay 23 kms. long gas pipeline connecting Dhaura Kuan with GT Kamal Road.
- In addition, 50 retail outlets have been identified for co-locating CNG dispensing facility.

Railway Reservation System

1772. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "outdated railway reservation system may collapse any time" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 9, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to update the railway reservation system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the reservation system is likely to be updated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to very heavy bookings, compression of one of the important file became essential and this resulted in slow response to the reservation activity on 7-5-2001. System was restored by shutting it down and restarting after accounting reconciliation and recovery of about 700 terminals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The exercise for replacement/augmenting of existing systems is underway and is in final stages.

(e) The reservation system is likely to be updated by 31.12.01 on all Railways.

[Translation]

Production of Strawberry and Flowers

1773. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of strawberry and flowers under floriculture during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of remunerative prices of both these items for the farmers during the said period;

(c) the targets fixed for 2001-2002 with regard to production of both the items; and

(d) the plans and the programmes being finalized by the Government for promotion of strawberry and floriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Strawberry being a minor fruit crop, production figures has not been compiled. The State-wise details of production of flowers in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Strawberry and flowers being highly perishable crops, are not covered under Market Support Price (MSP). Hence, remunerative prices for these items are not fixed.

(c) These items are produced as per the demand. No annual targets are fixed by the Government for the production of strawberry and flowers.

(d) The Central Government is providing assistance to the State and Union Territory Governments for taking up production programmes of fruits as well as flowers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementmentation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. Besides, assistance is also available for cultivation and post harvest management of fruits and flowers under the scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest Management being implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB).

Statement

Production of Flowers in India

(Loose in MT and Cut flower in Lakh number)

State	1997-98 LOOSE CUT		1998-99 LOOSE CUT		1999-2000 LOOSE CUT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	32900.0		32000.0		126609.0	
Assam	79.0				85.0	
Bihar	1710.0	3.0	1850.0		1850.0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Delhi	10274.0		21007.0		21007.0	
Haryana	33040.0	483.0	40500.0	760.0	40500.0	760.0
Himachal Pradesh	589.0	185.0	976.0	181.0	976.0	181.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1.6	78.5	46.0	5.8	7.0	17.4
Karnataka	124290.0		124290.0	—	124440.0	—
Madhya Pradesh	13127.0		1170.0	—	832.0	—
Maharashtra	33250.0		38582.0	—	28336.0	—
Manipur	29.0		93.0	—	42.9	—
Orissa	—	868.5	9.3	868.5	9.3	
Punjab	3355.0		3435.0	—	3435.0	—
Rajasthan	2585.0		2389.0	—	2389.0	—
Sikkim	1.0		—	90.0	—	
Tamil Nadu	92097.0		133125.0	142250.0	—	
Tripura	—		128.0	128.0	—	
Uttaranchal	195.0		225.9	—	225.9	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	160.0	—	160.0	—	160.0
West Bengal	17885.0	5312.0	17685.0	5312.0	14844.0	5678.0
Daman & Diu	51.0		51.0	51.0	—	
Pondicherry	427.0		427.0	427.0	—	
Total	365885.6	6221.5	418848.4	6428.1	509393.3	6805.7

*[English]***Crop Insurance**

1774. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date of introducing the crops insurance scheme in the country;

(b) the States in which it is operative as on June 30, 1997;

(c) the main crops covered under the scheme;

(d) the main features of the scheme;

(e) the benefits offered to the poor and marginal farmers under the scheme; and

(f) the date by when all the poor and marginal farmers of each State are likely to be provided with the crops insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) was introduced in the country from Kharif 1985 season. The CCIS was subsequently replaced by National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

(b) The CCIS was operative in following States and Union Territories as on June 20, 1997:

1. Andhra Pradesh 2. Assam 3. Bihar 4. Goa
5. Gujarat 6. Himachal Pradesh 7. Karnataka 8. Kerala
9. Madhya Pradesh 10. Maharashtra 11. Meghalaya
12. Orissa 13. Tamil Nadu 14. Tripura 15. West Bengal
16. Andaman & Nicobar Islands 17. Pondicherry.

(c) Rice, Wheat, Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds were covered under CCIS.

The NAIS which replaced CCIS cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops. At present cotton, sugarcane, potato, onion, chillies, turmeric and ginger are covered under annual commercial/horticultural crops.

(d) The main features of CCIS and NAIS are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Under CCIS nominal rates of premium ranging between 1% to 2% were charged from all the farmers. Small and marginal farmers were further given a premia subsidy of 50%.

Under NAIS, fixed premia rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% are charged in case of food crops and small and marginal farmers are given 50% premia-subsidy to be phased out over a period of five years on sunset basis.

(f) NAIS, which is in operation at present is optional to States/UTs. Only 20 States/UTs are implementing the scheme. The scheme is however, open to all States/UTs and provides for coverage of all farmers irrespective of their holdings.

Statement

Main Features of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS)

- Farmers availing crop loans from financial institutions for growing food crops and oilseeds were covered on compulsory basis.
- The coverage was restricted to 100% of crop loan subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer.

- Liability was shared by Central and State Government in the ratio of 2:1.
- 1% to 2% flat rates of premium were charged.
- 50% premia-subsidy to small and marginal farmers was provided.
- The scheme was optional for States/UTs.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

- Scheme is available to all farmers — loanee and non-loanee both-irrespective of their size of holding.
- Compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, seven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion and turmeric are presently covered.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other abi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance i.e. Gram Panchayat.
- It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

Increase in the Revenue during Summer Season

1775. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rush of passengers goes up by about 30% during the summer months and this is a great opportunity for the railways to increase the revenue; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the railways to tap this opportunity every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) and (b) During the peak summer months of March, April and May the number of passengers booked show an average increase of 14.33% and the earnings show an increase of 22.55% over lean month February, during the last 5 years.

In order to cater to this increase in traffic and earn revenue therefrom, the Railways run Special trains and augment loads of the existing trains to the extent feasible. Wide publicity of the Special Trains run is given during this period through various media to achieve optimum patronization.

Loss of Cereals Due to Climatic Change

1776. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the biggest loser from global warming losing millions of tonnes of its potential cereal harvest each year because of climate change as per the study global Agroecological Assessment for Agriculture in the 21st century as reported in 'Pioneer' July 11, page 9;

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

(c) the Government's reaction in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. There is considerable uncertainty in the magnitude of global warming and its effect on agricultural production by the year 2080.

(b) The study predicts an increase in mean temperature by 0.4 to 2°C during kharif and 1.1 to 4.5°C C by rabi 2070. Our own studies predict differential variation in temperature increase, rainfall and CO₂ concentration over the north-west, central and southern India. Studies conducted by DST have predicted that by the middle of this century, the projected climate change scenario may bring an increase in rice yield in central and south India and a marginal decrease in NW India. There is indication of significant increase in yield of wheat in NW India and soyabean in Central India. However, the effect of climate change on pest problems, weeds, diseases and toxicities of soils has not yet been studied.

(c) Global climate change is a reality, is a continuous process and needs to be taken seriously. However, global changes of such a time scale are discrete and uncertain events whereas policy-planning process has to be continuous. Indian agriculture is continuously undergoing transformation due to changing demands, markets and agricultural technologies. The response relating to adaptation of agriculture in 2050 and beyond would be more clear in the next two or three decades.

(d) Global negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations have been underway to reduce by 2012 the emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 level but success of these endeavours depends on active participation of the developed which are major contributors to global climate change.

Gas Based Power Plants in Gujarat

1777. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas based power plants of NTPC located in Gujarat are unable to utilize their optimum capacities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have made efforts for increasing the availability of gas for optimum generation of power;

(d) if so, the achievements made thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up some more gas based power plants in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these proposals are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has two gas based power plants in Gujarat viz., one at Kawas of 645 MW capacity and the other at Jhanor Gandhar of 648 MW. Each of these plants requires 3 Million Cubic Meter Per Day (MCMD) of gas to run at full capacity. While Kawas gas plant has been provided a gas linkage of 2.25 MCMD, Jhanor Gandhar gas plant has a linkage of 1.50 MCMD of gas only.

However, the details of actual supply of gas and generation (PLF) in these plants are as follows:

Year	Kawas Gas Plant		Jhanor Gandhar Gas Plant	
	Gas Supply (MCMD)	PLF (%)	Gas Supply (MCMD)	PLF (%)
2000-01	1.47	81.7	1.53	48.5
2001-02 (till 07'01)	0.78	74.29	1.84	60.85

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MP & NG) has been approached for increasing gas supply to these gas plants. The MP & NG has stated that additional gas will be supplied as and when the same is available.

To supplement the gas supply for optimum capacity utilization, gas from Kawas gas plant is being diverted to Jhanor Gandhar gas plant by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The short supply of gas at Kawas gas plant is being supplemented by firing naphtha.

(e) and (f) The Govt. have approved expansion of Kawas and Jhanor Gandhar gas plants of NTPC by addition of 650 MW capacity each as mega projects. These projects were originally proposed to be set up with naphtha as bridge fuel and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as long term fuel. However, in view of abnormal increase in prices of naphtha and also LNG, NTPC has decided to match commissioning of these projects with the availability of imported regassified LNG at a reasonable and stable price. Based on the expected cost of regassified LNG, the cost of generation is estimated to be about Rs. 4/kwh. NTPC had sought re-confirmation from the beneficiary States for availing power from these expansion projects at this indicative price to enable them to take up construction of these projects. Major beneficiaries namely Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have expressed their unwillingness to purchase power at such a high cost. NTPC will take up further

processing of these expansion projects for investment approval only after confirmation of availability of LNG at reasonably firm price and acceptance of the cost of generation based on LNG price by the beneficiary States.

Direct Sale Facility to Power Developer

1778. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to encourage private firms to set up captive power plants and buy the excess power generated by them at a good price;

(b) whether any of the State Governments has taken any action on the advice of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in view of the growing scarcity of power throughout the country, any new policy has been formulated to meet this challenge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995 has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units. Pursuant to issue of these guidelines, a number of States/SEBs have formulated policy guidelines for captive generation to meet the needs of the industry.

(d) and (e) On July 11, 2001 the Ministry of Power has circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared by the Ministry of Power in consultation with the CEA to all the State Governments and Union Territories. In this policy, the following has been reiterated:

- If captive plant is of Hydro or cogeneration, such plant, irrespective of its size, may be permitted liberally.
- If captive power plant is based on coal or liquid fuel or gas such plant may be allowed and capacity of the plant permitted up to 200% of the requirement of industry (If the State is deficit in power).
- Captive power plant may be allowed if State/SEB or successor entity are unable to supply the required power supply. Such a captive power plant can be considered for the uninterrupted power supply to the industry even if the State is surplus in power.
- If the industry requires quality power supply which is not available, the proposal for installation of the captive power plant can be considered.
- If the cost of generation from captive power plant is found to be lower, the proposal may be considered after examining the cost and tariff.
- Units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial estates may be allowed to set up captive power plants liberally.

- Banking facilities are proposed to be provided to CPPs. The rates for banking may be determined on mutually agreed terms.
- Prior approval of SEB has to be obtained for wheeling of power. Wheeling will be done to any service (HT or LT). Wheeling charges may be worked out based on pooled rates worked out by Central/State Transmission Utility of that region.
- The tariff for sale of power from thermal CPPs, may be fixed after mutual discussion and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power stations operating in the SEB plus some percentage of the pooled variable charges as incentive. Tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower and some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.
- Third party sale is also permissible with the approval of SEB.

Effect of Cyclone on Textile Mills in Orissa

1779. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Textiles Mills affected by the recent super-cyclone in Orissa;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The names of the cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non SSI), affected by the super cyclone in the month of October, 1999, extent of damage and employees affected were as follows:

Name of Mill	Number of employees	Amount of loss sustained (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3
Aska Spinning Mill, Aska	1108	25
Orissa Textile Mills, Choudwar	3800	200

1	2	3
Shree Sarala Weavers Coop. Spg., Tirtol	1123	480
Kalinga Weavers Coop. Spg. Mill, Dhenkanal	1497	147
Utkal Weavers Coop. Spg. Mill, Khurda	1506	135
Jagannath weavers Cop. Spg. Mill, Nuapatna	925	202
Shree Gopinath Weavers Coop. Spg. Mill, Baliapal	461	25
*Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur	419	167

*A unit of National Textile Corporation (NTC)

(d) The responsibility for revival of damaged mills lies with the respective owners. The NTC (Holding Company) has sanctioned Rs. 10 lakh for repair of building to the extent necessary for re-starting skeleton operation of the Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur, a unit of NTC, the Central Pulic Sector Undertaking.

The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures, which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Computerisation in Delhi Courts

1780. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the district and subordinate courts in the capital are proposed to be computerised during the current year;

(b) if so, the other metros where the subordinate courts are likely to be computerised;

(c) the facilities of benefits are likely to be provided to the public in filing their cases and to find out the latest outcome of the case after the computerisation; and

(d) the other measures the Government propose to implement for speedy dispensation of justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

The project of computerization of subordinate courts/city civil courts in Delhi will be started during the current year. The project is likely to be completed in a year's time after start of the work.

(b) As per the present proposal, the city civil courts in Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai will also be computerized.

(c) The computerization of city courts envisages a centralized filing counter for streamlining the whole activity of filing process. As soon as a case is filed at the filing counter, the computer decides the posting of a case to a judge based on the work distribution. It will automatically register the case in the court and produce a receipt for the litigants/advocates, giving details such as the registration number of the case, parties involved in the case and the name of the court to which it has been posted. At the end of each day the computer will generate a list of cases filed on that day. Cause lists will be generated for each court.

Once the city civil court's pending case information is available, the same can be made available on the Internet. The litigants/advocates can find out the latest status of their pending cases in the city civil court, at any time from their residences/offices. It is proposed to provide for electronic filing of documents & petitions in city courts in metropolitan Arrangements are also being made for seeking copies of court orders and other documents through the internet, on payment.

(d) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with mounting backlog of cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government by implementing a series of

measures for the speedy disposal of cases. These include filling up of vacant posts of Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, 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.

Proposal to Buy Oilfields Abroad

1781. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IOC and ONGC propose to buy oilfields abroad;

(b) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made in such purchases during the next three years;

(c) whether the companies have completed the unit cost of crude oil after taking into account the capital and operational costs; and

(d) if so, the cost computed per barrel?

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. ONGC -Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) are pursuing exploration and development opportunities abroad for an exploration block in Persian Gulf of Iran and the North Oil Field in Kuwait.

(b) The likely investment on the above ventures are yet to be finalized as the Persian Gulf Block is in the negotiation stage and participating interest for Kuwait Oil Field is yet to be decided.

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

[Translation]

Top Gear Petrol Pump Scheme

1782. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Top Gear Petrol Pump Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to enter into agreement with any establishments of such petrol pumps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of petrol pumps in the country where the Oasis Mobile Card and Recharging Cards facility has been provided?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The details of retail outlets where Oasis Cash Cards and Recharging Coupons are available, are given below:—

S.No.	Name of the City	Name of the Retail Outlet
1.	Jaipur	M/s Shree Bhairav Filling Station
2.	Jaipur	Ms. Madam Mohan Service Station
3.	Jaipur	M/s. Yadav & Co.
4.	Jaipur	M/s. Parkash & Co.
5.	Jaipur	Ms. Shiv Chowdhary Motors
6.	Jaipur	M/s. B.K. Chordia
7.	Ajmer	M/s. Bajrang Service Station
8.	Ajmer	COCO, Anna Sagar
9.	Ajmer	M/s. Charnal Filling Station
10.	Beawar	M/s. Kanchan Service Station
11.	Beawar	M/s. Ramesh Agro Service Station
12.	Beawar	M/s. Kamal Bros.
13.	Bhilwara	M/s. Pradeep Bandhu Bhilwara
14.	Kota	M/s. Modern Auto

[English]

Passenger Shipping Services to Gulf Region

1783. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new passenger shipping service linking the Gulf region and India is shortly to be launched; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said service is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fall in Prices of Coconut Oil, Copra and Coconut

1784. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the price of coconut oil, copra and coconut have been recording an unprecedented fall from the year 200 onwards and their prices have come down to the record low during April, 2001; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to save the interest of cultivators in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The prices of coconut oil, copra and coconut have shown a downward trend during the past several months.

(b) Copra is covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme of the Government. To stabilize the prices of copra, record quantities of 2.35 lakh tones of copra have already been procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), central nodal agency. Instruments of trade have also been used to arrest the decline in prices. The import duty on copra, coconut including desiccated coconut has been increased from 35% to 70% in 2001-02. The import duty on crude edible oil has been increased from 35% to 75% and on refined edible oils to 85%.

[Translation]

Privatisation in Power Sector

1785. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of States whose power sector is proposed to be given to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): As a part of Power Reforms Programme, States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and

Rajasthan have unbundled their State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Orissa has already privatised distribution in the State. States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi have proposed to privatise distribution.

Use of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1786. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in the country have started using more chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the use of chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture is causing adverse impact on human health; and

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to impose a ban on their use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The farmers in the country use chemicals in the form of pesticides for plant protection measures. The consumption of pesticides has come down from 61,357MT (technical grade) during 1994-95 to 46,195MT (technical grade) during 1999-2000.

The consumption of fertilizers has increased from 63.4 kg in terms of nutrients (N.P.K.) per hectare during 1989-90 to 76 kg per hectare during 1996-97 and the estimated consumption during 1999-2000 was 95.38 Kg per hectare. The fertilizer consumption has been increasing as their application results in increased yields.

(c) and (d) The pesticides and fertilizers approved for use in the country do not pose any hazard to human health if used in prescribed dose, number of sprays, waiting period, concentration etc. The use of pesticides is reviewed from time to time and as and when any pesticide is found harmful to human health, its manufacture, sale and use is banned in the country.

There is no proposal to ban the use of fertilizers. Government, however, promotes the integrated use of plant nutrients involving organic manures, bio fertilizers and chemical fertilizers.

(English)

**Frequency of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar
Rajdhani Express**

1787. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the frequency of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from 1st October, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train is likely to be diverted on the route of Purushotam Express or New Delhi-Puri Super Fast Express; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

**Setting up of National School of
Drama in Bangalore**

1788. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National School of Drama has been set up in Bangalore;

(b) whether the State Governments has agreed to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the proposed National School of Drama;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent during 2001-2002 on the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. However, a Regional Resource-cum-Research Centre of the National School of Drama has been functioning in Bangalore since March 1994.

(b) The Government has not received any formal written offer in this regard from the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Strengthening Marketing Facilities for Horticulture

1789. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to strengthen marketing facilities and avenues for horticulture;

(b) if so, whether the Horticulture Board has made any recommendations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made for increasing avenues of marketing for horticulture products;

(d) whether any pilot schemes has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, the States selected for such pilot schemes and the investment proposed in fruit marketing infrastructure etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) No Committee on strengthening marketing facilities has been set up in the National Horticulture Board (NHB) and hence there are no specific recommendations in this regard.

However, the NHB is implementing the following two schemes for strengthening marketing facilities and avenues for horticulture produce:—

- (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management;
- (ii) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages/Storages for Horticulture Produce.

The above schemes are being implemented throughout the country with 2001-02 allocation of Rs. 12.10 crores and Rs. 65.00 crores, respectively to meet the subsidy components of the two schemes.

[Translation]

Contract System

1790. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new contract system has been started in the Mechanical and Construction department of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has any role in the said system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this system is likely to benefit only some specific and financially well off people;

(f) if so, whether the railways propose to take any action in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Power Distribution System

1791. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directions to the State Governments to start the power distribution system at district level;

(b) whether this scheme is likely to be started at Nagar Panchayat and Gram Panchayat level;

(c) if so, the names of the State Governments assuring to extend their cooperation in this regard along with those States which have not shown any interest in this regard;

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be started throughout the country; and

(e) the details of benefits likely to accrue to the rural consumers through this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The State Governments have been requested to identify the areas falling under the jurisdiction/administrative control of the Superintending Engineer for effecting improvements in the Sub-Transmission & Distribution systems under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). This circle could be a district, part of a district or more than one district depending on the jurisdiction of the Superintending Engineer.

In the first phase, the Scheme will be started at the circle level. These circles would include urban as well as rural areas and the improvements required at village level being covered in the circle would also be included in the Scheme.

The State Governments have been submitted schemes for improvement of power distribution system at circle level. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been allocated to the States during the year 2000-2001 as per enclosed statement and an amount of Rs. 1500 crores is likely to be available during the current year. The Scheme would benefit rural consumers as well as facilitate the improvement of the system envisaged in the entire circle.

Statement**Funds Allocation to the States for 2000-2001 Under APDP Programme**

S.No.	State	Cost of Project	Proposed APDP Sanction		Total amt. under APDP
			Grant	Loan	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	194.70	48.68	48.68	97.35
2.	Bihar	42.88	10.72	10.72	21.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Gujarat	219.23	54.81	54.81	109.62
4.	Haryana	99.23	24.83	24.83	49.66
5.	Jharkhand	43.94	10.99	10.99	21.97
6.	Karnataka	162.98	40.74	40.74	81.49
7.	Kerala	44.82	11.21	11.21	22.41
8.	Madhya Pradesh	99.06	24.78	24.78	49.55
9.	Maharashtra	268.88	67.22	67.22	134.44
10.	Orissa	126.13	19.00	19.00	38.00
11.	Punjab	75.40	18.85	18.85	37.70
12.	Rajasthan	89.98	22.50	22.50	45.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	130.91	32.77	32.77	65.44
14.	Uttar Pradesh	202.90	50.72	50.72	101.46
15.	West Bengal	86.99	21.75	21.75	43.50
16.	Chhattisgarh	20.51	5.13	5.13	10.26
17.	Uttaranchal	9.60	2.40	2.40	4.80
Total:		1918.14	466.87	466.87	933.74
Special Category States					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.32	5.69	0.63	6.32
2.	Assam	20.02	18.02	2.00	20.02
3.	Himachal Pradesh	25.32	22.79	2.53	25.32
4.	J&K	6.99	6.29	0.70	6.99
5.	Manipur	0.72	0.65	0.07	0.72
6.	Meghalaya	1.81	1.63	0.18	1.81
7.	Mizoram	1.06	0.95	0.11	1.06
8.	Nagaland	1.89	1.70	0.19	1.89
9.	Sikkim	6.38	5.74	0.64	6.38
10.	Tripura	5.00	4.50	0.50	5.00
Total		75.51	67.96	7.55	75.51

*[English]***Roll-on-Roll-off Facilities**

1792. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations which have Roll-on-Roll-off platform facilities, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand the Roll-on-roll-off facilities in more stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Railways has introduced this service between Kolad (near Panvel) — Verna (near Goa) and Kolad — Surathkal (near Mangalore) stations.

(b) and (c) Some preliminary proposals have been received which are under discussions with concerned parties.

Incidents of Fire In Storage Depots of Petroleum Products

1793. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have asked Public Sector oil companies to take necessary steps to reduce the incidents of fire in storage and distribution of petroleum products:

(b) if so, the details of incidents of fire in storage and distribution of petroleum product held in each of the oil company during the last three years;

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

(d) the details of safety measures now being adopted by the oil companies in the storage and distribution of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. OISD has been issuing/Revising guidelines from time to time to ensure safety in Storage depots of petroleum products.

(b) The details of incidents of fire in storage and distribution of petroleum products in Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The losses suffered on account of fire by IOC is Rs. 1113.63 lakhs and by HPCL is Rs. 51.2 lakhs.

(d) To ensure safety of depots/Terminals, water tanks, sprinkler/Foam System, water monitors, DMP, Risk Analysis, Training on Safety/TT crew/Security etc., MOCK fire drills, Disaster Drills, Safety checks of Tank Lorries, Safety Committee Meetings, Earthing, Internal and External Safety Audits are being regularly carried out by the Oil Companies at storage depots of petroleum products.

Statement

1. Minor Fire incidents not causing any Damages to Property and Life:

S.No.	Name of the Company	Name of Location	Date
1	2	3	4
1.	HPCL	Mazagaon Lube Blending Plant (Mumbai)	26.06.1998
2.	HPCL	Bahadurgarh LPG Plant (Haryana)	10.09.1998
3.	HPCL	Cherlapalli LPG Bottling Plant (Andhra Pradesh)	20.12.1998
4.	HPCL	Rairu Depot (Madhya Pradesh)	28.08.2000
5.	HPCL	Shakurbasti Terminal (Delhi)	12.10.2000
6.	IOC	Manmad LPG Bottling Plant (Maharashtra)	24.01.1999
7.	IOC	Industry Railway Siding at Agra (U.P.)	08.03.2000

1	2	3	4
8.	IOC	Jalandhar Terminal (Punjab)	10.04.2000
9.	IOC	Kanpur Terminal (U.P.)	11.04.2000
10.	IOC	Kanpur LPG Bottling Plant (U.P.)	12.04.2000
11.	IOC	Karnal LPG Bottling Plant (Haryana)	14.05.2000
12.	IOC	Calicut LPG Bottling Plant (Kerala)	26.05.2000
13.	IOC	Sharanpur Depot (U.P.)	27.07.2000
14.	IOC	Devanagonthi Terminal (Karnataka)	23.11.2000
15.	IOC	Bhopal Bottling Plant (M.P.)	28.01.2001

II. Major Fire Incidents Causing Loss:

1.	IOC	Nowgaon Depot (Assam)	11.08 1998
2.	IOC	Jhansi Depot (U.P.)	31.10.1998
3.	IOC	Balasore LPG Bottling Plant (Orissa)	23.01.2000
4.	IOC	Karnal LPG Bottling Plant (Haryana)	12.08.2000
5.	IOC	Mathura Terminal (U.P.)	02.12.2000
6.	HPCL	Visakh Terminal (Andhra Pradesh)	17.08.2000
7.	HPCL	Jalandhar Lube Depot (Punjab)	08.03.2001

Parcel Services to Private Parties

1794. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given the Railway Parcel Service in some trains and at certain railway stations to private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) With a view to optimise the utilisation of available transport capacity in brakevans (SLRs) of various passenger carrying trains and to maximise parcel earnings, a scheme of leasing out space in the brakevans (SLRs) of such trains to private cargo operators has been in operation.

(c) During 2000-2001, over 177 brakevans in 156 trains have been leased out.

Closing Down of Farm Friendly Activities of SRS

1795. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to close down some of the farm friendly activities of Southern Regional Station (SRS) of National Dairy Research Institute;

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

(c) whether some states have requested the Union Government to reconsider such a decision;

(d) if so, the details of such requested received so far; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Over Bridge in UP

1796. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of over bridges in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of over bridges which are in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) the number of over bridges on which repair work is going on and the number of those bridges which are proposed to be repaired during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There are 105 over bridges in UP, location thereof is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Nil.

(c) All the Road Over Bridges are inspected regularly and repairs are carried out as and when required. At present only two such bridges are under repair.

Statement

Sl.No.	Kilometer	Location
1	2	3
1.	1343/26-30	Agra Delhi end
2.	1346/40-42	Raja Ki Mandi (Delhi end)
3.	1347/2-4	Agra City

1	2	3
4.	1347/28-30	Raja Ki Mandi-Billochpura
5.	1377/3-5	Farah
6.	1386/13-17	Beed
7.	1394/25-27	Mathura
8.	1401/16-18	Bhuteshwar
9.	1437/32-34	Kosikolan (MB end)
10.	1438/34-36	Kosikolan (Delhi end)
11.	1319/10-11	Banda Yard
12.	1349/8	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra Cantt.
13.	1338/13-1339/8	Jhansi — Kanpur siding
14.	99/13	Muirpur-Renukoot
15.	101/5-6	Renukoot-Jogidih
16.	131/5-6	Gurmura-Salaibarma
17.	137/13-14	Billi-Chopan
18.	18.588	Kakri
19.	673/85-87	Mughalsarai
20.	677/9-10	Mughalsarai—Allahabad near Ramnagar
21.	765/9-766/5	Mughalsarai-Varanasi
22.	107/10-11	Raebareli-Prayag
23.	53/10-11	Lucknow-Kanpur
24.	1080/10-11	Lucknow-Moradabad
25.	1070/4-5	Lucknow-Utraita
26.	862/5-6	Varanasi-Shahganj
27.	913/8-9	Lucknow-Sultanpur
28.	957/8-9	Darshannagar-Ayodhya
29.	969/11-12	Faizabad — Salarpur
30.	1/5-6	Faizabad-Masoda
31.	9/25-27	Ghaziabad avoiding line
32.	1429/9-7	Ghaziabad-Hapur
33.	22/2-3	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur

1	2	3
34.	25/8-9	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
35.	122/0-1	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
36.	127/15-128/0	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
37.	18/9-11	Sahibabad-Ghaziabad
38.	9/1-2	Sahibabad-Ghaziabad
39.	39/11-17	Sahibabad-Ghaziabad
40.	10/26-28	Anand Vihar-Sahibabad
41.	66/7-8	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
42.	1175/6-7	Hardoi yard
43.	1230/12-13	Sahajahanpur-Rosa jn.
44.	1236/8-9	Sahajahanpur-Rosa jn.
45.	1374/10-11	Rampur-Mundha Pandey
46.	1396/1	Katghar Right Bank-Moradabad
47.	1397/5-6	Katghar Right Bank-Moradabad
48.	1400/8-9	Harthala-Moradabad
49.	1459/0-1	Dhampur yard
50.	1491/0-1	Murshadpur-Najibabad
51.	1555/4-5	Landra-Dandhera
52.	1555/6-7	Dandhera-Roorkee
53.	21/12-13	Ikkar-Jawalapur
54.	22/5-6	Ikkar-Jawalapur
55.	55/5-6	Sitapur City-Ramkot
56.	734/17-19	Mughalsarai-Allahabad
57.	826/15-17	Allahabad-Kanpur
58.	833/19-20	Allahabad-Kanpur
59.	1017/31-33	Kanpur-Tundla
60.	1021/7-9	Kanpur-Tundla
61.	1023/3-5	Kanpur-Tundla
62.	1027/7-13	Kanpur-Tundla
63.	1012/4-6	Allahabad-Kanpur

1	2	3
64.	1073—1075	Kanpur-Tundla
65.	1142-1144	Kanpur-Tundla
66.	1325/7-9	Tundla-Ghaziabad
67.	1327/7-9	Tundla-Ghaziabad
68.	1327/25-27	Tundla-Ghaziabad
69.	144/10-11	Chunar-Chopan
70.	160/13-14	Chunar-Chopan
71.	70/8-9	Kanpur-Lucknow
72.	57/13-14	Etah-Barhan
73.	677/4-5	Mughalsarai-Allahabad
74.	685/24-26	Mughalsarai-Allahabad
75.	152/9-11	Tundla-Ghaziabad
76.	179/4	Saharanpur
77.	180/3-4	Saharanpur
78.	182/0	Saharanpur
79.	125/12-13	Ghazipur city-Ghazipur Ghat
80.	316/11-12	Jhusi-Ramnathpur
81.	206/10-11	Varanasi Jn.-Allahabad city
82.	213/9-10	Raja Talab-Madanihat
83.	66/3-4	Mau Jn.-Indara Jn.
84.	68/7-8	Bhatni Jn.-Araku Arkha
85.	63/12-13	Mau Jn.-Indara Jn.
86.	456/8-9	Deoria Sadar-Baitalpur
87.	65/7-8	Phephna Jn.-Ballia
88.	315/9-10	Bareilly city - Izzatnagar
89.	352/15-16	Majhdia - Bhainsa
90.	1/10-11	Moradabad-Katghar
91.	2/15-16	Moradabad
92.	134/9-10	Fardabad-Fatehgarh
93.	2/1-2	Pilibhit Jn.-Pauta

1	2	3
94.	718/11-12	Chowka Ghat-Burhwal
95.	657/12-13	Gonda Jn.-Gonda Kachahri
96.	2/13-14	Lucknow city-Aishbagh
97.	507/5-6	Gorakhpur Jn.-Shikara
98.	772/2-5	Bangaon Jn.-Daliganj
99.	72/3-4	Kanpur Central-Kanpur (Anwarganj)
100.	72/17-0/1	Kanpur (Anwarganj) - Kanpur central
101.	2/10-11	Lucknow-Amausi
102.	771/3-4	Badshahnagar-Daliganj
103.	767/3-4	Malhour-Badshahnagar
104.	1242/30-1242	Murhesi Rampur-Mathura Jn.
105.	83/4-5	Idgah yard

[English]

Popularization of Smokeless Chullah

1797. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated saving of fuel wood per year with the use of smokeless chullah;

(b) the approximate number of such chullahs presently in use in the country; and

(c) the steps taken and incentive provided to promote and popularise their use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi estimated an average saving of about 375 kg biomass fuels, including 116 kg fuel wood, per year with the use of a smokeless improved chulha under field conditions in a study entitled, "Socio-economic cost-benefit analysis survey of the National Programme on Improved Chulha," which was conducted in the year 1998.

(b) A cumulative total of about 33.80 million improved chulhas have been promoted so far in the country under the Central Sector Scheme - National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC).

(c) For popularizing the use of improved chulhas, the Government has taken several steps, such as implementation of whole village approach; organization of one-day women - users' courses, including video film shows, in the villages; involvement of grass-root level non-governmental organizations and trained self employed workers, mostly women, in the construction and maintenance of improved chulhas and wide distribution of publicity materials, such as posters, calendars and leaflets, in the regional languages. The NPIC also provides for financial incentives in terms of Central subsidy, self-employed workers' charges and dealership support.

Power of Attorney

1798. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Special Power of Attorney are pending for registration in Delhi; and

(b) if so, their number as on June 30, 2001 together with the period of pendency?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Registrar General of Registration, Government of NCT of Delhi and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Allotment of Retail Outlets to OBCs in Uttar Pradesh

1799. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether selection procedure has been started for the allotment of retail outlets of petrol and diesel pumps in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any quota has been fixed for the people belonging to the backward classes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of retail outlets allotted to OBCs so far in Uttar Pradesh?

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) to (d) As per the existing policy, the reservation for dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is as under:

(i) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
(ii) Physically Handicapped (PH)	5%
(iii) Defence Category (DC)	8%
(iv) Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	8%
(v) Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
(vi) Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	2%
(vii) Open (OP)	50%

There is no separate reservation for persons belonging to Other Backward Classes in the allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao Rail Line

1800. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of slow progress of gauge conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao rail line;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to allocate sufficient funds for this project to accelerate progress to avoid cost over run;

(c) if so, the time by which the conversion work is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Gauge conversion work of Luni-Barmer-Munabao is being progressed as per availability of funds. No target date has yet been fixed. The completion would depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Setting up of Centrally Sponsored CRDC in T.N.

1801. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Tamil Nadu to set up a Centrally Sponsored Cattle Research and Development Centre in the Salem and Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the cattle wealth of the country, State-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of total pasture land available and utilised in Tamil Nadu for the purpose of cattle rearing; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the cattle rearing and research and development during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State-wise details of the cattle wealth is given in enclosed statement-I. The total pasture land available in Tamil Nadu is 134000 hectares and the total grazing land available is 396000 hectares.

(e) The amount earmarked for the Cattle Research for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I*Details of number of Cattle in 1992 (State-wise)*

State/Union Territory	Total number of cattle (in thousands)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	10946
Arunachal Pradesh	324
Assam	10118
Bihar	22154
Gujarat	6804
Goa	98
Haryana	2136
Himachal Pradesh	2165
Jammu & Kashmir	3055
Karnataka	13173
Kerala	3524
Madhya Pradesh	28588
Maharashtra	17446
Manipur	719
Meghalaya	535
Mizoram	59
Nagaland	332
Orissa	13841
Punjab	2909
Rajasthan	11699
Sikkim	198
Tamil Nadu	9278
Tripura	949
Uttar Pradesh	25635
West Bengal	17453
A&N Islands	50
Chandigarh	5

1	2
D&N Haveli	49
Delhi	41
Lakshadweep	2
Pondicherry	90
Daman & Diu	8

Statement-II*Amount earmarked for cattle research during
2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise*

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
State	2000-2001	2001-2002
Haryana	51.50	52.96
Andhra Pradesh	47.32	48.78
Gujarat	15.35	14.22
Rajasthan	24.75	25.86
Punjab	12.00	00.00
Kerala	30.05	22.81
Maharashtra	10.78	9.98
Bihar	10.78	9.98
Karnataka	10.78	9.98
Tamil Nadu	4.76	6.18
Madhya Pradesh	7.48	—
Pondicherry	—	11.57

Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation

1802. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has started proper functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was set up in September 1999 under the Ministry of Railways with a view to upgrade catering services on Indian Railways and to promote rail tourism. Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IRCTC in the month of April 2001. IRCTC has already commenced business and the Corporation is managing on-board catering services on New Delhi—Lucknow Shatabdi Express w.e.f. 29.5.2001. The Corporation has also started value added tour packages in association with travel agencies. Other projects to be immediately taken up by the corporation include management of catering services on New Delhi — Hatia and New Delhi — Bilaspur Rajdhani Express trains expected to be introduced shortly, setting up of Food Plazas and management of all new licences in case of major catering/vending units on Indian Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of Post Based Roster

1803. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages, if any, in Class I, II, III, and IV category of services under the Ministry of Agriculture and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/Sub-ordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DoPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 02, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The procedure outlined in DoPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 02.07.1997 has been followed.

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

[*Translation*]

Coal Purchased by NTPC

1804. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the grade of coal being used by NTPC and other thermal power plants in the country;

(b) the grade and quantity of coal being purchased by NTPC Kahaigaon, Bihar each year;

(c) whether the use of low grade coal puts an adverse effect on power generation in NTPC unit at Kahaigaon;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to procure high grade coal; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to supply coal of high grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The grade of coal largely being used by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and other Thermal Power Stations are generally 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F' grade coal.

(b) NTPC Kahaigaon is generally receiving coal from its linked mine Rajmahal of Eastern Coalfields Ltd., which is generally of 'F' grade. Occasionally shortfall from Rajmahal is supplemented by coal supplies from Asansol/Rani Ganj area of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. The grade of Asansol/Rani Ganj area coal is generally 'B', 'C', 'D' & 'E'. Quantity of coal received by Kahaigaon, STPP during the last 3 years is as below:

Year	Qty. received from Rajmahal	Qty. received from Asansol	Total coal received
1998-99	3.364 MT	0.046 MT	3.410 MT
1999-2000	3.260 MT	0.230 MT	3.490 MT
2000-2001	3.930 MT	0.390 MT	4.320 MT

(c) So long as the quality of coal supplied is within the range of requisite parameters there are no adverse effect on power generation.

(d) and (e) The new power stations in the country are generally designed to utilize low grade coal largely available in the country. There is no proposal at present for the supply of high grade coal.

[English]

ANTWA Project In A.P.

1805. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts where Andhra Pradesh Women in Agriculture (ANTWA) project is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount spent on this project during 2000-2001 and the amount earmarked for 2001-2002;

(c) the performance of the project during the said period;

(d) whether some more districts of the State are proposed to be covered under this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Andhra Pradesh Women in Agriculture (ANTWA) Phase-I Project was implemented in 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh namely:

- i. Visakhapatnam
- ii. Prakasam
- iii. Ananthapur
- iv. Kurnool
- v. Nalgonda
- vi. Rangareddy

(b) The ANTWA Project Phase-I terminated in August, 1999. ANTWA Phase-II could not materialize due to the Review of Dutch Policy of Development Cooperation and so not amount was spent under the project during 2000-2001. An amount of Rs. 611.7 lacs is earmarked for the ANTWA Phase-II Project for 2001-2002.

(c) The Project was non-operational during the said period.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Phase-II of the Project is in the process of being signed and 6 more Districts are proposed to be covered under ANTWA-Phase-II in Andhra Pradesh. There are:

- i. Srikakulam
- ii. Vizianagaram
- iii. Cuddapah
- iv. Chittoor
- v. Khammam
- vi. Warangal

Additional Solicitor Generals

1806. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Additional Solicitor Generals are working at present;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to appoint one Additional Solicitor General for each High Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) 8

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Claims for Agricultural Crop Insurance Schemes

1807. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several claims have not been yet settled which are lying for the last two years under the National Agricultural Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of such claims, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for not disposing of these claims so far; and

(d) whether the farmers do not get benefit under the crop insurance scheme following the negligence of people working in the Crop Insurance Agency and corruption prevailing in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. Claims in respect of some States are pending with the Implementing Agency (IA).

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was implemented from rabi 1999-2000 season. Payable claims, which are worked out on the basis of yield data, have

been finalized in respect of two crop seasons i.e. Rabi 1999-2000 and Kharif 2000 seasons. The final yield data for the third crop season i.e. Rabi 2000-2001 is yet to be finalized by the respective implementing States/UTs.

(b) A statement of district-wise pending claims is annexed.

(c) These claims are pending due to non-receipt of 50% share from the concerned States.

(d) No, Sir. The total number of farmers who got compensation during the two crop seasons are 29,71,485. NAIS is a multi-agency scheme in which financial institutions and various departments of State/UT Governments are involved besides Implementing Agency. No instances of corruption/negligence in respect of IA have been reported so far.

Statement

NAIS—State-wise/District-wise details of pending claims

S.No.	State	District	Claims (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Kharif 2000)	Adilabad	224.73
		E. Godavari	370.46
		Guntur	48.98
		Khammam	16.18
		Krishna	1.35
		Kurmool	35.82
		Mahabubnagar	50.70
		Medak	57.61
		Nalgonda	174.47
		Nellore	25.06
		Nizamabad	13.42
		Prakasam	156.34
		Rangareddy	2.21
		Srikakulam	724.90
		Vizianagaram	379.48
		Warangal	0.16
		W. Godavari	319.90
Total			2601.77

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam (Rabi 1999-2000)	Nalbari	0.07
		Barpeta	0.02
		Goalpara	0.02
		Bongaigaon	0.02
		Kamrup	0.37
		Total	0.50
	(Kharif 2000)	Sonitpur	0.01
		Hailakandi	0.74
		Total	0.75
3.	Chhattisgarh (Kharif 2000)	Baster	73.74
		Bilaspur	601.28
		Durg	1087.93
		Raigarh	381.72
		Raipur	2956.82
		Rajnandago	223.83
		Surguja	36.16
		Dantewada	3.75
		Dhamtri	396.12
		Janjgir	313.93
		Kanker	118.16
		Kawardha	642.21
		Korba	0.73
		Koriya	7.69
		Mahasamur	1312.52
		Jashpur	17.85
		Total	8174.44
4.	Karnataka (Kharif 2000)	Belgum	2.39
		Bellary	0.94
		Bidar	154.20
		Bijapur	0.27

1	2	3	4
		Cickmagalur	0.38
		Chitradurga	3.38
		Dakshina Kanada	0.91
		Gulbarga	24.88
		Hassan	3.68
		Mandya	0.18
		Raichur	8.81
		Shimoga	0.65
		Tumkur	1.09
		Uttar Kanad	11.25
		Koppal	0.01
		Total	213.02
5.	Kerala (Rabi 1999-2000)	Alippuzha	21.58
		Kottayam	5.81
		Palakkad	2.15
		Total	29.54
	(Kharif 2000)	Alappuzha	206.89
		Ernakulam	0.24
		Kottayam	6.93
		Palakkad	28.57
		Trissur	0.02
		Tum	0.23
		Total	242.88
6.	Orissa (Rabi 1999-2000)	Angul	0.17
		Total	0.17
7.	Meghalaya (Kharif 2000)	South Garo Hills	0.14
		Total	0.14
8.	Madhya Pradesh (Kharif 2000)	Balaghat	124.38
		Betul	66.21
		Bhind	0.11

1	2	3	4
		Chhatarpur	16.89
		Chhinwara	23.97
		Demoh	32.54
		Dawar	24.86
		Dhar	304.85
		Khandwa	274.80
		Guna	1.56
		Gwalior	0.57
		Hoshangabad	97.68
		Indore	19.30
		Jabalpur	24.92
		Jhabua	276.09
		Mandle	92.06
		Mandsaur	854.48
		Narsinghpur	50.19
		Panna	23.32
		Raisen	8.84
		Rajgarh	328.47
		Ratlam	544.15
		Rewa	43.31
		Satna	84.56
		Sehore	32.63
		Seoni	171.95
		Shahdol	9.83
		Shajapur	136.00
		Shivpuri	0.10
		Sidhi	3.71
		Tikamgarh	3.21
		Ujjain	741.26
		Khargone	616.55

1	2	3	4
		Barwani	181.03
		Dindori	0.88
		Katni	74.57
		Neemuch	254.15
		Umariya	7.34
		Total	5554.32
	Grand Total		16814.50

Note:

1. Claims of Orissa for Kharif 2000 season where the State Govt. could not maintain single series of yield Data are being presently worked out on revised insurance unit *i.e.* block level.
2. Claims of Tamil Nadu could not be worked out due to the fact that the Yield Data was not based on single series.

[English]

Fresh Investment in Textile Sector

1808. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the blue prints prepared by some States to attract fresh investment in the textile sector;

(b) whether the potential of textile centres have been identified in these States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to develop textile sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any such blue print or policy proposal. However, a conference of State/UT Ministers in charge of Textiles was held on 10th April, 2001 to discuss issues important for the effective implementation of National Textile Policy, 2000 and for preparing the industry for global competition and for the post MFA challenges. The Conference adopted a set of recommendations for taking action raised in the Agenda that would lead to the strengthening of the Industry. It was inter-alia resolved in the conference that the Central Government as well as Governments of States and Union

Territory Administration would make concerted efforts to develop all segments of textile industry and enable them to realise their full potential.

(d) Government has taken various steps to encourage investment in the textile sector. Some of these are, introduction of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), de-reservation of readymade garment (woven) sector, reduction in customs duty of specified textile machinery, etc.

Milk Samples

1809. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of milk samples found negative containing caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) and other chemicals;

(b) the action taken against each case during the last three years;

(c) the punishment prescribed for setting/storing/manufacturing of adulterated synthetic milk;

(d) whether there is any proposal to conduct sample tests at the borders to prevent sale of such milk in Delhi; and

(e) the status of court cases pending in Delhi courts in respect of adulterated milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Remodelling of Thiruvalla and Mavelikara Railway Stations

1810. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present position of the remodelling of Thiruvalla and Mavelikara railway stations in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Present position of remodelling of Thiruvalla and Mavelikara railway stations is as under:

(a) Thiruvalla:

- (i) Work of additional waiting room and vegetarian refreshment room was sanctioned during 2000-2001 at a cost of Rs. 21.91 lakhs. Work will commence shortly.
- (ii) Work of provision of platform shelter of 288 square meter on platform no. 2 is in progress.

(b) Mavelikara:

- (i) Work for provision of extension of both the platforms to accommodate 24 coach bogies has been sanctioned and work will be taken up shortly.
- (ii) Station building was renovated in 1986 duly providing the following additional facilities:
 - Ladies waiting room with toilet.
 - Fruit Stall.
 - Booking Office.
 - Parcel Office.
 - Concourse and Porch.

There is no proposal at present for further remodelling of this Station.

Fear of Cyclone Amongst Salt Workers of Kutch

1811. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of salt workers from Kutch were washed away, killed and remained missing during the 1998 cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the salt workers were left in panic this time, merely after cyclone danger warnings without any steps taken by the Government to move them to safer places or providing them shelter; and

(d) if so, the number of such workers and their families awaiting their death and destruction without any Government aid for shelter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have informed that 767 salt pan workers, including those who were reported missing earlier by the State Government, were dead in the cyclone of June, 1998.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the fact that in a cyclone, this group fishermen are in the most vulnerable category, by way of abundant caution, these groups were evacuated to safer places when there was an apprehension of occurrence of a severe cyclone in June, 2001, which fortunately did not hit the coast. This was a reversible arrangement and at present there are no evacuees.

Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of States in Delhi

1812. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of States/UTs was held on May 31, 2001 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the objects of holding of such Conference; and

(c) the details of outcomes/suggestions/resolutions passed in the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Conference of Relief Commissioners was held on 30th May, 2001 at New Delhi with the main objective of taking stock of the arrangements made on the onset of South-West Monsoon, 2001. The Conference was also intended to expose the Relief Commissioners to latest developments in the field of disaster management through presentations by organisations like the India Meteorological Department, Central Water Commission and United Nations Development Programme. Some of the Relief Commissioners of States, recently affected by various

natural calamities also made detailed presentations about their experience on management of such calamities. The deliberations resulted in far better appreciation of the issues in disaster management and led to deeper insights in the causes and remedies for major calamities.

[Translation]

Assistance from O.E.C.F. for Ajanta and Ellora Caves

1813. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan has provided any financial assistance for the Ajanta and Ellora caves in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of work done with this assistance till date;

(c) whether the Government have issued any order for the removal of shops from Ajanta and Ellora Caves; and

(d) if so, the details and progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan now known as the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation, has extended loan for improving the approach to the caves, including widening of pathways and construction of retaining walls and lighting of caves at Ajanta and Ellora.

(c) and (d) Legal procedure has been initiated for the removal of encroachments at Ajanta caves, as provided for under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

[English]

Assistance to Dairy Development Board/Indian Veterinary Council

1814. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grant-in-aid/assistance provided to State Dairy Development Board and Indian Veterinary Council during the last three years; and

(b) the progress made in the field by these bodies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government has not provided Grant-in-Aid to any State Dairy Development Board during the last three years. The Indian Veterinary Council has been provided Rs. 64.60 lakh, Rs. 64.60 lakh and Rs. 80.00 lakh during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively.

(b) Indian Veterinary Council performed various activities as per its constitution. Some of its major activities conducted during the last three years were preparation of supplement of Indian Veterinary Practice Register, recommending veterinary qualifications and inspections of various Institutions, constitution of State Institutions, constitution of State Veterinary Councils, conducting All India common entrance examination and orientation training programmes, preparing standards of veterinary education etc.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Bihar

1815. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government on each of the said proposal;

(c) the details of the survey conducted during the said period;

(d) the present status of on-going projects/surveys;

(e) the amount spent thereon during the said period and the funds allocated for 2001-2002; and

(f) the reasons for slow progress for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Proposals received from the Ministers of Bihar Government during the last three years are as follows. Action taken on the proposals is indicated against each proposal.

Sl. No.	Particulars of the Project	Action Taken
1.	Taking up Gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Bhitharwa Ashram	This is being done as a part of Gauge Conversion of Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj, which is a sanctioned work.
2.	Kiul-Nawada New Line	A line already exists between Kiul and Nawada. A new line between Kiul and Nawada is not being considered at present.

(c) to (f) Details of Surveys conducted in the last three years and in progress in Bihar are in statement-I. The present status of these surveys is also given in enclosed statement-I.

Details of ongoing projects in Bihar including their present status, the amount spent on each of them in the last three years, funds allocated for 2001-2002 and the reasons for slow progress, if any, are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of the Project	Status
1	2	3

SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN LAST THREE YEARS & IN PROGRESS IN BIHAR

New Lines

1.	Badlaghat-Alamnagar-Bhawanipur Purnea-Dalkhola	Completed and shelved
2.	Banka-Barahat	Completed and shelved
3.	Barwahdih to Chimir Restoration of railway line.	In progress
4.	Bihariaganj-Chattarpur Rd. via Murliganj	Completed and shelved
5.	Chunar to Sasaram	Completed and shelved
6.	Danapur-Fatuah via Daniwan, Punpun	Completed and shelved
7.	Darbhanga and Saharsa via Kukeshwarashthan	Completed and shelved
8.	Dehri-on-sona to Banjari	Completed Report under examination
9.	Deogarh-Sultanganj	Completed & project included in 2000-01
10.	Dhaniwan Shekhapura-Biharsharif	Completed & included as MM of Fatua-Islampur.
11.	Fatua-Islampur-Rajgir-Manpur-Gaya	Completed & project included in the Budget 1998-99 for Fatua-Rajgir
12.	Gaya to Daltanganj via Guraru, Gurva, Sherghati and Imamganj	Completed and shelved
13.	Gaya-Chatra via Tori	Completed Updation in progress

1	2	3
14.	Hajipur-Samastipur via Mahuwa	Completed and shelved
15.	Hazaribagh-Garwa Rd	In progress
16.	Hazaribagh-Hazaribagh town	In progress
17.	Hazipur and Sagauli via Vaishali	Completed and shelved
18.	Janakpur Rd-Madhubani via Benipatti	Completed and shelved
19.	Janakpur Road to Jayanagar via Madhubani	Completed and shelved
20.	Jhajha-Giridih via Sonuchakai	New Survey included in Budget 2001-02.
21.	Koderma-Tilaiya	Completed. ROR is being reworked out considering BARH-STPP traffic
22.	Koparia/Semri Bhakhtiyarpur Alamnagar, Bihariganj	Completed and shelved
23.	Koparia-Bihariganj via-Sonbarsaraj-Alamnagar	Completed. Report under examination.
24.	Kursela-Rupali-Saharsa	Completed and shelved
25.	Laheria Sarai to Kusheshwarasthan	Completed and shelved
26.	Lohardaga to Korba	In progress.
27.	Madhepura to Pratapganj via Singheshwar asthan and Triveniganj	Completed and shelved
28.	Merry Go Round of NTPC	In progress
29.	Motihari to Sitamarhi via Shivhar	Completed and shelved
30.	Muktapur to Kusheshwarasthan	Completed and shelved
31.	Nirmali-Bhaptiai	In progress.
32.	Pirpainty of Merry Go Round	In progress.
33.	Pratapganj-Bhimnagar-Bathanaha	Completed and shelved
34.	Rajgir to Hisua	Completed & project included in 98-99.
35.	Ranchi-Hazaribagh-Gaya	Completed. Report under examination
36.	Salauna (Bakhri) to Alauli	Completed and shelved
37.	Simari-Bakhtiarpur to Bihariganj	Completed and shelved
38.	Sitamarhi to Jayanagar via Sonbarsai	Completed and shelved
39.	Supaul-Araria via Triveniganj and Raniganj	Completed and shelved
40.	Tori-Shivpur	New survey included in Budget 2001-02.
Gauge Conversion		
41.	Kaptanganj-Siwan, Tawe-Chapra	Completed & project included in the Budget 1998-99

1	2	3
42.	Katihar to Tejnarayanpur line via Manihari with extension upto Bhaluk Rd via Amdabad	Completed and shelved
43.	Purnea-Saharsa via Madhepura	In progress
44.	Sakri-Jhanjharpur-Laukahabazar	Completed and shelved
Doubling		
45.	Chakdharpur-Bandamunda third line	In progress.
46.	Gaya-Kiul	Completed and shelved
47.	Patratu-Chandi via Barkhakhana	New Survey included in Budget 2001-02. In progress.
Traffic Facilities		
48.	Patna optimisation of maintenance facilities	To be taken up. TDC not fixed.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Approximate Expenditure in the last 3 years (Amount in Crores of Rs.)	Budget Outlay for 2001-02	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

Ongoing Railway Projects in Bihar**Doubling**

1.	Patna-Parsa Bazar (Patna-Gaya, Phase-I)	14.55	10.46	0.10	Section commissioned on 17.10.2000.
2.	Parsa Bazar-Punpun (Patna-Gaya, Phase-II)	14.32	0.48	5.00	Estimate has been sanctioned. The work is being taken up.
3.	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya, Phase-III)	42.54	0.10	2.00	Preliminary arrangements are being made for taking up the work.
4.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai: 3rd line with bi-directional signalling & flyover at Sonenagar	244.75	56.15	14.83	This project is partially funded out of ADB loan. Work is progressing well. Out of 16 block sections, 14 have been commissioned covering 96 kms. The last section (9 km) of the entire work will be completed by July 2001.
5.	Chhapra-Hajipur	73.06	0.60	10.00	Work is being taken up.
6.	Karpurigram-Siho	30.98	1.03	10.00	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gauge Conversion					
7.	Hajipur-Bachwara	75.56	12.16	0.10	Work completed & commissioned. Short fall in ballast is being made good. Work of long welded rail has been completed.
8.	Narkatiaganj Valmikinagar	67.87	40.95	5.00	The work has been completed and commissioned. Residual work of increasing ballast cushion and long welded rail conversion is expected to be completed shortly.
9.	Jayanagar- Darbhanga- Narkatiaganj	335.77	8.55	10.00	Jayanagar-Dharbanga is to be done in first phase. Work is in progress. Earthwork for 32 km completed. Tenders for oarthwork and ballast supply have been finalised. Work on Darbhanga and Sitamarhi section is also in progress.
10.	Mansi-Saharsa (Phase-I)	89.50	1.00	3.00	Earthwork and Bridgework are in progress. Work of extension from Saharsa to Dauram Madhepur GC (21 km) included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
11.	Kaptanganj-Thave- Sivan-Chhapra	268.00	0.00	1.10	The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
12.	Samastipur- Khagaria	70.00	0.00	5.00	The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
13.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar- Radhikapur)	257.00	10.00	15.00	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. The gauge conversion of Katihar Radhikapur will be taken up as a material modification to main work.
New Lines					
14.	Ara-Sasaram	120.00	15.23	6.00	Final Location survey has been completed for 50 km length. Land acquisition papers for stretch between Sasaram and Nokha have been

1	2	3	4	5	6
					submitted to State Government. Possession of land for 22 villages out of total 23 villages falling in this stretch has been given. Land acquisition for remaining one village is in process. Contract for the earthwork & bridges has been awarded for Sasaram-Nokha section and work started on the land already available.
15.	Fatua-Islampur including material modification for extension of new line from Bihar Sharif to Barbiga	131.39	4.74	15.00	Earthwork has been completed for 16 km length between Islampur & Hilsa. Work of bridges and earthwork where land is available has been taken up. Work of Dhaniyawan to Bihar Sharif and Bihar Sharif-Barbiga has been approved as a material modification to this project.
16.	Deogarh-Sultanganj	312.00	0.00	12.00	Final location survey from Deogarh to Katuria (30 km) completed. Work would be taken up when land is handover by the State Government. New works from Banka to Barahat (13.4 km) and Banka to Bhitiah road included in the Budget 2001-02 as a Material modification.
17.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	170.47	6.88	6.00	Phase-I Mandarhill-Dumka (66 km):- Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for 23 km stretch from Mandarhill side have been submitted to State Government. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Government. One contract for 2 major bridges has been awarded.
18.	Monghyr-Rail Bridge On Ganga	600.00	0.10	5.00	Surveys and detailed investigations including model studies have been taken up through M/s RITES. Once the bridge parameters are decided and cost firmed up, necessary clearances would be obtained.

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Patna-Ganga Bridge with linking lines between Patna & Hajipur	610.00	0.17	15.00	The Final Location Survey has been completed and the process for obtaining the necessary clearances has been initiated.
20.	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaya	49.50	0.61	5.00	Final Location Survey on Tilaiya-Jagdishpur section has been completed and land acquisition papers for 20 kms. stretch covering 70 hectares of land have been submitted to State Government. Work could be taken up once land is made available by State Government. For the rest of the section, Final Location Survey is in progress.
21.	Duraunda-Maharajanj	3.57	0.47	0.10	Necessary clearances have been received recently. Work is being taken up.
22.	Khagaria Kusheshwarsthan	78.00	0.31	5.00	Final location survey has been completed & preparation of land acquisition plan and papers is in progress. The land acquisition proposals have been submitted to State Govt. Earthwork in Khagaria yard has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land becomes available.
23.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	100.00	0.30	10.00	Final Location survey has been completed. Preparation of land plans & papers & other preliminary works are in progress. Earthwork in Sitamarhi Yard for one km length has been completed. The work would be taken up once the land is made available by State Government.
24.	Sakri-Hassarapur	89.70	7.06	5.00	Land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Govt. for the entire length 1226.3 acre and 1191.93 acre land has been acquired. Earthwork from Sakri to Jagdishpur is in progress.
Railway Electrification					
25.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai including Rampur Dumra-Garhara-Barauni	363.36	132.38	23.98	401 RKms since energised till Mar' 2001. The progress has been slow due to law and order problem and failure of contractor. Work is now targeted for completion by December 2001.
26.	Patna-Gaya	41.24	0.00	0.10	The project proposal has once again been sent to Planning Commission for clearance.

*[English]***Concessions on Foreign Wind Mill Machines**

1816. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign wind mill machines are being procured through Indian agents whereas indigenous machines and components are ignored on price differentials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if sales tax, excise exemptions and income tax concessions on foreign wind mill machines are added to the cost, the indigenous ones are quite comparable and competitive;

(c) the cost of wind mill machines procured from foreign countries and the cost of indigenous machine separately; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage domestic industry engaged in wind mill machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Wind power projects are being taken up mainly as commercial projects through private sector investments. Wind electric generators are not being imported as complete machines. Specified critical components are imported by different manufacturers depending upon the level of indigenisation achieved by them. Fiscal incentives, such as sales tax, excise duty and income tax concessions are provided to encourage all non-conventional energy projects, including wind power projects. There is no discrimination among the manufacturers. In a free and competitive market, it is up to the promoters of commercial wind power projects to judge and assess the quality and performance of the wind machines, keeping in view their comparative price.

Wind power technology development is progressing rapidly and there is need to keep pace with state-of-the-art technology, which would provide better performance and higher output, at lower cost. The unit size of wind machines has also increased with new technology development. The cost of wind machines manufactured in India varies with technology, type, size performance parameters and market conditions.

(d) Wind machines are being manufactured through local production in India. Fiscal and promotional incentives, and soft loans, are provided to encourage wind power projects and wind industry. Research and development is being supported, and testing and certification facilities have also been set up to assess the wind industry in the country.

*[Translation]***Effect of Earthquake on Textile Mills**

1817. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for the rehabilitation of craftsmen, weavers and artisans affected by earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce such a scheme for the craftsmen, weavers and artisans affected by famine in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some norms under the schemes of workshed and workshed-cum-Housing, supply of improved/modern tools and other implements and Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana has been relaxed as a special case to assist and rehabilitate the earthquake affected artisans and weavers of Gujarat State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Equity in Petronet LNG**

1818. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a French company has offered to invest 20 million dollars to pick up a 10 percent equity in Petronet LNG Limited a consortium of India's leading public sector undertakings for development of liquefied natural gas import and storage terminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the broad features of its operation in India;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with the said firm; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. M/s. Gaz de France International, a national company of France, which is importing an Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in Europe and operating LNG terminals for a long period, has obtained the approval of Foreign Investment Public Board (FIPB) for equity participation upto 50% in the paid up share capital of Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), a joint venture promoted by Indian Oil Corporation, Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. for developing, importation and transportation projects of LNG at Dahej (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala). GDF has invested a sum of US\$ 38 million approximately acquiring 10% equity share in PLL and signed an agreement in this behalf with the promoter oil companies of PLL on June 02, 2001 to undertake various activities for establishment of LNG terminals with re-gasification facilities of 5.0 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity at Dahej and 2.5 MTPA capacity at Kochi.

Use of Male Calves Through Bullock Tractors

1819. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for bulls further declined with tractorization and male calves are being sold off or starved off as appeared in "Business Standard" dated January 26, 2000;

(b) whether the Government proposals bring development cow and her progeny to alleviate poverty;

(c) if so, the reasons for destruction of valuable resource, and to withdraw subsidy on tractors; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote Bullock Tractors to save diesel etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Data on demand for bulls is not collected. Decrease in demand of bulls is consistent with increase in mechanized agriculture. The progress of mechanization in the country is not likely to decimate demand for bulls altogether.

(b) Both State and Central Governments are implementing a number of programmes to bring development of cow and her progeny. Providing livestock assets is one of the means recognized for alleviation of poverty.

(c) The practice of selling off or starving off male calves were prevalent even before tractorization in the country and the reasons for the same is linked to farmers perception on relative utility of animals and economic compulsions. There is no proposal under consideration for withdrawal of subsidy on tractor.

(d) Information on a newly designed bullock tractor have been circulated to all States/UTs for appropriate action.

Train Superintendent in Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani Express

1820. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to USQ Nos. 4126 and 2724 dated December 14, 2000 and March 15, 2001 respectively regarding Train Superintendents in Rajdhani Express and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The information has since been furnished to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 29th June 2001.

Pitroda Committee Report

1821. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pitroda Committee would be looking into the Indian Railways to make new recommendations for restructuring and profit making through efficient management of resources and modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether committees from time to time have been looking into these matters but their recommendations have not been implemented successfully; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Pitroda's recommendations would help in the light of absence of work culture as is happening in telecommunication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) to (d) An Advisory Committee was set-up to initiate a comprehensive process of modernisation of Railway system and for launching a new initiative for resource mobilisation, under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda, in February, 2001, for a period of six months. This Committee was dissolved with effect from 9.6.2001, due to non-participation of Chairman and a Member in the deliberations of the Committee. Since the Committee has not functioned for its full term, the work assigned to the Committee could not be completed. The recommendations of the Committees constituted in the past were considered at the appropriate time and wherever possible, the same have been implemented.

Purchasing of Demand Draft

1822. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway station are purchasing demand drafts from local banks and paying 2% bank charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for paying exorbitant charges to Banks;

(c) whether railways have to pay interest on overdraft;

(d) if so, whether railways propose to develop a software for immediate transfer arrangements with banks to save hundred crores of rupees as bank charges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Yes Sir, a few stations on North East Frontier Railway

& Western Railway are purchasing demand drafts from banks for station cash before onward submission to Railway cash office for deposition in Railway accounts.

(b) Normal bank charges are being paid for demand drafts. Efforts were also made to open more Government accounts with Public Sector Banks after obtaining approval of Reserve Bank of India for direct deposit of Railway cash at stations. However, even after opening more accounts with the banks, at some places the banks are unable to handle cash due to lack of adequate storage space in their Cash chest. This has also resulted in the stations being compelled to purchase demand draft to eliminate risk in safe transit of station cash.

(c) No, Sir, as the Railways do not have a system of overdraft.

(d) and (e) At selected stations, passenger booking through credit cards is already available. Further, feasibility of electronic transfer of funds is under examination in consultation with Banks and Reserve Bank of India. The matter is being pursued through certain pilot projects entrusted with Banks and once these projects proceed satisfactorily, the scheme will be considered for implementation and extension to other Railways in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and Controller General of Accounts. Further, at an average Rs. 3.59 lakhs per month only are being paid as bank charges on demand drafts by these Railways.

Improvement in Shipping Industry

1823. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the competitive strength of the Shipping Industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The improvement of the competitive strength of the Indian Shipping Industry is a continuous process. In order to have a level playing field for the Shipping industry to compete globally, the Government

has been taking various steps from time to time to give Shipping Industry the required boost. Shipping is a globally competitive industry and shipping companies continuously strive to live upto the requirements of competition. Government of India has taken a number of policy decisions in recent years. Some of the important measures taken are:—

- (i) All categories of ships viz.; crude tanker, Product Tanker, Bulk Carriers etc. have been included in the free list for import after the amendments in the Exim Policy for 2001-2002, to facilitate acquisition at competitive price;
- (ii) Ships (including second hand ships) can be imported freely now without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Shipping.
- (iii) Facility for Acquisition of ships through Bare Boat Charter-cum-Demise method;
- (iv) Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition;
- (v) The Shipping companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government;
- (vi) Quarterly Block Allocation scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with;
- (vii) Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods, without any value limit;
- (viii) Indian Shipping Companies can Time Charter out ships without any restrictions;
- (ix) 100 percent investment by NRIs in shipping with full repatriation benefits;
- (x) No permission is required for raising foreign exchange loans from abroad by mortgaging the vessel with the lender;
- (xi) Restoration of Section 33 AC (of Income Tax Act) benefits in its original form, thereby facilitating ploughing back of profits by Shipping Companies for new acquisition.
- (xii) The proposed Custom duty of 5% on import of Ships in the Finance Bill for 2001-2002, has been done away with.
- (xiii) Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for ships.

Generation of Employment by Aquaculture

1824. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Aquaculture is increasing the food supply and generating employment;
- (b) whether the Government have taken steps to encourage aquaculture by providing financial assistance; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Aquaculture is one of the growing food producing sectors in which production is constantly increasing. Out of the inland fish production of 28.23 lakh tonnes during 1999-2000, the contribution by aquaculture sources is estimated to be about 70%. The estimated employment generated through the fisheries sectors as a whole including aquaculture is about 7.38 lakh persons on full time basis and 7.13 lakh persons on part time basis.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, (i) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture; through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and (ii) Integrated Coastal Aquaculture in the States/Union Territories for promoting Aquaculture. Under Development of Fresh-water Aquaculture at present 426 FFDAs have been sanctioned for covering major potential districts in the country. Under the scheme, expenditure on developmental activities such as construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, fish feed, fertilisers, manures, etc.), running water fish culture, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, establishment of laboratories, training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments/UTs. During the last three years (1998-2001), the States/UTs have been provided central share to the extent of Rs. 2861.35 lakhs under the FFDA scheme. Similarly, under Integrated Coastal Aquaculture, a package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp growers is provided through 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) in the country. During the past three years (1998-2001), the States/UTs have been provided central share to the extent of Rs. 503.35 lakhs under the BFDA scheme.

*[Translation]***Neglect of Tourism Industry**

1825. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Karoro ke Kamai ke bawjood paryatan Udhog Sarkari Upeksha Ka Shikar" appearing in the "Rastriya Sahara" on July 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism for the year 2000 is Rs. 14475 crores. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, encourages the tourism industry in promoting tourism in the country. Various measures taken to develop tourism includes incentives to Hotel industry by way of interest subsidy, fiscal incentives, deduction in income tax, reduction in import duty etc., manpower development, promotion and marketing, investment facilitation, financial assistance for infrastructure and product development and use of information technology, etc.

"Tourism" as a subject is neither in the Union List nor in the State List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. Suggestions/views of the State Govts/ U.T. administrations and the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments have been called for on a proposal to bring tourism in the Concurrent List.

*[English]***Electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Rail Line**

1826. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for electrification of Ernakulam-Trivandrum broad gauge rail line during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total amount estimated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work was included in Railway Budget 1999-2000 and sanctioned in May 2001, at an estimated cost of Rs. 161.37 Crores.

(c) The work is targetted for completion by March, 2004, subject to availability of adequate funds.

Construction of Subway at Important Railway Station

1827. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to built some subways around the important stations of the country to ensure smooth flow of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of such railways stations particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(c) the estimated cost would be involved therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir, but only at a few stations in the current financial year. The details of the railway stations where subways have been planned so far are as under:

- (i) In Maharashtra, subways have been planned at Borivali, Virar and Dahisar at cost of Rs. 96 lakh, Rs. 228 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh respectively. In Karnataka, no subway is planned at present.
- (ii) In West Bengal, subways have been planned at Sealdah and Bidhannagar railway stations at a cost of Rs. 819 lakh. A subway is being constructed at Tollygunj Station of Metro Railway, Kolkata at cost of Rs. 650 lakh.

(iii) One subway is planned in Gujarat at Surat at cost of Rs. 145 lakh.

(d) Subway at Sealdah has already been completed and opened for public use. Works at other six subways are in various stages of progress and are planned to be completed in the next financial year subject to availability of resources.

Smuggling of Diesel and Kerosene

1828. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs. 5000 crore diesel, kerosene smuggling booms, Government bleeds" appeared in 'Indian Express' dated June 24, 2001;

(b) if so, whether smuggling of diesel and kerosene is taking place in parts along the Gujarat and Maharashtra coasts causing loss of revenue to the public exchequer of around Rs. 2500 crore per annum;

(c) if so, the details of the countries from where the diesel and kerosene is being smuggled, the persons involved and the modus-operandi adopted therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the said smuggling?

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

Enactment of Lok Pal Bill

1829. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) whether the National Commission set up to review the Working of the Constitution have suggested for an early enactment of the Lok Pal Bill and an effective Central Vigilance Commission legislation on July 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the other suggestions given by Commission in the consultation paper; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (b) and (d) The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution is in the process of finalizing a Consultation Paper and Questionnaire on "Probity in Governance" which emphasizes the necessity of undertaking certain legislative measures in the nation's fight against corruption and for ensuring probity in governance. The salient features of the Consultation Paper were released through a Press Note on 6.7.2001. The Consultation Paper itself with its Questionnaire is yet to be released for generating public debate and eliciting public opinion.

(c) and (e) The Government is yet to receive final report to the Commission on the subject.

Inspection of Companies

1830. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has ordered the inspection of books of accounts of 17 entities, allegedly involved in recent stock market scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this inspection is likely to be completed; and

(d) the extent to which these companies have allegedly involved in the recent stock market scam?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, the Department of Company Affairs has ordered inspection under the provisions of Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956, of the books of accounts and other records of 94 companies belonging to various groups, on the basis of SEBI's preliminary investigation report on the recent capital market scam. The inspections are in progress and are likely to be completed shortly. The extent to which these companies are involved in the above scam will be known on receipt of the inspection reports.

Train Service between India and Bangladesh

1831. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh has agreed to run passenger train services between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether agreement has been signed between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said train service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the running of Passenger Train Services between India and Bangladesh signed on 12th July, 2001.

(d) The date for starting the passenger train service between India and Bangladesh has not yet been finalised.

Production of Coco

1832. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Coco in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce any comprehensive plans for enhancing the production of Coco particularly in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The State-wise details of products of Cocoa in the country is as follows:

State	Production of Cocoa during (MT)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	150	150	771
Karnataka	1300	1325	1550
Kerala	3794	3686	4000
Tamil Nadu	37	37	40
Total	5281	5198	6361

(b) and (c) The Government is providing assistance for enhancing the production of Cocoa in the Country through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under the Scheme, the State Governments have been given the flexibility to prioritize their programme depending upon needs and requirement. The Government of Kerala has not included any programme for the development of Cocoa in the State in their Work Plan.

Linking of River Ganga with River Brahmaputra

1833. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link river Ganga with river Brahmaputra to facilitate navigational links;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States would be connected through the said river route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Waterway No. 1 i.e. the Ganga, from Allahabad to Haldia and National Waterway No. 2 i.e. the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya are

already linked through the waterways in Sunderbans and the transit routes through Bangladesh, under Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India & Bangladesh, which is renewed from time to time.

(c) The river route connects the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam.

Regulatory Agency for Dismantling of APM

1834. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory agency on the lines of TRAI after dismantling of the APM;

(b) if so, whether such a plan has been cleared;

(c) whether such a body would reverse the liberalisation trends after dismantling of the APM; and

(d) the role of such a body is likely to play after APM becomes inoperative?

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 the deregulated scenario, it will continue to be the duty of the Government to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products to meet the demand at reasonable prices, in all parts of the country. Further, there would be need to ensure that all the players follow the prescribed rules. It is, therefore, recognised that while Government will have an important role even in the deregulated scenario, an empowered body is required to be created

to cater to these needs. With these objectives in view, setting up of a "Regulatory Mechanism" for downstream petroleum sector is proposed. For the same reasons, a regulatory mechanism is considered necessary for distribution and marketing of natural gas. Further, with the participation of private oil companies in the exploration and production of oil and gas in the Indian basin, to ensure that exploitation of national mineral resources is optimal, regulatory mechanism in the upstream petroleum sector is also envisaged.

Pending Cases in Women Courts

1835. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 725 dated November 23, 2000 regarding women courts and state:

(a) whether the complete information from all the High Courts has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated by the Union Government to various States for setting up of women courts during the last three years, State-wise;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The available information is given in the enclosed statement. No funds are allocated by the Union Government to various States for setting up of women courts.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

Sr.No.	Name of the State	No. of women courts set up	No. of cases pending in women courts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	807 as on 31.12.2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
8.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil
10.	Karnataka	22	3021 as on 1.9.2000
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	Nil*	Nil
14.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
15.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil
17.	Punjab	Nil	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	4	1134 as on 30.11.2000
19.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
21.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil
22.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil**
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
26.	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil
27.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
28.	Delhi	6	2852
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
Total		35	7814

* 12 District Judges and Addl. Sessions Judges Courts¹ are hearing cases relating to atrocities on women.

** 2561 criminal cases are pending against women in 13 Judgeships.

*[Translation]***Rehabilitation of the people of Bhakra Dam**

1836. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the displaced persons of Bhakra Dam have not been rehabilitated completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether possession of the land has not been given to the displaced persons of Himachal Pradesh who have been allotted land in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) According to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), out of the 7206 families affected due to the construction of Bhakra Dam, 2395 families were rehabilitated by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in its own area. 2632 families were paid cash compensation as awarded by the competent authorities under Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The remaining 2179 families have been rehabilitated in Districts Sirsa, Hisar and Fatehabad in Haryana in accordance with the guidelines framed by the Bhakra Rehabilitation Committee and provided necessary facilities/amenities. No land was allotted to Bhakra oustees in Rajasthan.

*[English]***Outstanding Lease Rental Amount**

1837. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding lease rental amount from the port trust as on June 30, 2001;

(b) the reasons for not recovering these amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government has not leased any land to the Port Trusts. Therefore, the question of any outstanding lease rentals from the Port Trusts does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Food Processing Industries**

1838. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sufficient scope for setting up food processing industries in the States including Maharashtra especially in scheduled tribe and scheduled caste areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing industries so far set up in Maharashtra during the last three years and the number out of them set up in tribal and backward areas, location-wise;

(d) whether the number of industries set up is close to the target-fixed for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) The potential for processed food sector in the country including Maharashtra is immense in view of abundance of Agro Horticultural Produces. The scope for setting up of food processing unit in each region will depend upon several factors including the raw material availability.

(c) to (f) Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information regarding the number of such units set up in State-wise or area-wise is not maintained centrally.

*[English]***Alternate Route between Raipur and Visakhapatnam**

1839. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are Planning an alternate route between Raipur and Vishakhapatnam to shorten the distance;

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

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the ways to change the route or strengthen the existing track to speed up trains on this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the railways propose to use this sector to introduce alternate trains between Delhi and places in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Doubling of Titlagarh-Lanjigarh section is in progress and a survey for doubling of the Raipur-Titlagarh section has also been taken up. Track between Lanjigarh and Vishakhapatnam is already a double line.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Discovery of Tamil and Sanskrit Inscriptions

1840. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some landmark Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions were discovered and copies in foreign countries by various scholars in the past;

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

(c) the list of Epigraph scholars and expert linguists sent abroad by ASI to study these inscriptions and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to send epigraph experts to these countries to decipher, check and publish the Tamil inscriptions found there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) To date an extremely large number of Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions have been discovered and deciphered abroad. It would not be possible to give details in this regard, in view of the volume of data involved and the number of scholars, both in Indian & foreign who have been involved in this field.

(c) No expert has been sent abroad by Archaeological Survey of India for this purpose so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Scientist Sulks under Govt. Apathy

1841. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scientist sulks under Government apathy" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated May 30, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take up the case of a scientist and issue patent for his invention since the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has given the Scientist's product the certificate of both fuel efficiency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No Sir. The test conducted by the Indian Institute of Petroleum indicated that there was no improvement in thermal efficiency with the use of the device and the device did not show any saving of LPG. The Expert Group comprising members from Deptt. of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, LPG Equipment Research Centre, Bangalore, National Research & Development Centre, Delhi and Petroleum Conservation Research Association opined that the test procedure followed by Central Fuel Research Institute was not a standard one as specified for such devices.

Crimes in Trains

1842. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes are committed regularly in some long distance trains passing through Bihar and some other States;

(b) whether the concerned State Governments are not able to give the passengers due protection;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to depute Railway Protection Force in each coach of the trains passing through Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise as prevention of crime on Railways including running trains and escorting of trains for this purpose are the constitutional responsibilities of the State Governments.

Setting up of Bharat Darshan Parks

1843. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Bharat Darshan Parks at different places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial provision made therefor, project-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to set up Bharat Darshan Theme Parks — one each at Bangalore and Delhi — as part of commemoration of 50th Anniversary of Indian Republic. The proposal is under process in the Government.

Amendment in CR. P.C.

1844. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the 16th Law Commission for amending the Code of Criminal Procedure;

(b) the recommendations which have not yet been implemented alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons in judicial custody who were arrested for bailable offences, State/UT wise; and

(d) the time by which all the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (b) and (d) The Sixteenth Law Commission constituted with effect from 1st September, 2000 for a period of three years ending on 31st August, 2003 has not made any recommendation for amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in the form of a report.

(c) Requisite information is not being maintained.

Petrol Pumps in Andhra Pradesh

1845. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state to the number of new petrol pumps likely to be set up during 2001-2002 in Andhra Pradesh, location-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): In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 48 locations for setting up new retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Retail Outlet Marketing Plan 1999-2000 for the State of Andhra Pradesh. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products from the date of interview.

Task Force on Food Processing Sector

1846. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to constitute a task force to give impetus to the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the main performance of this task force;

(c) the total value of products in agriculture and horticulture sectors are likely to be produced and exported; and

(d) the extent to which this task force has achieved the aim of promoting food processing sector in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation of Tehri Dam Oustees

1847. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in rehabilitation of the Tehri Dam Oustees, indicating details of resettlement schemes with regard to urban and rural areas submerged, indicating the families uprooted and rehabilitated and land for housing and other purposes allotted/allocated;

(b) whether the rehabilitation of oustees is behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the expenditure so far allocated and incurred thereon and the extent of funds-crunch suffered and the delay caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The rehabilitation and resettlement of persons affected by the construction of Tehri HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) is being undertaken in two phases. While Phase-I relates to families affected by the construction of Cofferdam, Phase-II covers the families affected by the construction of the Main Dam and the impoundment of reservoir. The activities relating to Rehabilitation and Resettlement would be completed pari-passu with the completion of Tehri HEP. Details regarding progress of rehabilitation of urban and rural project affected families are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Against the provision of Rs. 862.57 Crores (at August, 1999 price level) for rehabilitation relating to Tehri Project Stage-I, an expenditure of about Rs. 600 Crores has been incurred so far. There has been no constraints of funds for rehabilitation works.

Statement

The Progress Relating to Rehabilitation of Urban and Rural Families

(I) Rural Displaced Families

Activity	Total Fully Affected Families	Families Rehabilitated/ Paid Compensation
Phase-I	2064	2034
Phase-II	2845*	435
Total	4909	2469

* In addition to these fully affected families, 3998 families are partially affected who are not to be relocated but are to be paid cash compensation for part of their land coming under submergence. Cash compensation has been paid to 214 partially affected families.

II. Urban Population

Description	Required	Constructed/ Developed	Allotted
Residential Plots	2438	2438	2438
Residential Flats	2853	2837	2596*
Shops	784	787	707*

* All the eligible persons who have come forward have been allotted flats/shops.

Production of Crude Oil

1848. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil produced in the country during 2000-2001, month-wise;

(b) the estimated consumption of crude oil during 2001-2002, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the import of crude oil in the corresponding year;

(d) the target fixed for the production of crude oil for 2001-2002; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The month-wise crude oil production in the country during 2000-01 was as given below:

Month	Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Production
April, 2000	2.56
May	2.71
June	2.68
July	2.78
August	2.76
September	2.69
October	2.77
November	2.71
December	2.81
January, 2001	2.82
February	2.44
March	2.70
Total	32.43

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Estimated consumption of crude oil in terms of crude throughput during 2001-02

State	Company	Location	Throughput in TMT	
1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	HPCL	Mumbai	5,850	
	BPCL	Mumbai	8,600	
	Sub total			14,450

(c) During 2000-01 a quantity of 74.097 MMT of crude oil valued at Rs. 65,932 crore was imported.

(d) The target fixed for production of crude oil in the country for 2001-02 is 32.50 MMT.

(e) Several important steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country, which include:

- (i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.
- (iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.
- (iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	IOC	Koyali	12,000	
	RPL	Jamnagar	27,010	
	Sub total			39,010
Kerala	KRL	Kochi	7,500	7,500
Tamil Nadu	CPCL	Manali, Chennai	6,500	
	CPCL	Nagapattinum	650	
	Sub total			7,150
Andhra Pradesh	HPCL	Vizag	7,500	
	ONGC	Tatipaka	52	
	Sub total			7,552
Karnataka	MRPL	Mangalore	10,502	10,502
Uttar Pradesh	IOC	Mathura	8,000	8,000
Haryana	IOC	Panipat	5,800	5,800
West Bengal	IOC	Haldia	4,200	4,200
Bihar	IOC	Barauni	3,500	3,500
Assam	IOC	Guwahati	900	
	IOC	Digboi	600	
	BRPL	Bongaigaon	1,800	
	NRL	Numaligarh	2,500	
	Sub total			5,800
	Total			113,464

BRPL : Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd.

BPCL: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

CPCL: Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

HPCL: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

MRPL: Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemical Ltd.

ONGC: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

IOC: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

KRL: Kochi Refineries Ltd.

NRL: Numaligarh Refineries Ltd.

TMT: Thousand Metric Tonne

Post Harvest Losses to Farmers

1849. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are heavy post-harvest losses to the farmers;

(b) whether to minimize these losses, the post-harvest protection and preservation methods are badly needed; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) While the exact quantum of post-harvest losses is not known, different studies have indicated varying degree of post-harvest losses in foodgrains. For example,

- A Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post-harvest losses in foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%.
- A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74 had estimated post-harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5%.
- A joint study conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 had estimated total post-harvest loss in wheat at about 4.12%.

In case of fruits and vegetables, according to a Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for the 9th Plan, the wastage of fruits and vegetables ranges from 8-37% at various stages of handling after harvesting, due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure and lack of cool chain handling like pre-cooling, reefer vans, etc.

(c) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post-harvest period, the Government of India launched Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. Training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level, improvement of grain storage structures and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, is

implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure and minimizing post-harvest losses:—

- (i) Capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce;
- (ii) Development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management of horticultural products.

[*Translation*]

Check on Virus Related Disease on Crops in Madhya Pradesh

1850. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the crops of soyabean, pulses and oilseed crops in Madhya Pradesh have been infected with the virus related disease in the last few years and the crops, especially Soyabean, Moong, Urad and Arhar have been struck by yellow mosaic epidemic;

(b) if so, the research work done by Indian Council of Agricultural Research to check these viral epidemics;

(c) if so, the research project granted/approved and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent these crop diseases;

(d) the details of research projects the ICAR propose to undertake in future;

(e) the immediate specific steps being taken up by the Government to check and control the spread of these crops disease; and

(f) the steps taken to check the decline in production due to the excessive growth of weeds in the cultivated area?

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

(b) Yellow mosaic disease is caused by gemini virus which is transmitted by white fly *Bemisia tabaci*, a common vector on these crops. The research thrust of ICAR is on development of improved varieties having resistance/tolerance to viral diseases. Developed varieties having resistance/tolerance to Yellow mosaic Virus are given in enclosed statement. However, no epidemic of Yellow mosaic disease has been reported in the last few years in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The names of the research projects and its location are given in enclosed statement. To further strengthen Soybean Improvement research in M.P. a new centre was provided during IX Plan at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Raipur under All India Coordinated Research Project on Soyabean.

(d) Genetic improvement of various crops including development of resistant/tolerant varieties and management of Viral diseases are being accorded priority attention.

(e) Growing resistant varieties, field sanitation, destruction of off-season volunteer plants are recommended for management of yellow mosaic virus disease.

(f) Need based hand weeding or pre-emergence application of Pendimethalin @ 1-1.5 kg/ha are recommended.

Statement

Centres located in Madhya Pradesh

Name of the All India Coordinated Research Project	Centres
Soyabean	Sehore (JNKVV) Jabalpur (JNKVV) Raipur (IGKVV)
Pigeonpea	Sehore (JNKVV) Khargaon (JNKVV)
Mungbean, Urdbean, Lentil, Lathyrus	Raipur (IGKVV)
Rajmash and Field Pea (MULLARP)	Sehore (JNKVV)
Improved Varieties having resistance/tolerance to yellow mosaic virus	
Mungbean:	Pant Mung 1, 2, 3, 4; Narendra Mung 1; PDM 11; PDM 54; ML5; ML 131; ML 267; ML 337; PBM 2; Pusa 9531; Pusa Bold 1.
Urdbean:	PDU-1; Pant U-19; Pant U 30; UG-218; Narendra Urd-1; KU 301; TU 94-2; IPU 94-1; KU 92-1; WBG-26.
Soyabean:	JS 79-81; KB 79; MAUS-1; NRC-11

[English]

Doubling of Jammu-Jalandhar Rail Line

1851. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the doubling work on Jammu-Jalandhar section was started and the extent of work completed so far alongwith the amount spent thereon;

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed and the expenditure is likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the amount allocated and released for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The work was included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. The physical work on this project would start once the requisite clearances are available.

(b) No target date has yet been fixed. The expected expenditure likely to be incurred on this project is about Rs. 335 crores.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 8 crores has been provided during the current financial year.

Criminal Justice System

1852. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Criminal Justice System's Reforms Committee to revamp the criminal justice system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the aspects likely to be examined by the Committee;

(c) whether any interim report has been submitted by the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government has set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice V.S. Malimath to suggest measures for revamping Criminal Justice System in the country. A statement on the details of the composition and terms of reference for the Committee is attached.

(c) to (e) No interim report has been submitted by the Committee. The Committee has been requested to submit its report within six months. That period is yet to be completed.

Statement

The composition of the Committee set up by the Government to consider measures for revamping Criminal Justice System is as below:

1. Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, Chairman
 2. Shri Justice T.S. Arunachalam, Member
 3. Shri S. Vardhachari, IAs (Retd.), Member
 4. Shri Amitabh Gupta, IPS (Retd.), Member
 5. Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences, Member
 6. Shri Durgadas Gupta, Joint Secretary (Judicial), Ministry of Home Affairs, as Secretary.
2. The terms of reference for the Committee are as under:
- (i) To examine the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence, including the constitutional provisions relating to criminal jurisprudence and see if any modifications or amendments are required thereto;
 - (ii) To examine in the light of findings on fundamental principles and aspects of criminal jurisprudence as to whether there is a need to rewrite the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act to bring them in tune with the demand of the times and in harmony with the aspirations of the people of India.
 - (iii) To make specific recommendations on simplifying judicial procedures and practices and making the delivery of justice to the common man closer, faster, uncomplicated and inexpensive.
 - (iv) To suggest ways and means of developing such synergy among the judiciary, the prosecution and the police as restores the confidence of the common man in the criminal justice system by protecting the innocent and the victim and by punishing unsparingly the guilty and the criminal;
 - (v) To suggest sound system of managing on professional lines, the pendency of cases at investigation and trial stages and making the police, the prosecution and the judiciary accountable for delays in their respective domains; and

(vi) To examine feasibility of introducing the concept of "federal crime" which can be put on List I in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Construction of Cultural Complex at Hyderabad

1853. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to consider 100% exemption U/s 80-G of Income Tax for donations made for the construction of Cultural Complex at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered this issue to support excellence in creative arts literature etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to constitute an "A.P. State Cultural Foundation" in order to promote, disseminate and support excellence in creative arts, literature etc., and for the construction of a Cultural Complex at Hyderabad.

In order to complete the Cultural Complex, donations are proposed to be raised from donors and also from industrialists/philanthropist, etc. The Government of India was requested to provide 100% exemption from Income Tax to be provided to the donors under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

(c) The Ministry of Finance has turned down the request of 100% Tax exemption.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Free Supply of Foodgrains to Famine Affected States

1854. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains supplied by the Union Government to the famine affected States free of cost are being utilized by the State Governments properly; and

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains alongwith the number of beneficiaries among whom these were distributed in the Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) if not, whether the Government would deliberate upon constituting any monitoring committee to keep a check on their proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir Foodgrains were allocated free of cost to the drought affected States under Food for Work Programme. The responsibility for implementation of the Scheme is that of the State Governments concerned.

(b) and (c) 4.07 tonnes to rice were allocated to the State free of cost under Food for Work Programme. According to available information, more than 8 crore mandays have been generated in Chhattisgarh. The responsibility for implementation of Food for Work Programme lies with the State Government concerned. Central Government, however, monitors the progress from time to time.

[English]

Transportation Facility of Coal at Paradeep Port

1855. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for creation of mechanised coal handling transport facilities at Paradeep Port for thermal Power Plants is funded by Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of the Paradeep port project; and

(d) the target date for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The entire cost of the project is Rs. 831.11 crores including Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance of Rs. 550.00 crores.

(d) The project has started trial run and is expected to be operational by September, 2001.

Construction/Modernisation of Cold Storages in N.E. States

1856. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage taken up for construction, expansion and modernization by the National Horticulture Board in the States during 2001-2002;

(b) whether North-East states have also been given priority in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present state of storage arrangement in each of the States of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a scheme entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through the National Horticulture Board, an autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Under the scheme, 40 projects have been sanctioned in the States during 1.4.2001 to 29.06.2001.

(b) The scheme itself envisages providing back-ended capital investment subsidy to the North-Eastern States @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project as against subsidy @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project for other States.

(c) The distribution of cold storages as on 31.12.2000 is as below:—

Name of State/UT	Number of Cold Storages
1. Assam	19
2. Nagaland	01
3. Tripura	03
4. Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh.	Nil

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3863/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) The Cost Accounting Records (Mining and Metallurgy) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 276(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (2) The Cost Accounting Records (Electronic Products) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 277(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (3) The Cost Accounting Records (Chemical Industries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 278(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (4) The Cost Accounting Records (Engineering Industries) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 279(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (5) The Cost Accounting Records (Motor Vehicles) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 280(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (6) The Cost Accounting Records (Steel Plant) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 281 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3864/2001]

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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (Regulation of Marketing) Order, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 241(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2001, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3865/2001]

- (2) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3866/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3867/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998:—

- (i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Medical Facilities) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 3/15/99-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2001.

- (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. L-7/25(1)/2001/CERC in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3868/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3869/2001]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3870/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3871/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987:—

- (i) The National Dairy Development Board Workmen (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. DEL : NDDDB in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2001.

- (ii) The National Dairy Development Board Officers' (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. DEL : NDDDB in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3872/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- () Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3873/2001]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Study Tour Reports

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following study tour reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

- (1) Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Limited; and
- (2) Central Warehousing Corporation.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recent Incident of Killings in Village Sirsawan, District Moradabad*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, the incident regarding killing of six persons in Village Sirsawan, PS Bhojpur, District Moradabad on the night of 22nd/23rd of July, 2001 had been raised by some hon. Members on the 24th of July. I have had the facts ascertained from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

In the second half of July, there were three incidents of violence in Western Uttar Pradesh with the same modus operandi. In all the three cases, the attack was above the neck, on the head and face; the attack was made when the members of the families were sleeping; no distinction was made between men, women and children; metal rods and lathis were used in the attack and causing deaths was as important to the perpetrators as loot. Officers tell me that this is the modus operandi of certain tribes which had been notified earlier during the British period as "criminal tribes".

Of the three incidents, the one at Sirsawan was the worst. In this incident, six persons died — three on the spot, one while being taken to hospital and two during treatment. Thirteen persons were injured. The killed and the injured were living in two houses on the outskirts of the village. One house was occupied by Anwar, S/o Ali Muhammad and his brother Bhure alongwith their family,

*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 3874/2001.

while the other house was occupied by Muhammad Hanif, his brother Nabi Muhammad and family. The modus operandi was the same as described above — persons were attacked on the head and face by lathis and metal rods while they were sleeping. All investigations to date point to the involvement of members of the erstwhile criminal tribes.

Another similar incident occurred in Meerut District, where on the night of 17th/18th of July, three members of the family of Shri Rishipal were killed while they were sleeping in their house on the outskirts of Kasba Mawana in Meerut District. Shri Rishipal, his wife, son and daughter were beaten on the neck, head and face by lathis and metal rods.

And in the third such incident, on the night of 26th/27th of July in Lakhimpur Kheri, an attack was made in which three persons were killed and four persons were injured in identical fashion while they were sleeping in the house of Shri Mahesh Agarwal.

In Sirsawan, none of the villagers is reported to have heard any commotion or seen any of the assailants. One Sub-Inspector of Police, who was on night duty reached the place of occurrence promptly and dispatched the injured to hospital. On information, senior police officers also reached the spot at once. Combining operations were carried out. The Dog Squad was deployed as also the Field Unit. As investigations clearly indicated this to be the handiwork of members of certain tribes notified earlier as 'criminal tribes', all the districts where such tribes are to be found have been alerted. I must inform the House that these gangs are highly mobile and they move far across the countryside in order to commit crimes, but concerted effort to catch the perpetrators are on. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted with two officers of the rank of Additional Superintendents of Police and a number of other police officers.

Armed forces have been deployed in the village. The Circle Officer is also camping there. Arrangements have been made for the medical treatment of the injured. The State Government has given an assistance of Rs. 1.25 lakh for the treatment. A reward of Rs. 25,000 has been announced by the IG, Bareilly Zone to any person giving clues which may lead to the arrest of culprits. We shall be monitoring the action being taken.

12.05 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move "That this House do agree with the Twenty second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st August, 2001."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st August, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

UTI's US-64 Scheme

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is an announcement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received 42 notices of adjournment motion regarding deplorable conduct and the manner in which the UTI's US-64 scheme had been put to jeopardy

causing total crisis of confidence of the small investors on the Government and UTI due to deliberate omissions and commissions on the part of various authorities including the Finance Ministry from the following Members:—

1. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
2. Shri Basu Deb Acharia
3. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
4. Shri Rupchand Pal
5. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi
6. Begum Noor Bano
7. Shri M.K. Subba
8. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
9. Shri J.S. Brar
10. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
11. Shri Rajkumar Wangcha
12. Shri G. Puttaswamy Gowda
13. Shri V.M. Sudheeran
14. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
15. Shri K. Suresh
16. Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari
17. Shri K.H. Muniyappa
18. Shri Naresh Puglia
19. Shri Charanjit Singh
20. Shri Adhir Chowdhary
21. Shri Gajendra Singh Rajukhedi
22. Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela
23. Shri Sujan Singh Bundela
24. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
25. Shri Bherulal Meena
26. Shri K. Basavana Goud
27. Shri ShriPrakash Jaiswal
28. Shri Savshibhai Makwana
29. Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary
30. Shri Vilas Muttemwar

31. Shri E.M.S. Natchiappan
32. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
33. Shri N. Janardhana Reddy
34. Shri George Eden
35. Shri M.O.H. Farook
36. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar
37. Shri K.A. Sangtam
38. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
39. Shrimati Margaret Alva
40. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
41. Shri Dahyabhai V. Patil
42. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh

I give my consent to Shri M.K. Subba who has secured first place in the ballot to move the motion in the following form:—

"Mismanagement of US-64 funds by Unit Trust of India adversely affecting the small investors and failure of the Government to take timely action to prevent it."

Shri M.K. Subba, meanwhile in his letter received by me today, has requested that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may be permitted to seek leave of the House and initiate discussion in his place.

I have accepted his request. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I seek leave of the House for moving the Motion for Adjournment regarding mismanagement of US-64 funds by Unit Trust of India adversely affecting the small investors and failure of the Government to take timely action to prevent it.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who are in favour of leave being granted for moving the Adjournment Motion may rise in their places:

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER: I find the number is more than the requisite number.

So, leave is granted. Under Rule 61, the Adjournment Motion is to be taken up at 16.00 hours or at an earlier hour.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): It may be taken up at 1400 hours...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): It may be taken up at 1400 hours. The House would need more time.

MR. SPEAKER: As per the rule, it is to be taken up at 16.00 hours only or at an earlier hour, that is, 1400 hours. We can take it up at 1400 hours also. It is to be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We can take it up at 2 o' Clock.

MR. SPEAKER: That is, at 1400 hours. Under Rule 62 not less than 2 hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion.

I propose that the discussion on the Adjournment Motion may be taken up at 2 p.m. and voting may take place at 6.30 p.m. Therefore, we would get 4 hours and 30 minutes for discussion.

I hope the House agrees.

The party-wise time allocation is as follows:

1. BJP and other parties represented in the Government	2 hours 05 mts.
2. INC	55 mts.
3. CPI(M)	17 mts.
4. TDP	15 mts.
5. Samajwadi Party	14 mts.
6. BSP	08 mts.
7. AIADMK	05 mts.
8. AITC	04 mts.
9. NCP	04 mts.
10. RJD	03 mts.
11. INLD	02 mts.
12. PMK	02 mts.
13. Small Groups (CPI/RSP/ABLC/AIFB/MLKSC) Combinedly	07 mts.
14. Independent/Single Member Party	09 mts.

I urge upon the hon. Members to stick to the time schedule so that the discussion may be completed within the stipulated time.

12.14 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORIES AND THE GOVERNMENT ON NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

Shrimati Renu Kumari — not present.

Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House the ghastly incident that took place in South Rajasthan...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 2.8.2001.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, let the hon. Home Minister be here. I am raising a very important matter.

I would like to bring to the notice of this House the ghastly incident that took place in South Rajasthan two days back. A mob destroyed a century-old mosque there. This happened just as the Babri Masjid was destroyed during the time of the Congress rule.

This mosque is destroyed in Rajasthan where the Congress Party is ruling. No culprits are arrested. Nobody is taken in custody. No case is registered. I would like to know from the Home Minister whether he has enquired about it and whether any action has been taken. This House should be informed about it.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): I have also given notice on this subject. *...(Interruptions)* It is a very unfortunate thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: In the 'Zero Hour', you cannot compel the Minister to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already noted. Ready-made statement is not possible in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the matter and the hon. Home Minister is in the House. He has noted the issue raised by you. What is this? You cannot compel the Minister to make a statement. He has to ascertain the facts also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has noted the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want any information on this from the Minister, you can also meet him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has to ascertain the facts. How can the Minister make a ready-made statement?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can meet the Minister also. He has noted the issue raised by you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When I called your name, you were not here. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am here, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call Dr. Girija Vyas also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, deforestation has been taking place in a terrible manner in Madhya Pradesh. In this regard, the Supreme Court has passed a stricture against the Government of Madhya Pradesh while delivering its verdict in response to the Public Interest Litigation. The involvement of mafia groups in Madhya Pradesh in nexus with the politicians and officers of the State has lead to a serious crisis. The Adivasi people living in these forests for the last several decades have not been given the land on lease even for cultivation while the mafia in connivance with the politicians and bureaucrats are indulging in large scale and unchecked deforestation. A recently published report has stated that if this deforestation is not stopped then the Madhya Pradesh will convert into a desert.

Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Union Government to immediately intervene in this regard. On one hand the Government should make arrangement for providing the forest land on lease to the Adivasis by making amendment in the Forest Act 1980 and on the other it should make efforts to check this on going deforestation so that the Madhya Pradesh could be saved from being converted into a desert.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A serious situation has arisen because of a circular issued by the Medical Council of India by fixing 40 per cent of marks for the Scheduled Tribe candidates seeking admission in the medical course. Sir, in my State, in West Bengal, where 40 seats were reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates in medical course, only five Scheduled Tribe candidates were found eligible as they have obtained 40 per cent of marks as fixed by the Medical Council of India. Because of this circular, a large number of the Scheduled Tribe candidates could not get admission in the medical colleges.

The 82nd Constitutional Amendment Act has inserted a proviso for relaxation or lowering of the standard of evaluation so far as Article 335 of the Constitution is concerned. It is being violated. If the 40 per cent mark is fixed for the Scheduled Tribe candidates also, then the reservation will be meaningless.

So, I demand that there should be relaxation for the Scheduled Tribe candidates seeking admission in medical colleges so that the reservation for the Scheduled Tribe candidates are properly maintained...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Please allow Shri Lahiri to mention what happened yesterday in the Vithalbhai Patel House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling him also.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a fire broke out in the ordnance depot at Bharatpur in April, 2000 resulting in the loss to the tune of 393 crore rupees. Similarly, fire broke out in the ordnance depot in Kanpur on 28th May, 2000 followed by a blaze in Pathankot ordnance depot and in Suratgarh ordnance depot Gangnagar district in April, 2001 which affected thousands of villages. Now there has been fire in ordnance depot of Shakurbasti in June, 2001. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. When the fire incident in Bharatpur ordnance depot took place, you had ensured to hold discussion over it under the Rule 193.

Thereafter fire broken out at various other places. These ordnance depots belong to the second world war era and the most serious thing is that the Government had made provision for allocating an amount of 4000 crore rupees during 2001 for the modernisation of three ordnance depots but this amount has not been spent for the purpose. At present only 30 percent of the total ordnance depots are safe while the rest of them are vulnerable and are unsafe. These depots are not safe as per the report of the Auditor General of India. L.B. Suku Committee, constituted after the fire incident at Bharatpur ordnance depots has submitted its report and it is necessary to publish it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like that a discussion should be held over it under the Rule 193.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Samik Lahiri, I think, yourself, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and Shri Hannan Mollah have given notices. I have received four notices for raising this matter in the 'Zero Hour' from Members regarding the incident of thefts and security lapses at the official residences of some of the Members. I am calling for an action note in this matter. So, I will give my consent later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Four of you have given notices. I have called for the facts. Please wait for some time.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Yesterday, when I came to attend the House, in-between the burglars entered my residence. ...(Interruptions) I would like to give you one information. About 60 hon. Members are staying there. The Government has provided only one constable and one home guard for 50-60 Members who are residing in Vithalbhai Patel House. Yesterday, the hon. Home Minister was informing the House about one thing...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Samik Lahiri, you can better raise it tomorrow because I have called for the facts.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: All right, Sir. Thank you very much...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have got 30 notices. I am calling you one by one. Is there any objection to you if I call the other names?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Sir, a little while ago some hon. Members demanded discussion over a mosque in Rajasthan.

Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that peace prevails there and the status quo has been maintained. The damaged part of the mosque and temple has been reconstructed. Both side are in favour of peace and they have resolved this issue amicably. I would like to appeal to all the hon. Members of the House that we favour peace and communal harmony, hence instead of inciting passions assist in restroation of peace.

SHRI TARACHAND SAHU (Durg): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though a large number of public undertakings are there in our country yet unfortunately most of those have turned sick. As per my information the employees working in HSCL and BRL have not been paid their salaries for the last 18 months and 8 months respectively which has lead to a serious crisis. The employees were forced to opt for VRS. But they have not been paid their dues as yet. A package was sent to the Government but it has not been cleared. The Government was also given a 45 days Notice ending on 9th August. Today is 2nd. If the package is not cleared within the remaining period of one week then it will be worried up. I hail from Durg Lok Sabha Constituency. The biggest steal plant of Asia, Bhilai Steel plant is situated in Durg. A serious crisis has emerged there. Chhattisgarh is known as a peaceful area. However, the employees are resisting to agitation owing to the non payment of salary. Hence the ending package should be cleared.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice to raise a State subject. It is an issue between the State and the Centre.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this is with regard to the transfer of three I.P.S. Officers on deputation by the Central Government. Is it a State subject? Please understand that it is not a State subject. ...(Interruptions)

We are sitting here quietly. We do not rush to the well of the House. Please allow me to raise this matter. ...(Interruptions) I gave notice yesterday itself. Please allow me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the people of our country are very much concerned about corruption. It is the consequence of the wrong policies of the party which has ruled the country for over forty years but the present Government has to bear brunt of the present of corruption. I am also very concerned about this problem. Today, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards specific issue. It has recently been reported in newspapers that 11 cases of Petrol Pump allotment are going on against a senior leader of Congress, who also served as a Minister. He is also charged with transferring precious foreign exchange of the country in the name of his family Members. Another former Minister has been accused of large scale FERA violation. All these has been reported by the newspapers. It is an act of corruption and these sort of incidents are time and again being raised in the House. Four days ago this news was published in the "Indian Express" that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): You disclose the name of the Minister.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: It is not proper to disclose the name of the Minister in the House. He is no more a Minister. It is a very serious issue. The probe into this matter is continuing but I am apprehensive that the foreign exchange of the country is being transferred either in Benami accounts or in the name of the family Members of the concerned person. Today such persons neck deep in corruption are in politics and are levelling allegations against the Government. I demand that truth must came out...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Pravin Rashtupal will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No no; I have called Shri Pravin Rashtupal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that other hon. Members have also to raise important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rashtupal says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the matter. Why are you disturbing the proceedings of the House?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter...(Interruptions) It is a case of corruption...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Other hon. Members have yet to raise important matters. Now, Shri Pravin Rashtupal will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I have called Shri Rashtupal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing a Member from your Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you should not show it like that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow others to speak.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

India is a signatory to the Declaration on Human Rights by the UNO in 1948. The Constitution of India, framed in 1950, has given certain rights to the citizens of India in general and to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes in particular. I am particularly referring to the rights given under articles 15, 16, 17, 25 and 46, etc., of the Constitution of India.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in particular regarding the 'Durban Conference' that is going to take place in the last week of August and the first week of September. I attended the Geneva Conference in my private capacity in the month of May this year. I am shocked to know that the Government of India which is a democratic country and one of the biggest countries of the world, has taken a stand that the issue of caste discrimination in India will not be allowed to be discussed in the World Conference. Why? I want to know about that from the Government of India.

I belong to the Scheduled Caste. Only last January, this Parliament has extended the reservation period for the Scheduled Castes for another 10 years. It proves that the things have not improved in rural India.

The UNO have decided the topic of the World Conference: 'Discrimination on the basis of racism and xenophobia and other intolerant issues based on descent and work'. If there is discrimination in this country against minorities and the Scheduled Castes in this country, the issue must be allowed to be discussed in the UNO Conference. So, I want that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may give a reply to these particular points. Why has the Government of India taken a negative stand? Why is the Government of India not allowing the issue to be discussed in the World Conference?...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this is a serious matter affecting the independence and the study powers of the IAS and the IPS officers. The Central Government, in a unilateral decision, transferred on deputation three IPS officers from Tamil Nadu Government to Delhi.

Sir, without the concurrence of the State Government, without obtaining the consent of the officers concerned, they have been transferred. The willingness of the Central Government has also not been intimated to the State Government and the consent of the State Government has not been obtained. They have passed a unilateral order. They have transferred them on deputation.

The matter arises this way. The concept of deputation has been rightly upheld by the Supreme Court in various decisions. An officer cannot be transferred without his consent, without the knowledge or without the concurrence of the State Government.

Here, three IPS officers have been transferred. They are guided by Rule 6 (1) of Indian Police Service Cadre Rules 1954. Therein, it has been clearly said...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that this House is going to discuss the transfer matters also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Sir, he cannot raise this issue here...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: This is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who is going to reply to this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, under Rule 7(1-B) of All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, the Central Government is fully empowered to institute disciplinary proceedings and impose penalty/punishment against any All India Service Officer. The State Government is bound to render all reasonable facilities to the Government of India for conducting such proceedings...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the Central Government has the authority to transfer any All India Service Officer...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has said that if the security and independence of IAS and IPS officers is threatened then it will not be in the interest of the unity of India...(Interruptions) Sir, they do not know the law, they do not know the procedure, they do not know the rules...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, how can you discuss transfer matters in the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I will not be cowed down like this...(Interruptions) Sir, what is this?...(Interruptions) Am I not entitled to speak?... (Interruptions) Sir, these three officers were doing their duty in maintaining law and order there...(Interruptions) Sir, two Central Ministers were arrested for violation and for offending the law and for preventing these officials from discharging their public duty...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, you have raised the matter now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I would like to bring to your notice the background of this case. These three officers, a Commissioner of Police, a Joint Commissioner of Police and another Joint Commissioner of Police, were discharging their duty...(Interruptions) Sir, in the case of these two Central Ministers, they violated the law and they were arrested on charges of preventing these officers from discharging their duty...(Interruptions) Sir, can the Central Ministers prevent any officer from discharging his official duty?... (Interruptions) There is no law in India, there is no provision in any law that the Central Ministers can go to a State and prevent officers from discharging their duty...(Interruptions) Sir, the Central Ministers are not above the law...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please. I have allowed Shri Chandra Shekhar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, we have great respect for you and for the House but we may also be allowed to speak...(Interruptions) Sir, he cannot raise this matter in the House like this...(Interruptions) Sir, they have also dismissed two officers. I would like to know under what capacity...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the children are watching the proceedings, please understand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Why are the hon. Members agitating like this?... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Raghunath Jha has read out a quotation. I fully agree with him that the Central Government has every right to punish an IAS or IPS officer. That is true. But the Central Government has not got the authority to transfer any officer without giving the reason. This has been the tradition all through 50 years that if any officer is called for deputation, the consent or

concurrence of the State Government is taken and without that it has not happened for the last 50 years in this country.

If you want to establish a new rule, nobody can stop you...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I want the Central Government to withdraw the order. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: I want to remind Shri Chandra Shekharji that he had also created a precedent to dismiss the DMK Government without the recommendations of the Governor. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Planimanickam, no cross-talk please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a constitutional issue has been raised. I remember that when the police officers entered the House of hon. Karunanidhi at half past two in the night and misbehaved with him and manhandled him causing him injuries and dragged him...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is this?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Malhotra says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time everybody including Reddy Sahab, Congress Party, Chandrasekhari strongly objected and severely condemned this incident and commented that if any Chief Minister, M.P., former Prime Minister or any other politician is treated and injured in the manner by any police officer...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: There was no misbehaviour.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the entire country was jolted after watching the incidence on T.V. and the need of the hour was to impose President's Rule (Article 356) in Tamil Nadu after dismissing the Government but this step was not taken...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is this?...(*Interruptions*)

You cannot threaten us, that is, the State Government...(*Interruptions*) You do it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that when the directive from the Centre was given instead of penalising that guilty police officer efforts are on to protect the accused police officer. I am of this firm opinion that the Tamil Nadu Government should comply with the Centre's directive and it should remain prepared to face any punitive measure in case it fails to comply with the directive.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, will you speak on the same matter?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Yes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are, at the moment, not discussing the merits of the incidents of that particular day or night. We

are discussing the specific steps taken by the Central Government. As Shri Chandra Shekhar has rightly pointed out, this has been done for the first time in the history of independent India...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Under what circumstances?...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Central Government has not behaved in a *bona fide* fashion.

It has apparently worked under the pressure of its NDA partner. ...(Interruptions) If this step is to be proceeded with, Sir, the State Governments in future will refuse to take IAS and IPS Officers. It will endanger the Centre-State relations. It has serious complications for our federal polity. Therefore, the Government of India should review it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, if they behave like this, we will not allow anybody to speak everyday. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, he is interfering in the rights of the Members of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Kunwar Akhilesh Singh says.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have called Kunwar Akhilesh Singh to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion are held every year on the issue of floods in which Members of both the ruling party and the opposition give their suggestions for solving the problem. However, it is a matter of regret that no effective steps have been taken in the country for solving the problem of recurring floods even after 54 years of independence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rivers entering into India from Nepal are causing a lot of destruction in large area of the country. I would like to mention that the rivers entering India through the Indo-Nepal border contiguous to Uttar Pradesh are causing havoc in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar rendering crores of people in these areas homeless.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 48 hours ago floods in rivers like Jharhi, Sonia Nullah, Mohav, Rohin and Rapti entering India from Nepal on U.P. border have caused havoc in Maharajganj and Sidarth Nagar Janpads of Uttar Pradesh. A large part of Bihar is also affected by floods. The hon. Minister of Water Resources is present in the House. I would like to bring to his Notice that the Government has not taken any preventive measures to tackle the flood problem and also flood relief works management in missing due to which there is lot of resentment in the people and a sense of insecurity is also prevailing...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Raghunath Jha, and Shri Nawal Kishore Rai can also associate with Shri Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, the devastating flood has affected crores of people and has also caused damage to the property in Orissa. Similarly it has caused damage to life and property in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar also but the Central Government are not doing anything for their relief. Therefore, through you I would like to say in the House that the Central Government are running away from its responsibility. In Uttar Pradesh the Bhartiya Janata Party is in power and the National Democratic Alliance is in power at the Centre. I would like to demand from both these Governments to provide immediate relief to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar keeping in view the fury of flood in these States. The hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh talks of scarce resources. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Water Resources to provide additional funds to save Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from the fury of flood and also send a Central team to the flood affected areas to take stock of the situation...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, five years back a foundation stone was laid for gauge conversion work of Pipad-Bilara line by the then Railway Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan...(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The hon. Minister should also tell us whether an India-Nepal Joint team has been set up to formulate an action plan to tackle the situation of devastating floods in India and Nepal caused by the rivers originating from Nepal?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are not allowing the Minister. What is this? I think this is too much.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation is alarming in our region. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nawal Kishore ji, I called your name to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: There is a saying in Marwadi that the order does not change with the change of the officer the Government's order does not change with the change of the Government. Five years have passed after the foundation stone was laid for gauge-conversion work on which Rs. 15-20 lakhs were spent. I have been trying for one and half years but the Ministry of Railways has not spent even five rupees on the gauge-conversion of the said line and the work has not been taken up so far. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait a minute. Is there anything from the Government please?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy can also associate with what Kunwar Akhilesh Singh has said.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Sir, as far as flood in Bihar and UP is concerned, I will certainly get information from the

concerned States. If you allow, I may make a statement tomorrow or day after, whenever you desire.

MR. SPEAKER: That is good.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: The then Minister of Railways had announced that the said gauge conversion work would be extended upto Bar which will benefit the western Rajasthan. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government and would urge to take up the said gauge conversion work.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO is going to be held in November in Togo. Be it wheat, be it rice, be it rubber, be it pepper, be it coconut, be it oil seeds, be it mustard, be it even other vegetables and everything, the farmers of India are in great distress. There are some agreements relating to agriculture, which are going to be amended. I would like to say that there is an imminent need for a clear discussion on the issue because the Government should take up the issue very seriously before the WTO when the Conference is going to be held in November in Togo. It concerns all the State Governments and also the Government of India. The Government of India's representatives, I am told, have already taken steps in this regard but we would also like to be informed. The House, which is supreme, should be informed in this regard, and we should get an opportunity to say what the people feel about it. So, we should have a full-fledged discussion in this regard. I would also say one word with regard to the feelings of some of the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, do you also want to speak on this subject?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you can also associate with what Shri P.C. Thomas has said. The Government is also going to reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am waiting all along for this. I shall give my own version. As a Member, that is my right...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Former Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs.

I would suggest that before having a full-fledged discussion, if a meeting of the representatives of all Parties can be called, that will be good enough. But anyway, we should have a discussion. I would also submit that the farmers who are cultivating rubber and coconut are in great distress. In my State, the main cultivation is rubber and coconut.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please understand this is not a debate. This is 'Zero Hour'. You can mention it in two minutes' time and get the information from the Government. What is this?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The farmers are in real distress. With regard to rubber, I would specifically say that it has been taken up as an industrial produce while it is actually an agricultural produce. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have only one point to submit. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate yourself with what he has said.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is a decision by the Kerala High Court in this respect. The decision is that as per the provisions of the Rubber Act, the Central Government is directed to declare a floor price. That has not been done so far. That is also to be done. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can only associate with him. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the hon. Member Shri P.C. Thomas has raised an important issue about the WTO Conference and said that India should take a stand that would protect the interests of Indian farmers. From the Government side, I would say that I entirely

agree with him. I will communicate his feelings to the Minister of Commerce and Industry that the hon. Minister, before the November Conference, should have wider consultations with political parties, leaders and State Governments in formulating the Indian stand. At the same time, I totally agree that this House should also discuss this subject.

This Conference is to be held in November. I think, it would be before the Winter Session. So, before this Session ends, it would be better if we discussed what stand India should take in the WTO Conference for protecting the interests of Indian farmers and Indian industries. I am very keen that this discussion should take place in this House so that the Government can create a consensus and also get the guidance of all hon. Members.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, the problem of getting safe drinking water is almost universal in India. Thousands of village areas are not getting safe drinking water but I want to draw the attention of the House to one specific problem.

In West Bengal, in nine districts, the underground water is contaminated with arsenic. It is nobody's creation; it is a natural problem. The Desert Development Fund is used where there are deserts. If an anti-salinity scheme is there in a specific area, it is utilised. So, the Central Government should have a specific plan for specific problems. Arsenic contamination in water is a specific problem in nine out of the seventeen districts of West Bengal. About four crore people are affected as it is creating incurable diseases. Thousands of people are being crippled when they consume the arsenic contaminated water. It is a very serious and a specific problem of West Bengal. So, like the Desert Development Programme for desert areas, there should be a specific programme for this specific problem in West Bengal. My request to the Government is that it should not be mingled with other programmes. A specific scheme should be evolved. Earlier, the Central Government would give funds but the Ministry of Rural Development has stopped giving funds for cleaning the water. This is a very serious problem and I request the Government to take a serious stand. A scheme to tackle the arsenic problem should be formulated by the Government and funds should be provided to solve this problem.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): My only submission is that the Government should not discontinue the projects that deal with this problem of arsenic contamination in water.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a matter of grave importance that is creating a great resentment and increasing tension, especially among the Muslim minorities.

A report has been submitted to the hon. Prime Minister under the style, 'Reforming National Security System'.

13.00 hrs.

Wild and baseless allegations about *madrasas* have been made in this report, and it is said that the *madrasas* in our country, the Islamic *madrasas* that are teaching in our country, are a threat to communal harmony and national security. It makes such wild allegations that extremist teaching is being done in these *madrasas*. Now, Sir, I ask the Government....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bantawalla, where is that report? Are you authenticating that report?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The report has been given to all the Members. Copies of the report, I think, all the Members have received. At least, I have received from the hon. Home Minister with a covering letter and with warm regards. The matter has also appeared in the newspapers. The *madrasas* are being harassed. A countrywide harassment of the *madrasas* is going on; especially in U.P., *madrasas* after *madrasas* are being harassed.

Sir, I ask the Government that in case there is any concrete evidence with the Government, then let that evidence be placed on the Table of the House. Otherwise, Sir, the Government must make it very clear that it does not subscribe to the observation about *madrasas* in this particular report submitted to it by a Group of Ministers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is speaking, this report of the Group of Ministers is speaking, the language of the *Sangh Parivar* and creating tension. An entire minority community is being made a subject of suspicion. Our *madrasas* which are teaching the peaceful tenets of Islam are being targeted and are being harassed. The Government must make a statement saying that it does not subscribe to the baseless allegations. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue, which is contradictory to what Shri G.M. Banatwalla has been telling. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is necessary that the nation must be satisfied. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except the submission of Shri Patil.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: I have to make a very important statement on this issue. It has happened in the city of Jalgaon in Maharashtra. I do not know about the information that Shri Bantawalla is referring to. But the *madrasa* in Jalgaon has trained almost nine people from Pakistan. They have trained the Pakistanis and they are planning to plant bombs in Nagpur, Sambhaji Nagar District and Aurangabad. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except the submission of Shri Patil.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, the Hizbul Mujahideen, the terrorist organisation, has started this. Two days ago, those nine people were caught by the DSP of Jalgaon. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are raising the issue, and at the same time, disturbing the House. What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, I request the Government to check up such activities that are taking place in the City. It happened in Jalgaon. Therefore, I urge the Government to look into it. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I got a report. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri K. Francis George is speaking, would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Union Commerce Ministry is planning to declare a statutory minimum price...(*Interruptions*) There has been demand of the farmers for the last several years to mitigate the hardship of the rubber growers. ...(*Interruptions*) It is the duty of the Central Government to...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the remarks made by Shri Patil are objectionable. They should be expunged from the records. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I would go through the records and if there is anything objectionable it could be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, so I would like the Union Government to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court immediately and declare a Statutory Floor Price for rubber...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Union Commerce Ministry has been directed by the Supreme Court to declare floor price for rubber under section 13 of the Rubber Act...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaturvedi, please take your seat.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called his name. After him you can get a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy has raised this point. I have already told that I will go through the records and if there is anything objectionable, it can be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, now the Ministry of Commerce is planning to declare a statutory minimum price. We must understand the distinction between these two. If floor price is declared, then the Government would be legally bound to procure rubber when the price of rubber falls below the floor price.

Sir, to circumvent this direction of the Supreme Court, the Commerce Ministry now, it has been reported in the Press, is planning to declare a statutory minimum price. This is a blatant violation of the direction of the Supreme Court and that of the direction of the Kerala High Court. To declare the minimum floor price has been the demand of nine lakh rubber farmers who are now in a fair amount of distress for several years. The Government has been saying off and on that they are considering the demands of the rubber farmers.

Sir, there was a practice before 1991 when the Government every year used to declare the floor price. But now after the onset of the liberalisation policy, this practice has been done away with...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George, this is not a debate. Please understand that. Would you like to say everything during the 'Zero Hour' only?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I would like to request the Government to comply with the directions of the Kerala High Court and the Supreme Court and declare the floor price for rubber at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen
of the Clock.*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Adjournment Motion. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to initiate the discussion.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, what about Matters Under Rule 377?

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Sir, will the Matters Under Rule 377 be taken as laid on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up after the Adjournment Motion.

14.02 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

UTI's US-64 Scheme—Contd.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I beg to move:

"That the House do now adjourn."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the small investors of the country and on behalf of our party, I initiate this Adjournment Motion. I shall explain the reasons for bringing this Adjournment Motion a little later.

Only yesterday the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, and poet Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a very interesting statement. Sometimes poets come out with revelations of the truth in their own way. He said and I quote,

[*Translation*]

"It is a rainy season, so the clouds will come in, but that will also disappear. This is certain."

[*English*]

I understand that the Prime Minister was very much concerned over the clouds over his Government relating to telecom scam, the clouds over his Government relating to customs scam, the clouds over his Government relating to the ongoing process of disinvestment, and finally, the clouds over his Government relating to the tussle between the PMO and the Ministry of Finance as to who will bear the responsibility for this scam unheard of in the century - we can call it the scam of the millennium — the US 64 scam.

Our distinguished Finance Minister, while making his Budget Speech this year, made a very interesting, very appropriate statement. He said that his Government would not spare people who do things.

[*Translation*]

Clandestinely.

[*English*]

The same Finance Minister is not justifying that he is unaware of what happened. He was quite aware of the activities of those who are doing things.

[*Translation*]

Clandestinely.

[*English*]

but his Ministry was totally unaware of the activities to those who were doing things.

[*Translation*]

brazenly.

[*English*]

The situation has come to this stage.

When the Prime Minister said yesterday "Badal Chatenge Bhi", he meant that they will disappear. I do not know as to who will disappear from the Treasury Benches. I cannot say whether it would be the Finance Minister, or the Telecommunications Minister, or the Prime Minister himself. I do not know whether the rain will come from the Shiv Sena's or from any other side among themselves. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, we have nothing personal against Shri Yashwant Sinha. The Congress Party does not score points on individual's issues or individuals as such. We are here addressing, through you, an important institution of the country, the Finance Ministry. At the behest of the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the ship is now being captioned by our Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha. After the 2nd July story came, in his first and instant reaction, he totally denied his responsibility about this matter as if he was totally unaware of what was going on in the UTI. He said, he was not in the knowledge of what was happening in the corporate sector and the UTI as has been predicted in the BJP's national executive resolution. The BJP made it very clear in its national executive resolution that there was a nexus of the corporate house, the UTI and the promoters. In its resolution, the BJP like any other political party, said that it wanted corrective measures taken

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

immediately. But there the BJP failed to include one word. Is it a nexus only between the corporate house and the UTI? Was there no other link in the entire net?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to question anybody who is not present in the House. But I am sorry, I cannot but quote today's newspaper linking the innocent man, Shri Ranjan Bhattacharya with all this. He is not linked with the Finance Ministry but I do not like to elaborate now as to where he is linked, I am not questioning anybody. I am only reading out what he has said...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): You are denying and quoting also this is wrong...*(Interruptions)*. This is a convention that you cannot speak like this about the person who is not present in the House...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he only said...*(Interruptions)* I am supporting Ranjan Bhattacharya who said very sincerely...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat. You will get a chance to rebut.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he said very politely...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I cannot even support- I am supporting Ranjanji. He himself admitted that the governance of the country has reached to such heights that even his daughter or any member of his family who has UTI shares has to talk to the Chairman of the UTI, Rajlakshmi for the redemption of the units. The governance of the country has reached to this level. I am talking of the governance, what is in it to feel otherwise. A common man cannot ring up to the Chairman of the UTI for redemption of his units from the UTI. I am saying that it was done under compulsion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What you all are doing?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said that he was not in the knowledge of it and he knows nothing about it. But his Ministry's spokesman, a Joint Secretary, Shri Bhagwati, in an interview on July 31, 2001 has said: "It is a fact. We are not told about the gravity of the situation. The Finance Minister has been repeatedly seeking reports on US-64. But they have been evasive"

Sir, I am not quoting anybody else but the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance who gave a public interview that the Finance Minister was trying to seek reports of the on-going developments, and the reports which came to him were evasive. It gives a clear message that the Finance Minister could not control the situation which was going on there, and the queries of the Finance Minister have not been responded to by the UTI.

If this defiance involving the interest of small investors to the tune of Rs. 2 crore is being encouraged and supported by no less than the Finance Minister, does it give him any credit to captain the ship and remain as the Finance Minister? I am not quoting anybody from the Congress Bench; I am quoting from his Joint Secretary's interview.

It means, he did try to ascertain the facts. It means that he was in the knowledge of it.

But you have not been complied with the requirements and the answers that you are desired to take. It is on 31st July. Now, who is in the Unit Trust? Let me spell it out.

Unit Trust is not managed by the Members of Parliament in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Unit Trust is not managed by one or two representatives from the Small Investors' Forum, including Shri Kirit Somaiya, my distinguished friend from the BJP. Unit Trust is managed — I will take the names — by the Chairman of the IDBI, a permanent member of the Trustee. Is IDBI not answerable to the Finance Minister for all its activities? Who represent the meetings? The Chairman of the State Bank of India is there. Who else are there? The Chairman of the Syndicate Bank is there. Who else are there? There are a few others also. Among the few others, of course, the Director of India Growth Fund is there. There are several things and I will mention one.

Mr. Finance Minister do not take it personally; I am not casting any personal aspersions on you. There is

another gentleman in the Board. Shri Kirit Somaiya is not present here; otherwise, he may justify the nexus more than me. Who is there in the Board of the Unit Trust? Shri Nimesh Kampani, the Chairman of J.M. Financial Investment Consultancy Private Limited is there who is also the Chairman of J.M. Morgan Stanley who is valuing the Air India's property as the global adviser who had to resign from the Board of Directors, Tata's Company after having been questioned by the Media as to why he is having the nexus when he is valuing the Tata Singapore Airlines bid. So, he is also there. In which capacity he is there? He is there in the Advisory Board of Mutual Fund. Unit Trust of India these days is being called as United Thieves of India and that they are mutually sharing the fund. I will cite one example very quickly.

One of the Tata Power Units got the benefit of this UTI scam, to the tune of Rs. 150 crore; that Company is also there in the Board of Trustees who is also the global advisor for disinvestment. He is involved in the Advisory Board of Mutual Fund. These are not brought to the notice of the Finance Minister or he is unaware of the Annual Report, which was Tabled in this House in 1998-99.

Who else are there? The Director of Gujarat Ambuja Cement who is involved directly in the share market. What is the transparency that the Prime Minister claimed before the public during the elections? He said that his Government would deliver goods and that there would be total transparency. The man who is questioned every day in the share market for their own internal trading, is an insider of the Unit Trust, against whom they are investigating and who is sitting there in the Board.

The Finance Minister says that even this was not in his knowledge. These people were in the Board. This was not brought to his notice. They were doing all those things and if he says like this, then I would say to the Finance Minister, with all my regards to him, that he does not deserve to head the Finance Ministry at all. The Finance Minister is one of the finest men; I met him when I was doing my political work for a few years. He could politely come here in Parliament and say that due to various reasons he could not monitor it and so, he is relinquishing his Office. I am not charging him for his commissions. I am charging him for his omissions; and omissions are also to be answered and accounted for.

They placed the Report in Parliament, in this very House, and in the Report, they made a mention of other schemes, not only US-64 scheme. They mentioned about

Master Gain, Master Plus, Minimum Income Plan, etc. In that Report they said that there was a Chinese Wall. It says that the fund managers are saying that there is a Chinese Wall between schemes. Is it not a fact? Mr. Finance Minister, the whole nation is looking at US-64 Scheme. Now, US-64 Scheme is a dead scheme.

The gentleman sitting there, Shri Nitish Sengupta, the distinguished Member is more knowledgeable than me of the inside functioning. In regard to other schemes like Master Gain, Master Plus, MIP, etc., money to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore has been taken out and pumped out, risking the fate of those people.

The Finance Minister will admit that even that was not in his knowledge. In April and May there was redemption to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crore by the corporate houses. The Finance Minister had himself told in this House the story of the Black Friday. He himself had expressed his disgust to the behaviour of the share market pattern. He said it in Press Conference, CII platform and also in the House. March to May was the crucial period. Is it a fact that from March to May you had no meeting with Shri Subramanyam? I say with all responsibility that during March to May they were all meeting you and Shri Subramanyam to explain the latest situation of the Unit Trust investment. You can straightaway deny in the House what I am saying. Can you deny that on the 18th of May and between 12 to 15 June, several communications had reached you from the UTI Chairman itself, in regard to the inside affairs? Did you take any review meeting? You only officially acknowledged your Finance Secretary, formally or informally, that the Chairman of the Unit Trust is so powerful, so desperate or arrogant that he did not bother to talk to you or to convey to you anything. He only informally conveyed to your Finance Secretary on 3rd of June that on 2nd July they were going to take a decision of this nature. On 30th of June, after having received the message, you told, 'let them announce what they do and then I will react'. Do you want the Parliament to understand that you did not know anything and everything was done by them?

You have a Joint Secretary monitoring the capital market. What is his job in the Finance Ministry? It is to inform the Finance Ministry as to what is going on in the market. If your Finance Secretary does not do it, I can understand the position of the Finance Minister. From the days of Pandit Nehru, even in the last Ministry before the earlier Government, was there any occasion when four consecutive Finance Secretaries were changed one after other? We have the example of Dr. Kelkar,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Shri Ahluwalia, Shri Kumar and Shri Mankad. There was a constant shifting. At no other place the shifting was going on. Only the Finance Secretary was shifted one after other. I would not say this was done at whose instance, though I have the information. People, who have been in Government, say that the key position of the Finance Secretary is often changed either on the desire of the Finance Minister or on the joint understanding of the Finance Minister. Maybe, you thought that you need a more competent man who could give more guidance and monitor things best. Can you deny Dr. Kelkar? It is on record, when Deepak Parikh Report was submitted, it was Dr. Kelkar — for whom I have the highest regards — who did the first inside monitoring meeting with the UTI in the North Block. What happened thereafter? Whatever you will say today will be the property of the House. Sir, I am not trying to dramatise the issue.

I request the Government, that too Shri Advani, to assure us that there would be total security of life inside the custody for all those who are in detention now, right from Shri Subramanyam to others. This is because I know that the time will not be too far — maybe next week, this fortnight, this month or even after two days — when the revelations will come. When we depose before Parliament, it is sacrosanct. Equally, as per our Constitution, deposition made before the Judiciary will have its due weight and should be debated in public.

Now, why I am talking about security? I am not blaming you, Mr. Finance Minister, if the BJP's National Executive Resolution is so strong. The nexus between corporate houses and UTI will remain. The nexus is revealed with all its actions, ramifications and reflections. The security of the precious lives of all those who have been detained by the CBI is extremely important till the entire trial is not over.

I am not going to quote several thousand pieces from the newspaper. I salute the business media of India. In this hour of crisis, they stood by the small investor to reveal more than what the Minister of Finance revealed, and to reveal more than what UTI revealed. You can drag the media. A few days back in Agra, it was said that they were pro-Musharraf. But in the case of UTI scam, I salute the business media. It is they who brought the revelations one after another. In spite of the fact that water was flowing over the head of North Block, you felt it was not the time to react; you only said that it was not brought to your notice and that it is the behaviour of the share market, and that you could not do anything. UTI was collapsing, but what could you do? It is the behaviour of the share market. Today, the *Economic Times* revealed

in their dot.com about 546 funds in the State Bank of India but what can you do? It is the behaviour of the private parties with the bank. Tomorrow, LIC will collapse, but what can you do since it is the behaviour of the LIC with the policy holders and the investors? He can only say that he is the Minister of Finance and he will remain so as long as the Prime Minister keeps him the Minister of Finance.

Please do not treat this issue as a political issue between the Opposition and the Government. I know you had an occasion in the same House in August, 1995 to score a point on the highest equity investment in one major company of this country called Reliance in 1994 by UTI. Nobody, was spared including Dr. Manmohan Singh or the Congress Party or any Tom Dick and Harry in public life on that day. In the collective wisdom of the Government of the day right from linking it with the Harshad Mehta scam to the investment by UTI, it referred the whole matter to a JPC as well as to CBI. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in all humility, I can say that not a shred of evidence was found by the JPC to point a finger at somebody to say how many times his telephonic conversation have been fixed. There was nothing in the CBI report to this effect that could be placed in the court. But this very Government, SEBI and CBI placed their affidavits in the Delhi High Court about the total innocence of the then policy makers in the matter. I am not going to argue about it. You can do it. It does not mean I am defending anybody. I am only trying to say that the equity investment started going up and started giving profit to UTI to the tune of more than Rs. 800 crore. Even that does not satisfy me because one day it can be a non-risk investment but the other day it could be a risk investment. But when this major crisis came in 1998 and the Government bailed them out from the taxpayers' money with a package of Rs. 3300 crore, and in all its wisdom appointed Deepak Parekh Committee, what was the duty of the Minister of Finance from that day? You gave them Rs. 3300 crore. You appointed Deepak Parekh Committee. You got the report which categorically said that Net Asset Evaluation is a must. The report said that equity investment increase should not be encouraged. Yet the Minister of Finance sat idle on that matter till 2nd of July claiming to the whole world that Indian Government's transparency does not demand at the moment to go into it. If Shri Advani does not know what is happening in Doda and if he says that he does not know what is happening in Prime Minister's house concerning the security of his life, then Shri Advani does not deserve to be the Minister of Home Affairs. I am not saying you are corrupt. I am not saying you connived. I am only asking you to discharge your constitutional responsibility. The

accountability to Parliament demands that you should be in know of things. Yet, if you could not control things, then you do not deserve to be a Minister. Even if you had made the queries, as per your Joint Secretary's report, and they did not respond to you, then also you do not deserve to head the Ministry. If it is a fact that share market behaviour had been reported to you that how much have been off loaded from April to May by UTI, and that was not brought to your knowledge, then also you do not deserve to continue as a Minister.

If you resign as an individual, I will be too unhappy as if I am losing a friend from the treasury benches. In *Mahbharata*, it was Drona or Arjun or which side wins, but it is the truth which has to prevail. And the truth is that Mr. Finance Minister had kept the entire Cabinet in the dark including the Prime Minister on what was going on. he kept the Parliament in the dark as also the small investors. One fine morning, he said, "I did not know. What can I do?" I am not going into the revelations of the telephone tapes. Whatever is there is recorded. Any officer has the right to talk to any other officer in the Government, in the State Bank or anywhere else. I am not going into that. What I am now concerned with is when Mr. Subrahmaniam revealed something, you said in Parliament, "No, no. He is tuned with the Opposition. Please do not do that." Yesterday, that officer was enjoying your blessings. If today, for his follies, you make him the scapegoat, delinking all his connections in the political high-up and suddenly try to say that all are safe, then I think it is not so. This is my point.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would very sincerely like to get answers from the Finance Minister for a few questions. Yesterday, our great Prime Minister, our quiet Prime Minister, our noble Prime Minister, our patriotic Prime Minister, our parliamentarian Prime Minister who led the Opposition for many decades and from whom as a student of politics I had to learn many parliamentary skills, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said magnanimously in the other House, "Let there be an allegation on the PMO. Let there be an investigation." I accept this humble offer. I accept his magnanimous offer. But who will investigate? The Finance Minister cannot investigate whether there was any involvement of the PMO in the matter and the PMO cannot investigate whether the Finance Minister was wrong. I know that a Cold War is going on for the last seven days. From North Block, he kicks the ball and it goes to the PMO and the PMO kicks it back and it comes to the North Block.

I want to say, without casting any aspersions, that let the conduct of the PMO and the conduct of the Finance Ministry in regard to UTI be objectively examined by a JPC separately. Let all the files be placed and let the duplicate tapes, if at all there are any, as per the deposition of the Counsel, or as per the statement of Mr. Subrahmaniam and others recorded in the newspapers also be placed before the JPC. Let the JPC go into them and come out with the objective understanding of the whole issue and place it before the House. Till the JPC does not completes its job, according to the words of our hon. Prime Minister,

[Translation]

Till the clouds are removed will it not be proper for the Finance Minister to quit his post

[English]

like Mr. George Fernandes? I thank Mr. George Fernandes. He said as the Defence Minister. "Let the investigation go on in whatever manner. Till then, I will not be in office." And he went out of office. If Mr. George Fernandes of your Cabinet could establish that tradition, can not you do that? Can't you do that to maintain better standard of parliamentary life in our country, for probity in public life and accountability of the Finance Minister to Parliament? Can you not do that?...*(Interruptions)* There is nothing wrong in it...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Arun Jaitley, it is not the convention of Parliament. It is the Parliament's desire that counts. Parliament is supreme. Do not count it on a political angle. Parliament belongs to you. Parliament belongs to me and the entire nation. And the Joint Parliamentary Committee is not a battle field to score political points...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Did any body resign during your regime?...*(Interruptions)* Do you have any such example?...*(Interruptions)* a lot of scandles have taken place during the last fifty years, but did any Minister resign...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt, Shri Vijay Goel. This is too much. The Finance Minister is present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, here is Mr. Madhavrao Scindia sitting. He had set an example. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to ask the Finance Minister a few questions. Can he list out the companies which were kept in private placement and their stake in the UTI in the current year? Let the UTI list out those companies which went for the purchase from the open market. What is their present state of affairs? What did they quote and what is the present price? I myself can supply this information, but the Finance Ministry must have more information about them. Shri Arun Jaitley is the Minister of Law. He knows the Company Law well and he knows the behaviour of share market also well. It is a known fact that before I go to the open market, I have to go to IPO to give my public offer. Which are the companies which came to UTI to settle with the UTI with a view to go for public offer and later on did not go to IPO at all? Can the Finance Minister list out those names? Is it available with the Finance Ministry right now? Or do they need some more time to table that information in the House? If you place this information, the whole nation will know crystal clear whether there is any weight in the accusation of the media and the Opposition. Was there any clandestine understanding? Or was there any political operation? Or was there any operation by the vested interests in the entire scheme which brought ill-health to the UTI? If the Minister has this information in his possession, let him place it on the Table of the House. If he does not have that, let him seek the permission of the Speaker to take some more time to place that information on the Table of the House. Let Parliament know the facts. I can take the names of many companies. We are not obsessed with Cyberspace. Cyberspace is only an example. It is only a tip of the iceberg. First the UTI has taken a decision not to invest in this company. Maybe, later some calls must have been made in the name of *Rajyalakshmi* or in some other name. After all, taking the name of *Lakshmi*, whether it is *Rajyalakshmi* or Goddess *Lakshmi*, is not a crime in financial matters. Ultimately, the decision was changed by the UTI.

The important matter is Cyberspace's link with the City Corporation Bank. If you go into the depth of its dealings with the City Corporation Bank, you will find the truth I am not blaming the Prime Minister. We also invite him for many functions, requesting him to

inaugurate this and that. He obliges us. He is not to be blamed for that. But it is the Prime Minister's Office which has to meticulously work out all these details as to where he is going, whether there is any cloud or not etc.

[Translation]

Whether clouds are still there or they have been removed? When the Prime Minister reached the cyberspace, till then the clouds were not removed. They are not removed till now.

[English]

Maybe the Prime Minister was misled by the Prime Minister's Office.

[Translation]

What can the Prime Minister do, Public invite him and he is unaware.

[English]

The Finance Minister had either deliberately misled the Cabinet and the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's Office must have made use of the Finance Ministry and the Finance Minister for their operations. I cannot say who is wrong and who is correct. It has to be probed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

In this august House, if the Government has the guts to say that it claims transparency; it wants to book the culprits; it wants to know the truth in the interest of joint investors and it does not mind to have a JPC once again, I would bow down. Till then, the hon. Finance Minister should not hold the office in keeping with the dignity of the office, in terms of accountability and in honouring the sentiments and interests of small investors. The Finance Minister does not find time to check whether vacancies in the Board have been filled up or not. The Finance Minister does not find time to ask as to why the UTI is not complying with the requirements as far as its functioning is concerned. I think he is a good man. He is a good human being and a saintly figure but not a competent Finance Minister to take care of the Finance Ministry and fulfil his accountability to Parliament. Therefore, he should resign. If he is not resigning, then the ball goes to the Prime Minister's court.

[Translation]

To remove the clouds remove the Finance Minister, announce the constitution of J.P.C. and then see the picture of the N.D.A. and then the resolution of the B.J.P. would be announced.

[English]

I conclude by requesting the hon. Finance Minister to reveal the truth. My request will be followed up with demands from several hon. Members. I would again request him to reveal the truth and not the half truth; to disclose all connections. I would further request him not to build up the connections. Mr. Minister, please clear the cloud as the hon. Prime Minister desires. To clear it, please, for God's sake, for the time being, as Shri George Fernandes is spending his time in doing other work, get out of the Ministry and allow things to be processed so that the truth is revealed. Then, you can come back. We will all honour you.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion which has been placed before this august House by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, it is not a court of law where Shri Yashwant Sinha needs to be defended by a lawyer. In the normal course, the hon. Members from the BJP should defend him. The fact is that they need the services of Shri Arun Jaitley...(Interruptions) Are they so much fed up with him that Shri Arun Jaitley should defend the hon. Finance Minister who is very shaky?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The hon. Law Minister must clarify whether he is standing here as the Law Minister or he is standing in this professional capacity. They are so shaky that they require Shri Arun Jaitley to defend them ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Time is very important. Do not waste your time. This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: In what capacity is he speaking?

MR. SPEAKER: He is a Minister. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Why are they worried when Jaitleyji is speaking...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat, why are you speaking.

[English]

Shri Goel, this is too much. The hon. Minister is on his legs. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, she is on a point of order. You have not given her the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, she should quote the rule. Without quoting the rule, how can she raise it?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This is an Adjournment Motion relating to Lok Sabha...(Interruptions) He is a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Is the hon. Law Minister speaking in his capacity as the Minister? He is a Member of Rajya Sabha...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking as a Minister, not as a Member of Rajya Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, he is speaking in his capacity as a Minister, not as a Rajya Sabha Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, please take your seat.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He is a Rajya Sabha Member. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking in his capacity as Minister and not as a Rajya Sabha Member.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Ruling Party should have a Member from the Lok Sabha to initiate the discussion. He can participate later. Let him not initiate the discussion. *...(Interruptions)* Do not set a wrong convention, Sir. *...(Interruptions)* Do not set the wrong precedent. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you wasting the time of the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order. In his capacity as a Minister, he is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. It is pointed out, perhaps on a lighter note, as to in what capacity I was standing up to oppose the Motion. It is certainly not in my professional capacity because that does not belong to me, and my friend on the other side would recollect that in my professional capacity I could defend, all, including the Members on that side.

Today, I stand here to oppose the Motion. Once the issues are cleared, I can assure Shri Dasmunsi that the issues will be as clear as daylight. There will not be any clouds even on a sunny day for him to see. Unless the right questions are addressed, we perhaps will not be able to find the right answers as to what really went wrong with the US-64, with the Unit Trust of India and as to when did the problems really start. Many statements have been made in generalities and while making those

statements in generalities, the hon. Member, who moved the Motion, really ought to have answered some of the issues which he tried to raise.

He is very right. US-64 was the first scheme which was envisaged under the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963. He said that this was the scheme intended to have an assured return to millions and millions of investors. It was, therefore, a scheme whose substantive character for several decades was a debt-related character; the equity component of the scheme was very limited because most of the investments of UTI under the US-64 scheme were made in different bonds, securities, and interest-bearing securities.

US-64 started accumulating income, very safe income. A small part of its investment went into the equity markets, so much so that in 1992-93 — I am not linking it up with which Government was in power at that time — the equity component of US-64 was only 28 per cent. Therefore, if there were fluctuations in the market, if stock market did collapse, it happened after the stock market scam. Seventy-two per cent of its investment was such that the stock market really could not directly influence US-64.

When did this character and how did this character really change? It was between the period from 1992-93 and 1995-96. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said that it should have been a debt scheme and asked as to when it became really an equity scheme. He is right that it did become an equity scheme substantially except for the fact that he should have reminded the House of the figures that it became an equity-linked scheme between 1992 and 1996. There was 28 per cent equity in 1992 and in 1996, this 28 per cent equity component became 66 per cent equity component; only 34 per cent of US-64 was in debt instrument, the rest of all were equity-linked. By 1997-98, that is, before this Government came into power — though UTI is a continuing entity, Governments may come, Governments may go, but the small investors' interest remains the same — 70 per cent of US-64 had become linked to the equities. So, from a debt fund it had become substantially an equity fund and when it became an equity fund *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he forgot to mention that in 1997-98 it was mostly linked with the public sector.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I am extremely glad that he said this because there lies the real issue when the problem with US-64 started. He has rightly linked it to the public sector, but I wish he had made this point in

his remarks when he had initiated the discussion. So, with a 66 per cent in 1995 and 70 per cent equity-linked character in 1997-98 of US-64, what are the obvious consequences? The stock market moves up, the net asset value of US-64 moves up. The stock market falls down, — it collapses — there is a reduction in share values and the net asset value of US-64 goes down. Even today, it moves in the vicinity of about 70 per cent plus. The character has not changed much. He is right when he says that it was linked to this character really as far as the policies at that time were concerned.

Therefore, the first point for consideration is that US-64 became a 66 per cent or a 70 per cent equity-related fund between 1992 and 1997 and it remains a fund with that character. The Deepak Parekh Committee had said that it should be restored back, but restored back in such a manner that it does not disturb the markets so that the share market does not collapse any further. If you go into the values, this itself shows a very interesting factor. That is the second reason as to what added to the problems of US-64.

In 1991-92, the total equity exposure of US-64 was Rs. 2,905 crore and, therefore, if the stock market fluctuations took place, it was only this investment of Rs. 2,905 crore that could be affected. A large part of it was outside the equities. In 1997-98, the equity exposure had increased from Rs. 2,905 crore to Rs. 13,647 crore. Therefore, during seven years, Rs. 2,905 crore becomes Rs. 13,600 crore, the percentage becomes 66 and then 70 and, therefore, it became far more vulnerable to the fluctuations of the stock market. So, a statement was made that the fluctuations in the stock market do influence US-64. In a few months from now, I hope the stock market will move up and at that time the net asset value of US-64 will again move up. 70 per cent of its values today are linked to the stock market unless it is restored back.

Sir, the second important question, which he has just now raised is with whom this additional equity of Rs. 10,742 crore was invested. He can make a big issue out of an investment of Rs. 32 crore and some private placements. I will deal with the private placements as to when this culture of private placements was started, what the commentators on this subject have to say on a particular transaction that he has vociferously defended.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will you also elaborate while speaking on the Nesle? What is the loss of the pre-1998 equity investment and what is the loss of post-1998 equity investment? Kindly give that in a very transparent manner.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I think, we will have to straightaway deal with that question. The entire fund is a fund as a whole. Therefore, taking a fund as a whole, I deal with the investments. If you wait for the next sentence, you would get the answer. This figure of Rs. 10,742 crore was the increased exposure to the equity market during 1990 and 1997. Where did the largest chunk go into? You defended one transaction when you felt that there was an attack being made on some leader. It was not an attack on anybody. I shall also refer to it but not attack anybody. It is only a serious issue that we have to ponder over. That was not the largest investment. Of these Rs. 10,742 crore, Rs. 4,572 crore were the single largest component when US-64 was asked to pick up shares in the name of disinvestment of minority shareholdings which were being disinvested during the period 1992 to 1996.

We have debated in this House in the last one-and-a-half years on several occasions. There is a clear division of opinion on how disinvestment is to be made. The present Government has started a process that we call a process of strategic sales. We always believe that in the process of strategic sale, a bidding process must invite the private sector and the best bidder would get a sizeable section of the shares. The private sector pays for it entirely. The private sector takes over the management of the company. There is some governmental representation because Government also has equity. This is done by a bidding process. They bring in fresh capital and fresh technology. In this process, they try to run the companies in which disinvestment or privatisation takes place. This process has been criticised. During the criticism of the statement, it was repeatedly said that no, no, the process was started by us in 1991, that is, pick up two per cent, five per cent, seven per cent of PSU shares, offload them in dribs and drabs into the market and compel the market to pick them up. But the market at times is cleverer than us. The market picks up those investments that are likely to show lucrative results. The market does not perceive some shares to be very attractive. Therefore, an ingenious scheme was brought about in 1992. The scheme was: we divide all shares into three categories, that is, the good PSUs, the moderate PSUs and the loss-making PSUs, bundle them each into one and sell the bundles. Nobody picked up the bundles. Because we have to balance the Budget, we have to show that there has been some disinvestment. So, we asked US-64 for this Rs. 10,742 crore of equity exposure and picked up those bundles and shares to the tune of Rs. 4,572 crore.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think, Shri Arun Jaitley, you are totally misguiding. Post-1990 investment till this date is not there. Please correct me if I am wrong. What is the investment on the given package — the information technology, Kajaria Chemicals, Mavalika Spinning and others? What about the numerous investors? ...*(Interruptions)* Are these delivery investments?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Shri Dasmunsi, that is in addition to disinvestment. Therefore, the figure which I have given you is the one when you disinvested minority shareholding. Then, you found nobody picking up. You bought the fund manager of the small investors of India - US-64. You started picking up public sector shares to the extent of Rs. 4,572 crore. It was this that became the largest single component of the US-64 investment which converted a debt-related fund into an equity-related fund. It did not end with that. It did end with this. It is not that this became the largest component. Kindly see how Unit Trust of India was being managed. The Unit Trust has to be managed on commercial considerations. He is right when he says that decisions of operational nature of Unit Trust of India cannot be taken in North Block. The Board is an autonomous independent body, they have to take it.

Now the Board started declaring dividends. After making this investment, the Board declares dividends, in 1994-95 — 26 per cent, in 1995-96 — 26 per cent, in 1996-97 — 20 per cent. Where did you get this 20 per cent and 26 per cent dividends to declare? Perhaps some elections were round the corner. Therefore, to pay this dividend, you resorted to again a non-commercial practice of UTI Board. In 1994-95, they picked up Rs. 686 crore from the reserves, in 1995-96 Rs. 1147 crore from the reserves, and in 1996-97 Rs. 390 crore from the reserves.

So, each year, declare a dividend which is very high and which is not in consonance with the profits earned and in order to declare this high return, interest or dividend, eat into the reserves and then eating into the reserves resulting into the situation that on 30th June 1998, kindly make a mental note of the date, the US-64, had a negative network of Rs. 1098 crore. Therefore, in mid-1998, first you make it invest in those equities, it invests in those equities which are not perceived to be lucrative because the policy of the Government was involved. Then you declare the dividend, which is disproportionate or at times, even inversely proportionate to the profits earned and suddenly you find that US-64 has a negative network on 30th of June 1998.

Now, this entire negative network on 30th of June 1998 was certainly not a creation of Shri Yashwant Singh, who only had two months as Finance Minister till that period.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let us share the responsibility up to that. The Government of the day might have interfered in the investment decisions of UTI and pressed for that. So, he is interfering, he should admit it...*(Interruptions)* If they see the political tune, he was the Finance Minister in Chandra Shekhar Government also.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Therefore, Rs. 1098 crore was the network of US-64 on 30th of June 1998. But I am not saying that their Finance Minister or some other Finance Minister was responsible for what they did. There is a particular manner in which Unit Trust of India has functioned. The Unit Trust of India is to take its operational decisions independently. That has been the stand of every Government, I place that stand before you.

Having linked it, let us see, how the present crisis has been created? What does the Finance Minister do? In 1998, what they erroneously call as the bail out package, the Finance Ministry was conscious of its responsibility. In June 1998 when this problem arose, US-64 had become a negative network scheme. The last policies that the Unit Trust had followed had resulted in this situation. He had, therefore, an option to start pumping in funds of the taxpayer, but he did not do that. Instead the Deepak Parekh Committee suggested a scheme and when it is said that Deepak Parekh Committee's recommendations are not implemented, it is that scheme which is implemented under which the PSU shares are taken back by the Government and Rs. 3300 crore worth of bonds at 11.24 per cent are given for a five year period to the Unit Trust of India.

This was a scheme which the Deepak Parekh Committee suggested. It was not a bail-out package of physically giving Rs. 3300 crore. You bought back those shares and, the value of those shares, because those were not very lucrative shares as Sensex had declined, is today in the vicinity of Rs. 1400 crore. Therefore, that bold decision to sell PSU shares to US-64 in the name of disinvestment itself is an issue on which you seriously address yourself. When you seriously address yourself, it is even today not so late to realise that the policy which was pursued during that period was perhaps not a correct policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have taken 30 minutes.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I will take five more minutes and I will conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an important thing everything is alright but the case that has been registered by the C.B.I....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. This applies to everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This will not go on record. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I shall also reply to that.

[English]

When this change in the character of US-64 takes place, what then, Sir, has generated the present crisis? This year the day after the Budget was presented, the stock market was at a moderate level. On 2nd March, 2001, the Sensex stood at 4241. What is perceived to be by market observers as bear hammering started on 13th March. I say 13th March, the day the Tehelka tapes exposure took place, the Sensex had dropped to 3540. As of 30th July, when the stock market closed, it closed at 3286. Since the day of the Budget, the sensex decline has been as high as 23 per cent. Several factors are responsible. SEBI has gone into them. There was a 23 per cent drop in the share market. The market exposure is 70 per cent. Today with such a large exposure to the stock markets, I can assure you that one per cent drop in the stock market, not only the US-64 but also the

entire investments of UTI can lose Rs 300 crore. We have to find reasons as to how it became 70 per cent. I tried to answer some of them. That is the extent of exposure.

Therefore, once you linked it as an equity fund to the market, all such funds that are linked to the market came down. You can see the figures of several other mutual funds than the Unit Trust Funds. The Unit Trust Fund has lost between 20-25 per cent. There are other funds which have lost up to 60 per cent. They are some of the best known private sector funds. Therefore once it is linked to the market, the question will always arise that the fund will always suffer the fluctuations of the market unless we are able to implement the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee that we restore back its debt character rather than its equity character.

A question was very rightly raised. I have seen it on some television discussion also. Well, if somebody else was responsible, I will love to believe for a moment that somebody else was responsible. I am not blaming any Finance Minister or the Government for it. This is the continuous process which was started out by Unit Trust of India. There may have been *bona fide* decisions taken by the Unit Trust of India. I quite concede. Nobody can say that every decision taken by the Unit Trust of India, a large body, where the Reserve Bank, IDBI and everybody represented, is wrong. There are several decisions, and they have taken most of the decisions *bona fide*. They may be *bona fide* and yet erroneous.

Therefore, we really have to discuss the whole issue as to what we do with the character of the UTI and how it is to function. But there may be some decisions. I hope and pray it is only a few decisions which may be motivated by some collateral considerations. If they are decisions which are motivated by some collateral considerations, which additionally may have also contributed, and some individuals or group of individuals are responsible, it is that subject matter which will always be a subject matter, which is not merely a subject matter of policy decision, but which is also a subject matter of certain penal consequences by the individuals concerned. Therefore, when somebody is being investigated by one of the country's premier investigating agencies, he is not being investigated for what happened for the last eight years but if a particular transaction or two or more transactions where individuals' culpabilities are involved, it is those issues which really have to be answered.

There are several issues that have arisen. I am sure, the learned Minister of Finance would deal with them in the course of his reply but I only wish to say that if we see the Unit Trust of India Act — I was trying to read it and re-read it — we would find that there is a Board of Trustees that is constituted. There are persons of various eminence who are represented from the IDBI, the Reserve Bank of India, public sector banks and other institutions. They collectively manage the UTI. In fact, for some reason I understand that most laws governing the administration of financial institutions as also most other laws relating to regulators that are now being enacted have a saving clause, which says, 'In public interest, in exceptional circumstances, the Government of India will have the power to issue directions.' That power to issue directions is always kept for a specific reason. Ultimately, the accountability standards bodies that may be nominated or appointed either by a Government or a collegium are always in question. They are not answerable to Parliament. The media can every day question the Minister of Finance, the Government and the Ministry of Finance. The media does not go and question the regulators; the media does not go and question all these institutions that are otherwise represented. The popular perception is that these are all bodies created and it is really the Government of India that is accountable. That is the perception people have. But for some curious reasons, the UTI Act is perhaps the only Act among Acts that create regulators and financial institutions where the Government of India, even in public interest, has no powers to issue directions, whether it was a conscious decision or not in 1963 when it was legislated. This is for Parliament to consider at some stage. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): How is it that the DSQ shares were purchased for Rs. 4,500 crore? Please explain that.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: That is not for me to explain.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is coming from an NDA Member. You have to answer it.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is coming from an NDA member; that is really addressed to you, not to me.

The question that we have to consider now is what would happen if the Government of the day interferes. I am glad that the learned Member raised that question. Please consider this question as a conception rather than a question of a partisan interest.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Since the Government does not have the power to give directions, who gave the direction for the Chairman to resign? Did he resign on his own? Or, was there a direction?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The question for all of us to decide is this. Ultimately, if the Government were to start interfering or influencing, all kinds of presumptions would be started. Every time they would say, 'You had a meeting with a particular person', 'A particular person came to your office' or 'A particular person spoke to you on telephone once'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If you accept the appointment of a JPC, I will prove there was direct political interference. I will prove it if you accept the challenge of appointing a JPC. If I cannot prove it, I would not come to the House and raise this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Your entire basis of asking for a JPC is gone where is the question of appointing a JPC?

You have a Ministry of Finance, you have a Government of India and you have a Minister of Finance. Investor protection is an issue that is a responsibility of the Government. The risks within the system are a responsibility of the Government. To watch the effect such an adverse value of one institution would have on other institutions is the responsibility of the Government. The Government certainly has a constitutional obligation of governance and these are important facets of governance. Therefore, the question that would arise is this. If the Government were to speak to them, it is suspected; if you have a meeting in your office, it is a suspicious act; and, if there is a telephonic conversation, that itself is *per se* suspicious. So, what is the system that we want? We must first squarely give the answer to that and then work out everything that leads to the answers to other questions.

Is the Government to have the responsibility? Or, must the Government completely delink itself and say, 'I have only a polite responsibility of making enquiries; I have a responsibility of answering questions in Parliament and my responsibility will end there'? This issue does not merely relate to the culpability of an individual in one or two transactions. That might be one part of the issue. There are several issues that are involved. Therefore this House when seeking to discuss the Adjournment Motion will discuss all the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee. The hon. Minister of Finance will explain to us what happened to them.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

How is its character to be restored back as a dead fund? What is going to be the responsibility of the Government in such trust funds or must it now be linked to the NAV which is one of the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee? Should it be allowed to function absolutely autonomously beyond governmental direction, beyond Parliamentary control?

These are all issues which will arise. Therefore, if the issues relate to the small investor, let us discuss keeping the small investor in mind and not our own partisan interest in mind. We have to see the totality of this whole issue.

As far as the Adjournment Motion is concerned, I see no basis in what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has made out for the acceptance of that Adjournment Motion. In fact, there are a lot of people amongst the friends here who have a lot to answer as to the present health of the Unit Trust of India and the US-64. I appeal to all my colleagues that this Adjournment Motion be outrightly rejected.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

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

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Rupchand Pal's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, shall we, the Members from this side and that side, stand in two minutes' silence in sympathy for the small investors?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Rupchand Pal's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, the Congress Party stands exposed so much. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, what are you doing.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a little bit of the churning of the system has thrown so much of dirt and filth that it is suggested, perhaps, we are living in the days of crony capitalism. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, your Party has got 17 minutes. Please keep in mind.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I will be very relevant.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please listen to me.

To the two crore small investors of this country, this July is the cruellest month when they have been looking forward to a respectable dividend so that they could meet the requirements of the marriages to be celebrated, admission of children in the schools and colleges, meeting the expenses for the medical treatment, etc.

15.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

But suddenly it was announced that for six months there is a freeze in respect of sale and repurchase of the units and the decision was taken at Delhi. For the first time the Board meeting was held at Delhi. The Napoleon Hall of the Le Meridian Hotel is not far away from the North Block. Such important people, rather the VVIPs of the financial world like the Chairman of LIC, acting Chairman of the IDBI, Chairman of the SBI, representative of the RBI and other people were assembled there. But the hon. Minister of Finance did not know what they have deliberated there or what could be their decision. He was completely in the dark and now it is being said that the villain of the piece is this side, when they were in the Government, and they will reply to that I am not holding any brief for whatever they might have done. They are equally responsible. I am not holding any brief for them. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What is the correct position?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, please do not make a running commentary.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: But the hon. Minister says it. One of the most important findings of the last JPC was that you could not have an assured income or a regular income from an equity scheme.

If you base your scheme on equities, if the stock market goes up and down, you can never be sure of your returns. That was one of the signal findings, one of the most important findings, of the last JPC. The Report was submitted in 1993. The Finance Minister has said, "I told you how the funds were invested in the period subsequent to 1993. I will not be wrong in saying that the UTI did not heed to this warning." What was the recommendation of the JPC to the UTI? I am reading from para 13.55, which says that, "Despite market operations of Rs. 35,000 crore, it is relevant, however, to record that no inspection of any kind has ever been done about the activities and operations of UTI. To this lacunae, it is the expectation of the Committee that the Ministry of Finance would address itself to this issue." This was a direction to the Finance Ministry. He has rather misquoted. What did they do? They are the villain of the piece.

I am quoting from page 37 of the 1999-2000 Budget Speech. It says that, "The Deepak Parekh Committee appointed by the UTI has made wide-ranging recommendations including reconstruction of US-64 Scheme for granting tax incentives. We are taking necessary action." He said that he was taking necessary action. After that, let us come to Part B of the Budget Speech. What does it say? It says that, "The income in the hands of the investors is fully exempt from tax. This income is subject to dividend tax under Section 115 of the Income Tax Act at the stage of the distribution of the dividend by the UTI or Mutual Funds. As a departure from the policy and as a second element of the package, I propose to continue for three years the exemption for US-64 Scheme as also for all open ended equity-oriented schemes of the UTI and Mutual Funds with more than 50 per cent investment in equity from dividend tax." He had given the direction. Those who had gone for the equity-oriented schemes, they have been encouraged. This was the speech of the Finance Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You have also invested a lot in it...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He continues, "As a result of these two tax incentives, investment in UTI and other Mutual Funds will become more attractive, and equity-oriented schemes will be relatively more attractive than those schemes where equity investment is less than 50 per cent." This was the Finance Minister's speech. He says that these people were responsible.

Now, I am coming to the Deepak Parekh Committee recommendations. The hon. Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, was very eloquent. The Report says that, "the people had been losing faith in that Scheme. On 30th June, 1998, there had been a serious crisis and the Government had intervened. The timely action by the Finance Minister in ensuring investors at large that the Government of India would support UTI and protect their interests, went a long way in allaying the fears of the investors and preventing what could very well have led to deepening crisis." But this time the Minister was approached several times. The Chairman was moving from door to door. He was waiting outside the North Block saying, "please help, please help."

The Deepak Parekh Committee made this recommendation. This is paragraph 2.27. It says:

"Given the state of affairs, the Committee is of the strong opinion that there is an imperative need to tackle the situation on a war footing."

This was three years back. It further said, 'The Government will have to infuse confidence'. But they refused. They were waiting at Delhi with the assumption that some development will take place. They were holding the meeting at Delhi not for nothing. But the Government was sleeping. When did the Government intervene? They intervened when the UTI had taken a decision that they were going for strategic sale. The Chairman, Shri Subramaniam had decided to sell strategic holdings in a bid to raise more funds. ...(Interruptions) There were companies such as M/s. Reliance and M/s. ITC...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji, Bihar): His amount to the tune of hundred crore rupees deposited in foreign countries...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Your friend will keep the said amount outside for the fear of theft in the house...(Interruptions)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

[English]

These were some of the companies in which the UTI had substantial stakes. However, the Finance Ministry subsequently said that it would not allow any major off loading of strategic stocks. The Ministry had to intervene when the UTI had decided for strategic sale. It further said, 'The Trust must have been hoping for valuation of its holding by top-rung companies...' They are saying that the villain of the piece is the previous Congress Government. The then Government in 1994 had provided undue favours to a Mumbai based company for oil exploration and such other things. There had been price rigging and price manipulations. ...*(Interruptions)* Let them answer this. I am not holding any brief for the Congress...*(Interruptions)* But, what have this Government done? When UTI decided for a strategic sale, instantly there were pressures from the Mumbai based company. There were pressures from M/s. ITC and M/s. Infosys and the Finance Ministry woke up to say 'no, they cannot go in for strategic sale. Here lies the story. At the cost of the small investors; in order to serve the corporate interests — the same corporate groups who have systematically been looting the UTI — the Government had sat tight and did not respond to the requests and appeals of UTI Chairman.

Here we are talking of about Rs. 32 crore investment in Cyber Space. But this is a peanut. I can give you umpteen number of such cases. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pal, you would not have to give examples of umpteen number cases here. You have only 17 minutes and you have got another speaker also from your Party.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am making very relevant points. The money involved in this Cyber Space case is peanut. There is a company called Apple Financial Limited. They have an education network. The late Dewang Mehta was the former President of NASSCOM. The Chairman of NASSCOM who was also MD of Apple Financial Ltd. accompanied the hon. Prime Minister of this country to the United States. Although this man did not pay up the money out of the NPA in Dena Bank, yet they were given Rs. 25 crore by UTI. These are all known. The Government of Uttar Pradesh was a partner in a project with Cyber Space. There have been telephone calls made. We had even shown the photographs of the person along with the Prime Minister of this country. This is how, Shri Arvind Johri and Cyber Space have been given out of turn favours. The telephone calls were coming from the offices in the North Block and even the PMO.

Let me refer to the RH factor of the PMO. This is not my coinage. Some one else mentioned this phenomenon in an interview. 'R' means Reliance and 'H' means Hinduja. It was they who were deciding everything earlier and it is they who are deciding everything even now. In the name of reforms, virtually all the financial institutions, like UTI, have been looted. What is the present condition of IFCI? It has been announced today that a package of more than Rs. 1000 crore has been arranged to bail out IFCI. What is the condition of IDBI? Three figures including NPAs of all Financial Institutions together now are to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crore. The Life Insurance Corporation of India, the General Insurance Corporation of India and the other financial institutions have been found to be investing in dud shares. Out of more than 1400 companies in which UTI had invested - they invested even in unlisted companies — only in 81 shares appreciated.

The hon'ble Finance Minister says that the character of US-64 had been changed by the earlier Governments. But the present Government continued with the same policy through its Budget and through its selective response to Deepk Parekh Committee's recommendations. Deepak Parekh Committee had recommended many things but the Government had not accepted them all. Deepak Parekh Committee asked the Government to provide more weightage to debt, consistent with the objective of the scheme. The Committee said that this needs to happen without US-64 having to resort to selling a large part of equity portfolio in the market which would severely hurt the market sentiment and add to the present difficulties. The Committee also said that till the Government is ready for the NAV, it should provide all sorts of help. This is a part of the Report. However, the Government have been selective in their response.

This Government acted hand-in-glove with the operators as a result of which a series of scams have taken place. We have demanded that this Finance Minister should go because this is not one scam only. After the Minister presented his dream budget, the stock markets scam took place. Then came the excise scam. Now we have this UTI scam. There is one more scam in the offing. We will wait and see as to what will happen to the assured income scheme and monthly income schemes of UTI. We will wait and see what is going to happen to IFCI, IDBI, LIC and the other financial institutions. In the name of reforms the Government is allowing these institutions to be looted. What is actually lost is the life's savings of 2 crore people.

The confidence of people in this Government is also gone. This Government has not moral right to continue any longer. People of this country have no faith in this Government. In the name of reforms the Government is selling away profit-making companies to private parties. When confronted, they say they would have it examined by the C&AG. What were the observations of the C&G in the case of sale of Modern Foods? C&AG said that the valuation of Modern Foods had been done in a deliberate and planned manner as a result of which it had suffered huge loss. It was C&AG who said that. In the name of disinvestment, in the name of privatisation, in the name of the liberalisation the Government has come to believe that they have the right to loot public money. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am just concluding. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, because of paucity of time I am unable to bring here a number of many important cases of irregularities. We all know how they have been operating hand-in-glove with the dotcom companies and how they have been instructing on Telephones to provide money to the unlisted companies.

So, where should the general public go? They have been putting all their life savings into small savings but the Government has brought down the interest rates. If people put their hard-earned money in the PPF, there the interest rates are brought down. They have been saying to go in for mutual funds. But see, what is the condition with regard to the mutual funds? Where should the small investors go now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have already taken a lot of time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am just concluding.

Where should an honest man put his money now? Even last year, there has been a survey of the Indian investors about the instruments and where the money can be put. By and large, the instrument could be ranked in an ascending order of risk with fixed deposits being considered first followed by gold and then US-64. US-64 came to the third position.

Just a year back there was a lot of popularity and confidence enjoyed in US-64. Now, where do they stand? Yesterday, redemption has started. There is a lot of publicity being given about the UTI.

I will only request this Government to take appropriate steps in this regard because till today US-64 is better than many other mutual funds. It still has got a future. So, the Government has a big role to play.

If the Finance Minister is unable to deliver the goods, it will be better that he quits and leaves the job for someone else.

With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi.

In the morning, hon. Speaker had mentioned about the time allotment to each party on this debate. So, please keep in mind your party's time and restrict to it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, all the previous speakers on this debate have taken about 20-30 minutes each. Anyway, I will try to confine myself to the time allotted to us.

Sir, I am not holding brief to anybody. I am very sad to know that a mess has been created in the UTI. That mess has not been created overnight. Continuously, there has been an onslaught over a period of last ten years. It started probably from 1991-92.

Originally, US-64 scheme was started mainly as a lender's debt scheme. But over a period of time, it acquired the status of fly-by-night quick money investment in equities. Everything could be shown in hand that one could make so much of money if he invests in equity. It could become double, tripple and even four times.

So, ultimately what happened? The scheme has changed its characteristics and started investing in equities. It was not true that the Government has no say in it, as argued by some of our learned Members. The Government has every say in it. The Chairman of IDBI, the Chairman of SBI, the Chairman of Syndicate Bank,

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

all of them are Trustees in this Board. They are all Government bodies. They are all appointed by the Government, by the Finance Ministry. So, it is not proper to say that the Government is not represented in the Board of Trustees. Somebody has said that it was represented by a Joint Secretary in UTI; it would have added fuel to it, if there is any Joint Secretary in the Trustees today. The Board of Trustees is virtually hearing the dictates of the Finance Ministry. We cannot deny it. They may be investing somewhere else also. That is how, they have invested a major share of funds, about Rs. 4500 crore in obsolete public sector utility shares, maybe, as bundles. They say bundles of good shares, bad shares and medium shares. But they cannot market all these shares put together. They are not allowed to sell; they are all kept like bundles. Then, how does the money grow? How does common man's money grow? How do they pay you 25 per cent dividend or even 20 per cent dividend? Ultimately, the entire amount of the scheme, amounting to nearly Rs. 13,000 crore has dwindled and had a negative growth by 1998. So, to keep up the confidence of the public in the scheme, our hon. Finance Minister has gone to the rescue of the common man, common public who have invested in these units, and he pumped in some money at that time to save the situation, by repurchasing these bundles of public sector shares. It is all a matter of regret because the Trustees were never allowed to function professionally. We say, for all practical purposes, that it is a professionally managed body of Trustees. But they were never allowed. Everybody had a say in it and more so, whoever was in power at that time or even now.

I cannot say that the present Finance Minister also has never influenced it. He might have influenced it, but not necessarily directly. But every influence — knowingly or unknowingly, or wittingly or unwittingly — has caused a damage to the UTI's US-64 scheme. We have now to clear the debris. We have to make the scheme competitive and gain the confidence of the public in that scheme. We have to again re-assure the public. Whatever we do now is not going to neutralise the damage that has been done over the years. It is not that we would pump in money again. We have to create the confidence of the public again that this is a sound scheme, that this is a growth-oriented scheme and a vital scheme. They should know that if they invest money, they would again get dividend — not artificial dividend, but the dividend that it would earn by itself.

Then only the public will invest. Originally the scheme was thought out for mobilising small savings, by the then Finance Minister, Shri T.T. Krishnamachary. It was his

innovative idea. Then from then onwards, every small investor used to put in money in this, in 1000 Units or 2000 Units or 3000 Units, like that. Mostly these Units used to be bought in the month of July. July used to be the month for these Units to be bought at lower rates. Now, the Unit has lost per 30 per cent of its value today as per market selling.

But even then, people are not buying at that rate. Most of them are only off-loading. It creates a doubt in our minds. Why in the months of April and May all big institutions, both Private and Public including the Government institutions and banks, have off-loaded such huge quantities of units is to be explained by the Finance Minister. This could happen only if there was a doubt that this scheme was going to collapse and, therefore, otherwise there was no need for them to offload huge amount of units into the market. There are more than two crore of investors. This is not a small number and it is likely to grow further, provided the Government again inculcate confidence into the small investors. Ultimately, our country depends on investment in the stock market by small investors. But these investments were to come without a debacle. The Government is not able to answer the public. The Board of Trustees are not capable to manage the funds. The trustees are managing the affairs in other big companies, like IDBI, the State Bank of India and others. All these people who are today managing as trustees should be given proper freedom. They should work without interference.

The RBI Deputy-Governor, Shri S.S. Tarapur used to call for all investments made over ten years and then used to narrow down the deals which made losses. A Committee has been appointed to see where actually we have incurred loss over the last ten years, from 1991 onwards as of date. This Committee has to look where exactly we have incurred loss and what are the reasons for that so that we do not commit such mistakes in future. It is not to blame each other. We can blame each other and make a number of allegations against the past or the present Government. But at least the future should be bright to us. The future should be ours. We should be able to create that sort of a situation.

It is also to be considered that established procedure was adopted for investment in various equity shares, like fly-by-night I.T. shares. They are now quoting as to what happened to Yahoo-com. What happened to our investments like that kind of I.T. shares? Our IPOs were buying at the high rates of IT shares. What made them to buy at such a huge price is to be explained. We have invested in a number of I.T. companies but every I.T.

company has lost. Some of these companies are quoting the shares, which we have purchased for more than Rs. 100, as worth one Rupee. So, huge money has been lost. This is a matter of great concern to the people of this country and are we not responsible for it.

Deepak Parekh Committee also recommended to come down slowly from an equity base of 66 per cent to 30 or 25 per cent base. If we go back to 25 per cent, base there may be stability for the scheme. This also has to be examined. Steps have to be taken inducting transparency and efficiency. The market intelligence in fund management, which is lacking, is also required to be inducted.

Net Asset Value dilution does not allow UTI to value higher. According to the experts, the NAV has also diluted the value of UTI is eroded. This also has to be explained by the Finance Minister.

The Government of India's rescue package of US-64 is a cleverly structured policy which guarantees the first 3000 units only. But what about the balance unit holding? If somebody is having 10,000 units, they would encash only 3,000 units, what about the balance 7000 units? Since 1991-92, the Government of India, time and again, is using UTI funds to control abnormal trade in the stock market. There were directions to the UTI to pick up shares of some company or the other to dilute some shares. This has been done with the tacit knowledge of the Ministry of Finance. The small investors normally do not trade in the market. They keep their units live for years as they are all growth-oriented. There are many schemes like Bhagya Laxmi Scheme. UTI said that you encash it because UTI does not want to keep it. That is another bad thing that has occurred for a small investor. It is because they thought that they would use this money for their children's education and marriage. That has also been withdrawn due to various reasons. This is another thing which has to be kept in mind.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. In future, the UTI should not be used as a remote-control tool of the Ministry of Finance or as a matter of fact of anybody else. Let it run on its own and with its own people. We should not control the shares of other companies through UTI. Let it stand on its legs and let it regain people's confidence. There must be a provision to include UTI under SEBI jurisdiction so that it can look into UTI investments. It could, to some extent, oversee the functions of the UTI in days to come. It could see whether they have adopted the prudent methods and whether prudential investments have been made or not.

That is also another thing which can be thought over. We cannot blame alone the Finance Minister. As a matter of fact, after becoming the Minister of Finance, you have taken up the job of cleansing the whole system. I should congratulate you for that. It was you who found out the negative growth in 1998. At that time, people were given the impression that everything is going on smoothly. You have brought transparency..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, you are also going to get your chance. At that time, they may interrupt you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I think we can continue till 8 o'clock.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, the Minister of Finance is required to explain various investments in the equity and in fly-by-night I.T. shares. Over a period, they have invested in IPOs at many times more than its face value.

You have to study as to how they have swindled the money so that in future we do not commit such mistakes and play havoc on the small investors funds. Apart from UTI, many other financial institutions, like IFCI, are in doldrums. The other financial investment companies may also face the same fate. Now, we are worried about their autonomous character. We have to see that these institutions do not work at the dictates of the Finance Ministry. They have to work in their own interest and in the interest of the country. They just cannot keep their money to the chest. They have to invest their money prudently. The views that we express here should not work to their detriment. They should invest progressively. They should take the economy of the country forward. At the same time, there should not be any extraneous influence on the institutions because it would make them commit mistakes. Please ensure a good future for the Financial Institutions like UTI.

With these words, I would request the Mover of the Motion to withdraw it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every Member of the House including Members of the opposition are talking of the small investors which is a good thing. They are shedding tears which console a little five and a half crore of investors of the country, but their tears seem to be crocodile's tears. They are the ones who drugged the fit and now they are showing their concern for the small investors.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to read out a speech. I would like to ask the hon. Members as to when this speech was delivered. I read a debate. I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. While replying the hon. Finance Minister is saying-

[English]

"The hon. Member has raised a specific question about investment in a particular company."

He further states:

I would like to inform the House that these decisions are taken by the Investment Committee. It is not the Government which takes the decision."

The hon. Minister further states:

"I do not accept the proposition that public sector institutions should not go through the private placement."

[Translation]

I would have been delighted if Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had been present here. Who had started this discussion? I can read out at length from this debate. The member who has started the discussion, has levelled allegation.

[English]

16.00 hrs.

The Private placement is a new method invented by the institutions and the Government. He also further stated that it is not only the LIC but the UTI has also made an investment of Rs. 750 crore. The total investment is Rs. 900 crore and the total loss is amounting to Rs. 250 crore.

[Translation]

When was this debate held? At that time Shri Yashwant Sinha was not the Finance Minister, it was Shri Manmohan Singh who was the Finance Minister and hon. Member Shri Jaipal Reddy had initiated the discussion. I can go on reading this debate. Now, my senior colleague Shri Arun Jaitley has not mentioned the name of a Mumbai based company in the issues raised by him. I would clearly like to mention the name of that company,

[English]

houses. It is the nexus of the corporate houses and operators with the *milibhagat* fund managers of financial institutions. This is not a new case. This is going on for years together whether you were ruling or we are ruling.

[Translation]

Sir, through you I would like to request that this subject is related to our economic policy but we are helping the unscrupulous promoters who have looted the small investors knowingly and unknowingly by giving a political tinge to this subject. We are giving a new direction to them so that the scam committed by them is suppressed. I would like to cite an example of the same company.

[English]

You know what was the amount of private placement that the Reliance Industries made.

[Translation]

That is the private placement of the Reliance Industry.

[English]

In a further reply in 1996, he had said it. It was different Government at that time. The Minister might have change but the institutions and other things remain like that only. He has written; The Minister replied and I quote:

"However, in the case of UTI, private placement disbursed by way of equity and debentures to Reliance group of Industries during 1993-94, 1994-95, was 34.38 per cent and 40.13 per cent."

[Translation]

Forty percent had gone to a group of companies. I don't want to cast aspersions. I would tell you further in this regard. This Reliance Industries sold shares worth rupees 1000 crores to the UTI, LIC and GIC at the rate of Rs. 385 per share.

[English]

It was sold at Rs. 385. You know what was the lowest price that was quoted in the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange during these particular two or three periods. The deal had taken place in 1994 at the rate of Rs. 385 per share. In 1992, the

Reliance's lowest quotation on the Bombay Stock Exchange was Rs. 125 per share. In 1993, the lowest quotation was Rs. 116. In 1996, the lowest quotation was Rs. 150 and in 1995, it was Rs. 194.

[*Translation*]

But this is half truth. On the one hand this company sold its shares worth rupees one thousand crores at the rate of Rs. 385 per share and on the other hand the promoters of the company purchased the share of this very company at the rate of Rs. 61 only. This is second part. The third point that I would like to mention is as to who have looted the UTI. These people have looted the UTI.

[*English*]

How much is the investment made by Reliance Industries in US-64 as of 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996?

[*Translation*]

Do you know as to how much stake did the Reliance Industries have in the US-64?

[*English*]

At one particular time, it was at Rs. 449.40 crore. It went up to Rs. 834 crore during 1994-95. In 1998, it has come down to Rs. 0.13 crore.

[*Translation*]

You know that the Unit Trust of India paid 26, 26 and 20 percent dividend for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 respectively.

[*English*]

They were declaring the dividend totally. At the same time, the rights, preferences and bonus were given in all the three years at a discount of 20 per cent.

[*Translation*]

On the one hand Reliance Industries was plundering the funds of US-64 and when it came to know that it has plundered the funds completely it sold the US-64 units it had purchased earlier, at the rate of Rs. 15 to 20 in the market. I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister that he had taken a bold and good step in this regard.

[*English*]

He has asked the Committee to scrutinise the investment policies and decisions of ten years.

[*Translation*]

But I would like to request you that let the whole truth come to the fore and politics should not be brought into it because there is not only one corporate house but so many corporate houses involved in it. I would also like to cite an example of another corporate house in this regard. All of them were in league to dupe the small investors. I would tell you the name of the other corporate house.

[*English*]

That corporate house came into existence in 1993. At that time, its turnover was Rs. 74 lakh. Slowly and steadily, in 2000, its turnover went up to Rs. 286 crore. What was the profit. Till 1999, its profit was Rs. 61 crore. In one year, that is, last year — 2000 - the profit straightaway jumped to Rs. 267 crore. Do you know how?

[*Translation*]

Other income of Rs. 200 crore was shown. Its share reserve in the eight years history of the company was just Rs. 173 crore.

[*English*]

For the year 2000, it went up to Rs. 3,522 crore.

[*Translation*]

Share worth one rupee was divided Rs. 10 were divided in one rupee and the same was sold at the rate of Rs. 1000 and the company which did it was the 'Zee TV'. This company caused a loss of Rs. 950 crore to the UTI. On the one hand Reliance and on the other hand Zee TV plundered the funds of the UTI. I would like to tell you the name of another company namely DSQ Software which has given a statement in the newspapers that we have plundered. What is the Balance Sheet of the Company.

[*English*]

Auditors have audited the reports of 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

It has been stated in the audit report that an export to the tune of Rs. 400-450 crores has been shown for which there is no statement. A credit note of Rs. 225 crore has been shown.

[English]

Everything is flimsy.

[Translation]

Its price index rose up to Rs. 2500 and today it is Rs. 50. A Chairman of the UTI had held talks with the representatives of the said company. I would like to tell you the name of another company i.e. HFCL, which had issued a statement that it had suffered a loss of Rs. 100 crore.

[English]

I have got the official statement through UTI. What was the loss of HFCL? The cost of acquisition was Rs. 1,067 crore and the market value on 20th April was Rs. 127 crore.

[Translation]

It had suffered a loss of Rs. 900 crore. It would have been better had Shri Dasmunsi been present here. I want to tell him that all have joined hands in this plunder. Should we not stop it? IDPL had suffered a loss of Rs. 1000 crore.

[English]

During whose tenure has this happened? To whom were the loans given? What is the NPA of IFCI, IDBI and the nationalised banks? It was Rs. 53,000 crore.

[Translation]

I want to know whether the NPA of Rs. 53,000 crore have accumulated during the tenure of Shri Yashwant Sinhaji? Shri Dasmunsi was mentioning the name of the Malwika Steel.

[English]

I will refer to the same Parekh Committee Report. "The quality of that portfolio is also questionable".

[Translation]

Had Shri Arun Jaitleyji been present here I would have asked him to read out further.

[English]

The growth of NPA stood at Rs. 875 crore - 20 per cent of aggregate corporate debt. This was not after the NDA Government came. This was as on 30th June, 1998 for the previous ten years.

[Translation]

But it is of no use now, to give it a political twist. If you will try to politicise it I would like to read out it further to you as I have already stated. You were talking about private placement.

[English]

Of the equity investment in a total of 1,426 companies in the private sector only 81 companies showed an appreciation, as on 30th November, 1998. The investment in the remaining 1,345 companies depreciated by approximately 47 per cent.

[Translation]

Who permitted this investment? I agree with the point made by Shri Manmohan Singhji.

[English]

You cannot control them. There are 82 financial institutions including banks, NABARD, SIDBI, IDBI, UTI, ICICI etc. How can the Finance Minister, sitting in North Block regulate and administer all these financial institutions? Are we not going to hold these people responsible? US-64 Scheme may be less than 10 years old. As on 30th June, 1998, it might have been worth Rs. 9.50.

[Translation]

It is upto us as to from what angle we view this subject. Today the loss suffered by the Unit Trust of India is due to the mistakes committed earlier. I am of the view that the policies followed by the fund manager are also instrumental in the loss suffered. The question is as to who will protect the interests of the small investors? I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister that if you intend to bail it out then it should be bailed out completely.

[English]

Tell them specifically: 'no, you have to remain accountable now.

[Translation]

Any person before becoming the Chairman of the Unit Trust of India makes a statement.

[English]

Before he becomes the Chairman, he says: "no, UTI must be regulated by SEBI." Shri Dave was in the regulatory authority. At that time, he wanted the UTI to come under the supervision of SEBI. The then Chairman of UTI, Shri Sherwani refused saying that SEBI cannot supervise it. Later on, Shri Dave became the Chairman of UTI and he said: "we are beyond the touch and the supervision of SEBI. IT is not under the Government of India, because it is a public sector autonomous body."

[Translation]

Every person who becomes the Chairman of the Unit Trust of India want powers. Hon'ble Finance Minister you should make a supplement while giving a bailout package to UTI.

[English]

Restructure the whole UTI, divide, make a separate account management company, bring transparency and make decentralisation of authority. You do that not only in UTI, but simultaneously in IDBI, IFCI, ICICI etc.

[Translation]

The question is not as to who committed the follies. We are responsible people. The money of the small investors has been plundered. If you give a bail out package then it would be done at the cost to the tax payer. It amounts to the same thing. But the question is who pockets this money. This money is going into the pockets of the corporates like HFCL, DSQ and Reliance Industries. You know the position of Reliance. You are aware of the holdings of the Reliance Industries.

[English]

As on today also, US-64 has 15.87 per cent of investment in Reliance and six per cent in Reliance Petroleum. The Master Share is 12 per cent.

[Translation]

These people are making merry and plundering the funds but during the last ten years nobody has even been touched. I am of the view that the hon'ble Finance Minister should be bold. The Chairman of the UTI had committed irregularities and he had been put behind the bars but I think the unscrupulous promoters should also be put behind the bars. A number of scams have taken place during the last ten years. The infamous Harshad Mehta scam took place during this period. You should go through the report of JPC.

[English]

It says: "UTI was misused. UTI must be restructured." Nobody did it. These corporate houses do not want to become independent. If UTI, IFCI, IDBI and ICICI become independent and accountable, who will take care of them? That is why they do not want it. How many Committees have recommended restructuring of UTI?

Sir, I was going through a debate of 1989 that took place in this House. At that time, many people said that UTI must be restructured. IT was recommended by the JPC of 1993, then subsequently by Waghul Committee and later on by Deepak Parekh Committee, but they did not like it.

[Translation]

How many scams have occurred till date. After Harshad Mehta scam, the non-banking financial companies scam, plantation company scam, Vanishing companies etc. So many scam have occurred. Have promoters of any of the companies involved in the said scams been put behind the bars? Such scams will continue to occur unless the persons involved in them are punished.

[English]

If you feel it necessary, change the law.

[Translation]

The managers of the financial institutions commit irregularities. The persons who take bribes should be punished. Similarly stern action should also be taken against the unscrupulous promoters.

[English]

Make its functioning more transparent.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

There is a need to enhance the bail out package announced by you.

[English]

You are a little bit worried. I know that the people working in the Unit Trust of India have created a picture. You and I will remain. The Trust will go on. But more people have trust in you. The people have faith in you. 'I' means more investors and 'you' means 'Finance Minister'. Both are here. The Trust is there. You have to strengthen the Trust.

[Translation]

I request that the redemption limit of Rs. 3000 fixed by you should be raised to Rs 5,000 and subsequently it should be raised to Rs. 10,000.

[English]

There is no pressure about redemption. There is a need to create an atmosphere of confidence. I would also like to appeal to all the hon. Members. Let us join together and create an atmosphere of confidence.

[Translation]

If there is a run in the UTI who will be benefitted? Similarly if there is a run in the banks, who suffers the loss? If IFCI goes in the red, who will suffer the loss?

[English]

We should behave in a little more responsible manner. Let us come together and make the authorities more autonomous and more accountable.

[Translation]

If the Ex-Chairman of the UTI has committed bungling then he should be punished. UTI is an important entity in the history of India.

[English]

Let us go for restructuring.

[Translation]

It should be ensured that it does not collapse completely before such measures are taken. We should

not create an atmosphere of financial chaos. Therefore, I request the Government and the entire House on behalf of the small investors that we should have a discussion on it but the discussion should be aimed at betterment and strengthening the system.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of US-64.

Sir, our experience shows that whenever the Government faces any problem, Shri Arun Jaitley is assigned the job to advocate on the issue in the favour of the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Every criminal needs an advocate.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Sir, to put it straight-forward, the US-64 crisis has affected about 2 crore families. If a family has average four members, then the total number of people affected comes to 8 crores. They are all small investors. I was viewing the Zee TV and an elderly woman told that she had purchased the shares at the rate of 14 rupees per share and now she would get only 10 rupees per share but she would somehow manage with that. We talk about corporate houses and the fellow who purchased the share at the rate of 14.50 rupees per share, is now selling out at the rate of Rs. 10 per share. Whether Shri Kirit Somaiya would ponder over it. Those living in palatial houses in Mumbai, can never realise the abysmal conditions the J.J. dwellers are living in Mumbai...(Interruptions)

ONE HON'BLE MEMBER: There are large number of J.J. clusters in Mumbai.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: What I mean to say is whether attention has been paid towards the small investors. Though the Government is least concerned about the farmers' welfare. ...(Interruptions) The middle class persons had invested in it who belonged to urban areas. Their entire money is likely to be lost. What are the intentions of the Government. On the one hand the Government wants to achieve the growth rate of 7-8 per cent while on the other, the Government are pushing the farmers backward. As all are aware that 36 per cent of total GDP comes from agriculture. In such a scenario how the Government can achieve the desired growth rate. The Government are acting against the interests of middle class people and the farmers. We do not believe that the Government can achieve the targeted

growth rate as was stated by the Government. At present, the growth rate is about 5 percent.

Sir, I was listening to Kirit Sahib's speech very attentively. I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister that in the arrangements made by the Government these possessing upto 3000 shares, could sell them at the rate of Rs. 10/- per share and this would cover about 98 per cent share holders but what about the remaining 2 per cent share holders. Did they not invest 47 to 48 percent money in it. What have you thought for them? Mistakes do occur and have been committed. I would recall when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister and he had made a statement

[English]

That was a public statement.

[Translation]

I release one rupee from the Centre but only 15 paise reach the village. Today, it is not so even since the situation has worsened now. In any case, what are you doing to improve these circumstances be it US-64 or scam in the sale of BALCO. New scams are cropping up every day, what to speak of a specific issue.

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHU (Durg): Please tell the names ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sahu, do not interrupt like this.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Which names do you want?

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): He is asking the names of those in the P.M.O. and involved in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I would like to tell the Finance Minister that I had asked a specific question on Unit Trust of India on 14th December, 2000. You had given the answer as well. I had cautioned you that there was something going wrong in Unit-64 and there is a need to look into that. My question No. was 4223. You had replied that the Government was looking

into it and there was no possibility of any irregularities nor any irregularity would occur, but contrary to it this happened.

Sir, an hon'ble Member who spoke prior to me was mentioning that a man possesses three securities, one is the fixed deposit, then is gold and the third was US-64. The people in general have lost faith in banks and other Government's financial institutions. The people are worried that it could close down even the banks wherein they have deposited their hard earned money. I could say that people's faith in the Government has been shaken and the Government's credibility is at its nadir and this has led to lowering of our credibility in the foreign countries. We must do our level best to achieve the credibility, we shall support your efforts. If the Government wants to maintain the growth rate, then you should create such circumstances where people are inclined towards investment so as to fund various Government policies but it does not seem that the Government is going in the right direction. I am sure that atleast 90% of the M.Ps. sitting here in the House must also have shares of US-64 however they do not admit it. The Government must take stern measures to maintain its credibility. Just now, Shri Kirit Somaiya was stating that the UTI had invested 1000 crores of rupees in the Reliance. Since the UTI allotted the shares, has anybody, any finger towards it? The UTI has earned three thousand crores of rupees from that investment. In such adverse circumstances it has earned 862 crores of rupees. This is not wrong. It earned money because it maintained its quality and integrity. If UTI is earning huge profits for its quality and integrity so is doing the Reliance.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Are you defending Reliance?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Yes. Sure.

[Translation]

If some corporate House is doing well there is nothing wrong in it, be it the UTI or anyone else. Though I do not appreciate the policies of the then Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji because in his tenure, WTO agreement was signed and the future generations would suffer. The Government of China, Japan and several other countries also signed the WTO agreement but in accordance with their laws and traditions.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): You are supporting our policies.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. I was an M.P. from the BJP at that time and the M.Ps. had held meetings at the Panchayat level in the name of Swadeshi. I can recall it but today Swadeshi is seen nowhere. I do not doubt the integrity of Shri Manmohan Singh ji. He evolved good policies at that time. But signing the WTO was wrong. I congratulate him for so many good things that happened during his tenure. The IDBI is controlled by the UTI... "whether it is necessary to commit scams to grab higher positions in the Government." You should think over it. One more thing is here, you want to turn the UTI to stock selling then how is position of the IFCI? The ESSAR and Modi have lost one thousand crores of rupees but you have given money to IFCI for paying subsidy I would like to know as to how long you people would keep wasting people's hard earned money and how long you would waive off loans. Undoubtedly these trends need to be arrested. Unless these trends are curbed, the country can not progress and we can not march ahead.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I am only reminding you that there are other speakers also in your Party.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): If you will tell me how many minutes, then I will try and adjust my comments to that time. Please tell me how many minutes you are going to give me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take 15 minutes.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): No, as it is we have agreed to carry on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only 25 minutes' time is left. There are two other speakers also. If you want to take all the 25 minutes time, you can take.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today my mind goes back to a day in March, 1998 when I had lost the election. And in some considerable despair, I arrived in my private car and parked it in the parking lot. As I got out, two gentlemen, who had won, accompanied me into this building. I did not imagine both of them would grow to the eminence that they have grown

into. We lost one. Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam is no more with us. The other is a very old friend of mine. He is somebody whom I have worked with as a civil servant. He is some one with whom I worked in Udyog Bhavan, and we have worked abroad. He is my good friend, Shri Yashwant Sinha, Saint Yashwant as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi just consecrated him. I am saying this because March 1998 is a thousand days ago, one thousand and one nights ago. For three years and more, one of the finest civil servants that the IAS has ever known has been the Finance Minister of India. And yet, it appears, that his colleague, the Law Minister does not know this, perhaps, because the Law Minister is a new boy who came here only in October, 1999.

We have heard the speech of Mr. Arun Jaitley, which is a complete contradiction of the Advani line, because Advaniji, according to the newspapers has asked the BJP and the NDA to shed the Opposition mindset. And yet, the way in which Shri Arun Jaitley spoke, it seemed as if he was on this side and we were on that side. For what are we talking about? Who is the Finance Minister in the dock? Is the Finance Minister in the dock Dr. Manmohan Singh? Or is the Finance Minister in the dock, Shri Yashwant Sinha?

I have been the first to admit that there are many mistakes which every Finance Minister of India has made. It is entirely possible that there were decisions made by us during the period that we were on the other side, which needed correction. I do not believe there is anybody in this House who could match Shri Yashwant Sinha's ability to make those corrections because just before Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Finance Minister of India, Shri Yashwant Sinha was the last full-blooded, red-blooded socialist Finance Minister of India. Then, Shri Yashwant Sinha and I served together in the JPC on the Securities Scam. For two years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I saw this noble socialist pointing out all the faults of this new system of economic reforms that we were bringing in and nobody contributed more to pointing to the dangers of what happens when we shift from a led economy to an economy that is led than Shri Yashwant Sinha. I have great admiration for him because he is an intelligent man.

Then, just before we signed the JPC Report, he switched from socialist to saffron and immediately went into the Swadesh Jagran Manch. During the course of the years from his initiation into the BJP, to his becoming the Finance Minister, he was able to combine the knowledge he had as a socialist with the knowledge he had gained as a saffronite.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Therefore, there was simply nobody in March, 1998 in this country, who, from several different perspectives, could know and see better what had gone wrong with our form of reforms. He has had a thousand days to do all the things that Shri Kirit Somaiya has very correctly pointed out, need to be done. It is absolutely essential — as Shri Somaiya quoted from the Bible of Shri Yashwant Sinha, for it was he who wrote it all in the JPC Report — that the UTI needs restructuring. The proto - Yashwant Sinha says, 'restructure UTI' and suddenly the proto - Yashwant Sinha of the Opposition becomes suddenly and unexpectedly the deuterio Yashwant Sinha of the Government, the man who is charged with restructuring the UTI and a thousand days later nothing has been done. I want to ask my friend Shri Kirit Somaiya who the saint is and who the sinner is.

Why has all this work not been done for a thousand days? There cannot be the argument that we made the mistake. Of course, we did. If we had not made the mistake, there would have been nothing for Yashwant to correct. When he knew what had gone wrong and when the author of all this had the power, the ability, the intelligence and the experience, for one thousand days to carry out the doctrine of Shri Gurusurthy, why is it that he followed the path of Shri Guruswamy? Whose is the *Guruswami* that he is listening to? Nobody knows it better than Yashwant. I am calling him Yashwant today because I want to speak about a friend of mine of forty years' standing and not some hon. Minister of Finance. Nobody knows better than Yashwant what are the games that politicians get up to with civil servants, and yet there is some reason or some hidden hand that prevented him from doing the obvious — restructuring UTI and making it more transparent. Shri Kirit Somaiya is quite right that it should be made more transparent. Was it made more transparent? Are a thousand days not enough to make it more transparent? For a thousand days Shri Yashwant Sinha was picking up a broom and cleaning the Augean stables, as Shri Murthy wanted him to do; but was he so busy cleaning the system that he did not see how much muck was filling in the sewers? The fact of this matter is that this Government with a difference, the first Government to be not composed of ex-Congressmen, the first Government to be not dependent on somebody else but dependent entirely on its friends, which, even when one ally, the AIADMK, left, succeeded in coming back in the next elections, did not do anything for a thousand days. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Your 30,000 days cannot be changed in one thousand days.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: For a thousand days, we have waited for changes to be made.

We were asked about decentralisation of power. Why could the decentralisation of power not take place over the last one thousand days? Shri Kirit Somaiya has completed correctly pointed to the nefarious nexus between big business, banks and fund managers. Who pointed this out? It was not Shri Kirit Somaiya. It was pointed out in the JPC's Report, written among others, by Shri Yashwant Sinha. This House and our sister House compelled D. Manmohan Singh to return with a second ATR to Parliament in which Dr. Manmohan Singh was forced to set up a committee, comprising all the agencies involved, to investigate this nexus that Shri Kirit Somaiya has today talked about. About that committee, I want to know something from the hon. Minister of Finance because we have got the answer elsewhere. I want to ask him this question. Has that Committee that was set up by Dr. Manmohan Singh, comprising all the relevant agencies to investigate the nexus, which Shri Kirit Somaiya has talked about, between big businesses, banks and fund managers, met even once in the last one thousand days? All the time that you have been the Minister of Finance, the committee that you insisted should be set up, has not even met once.

Is it not a fact when Kirit *Bhai* talks about those criminals not being punished and sent to jail quickly? Is it not a fact that repeated requests for additional judges to look into the Harshad Mehta scam-related criminals have been met very grudgingly and very tardily? One judge has gone to two — that is all; the consequence of which is 72 criminal cases were under investigation and 47 cases have been brought to the point where you could move the courts and only six of them have been brought to a conclusion and only three have resulted in convictions. This is the record of the last ten years. The record of the first seven years of these ten years was unimpressive. We thought yours was a Government with a difference. We thought that the prosecutor having become the judge, he would change the system. But has anything been achieved?

What is the point, Kirit *Bhai*, of your asking me to join you now? I joined you years ago; I joined you in the JPC of 1992-93. I said — let us investigate this criminal nexus between big business and bank managers and fund managers, and joining me in it, whom did I embrace at that time? I embraced by friend Yashwant. The two of us had once voice on this. We were having other differences. But we were one on the question of investigating this nexus through a committee which we

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

both forced Dr. Manmohan Singh to set up. Yet you do not allow it to happen. You do not add judges. You are happy with only six cases out of 72 being settled after a ten-year period, of which only three cases have resulted in conviction. And you come and tell me now that Dr. Manmohan Singh was the man who started changing UTI's equity-debt ratio. Of course, he did it. Why did he do it? If you start asking the UTI to make more money for small investors, there is one way in a rising market, to get increasingly into equity. And where does a genuinely rising market come from? It comes from being a Finance Minister who raises the rate of growth from almost one per cent when he takes over to over seven per cent in the last two years and gives the economy such a momentum that in the year after he leaves, it still rises at seven per cent.

Well, what has happened? We have had, since 1998, relative to what was achieved in the reform period in the previous three years, a significant decline in our rate of growth. The rate of growth is still good compared to many other countries. But compared to what we had achieved up to 1997, the record after that is very disappointing and we have seen that agriculture is stagnating and we have seen that industry is now crashing in the first quarter of this year. According to today's newspapers, there have been sharp falls in exports and imports. Imports are needed to sustain growth. We have had a pretty bad economic performance in the last three years. But while our performance on the ground, in the real world has been very disappointing, the stock market has been booming. Should not a responsible Finance Minister have said that this boom in the stock market is unrelated to the fundamentals and suggested or indicated — not directed because he could not legally do that — that the largest player in the stock market, which is the UTI, should play in the market in such a way as not to fuel a completely unrealistic boom but bring some measure of realism into the minds of small investors who are putting in their money? This was not done. Not only that — there were all kinds of routes opened up which nobody had imagined before would be used for this kind of a purpose.

Sir, the daily turnover in the stock market had suddenly risen from some Rs. 2,000 crore a few years ago to over Rs. 15,000 crore a day.

Where did this money come from? A very large amount of that money has come from foreign institutional investors. With great pride, we say that we have invited these foreigners to come in. We find that the biggest investor in India is the smallest island that you and I can

name without being on the *Kaun Banega Crorepati* Show, which is Mauritius. We take recourse to a 1982 Agreement — when Mauritius was a little island exporting sugar and hoping to get some tourists — and use that same Agreement today. Hundreds of thousands of companies, which do not really operate in Mauritius at all, are registered there and route their money into us to take unfair advantage of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. We let them do it, and the Income-Tax officers who sent notices to these people are reprimanded for doing their duty. Then, suddenly, dirty Indian operators in the stock market find that they can incorporate overseas corporate bodies, that they can start issuing participatory notes, that subsidiary accounts can be opened in Mauritius, and crores upon crores, sorry, not crores upon crores, hundreds upon hundreds of crores, I am sorry, I am wrong, thousands upon thousands of crores of Indian money is routed into Mauritius, comes back from there, makes a profit here in the Indian market, and returns as white money. All this while, the Finance Minister says, "I am not responsible. The economy is doing marvellously."

Sir, if we have a major scam today in the stock market, it is not because prices rise and prices fall. It is because money which should never have entered the stock market, is entering the stock market, and is being encouraged, sometimes, to do so by Government policy and is near effectively stopped by Government policy. When you open a can of worms as you are doing, when a controlled economy is liberalised, you have to recognise that effective liberalisation can only take place with effective regulation. If you do not have effective regulation accompanying effective liberalisation, you end up with the kind of crony capitalism, which Kirit Bhai has very correctly pointed out. The kind of crony capitalism with whatever mistakes we made, whatever sins we committed, however much, we must be put into the dock for whatever we did is now yours.

Today, you talked of the DSQ software scam. When does that scam begin — in 1992 or in 1994? You talked of ZEE TV. When does that scam begin — in 1993 or in 1995? You talked of Cyberspace. When did that begin — yesterday or in the last decade? Who inaugurated it? Which Prime Minister? Rajiv Gandhi? I do not think that it is a proper defence to come here and indulge in offence. If Dr. Manmohan Singh had gone wrong, the one person who really knew where all he had gone wrong was Yashwant. I would have expected Yashwant to have corrected the mistakes that we made. When today we discover what his mistakes are, I do not think that it is a defence to get up and say that the mistakes started in his predecessor's time. Time and time again, for the last three years, I have been listening to this Government

defending itself by saying that my Government did not do it. That is why we lost, that is why the people preferred you, that is why they thought you were with a difference, and that is why Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the saint. Today, sainthood has got so degraded that Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has conferred it on Yashwant Sinha. What has happened to that clean Government? What has happened to the hopes of those hundreds of innocents, not hundreds, but crores of innocent investors? It all went down the drain because a first-class IAS officer, a noble socialist subsequently transformed into a noble saffronite, a Swadeshi Jagran Manch activist, about whom it was said, "What will this man not do for *swadesh*?" becoming the Finance Minister of India, who is the most articulate person we have heard on those benches, is honest or so we believed, is straightforward or so we believed, is democratic or so we believed, is not going to punish the innocent or so we believed, will always punish the guilty or so we believed, ends up 1001 days later, 1001 nights later, dancing the dance of scheherazade.

What have you done, Mr. Finance Minister except wreck this economy, wreck the reputation of the IAS and wreck the love and affection that I had for you?

Sir, the last JPC report was written by my friends Shri George Fernandes—I am delighted to welcome him back to this House again — and eight other present and former Ministers of this NDA Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was also there.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, you were also there.

There were eight former and present Ministers of the present NDA Government. They were not just anybody. They were the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, the External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh, the former Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, the Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Shri Ram Naik, the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Digvijay Singh — once again my congratulations to the Samta Party on that — Shri Harin Pathak, the former Minister for Defence Production. All of them sat together and wrote the JPC report. They point out every systemic defect, got rid of Shri Rameshwar Thakur for having sent an envelope containing some information about the Finance Ministry to Congress Members and not to others, got rid of Shri Shankaranand; demanded the resignation of Dr. Manmohan Singh and threw the entire Congress party into a complete tailspin. Then, did what? 1001 days ago, Yashwant, you became the Finance Minister. You became

so because you were going to rid us, rid this country — I mean not us, the Congress Party will do nothing about it, we would continue sinking — of the ills that we had inflicted on the country. Have you done so? On every single front, the Indian today, an average Indian, be it a shoepkeeper, be it a farmer, be it a small industrialist, be it a small investor, is suffering compared to where he was three years ago. This was not what we expected of you. Of course, this was what was said you were going to do. But I did not believe it. I said, 'Yashwant is one of our chaps. He has spent 40 years in the IAS. He will do it'. You have not done it. You have disappointed us. Not only have you disappointed us, attached to this is a crime, a crime which, according to an MP of one of your allies' parties says, has its origin in the Prime Minister's Office. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for having immediately said on the floor of that House that if there is any suspicion of wrong doing, whether it is in PMO or in the PMH, that is in the Prime Minister's Office or in the Prime Minister's household, he, Saint Atal Bihari Vajpayee will immediately order his junior saint Shri Yashwant Sinha to get it looked into so that Caesar — in this case we cannot have Caesar's wife because Caesar is a bachelor — will be seen to be completely above all suspicion.

Sir, all that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has asked for here is that since your own Prime Minister at one of his most noble moments has said that since a finger has been pointed at us, we must ensure that what is being alleged is investigated, we seek the investigation of that. For that investigation, for it to have credibility — for the same reason that you and I, Yashwant, had to sit in the JPC to examine that other noble saint, Dr. Manmohan Singh — I say to you that today we need a JPC to look into it. One possible JPC is the one that already exists. The one that already exists is looking into the stock market scam where, according to the Chairman's statement to the Press, it is not possible for us to investigate the UTI as such, although it is possible for us to investigate UTI's role in the scam that has been remitted to us. I ask you to either interpret that slightly more elaborately or to add a Term of Reference to it by mutual consent which would enable an existing JPC, which is looking into a totally related matter, to also fulfil the Prime Minister's noble desire that this ugly finger that has been pointed, by a cell phone, in the direction of the PMO and PMH, also be investigated by the same group which has already been constituted. If you can get up and say that you will do that, then I will expect you to do one more thing.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

It is to not interfere in that investigation, which means, do what Manmohan did. Submit your resignation and let the country see whether, like in the case of Manmohan, the country will rise with one voice to say 'do not accept that resignation', or whether the country will rise — with Kirit Somaiah at the head of two crore small investors — to say 'This is the Finance Minister who really must go'.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not for the first time that Unit Trust of India is in such trouble that we are discussing today in the House. In the previous decades not once but several times, Unit Trust had been in trouble and efforts were also made by the Government to strengthen the Trust. The Government of various political parties have been formed and there was hardly any Government that did not feel it necessary to solve the problem of Unit Trust. I feel that it is for the first time that so much hue and cry is being made on this issue and I would like to compare it with another instance. When the Government were formed under the leadership of Atalji and some churches as well as Christian individuals in some parts of the country were attacked, several people of our country made propaganda all over the world and created tension, some of them even went to America to give evidence. That was an effort to defame the country as it was not for the first time that the Churches or the Christian priests were being attacked. Such incidents had been happening for a long time but nobody tried to make it an international issue. But during the last three years such efforts were made. I am referring to this incident because I am observing similar intentions behind all this hue and cry. This time, it is not the intention to defame or discredit the Government as it will be asked and referred to by the people. This time the intention is to weaken the country. Everyone wants that foreign capital should come in the country. The people belonging to the Congress party also had gone to America. Probably they had also told them that they wanted inflow of foreign capital into the country. How can we stop it? I feel that there is a dangerous design behind this propaganda otherwise such common incidents would not have been propagated in such a way that we are presently witnessing. We admit that UTI have suffered a blow and UTI is in trouble, however, it is not only UTI that is in trouble in the country rather other mutual funds...(Interruptions) like ICICI are also in trouble.

17.00 hrs.

Almost all the mutual funds, bank mutual funds in our country except few foreign mutual funds are in trouble but that is not being discussed in the House. The plight of the people who have invested their money in those mutual funds is not being discussed to the extent as it should have been. If the number of people and the amount deposited by them in mutual funds all over the country are taken into account, then the discussion being held on the issue when the mutual fund in our country is in trouble is not sufficient. I admit that the reason behind this concern is justified. The main objective behind the setting up of UTI was to make share market accessible to the small investors and presently two crore persons have invested their money, whether it is a big amount or small in UTI and we all know that US 64 is special in the sense that the investors could withdraw their money any time they wish. Presently many people are not in position to withdraw their money even if they are badly in need of their money. I feel that there are valid reasons but we should also go beyond these apparent reasons.

It is the issue of stock market, the stock market means speculative market. The economists may propound several theories in the field of economics concerning the stock market but fact is that it is speculative market. If the budget is announced in the evening, the share market goes up. The value of share worth Rs. 100 goes up to Rs. 120. Nothing happened, they did not even see or read the budget but the price of the share shot up. The price of the share falls even with the resignation of a Minister or even rumour of it or on account of the poor health of the Prime Minister. People indulge in speculation on one pretext or the other. There was a time when it was called speculation. People indulge in many types of speculations even today in our country. Generally it is considered that rich people indulge in this practice because there is fluctuation in the Stock Market and thus it cannot mean anything else. It happens all over the world. It is not only in our country. It is due to the speculative market and some other valid reasons that the economic depression takes place and as a result of this the companies which had invested huge capital suffer loss and that also lead to fall in the price of the shares. It is a common phenomenon in the open market that we have adopted in our country. I would like to remind you that a few years back Bill Gates was regarded as the richest man of the world and if my memory is good,

three years back his total assets were assessed to be worth \$60 billion and he was the richest man of the world and in 6-8 months this value declined from \$60 billions to \$40 billions. It was because of the economic depression taking place in the area in which his capital was invested. The same was experienced by millionaires and billionaires of our country. The names of the owners of Infosys, Wipro etc. figured among billionaires in India but after a few days it was reported that they are reduced to millionaires. It was not a static position. The net worth had increased with the rise in speculative market as everything happen on the paper. So it is essential to present all the facts before the people. This issue was discussed in the House and was also covered by the newspapers. They also coined several terms like so and so gate, UTI gate to this incident and gave it the names of scams.

AN HON. MEMBER: The name of Tahelka was also published.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is not being discussed here. We are ready to discuss it on the platform of the word.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We will discuss, it here in the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You do not have moral right to discuss it *...(Interruptions)* I feel that it is essential to tell the people of the country that whatever is propagated all over the world regarding this is not true. Our economic system is working as per the economic policies of the country. Our economy is attached to the global economy and such fluctuations are inevitable part of the system. As a matter of fact such things will continue to happen wherever there is stock market. However, in the present time if we want to associate ourselves with the global economy, then such situation will arise and we have to patiently face such situation. It is essential to apprise the people of the country with this fact.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only speculation is not responsible factor for the creation of such situation, rather some other reasons are also responsible. One factor is manipulation. The market is manipulated under some conspiracy. Just now the hon'ble Member was referring to Tahelka. The person who was behind Tahelka scandal was waiting for the completion of the video tapes. The people of the country were happy with our budget that had been presented by the Government so there was a conspiracy to discredit the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats? Let us continue with the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am trying to help him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, if you wish to have any clarification from him, he has to first yield to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes, are you yielding?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir, I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I did not disturb anybody when they were talking all...****

*Not Recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is a serious allegation...(Interruptions)

17.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Pravin Rashtupal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. He did not say anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

17.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

17.15 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghunath Jha and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please go back to your seats?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see the records.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the TV be switched off.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I seek the cooperation of all the leaders?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through the record and if there is any objectionable expression, I will set it right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if there is any unparliamentary or any objectionable part in the debate, I will look into it and then I will expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please have confidence in me. I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please resume your seats. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, there is a limit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said that if there is any objectionable expression, I will look into the records and then I will expunge it.

I would ask the hon. Member to continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you have the right to reply. You can answer at that time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, I said that if there is any objectionable remarks, I will expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member was on his legs. If he is not yielding, you cannot speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule, Shri Jos?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, when the Ministers are sitting in the back rows, can an ordinary Member stand in the front bench and speak?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not point of order.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, Shri George Fernandes, the hon. Member of this House is speaking from his own seat. ...(Interruptions) On the contrary, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar never speak from their seats and they always come to the front benches. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can he say that *Tehelka* is a conspiracy?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you have got the right to reply. You can answer at that time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri George Fernandes' speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa, nothing has gone on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has not gone on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please allow him to continue? Will you please resume your seat? All those things are not found on the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora, I am on my legs. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, let us hear him now. Let the Television be on now. It was off.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned two reasons. First relates to speculation which ruins everything and the second relates to conspiracy by some people which affects the share market...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? Will you please tell your Member to behave?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Third reason is that insiders in such institutions and outsiders too conspire and enter into some understanding to loot. I have got a document from Parliamentary library. The Forum called "Investors Grievances Forum, Mumbai", which is run by Shri Kirit Somaiya, has stated that UTI has invested money in 1426 private companies out of which only 81 companies have shown increase in the prices of their shares. Of the 654 companies one is not even traceable. Either it is not in a position to trade or the price of its

[Shri George Fernandes]

share has become nil. The money which UTI has invested in these 1426 companies has come down to 47 per cent. Now it is matter of loss. Neither my party nor NDA has brought out these things. It is there in UTI's record. Just now, I have heard an hon. Member saying that it has been going on for the last 2-3 years and one of the hon. Member commented that it has been going on since long. Out of these 1426 companies 626 companies are

[English]

either non-traceable or non-traceable.

[Translation]

It is not a matter of last two years. One should not feel hesitant in accepting the facts. This fact is not related to any particular party instead it has been revealed by UTI. Whether you may call it UTI, Bank or any other institution, such sort of deals keep on going both inside or outside the organisation. You can imagine what kind of loss this nexus can cause to such public institutions?

During discussion on scam, Shri Kirit Somaiya mentioned the name of a company involved in this scam. Some persons shy in naming the guilty as they do not like to do so. But I am disclosing the name of Reliance Company because if during this debate, the scandal of 1954 is not mentioned then there cannot be any bigger outrage against the people who have participated in the discussion on this issue. I can produce evidence in this regard to prove my point. At that time there was a scam of about 1.5—1.75 thousand crore rupees. This company purchased UTI shares at the rate of Rs. 30.50 and UTI purchased the shares by paying six times more. Infact paid Rs. 30.50 extra. This is as per CBI's report of 1995-96. The report kept shuttling from office to office and from table to table. When Shri Y.P. Singh, Superintendent of Police, CBI, Mumbai, submitted this report he was removed from the post...(Interruptions) I had met him at that time...(Interruptions). Are you going to defend them? This is going on in the country for quite some time. Some people are free to commit all sorts of loot...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is absolutely right. I agree with him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you. I am not yielding...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding, Shri Dasmunsi. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot help you, Shri Dasmunsi. He is not yielding. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, when you reply, you quote all these things. He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is trying to keep the House in dark. In this Government, he was a Cabinet Minister. In 1999, in High Court, they compromised with Reliance through CBI. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding. Therefore, I cannot give you the floor. That is my difficulty.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): They are enjoying in every Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Including the Marxists Government in West Bengal. I am sure you are aware of it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I am placing some facts before the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am also placing the facts. You had struck secret agreement...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is not the way to defend...(Interruptions). If you want to defend then this is not the way. You openly admit that it was right...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentaries please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No interruptions from any corner please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is for everybody to see as to how these things affect in real terms. This scam took place in 1994 in which 1.5-2 thousand crore rupees were involved. I am referring to the document which is in the library and also has been distributed among the hon. Members. 18 per cent dividend was given on the UTI shares which were procured in 1989-90. After that 19.50 per cent in 1990-91, 25 per cent in 1991-92 and it reached upto 26 per cent in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 but this scam took place in 1994-95 and it was due to this scam that this came down to 20 per cent in 1995-96.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But today it has come down to 10 per cent.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is what I am saying. The dividend which was 20 per cent in 1996-97 and 1997-98 and 13.50 per cent in 1998-99 was reduced to 13.75 per cent in 1999-2000. This downslide started in 1994 and the phenomenon has again come to the fore.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You are responsible for it.

17.37 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But we are trying to rejuvenate it. I want to make it clear that those who have created such a situation should be exposed. If some one takes initiative in this regard, then the person is put to trouble. Hon. Shri Rashid Alvi who is sitting here, has dared to bring the reality in respect of this company before the world. For this he was threatened and was compelled to approach the Home Minister and seek security. Mr. Speaker, Sir, such is the condition of our country. I have only mentioned the experience of the hon. Member of Parliament. Hence, where does the question of reform and improvement arise when there is nothing wrong. CBI has already conducted investigation in this regard. Unless fresh investigation is undertaken and follow up action taken, this debate will not lead us anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally I would like to place two-three things before you. We have to consider as to what steps we should take to come out of this situation. Firstly, no one debated over the recommendation of Ketan Parekh Committee that 70-75 per cent given for purchasing shares and 20-25 per cent as loan should be done away with. The Government should take a decision in favour of giving more loans and investing less money in shares. If it needs amendment in the law, then we should go in for that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, UTI was set up in 1963 through an act with the equity base of Rs. 5 crore. The turnover of the UTI is worth Rs. 70-80 thousand crore. This is a big amount and this has been increasing. But doing business by the company and corporate with a capital worth Rs. 5 crore is neither becoming of them nor the Parliament. Since there is a law enacted by the Parliament in this regard and the recommendations have also been made but the same have not been implemented, whatever the reasons may be I, therefore, suggest that the equity corpus of the UTI which is worth Rs. five crore should be enhanced to Rs. 500 crore, at the least. If the Government want to run it, then there should be Government's stake in it. Therefore, this equity should be increased, this is my second suggestion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my third suggestion is that the insider trading which takes place in it should be prevented and strict punishment should be given to those who indulge in insider trading. As far as I know, the UTI employees have to take an oath of fidelity and integrity. The big industrialists withdrew their money worth thousands of crore rupees and the people within the UTI itself inspired them to do so as they told them to withdraw their money because the things are not going well in the UTI. Therefore, they should immediately withdraw their money and if they need their cooperation, they are there to extend the same. What I want to say is that the employees have broken that oath. The said oath is given at the last page of the law enacted in this regard. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I request that indepth investigation of this case is needed and those found guilty should be strictly punished.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the final point which I want to make is that we have been talking about transparency in the House since a long time. Many a time the draft law has been prepared, but the same has never been approved. It seems as if many people are afraid of transparency. But there should be transparency. Who have taken what amount of money, everybody is supposed to know about

[Shri George Fernandes]

it. Since it involves a question of public money. Therefore, the word trust in the UTI should convey its real meaning here also. Therefore, there should be transparency. And there should be amendment in the UTI law for the purpose and the facts should be presented before the public. Those who want to suppress the Debate by creating a hue and cry should not be allowed to do so. The discussion should be held in proper manner so that people could know what is wrong and what is right. But some people are trying to harm the UTI and affect the developmental work of the country, they should not be able to succeed in their evil designs. The Government should take proper steps in this regard. I strongly oppose the motion which has been moved here. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, your time is only eight minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allotted me eight minutes but we should also be allotted time in the ratio of the time allotted for big parties.

MR. SPEAKER: Big parties are also getting the same time slot, they are not getting more.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, my problem is from where should I start my point. If I start since the time when UTI was set up then I shall not be able to finish my point within the time of eight minutes.

"Jakhm Koi ek Nahi, Jism Hai Sara Chalani,

Dard Bechara Pareshan Hai Kahan Se Uthe.

I am in a fix as to which problem should be taken up first and which later. Arun Jaitley Sahab who has just gone out after delivering a long speech put all the blame on this side. And what I heard from the Members of this side, they put all the blame on the Members of that side. 54 years have passed since independence. The UTI manages a sum of Rs. 75159 crore and about 43 million investors have their accounts in it. Every 20th person of this country is associated with the UTI.

It pains me to see that allegations are being levelled against one another in this country. The things have come to such a pass that even a particular party is openly defending the people of Reliance group of companies. I

would like to say that God has not bestowed mind and heart or eyes and ears to the walls of this Parliament building. Had it been so, the walls would have wept and shed tears and they would have heard everything and would have been troubled to know how the Reliance group has been defended. I would like to submit that nearly Rs. 50000 crore is on the verge of collapse. A sum of nearly Rs. 50000 crore of the two crore investors of this country is likely to go red any time. The UTI has not reached to this situation overnight. The UTI has been continuously subjected to exploitation. I would like to urge that there should be a thorough inquiry into it covering the period of last ten years so that the person responsible for such a situation are punished. I am not here to speak against anybody. This has been the policy of the Bahujan Samaj Party that it speaks the Truth and it does not care who is the victim. Recently an article has appeared in the 'New Indian Express' published from Chennai wherein it has been mentioned that the Reliance group of companies has caused a loss of nearly Rs. 2000 crore to the UTI. I have been raising this issue since December. I had written my first letter to the Prime Minister on 20th December and I have several replies of the Prime Minister with me. All those letters are from the Prime Minister which contain one line reply in each case —

[English]

I have received your letter of such and such regarding the alleged irregularities committed by Reliance Group of Companies.

[Translation]

The reply does not even contain the line—

[English]

I am looking into the matter.

[Translation]

All these letters are from the Prime Minister. I would like to tell the Finance Minister, that had the action been taken at the time when I raised this matter, then the present situation would not have arisen. I would like to mention it with a sense of sorrow that the corporate world is trying to dominate the entire country. I would like to say all submissively without levelling allegation against anybody that it is the corporate world which decides the portfolios of the Ministers and it also decides who will be the P.S. of which Minister. I would like to say that the corporate houses now do not like the Finance Minister. I do not know the reasons as to why they do

not like him but I can say it very clearly that Politics of India is now guided by the corporate world. The Prime Minister had rightly said yesterday that country's politics is under heavy clouds. I cannot say as to what was his intention at that time, but the fact remains that country's politics is under heavy clouds.

Sir, if those clouds are not cleared the poor would be perished. The issue of the UTI has not started today. During 1992-93 when the Stock Market crashed following Harshad Mehta case, that time the UTI was not diminished. It was not diminished at that time because by then the UTI had not decided to invest in the share market but after wards it decided to invest in the sharemarket and the country is now facing consequences. If the public money has to be ultimately invested into the share market. Why the public money should be invested in the share market through the UTI? This was done under some influence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there cannot be another example in the world when the money is still invested even after the corporate world is so defamed. Such an example cannot be seen anywhere in the world, but it has happened in India, for which we are repenting today. The Government is responsible for this. Congress Party did so in 1993-94, we are also doing the same thing. This is nothing but shirking one's responsibility. It is the result of the Congress Party's earlier deeds that today they have been ousted and you have been given the reigns of power. And it is not appropriate if you commit the same mistake like that of the Congress. The people have not elected you for the fact that you may commit the same mistakes in the present that they have committed in the past. No community in this world can lead a respectable life if it does not learn a lesson from its past mistakes and try to improve them in future. So please don't take useless things and try to do the right thing.

Yeh bata ki qafila kyon luta,

hamein Rahjan se garaz nahin, teri rehbari ka sawaal hai.

We have given the reigns of governance in your hands to run the country successfully. You cannot escape by saying that since the Congress Party hand committed a mistake so we have unknowingly done it. I do not want to elongate my speech, but want to say that even the UTI has accepted that the Government shall have to invest around Rs. 5,500 crores as per the bail out package. The corporate houses, which especially include

the Reliance Industries, have made a withdrawal of 37 per cent of total investment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that keeping in mind the present investment, he should tell us as to what is the criteria prescribed for investment as also the details of amount along with the names of each company on which the amount would be invested and how will this be verified. Shri George Fernandes has said that there are 1426 companies, out of which whereabouts of 600 companies are not known. That is why, I would like to know about the criteria through which we can come to know the amount to be invested alongwith the names of corporate houses wherein it is to be invested. I would also like to know what decisions are you going to make in future. How would you ensure that the UTI take a right decision and make right investment in future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a little while ago Shri George Fernandes also said the same thing which the hon. Minister of Finance said in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. I would like to quote two lines from his statement here.

[English]

"The Unit Trust of India had made a huge investment of Rs. 1,073 crore in the equity of Bombay-based private company."

[Translation]

He did not mention the name of this private company, but let me tell you that this is 'Reliance', moreover, I would also like to tell you that one of the CBI officers, Shri S.P. Singh had submitted a report on 10th November, 1995, now no one knows where it has gone and what is written in it. I would like to tell the august House that names of nine Members have been mentioned in it. Action should be taken against them.

The names of the then Chairman of the UTI Shri Dave, GIC Chairman and LIC, M.D. Shri Anil Ambani and Shri Dhiru Bhai Ambani have been mentioned in it. I would like to ask as to where has such an important report gone? What the Government is doing. Why the Government is not bringing out the report? That CBI officer was transferred, as he wanted to reveal the truth. He was shifted from there. I want to tell the Government that the file should be traced and action should be taken against the guilty.

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

I have stood in support of the Motion and would like to ask the Government.

[English]

that the Government should recover Rs. 2000 crore from Reliance Industries for the benefit of the unit holders of Unit Trust of India. The Government should consider the illegal allotment of shares worth Rs. 12 by Reliance Industries to 38 privately-owned Ambani family companies in January, 2000 at an effective price of Rs. 30.50 per share as against the market price of Rs. 350.

[Translation]

A share worth Rs. 350/- is being sold in merely thirty rupees. Action should be taken against the guilty persons. Rs. 2000 crore should be returned and a CBI inquiry should be conducted.

[English]

The Government should immediately order a high-powered CBI inquiry.

[Translation]

The Government should be successful in this effort as the position of the Government is now in danger and being seen in suspicion. The UTI is getting ruined. So the Government has to make these efforts in order to bring back the faith of the people in it. UTI shall have to be revamped. Honest people shall have to be inducted in UTI. The Government's image would remain good and clean if it agrees to the comments made by me.

So, I hope that when at this juncture the Government's ally i.e. Shiv Sena's M.P. is openly saying that the Prime Minister Office is involved in such a scam, although I do not want to make any such allegation, then such an allegation automatically compels the people to think that big scams are done by big people, not by the smaller ones. The Government will have to cleanse their image. It is such a matter that the Government would have resigned if such problem would have arisen in some other country of the world. But here the Government is not resigning. I, therefore, say that the Government should take the aforesaid action. If possible, a Joint Parliamentary Committee should probe the matter so that the truth could be revealed. It will also prove beneficial to Government's image.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in this very important discussion concerning two crore population of this nation.

Sir, of late, this Government has become a scam-ridden Government. Yesterday, it was a stock exchange scam running into thousands of crores of rupees, a scam concerning the security of this nation, that is, the scam in the defence deal and a major scam in the Excise Department.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Now, this is the turn of the Unit Trust of India. Tomorrow, you will know there will be a scam in IDBI and LIC, and this House will also discuss how the money is routed to Mauritius.

18.00 hrs.

On all those occasions we have been demanding an impartial inquiry, we have been demanding a fair inquiry. We want an inquiry by a Joint Parliamentary Committee and it has been denied.

This is a Government that does not care about the people of this country. In the Unit Trust of India 60-70 per cent of business transactions involve two crore people of this country; not the big corporations but the small investors, people who have got their pension money, widows and salaried people. All of them have invested a pittance amount with the hope that they would realise it any time they face a crisis. Today, all of them are in doldrums. They are left in the lurch because of the inefficiency of the Government functioning at the Centre.

Our late leader Dr. C.N. Annadurai used to say that the policy of the Government should be to tap the rich and pat the poor. Here is a Government, which taps the poor and pats the corporate houses. Here is a Government, which functions only for the sake of the corporate houses of this country, the blue-eyed business houses. If we say that there were 20 million investors and each investor had a family of five members, it affects about a hundred million people. Nearly ten crore people of this nation are left in the lurch. There is a saying in Tamil, 'The case of the fence eating away the crop'. It is only in collaboration and connivance with this Government that this scam has occurred. There is absolutely no doubt about it.

The UTI is not an ordinary institution. It has a dealing of Rs. 75,000 crore, all that money being the savings of the salaried middle class people. How was this institution run? If I quote Shri Kirit Somaiya, the UTI has invested in 1,426 companies, out of which only 81 showed appreciation. Almost about 654 of them are not even traceable; they do not even have an address of their own and many of them are unlisted companies. Does the hon. Minister of Finance not know about it? What is the Ministry of Finance doing about it?

They keep blaming the other side. They are now blaming the Congress, the erstwhile regime. I would like to draw the attention of the House to few figures. In 1989, these poor small investors had got a dividend from the UTI to the tune of 18 per cent. From 1989 onwards, in each year, it was 19 per cent, 20 per cent, 25 per cent and it had even reached 27 per cent at one point during that regime. What is the situation of the small investors getting dividends now? From 1998, when you took over, it has drastically come down to 13 per cent. Today, it is 'zero' and even negative. Where is the dividend? You keep accusing the other side.

The people of this country expect to know as to what you are going to do. Millions of people who invested expect your intervention.

Sir, a shocking news came on 2nd July when there was an announcement that sale and repurchase in UTI was completely stopped for six months. Prior to this announcement, a resolution was passed in Delhi, under the very nose of the Finance Ministry. Unprecedentedly the Board meeting of UTI was held in Delhi, in Hotel Le Meridian. Does the Finance Minister not know about it? He simply shifts the responsibility saying that this is an independent company or an autonomous body on which he has no control at all. Then, how did he ask Shri Subramanyam, the Chairman to resign?

The resolution and the decision was in the month of July. You find that in the months between April and June the corporate houses withdrew Rs. 4,000 crore of the money of the small investors. How did it happen? Do you mean to say that the Minister does not know about it? Do you mean to say that the Ministry is not aware of this? Then, why is it that the UTI is sending a monthly report? Is it to show that it is acting in accordance with the wishes of the master sitting in the North Block or that it is acting to the tune of the masters in the South Block? Why are they sending a monthly report? What have you drawn from those reports? Why is it that Rs. 4,000 crore drawn in one month's time? It is an insider's work. The CBI says about that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganapathi, please conclude. You have already taken ten minutes. The time allotted to your Party is five minutes.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I am concluding. Please allow me.

The Government had got every opportunity to anticipate the situation and control the crisis. If the Minister says he does not know then it is going to be an unadulterated untruth. Sir, the CBI says it is an extraneous influence. I want this thing to be cleared. Does this extraneous influence come from the Ministry or from the PMO?...*(Interruptions)*

What was the IDB nominee doing in the UTI through whom you have a control on UTI? What was the RBI nominee or the LIC Director doing in the UTI? Do you mean to say that we should accept and we should believe all these things? What were you doing from 1998? You rightly reacted when there was a crisis in UTI. At that point of time you came out rightly to bail out the UTI by almost giving away Rs. 3,300 crore at that point of time. How did you do it? It was after accepting the Deepak Parekh Committee's report. You know that the report is lying with you. What were the recommendations? The report clearly points out to you that the investors have lost their faith and confidence in the UTI. You have not worked up. The report says that the UTI's equity investment should be brought down to 40 per cent. What were you doing from 1998? The report says that the whole thing should be transparent for which you will have to have an asset management company. What did you do on that?

Then you say that you do not know anything about it. These are all issues which the people of this country are not going to believe. If these recommendations have been taken in right spirit and implemented, this situation could not have arisen.

Now the Government had made Shri Subramanyam a scapegoat. I am not defending Shri Subramanyam. But he is a small fry. The big big fish are in the North Block and the South Block and they conveniently instituted a CBI enquiry and the CBI would suit or dance to the tune of their masters.

Shri Subramanyam might reveal many things in the custody, but it will all be suppressed. That is the reason why we want a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Everything is under your control. Therefore, we demand the constitution of a JPC. The Government is trying to lock

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

the horns after the horse has left. Who is responsible? They have to be brought to book. If the same thing continues, nothing will be unearthed. Who is accountable and who is responsible? The Finance Minister cannot shirk his responsibility saying that, "I am not accountable because it is autonomous". You are accountable to the Parliament. You may not be legally responsible, but you are morally responsible. In this very august House, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had to resign for a mere train accident; Shri Scindia had to resign on account of an air crash; your good friends, Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri George Fernandes, who are sitting by your side, had to resign for similar reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, you have to conclude your speech now.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Therefore, the people of this nation expect you to step down and order for the constitution of an impartial Joint Parliament Committee.

Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to stoutly oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Members from the Opposition Benches so that the Motion is rejected lock, stock, and barrel. I would like to go through the substance of the Motion itself, which says, "The mismanagement of US-64 funds by UTI adversely affecting the small investors, and failure of the Government to take timely action to prevent it". Sir, the verdict that is going to be given after the debate is over is known to everybody, that is, the Motion will be rejected. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): We are not going to vote on it.

SHRI VAIKO: It is because you know very well that you cannot win. It has already been rejected. The verdict has already been given by the small investor yesterday itself. The 1st of August, that is, yesterday, was a day of disappointment to our friends from the Opposition Benches. It was a day of disappointment on two counts because some of you were in a joyful mood that something would happen in the NDA meeting. You were shocked to hear the Prime Minister saying, "The whole NDA stands like a Rock of Gibraltar". The NDA has expressed its solidarity and support to the Government. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said that there were some dark clouds. Among the dark clouds, the only silver lining is the stewardship of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India. My friends from Congress are shedding tears. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): The Prime Minister is not too naive. He will never give up his seat. It is a joke. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: I am not targeting the friends from the CPM. I am looking at them. *...(Interruptions)* Why do you come in between? I have got great respect for my friends from the Congress and I admire them.

They shed tears, they are shedding copious tears for the small investors. They are very much concerned about the small investors. They are terribly worried about the small investors. *...(Interruptions)* After so many years they are now showing concern for the small investors. They thought that there would be serpentine queues before the re-purchasing counters. I said that the verdict has already been given by the small investors. *...(Interruptions)* After so many years you have now got the concern for the small investors.

Sir, I have already said that the verdict has been given by the small investors themselves. It is because, yesterday, on the 1st of August, the US-64 repurchase counters were opened. They expected that there will be a panic amongst the small investors. They tried to create a panic and a fear psychosis amongst them. *...(Interruptions)* but they failed to create panic and fear psychosis in the minds of the small investors. But alas! they could not do so. That is why I said, it was a day of disappointment for them. Neither were there any serpentine queues nor were there any signs of losing trust by the investors in the largest mutual fund in this country.

Sir, I would now like to quote from 'The Hindustan Times' dated 2 August, 2001. It says:

"The first day in the re-purchase in the flagship US-64 scheme in the Unit Trust stand out to be damp squib at least for critics of the monolith. As many as 3,865 requests were received covering 56.39 lakh units for redemption aggregating to Rs. 5.64 crore. This is very much normal. The average requests for unit application works out to 1459 units suggesting that only small investors who are really in need of funds might have come forward for re-purchase of their UTI holdings."

It was stated by Shri Damodaran. He also stated that 'the worst fears of the critics have not materialized. We are not jumping guns. We are ready to serve our unit-holders as and when they decide to redeem their requests.'

Sir, therefore, the small investors have given their verdict. They have reposed their faith in the Unit Trust of India when our friends tried to create a panic amongst the unit-holders.

Sir, the whole world economy is in a recession. The market economy is falling. It is a global phenomenon. We are entering into a very fragile era..*(Interruptions)* But they are trying to create panic in the minds of the people..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, in what language are you speaking?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, the only language that he understands..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO:*

..*(Interruptions)* Sir, he should be debarred..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.): Sir, wrong statements are being made, this is wrong.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: That is why, the Congressmen in the streets of Tamil nadu are treating him like that..*(Interruptions)* Sir, he also was interrupting when Shri George Fernandes was speaking and the hon. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Vaiko, would go on record.

..*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Vaiko's speech

..*(Interruptions)***

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, Shri Amar Singh is an hon. Member of the other House. He should not have been referred to in this House..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that nothing would go on record except Shri Vaiko.

..*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): It was said off the record and he is withdrawing his remark..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I apologise for my remark and withdraw it. I have the highest regard for my colleague in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Amar Singh, who is a very noble gentleman..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Thank you, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, for getting the thing clarified on Amar Singh's episode.

Sir, the Units Scheme of 1964 was launched 37 years back. This is the first scheme of the Unit Trust of India. It is an open-ended scheme providing sale and repurchase facility throughout the year except during closure of accounts in the month of June every year. Over the years the scheme has provided regular dividend; and liquidity to investors. The scheme started essentially as a fixed income fund. The purpose of the scheme was to provide stable returns to investors. But, during the period between 1992 and 1996, the character of US-64 changed. The proportion of equity increased from 34 per cent in 1992-93 to 66 per cent in 1995-96. In 1991-92 the equity was 28 per cent. In 1992-93 it went up to 34 per cent. In 1993-94 it rose up to 40 per cent. Again in 1994-95 it was 51 per cent. In 1995-96 it went up to 66 per cent. Again in 1997-98 it rose to 70 per cent. Who were the rulers of the country in those days? It was my friends from Congress who are shedding tears for the poor and the small investors. The whole composition and the character of US-64 had changed. In mid-80s, US-64 dipped into reserves for dividend payment. I agree with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that in the first half of 90s US-64 purchased substantial amounts of public sector units.

They raised questions on the reaction of the hon. Finance Minister when the news reached him of the meeting to freeze the sale and redemption for a period of six months up to December, 2000. Within 48 hours the Finance Minister sprung into action. That is the reason why the confidence of the small investor was restored in the scheme. That is the reason why there were no queues at the counters yesterday.

My friends accused our Finance Minister that in the name of policy he knew what was going inside UTI in the day to day administration. They accused the Finance Minister when he said that he could not interfere in the day to day administration.

[Shri Vaiko]

What was the answer given by the Finance Minister in the year 1993 here on the floor of the Lok Sabha to Unstarred Question No. 7389? The question reads, "Whether any action plan has been drawn up or proposed to be drawn up by the Union Government for keeping control on capital investment by the Unit Trust of India in order to safeguard the interests of the investors and, if so, the details thereof?"

At that time Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. The answer of the then Finance Minister says: "No, Sir. The Government does not have control of the capital investments by the UTI. The investments by the UTI are made in accordance with the general regulations framed under the UTI Act, 1963."

Then Sir, another question was raised: "Whether it is a fact that the Unit Trust of India has decided to buy back the units under its various listed schemes from the market whenever such units are quoted at 10 per cent or more discounts to their asset value."

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, please conclude now.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I have not yet started my speech. There was a lot of interruptions.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, the answer by the then Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan says: "The decision to buy back the units has been taken by the Executive Committee of the Unit Trust of India. The decisions regarding its schemes are taken independently by the Unit Trust of India, and the Government does not intervene in such decisions."

Sir, the representative of the Government from the Board of Trustees was withdrawn in May, 1997 when the United Front Government was there at the Centre. Then my comrade Communist friends were virtually running the Government...(Interruptions) ...I have got the greatest respect for Shri Surjeet. He was the *de facto* Prime Minister at that time...(Interruptions) Our friends, the Congress Party Members were giving support to that United Front Government...(Interruptions)

Sir, at that time the decision was taken to withdraw the nominee of the Government from the Board of Trustees. Did they object to that? That was their attitude.

Sir, after the information reached about the attempt to freeze the sales and redemption, immediately action was taken...(Interruptions)

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, mind your tongue..."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he is threatening me...(Interruptions) The supporter of Prabhakaran is threatening me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Vaiko.

...(Interruptions)**

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, I am making a speech which is very relevant on the subject. What for is he referring about the other matters? if there is a discussion on Sri Lanka, I am prepared for it...(Interruptions). When I am making a very relevant speech, he is disturbing me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, the former Chairman of the UTI was asked to submit his resignation on 3rd July, 2001 and his resignation was accepted by the Government on the same day. A new Chairman was appointed on 14th July, 2001. The new Chairman of UTI assumed office on 15th July, 2001, and the same day, the Board meeting was convened. In that Board meeting, they decided to take measures to protect the interests of small investors in US-64 and simultaneously paved the way for migration of the scheme from administered pricing to net added value based pricing.

Sir, on 20th July, 2001, the Government announced the appointment of a Three-Member High Level Committee to conduct an independent inquiry. In the separate action, Sir, the CBI has registered an FIR against the former UTI Chairman and other three senior officers.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, please conclude now.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not Recorded.

SHRI VAIKO: I am concluding, Sir. Reversing the decision taken in 1997, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance has been nominated by the IDBI under the provisions of UTI Act. A very important and significant decision in that Board meeting is reached. The interest of small investors is being safeguarded by providing an estimated repurchase price upto 3,000 units for a period of nearly two years.

About 98 per cent of the Unit holding accounts are in denomination up to 3,000 Units. My friend Shri Dasmunsi expressed his grave concern about the safety of the former Chairman of the UTI and other officials who have been put behind the bars. He made a fervent plea to the hon. Home Minister also in this connection. I remember the past tragic events that are haunting the memories of the Members. One dirtiest blot on the purest face of Indian Democracy is the 'Nagarwala episode'. For one long year one of the greatest Parliamentarians of this country, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu had tried hard to get a discussion on the subject on the floor of the Lok Sabha. In that episode, an amount of Rs. 60 lakh vanished. *..(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is on records. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: How did Shri Nagarwala die under mysterious circumstances? How did the investigating officer die? *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Dr. Bikram Sarkar.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Shri Dasmunsi referred that it is the scam of the Millennium. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Bikram Sarkar.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, their regime is notorious for scams and scandals. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I called the name of the next hon. Member.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time. Please understand the time constraint also.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, till today there is this undeniable allegations of the big bull Harshad Mehta entering No. 7 Race Course Road with a big suitcase with currency notes. Their regime was a regime of scam after scam. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: My friend referred about Ambanis. This item appeared in *The New Indian Express*, on 23rd July. It is captioned "Get at the looters. not pickpockets." *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Bikram Sarkar now. This will not go on record please. Please conclude. Please wind up.

*..(Interruptions)**

SHRI VAIKO: It is reported that Ambanis and Reliance Industries have looted to the tune of Rs. 1500 crore and there was an investigation. He referred about investigation. Yes, Shri Y.P. Singh was the investigating officer, an officer of the highest integrity. After the investigation, he submitted to the Government a report saying that a heinous crime has been committed against small investors; and therefore, an FIR should be launched. What happened later on? He was rewarded — he was thrown out of the CBI. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Vaiko, will you yield? *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: I am not yielding. I am not yielding. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Bikram Sarkar now. Nothing should go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Now, Dr. Bikram Sarkar.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go record.

..(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, as I said when I started my speech, the confidence of the small investors is very much restored. But even now, they are trying to demolish the confidence and create panicky. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

..(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Once again I appeal to the Member to withdraw the Motion; and if he wishes to put it to voting, it will be rejected. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vaiko has quoted me wrongly..(Interruptions)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): Sir, I am not yielding. How can he speak, when you have called out my name?..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I took the permission from the hon. Speaker already. He has quoted me wrongly. ..(Interruptions)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, you have called out my name. I am not yielding. ..(Interruptions) Sir, I have not yielded. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, He has wrongly quoted me — the case of CBI related to Reliance has been compromised. ..(Interruptions) I took the permission from the Chair.

I will take just half a minute, Sir, because the hon. Member has taken my name.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your objection?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he has said that..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since you have initiated the discussion, you have got the right to reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But that right to reply is not to the Member but to the Minister..(Interruptions) Sir, he has wrongly referred my name. For the knowledge of Shri Vaiko I may tell him

that 1994 RIL case in CBI has been compromised by this Government. In 1999, this Government filed an affidavit in the Delhi High Court in favour of Reliance..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

..(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Speaker, Sir, you had said that the voting would take place at 1830 hours. You may tell us at what time the voting will take place now.

MR. SPEAKER: I have the names of another five to six Members from small Parties.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You may tell us at what time the voting will take place.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, including the Minister's reply, everything should be over by 1930 hours. So, voting will take place at 1930 hours.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Hon Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Adjournment Motion brought by Shri Dasmunsi on US-64. Sir, I stand here in the name of poor and middle-class unit holders of US-64. On behalf of my Party, I stand here to express my views.

The Unit Trust of India has played a leading role in the development of the Indian capital market. The then Finance Minister Shri T.T. Krishnamachari while replying to the debate on the UTI Bill in December, 1963, said that the twin basic objectives in establishing UTI was to mobilise the savings of small sector and to invest these savings in the capital market. He also said that the Trust would be open to any person or institution to purchase units. He added, however, that the Trust would be intended to cater mainly to the needs of the individual investors.

UTI's flagship, the Unit Scheme-64, launched in 1964, an open-ended balanced fund started with an investment of Rs. 5 crore went up to Rs. 2,738 crore in June 1998 with a compounded annual growth rate of about 44 per cent. The US-64 is trusted by more than two crore unit holders. This scheme was positioned entirely towards small investors to channelise their savings into securities market.

Since inception, US-64 has delivered regular and steady incomes to the unit holders, mainly in the form of annual dividends and thus acquired a great reputation. Over the last 37 years the scheme has acquired, in the perception of investors, specific and unique features. These features are four fold:

1. Regular and steady income
2. Easy liquidity through repurchases.
3. Tax benefits
4. The Trust being a statutory cooperation and Government sponsored is perceived to be safe.

This positioning has been consciously persuaded by the UTI.

It is for the first time in 37 years that the UTI decided to suspend the purchase and sale of its US-64 Scheme for six months resulting in a crisis, a panic gripping the middle class and low-income groups of investors. Obviously, the question arises as to why has US-64 Scheme got into this quagmire.

US-64 mobilised Rs. 2,661 crore during 2000-01, whereas Rs. 5,962 crore was spent on redemption. The net outflow was Rs. 3,301 crore during the year. Strangely enough, redemption of huge amount of Rs. 4,151 crore amounting to 70 per cent took place during April-May, 2001 alone.

It is also a fact that a major part of the redemption was undertaken by companies and corporate investors. The public is now well aware — this is the perception of the public — that the redemption deluge was caused by insider information and the large institutions existed US-64 in time, leaving small investors stranded. In the early part of 1990s, the UTI decided to distribute the reserves built-up over the years to unit-holders in the form of higher dividends etc. Smart individual, investors and corporate and also some of the cash-rich political parties made use of this bonanza pretty quickly. While the dividend rate rose from 18 per cent in 1990 to 26 per cent in 1993 and allowed to continue at this rate for three consecutive years, the unit capital more than doubled.

During this period of early 1990s, UTI management's decision became the genesis, to my mind, of the problems US-64 started facing since 1993-94 which reached a flash point once in 1998 and a crisis point on July 2, 2001. The character of US-64 started changing since 1991-92.

The then Congress Government followed by UF Government, followed by BJP-led coalition Government — all of them in a row construed capital market as the true barometer of their budgetary skill. Institutions like UTI were influenced by the thinking of the Government to change the basic composition of Schemes like US-64 from being basically debt-oriented to being converted into equity fund. Insider trading information of the big corporates who also control the media brought in distortion and created crisis. The Government must investigate and bring culprits to book and take corrective measures.

The Scheme US-64 has suffered from loss of confidence. It is the duty of the Government, the Parliament, and all of us, in the interest of the common people in whose name we swear and who have invested in US-64 to bring back the confidence and faith in UTI once again. The Government has to have a positive role in ensuring proper functioning of UTI. The Government cannot absolve itself of the responsibility of safeguarding the interest of more than two crores common and middle class unit-holders who have invested in the units of the Scheme.

Sir, I would just take a minute to point a few of the interesting things. I was just going through the debates. The Communists in Lok Sabha opposed the UTI Bill in December, 1963. At that time, Shri Uamanath of the Communist Party said:

"On behalf of the Communist Group, I rise to oppose this Bill, and that too on a matter of important principle. First of all, I would like to clear one point. This Trust is called the Public Sector Trust. Now, profits in the public sector project should go to the State or to the community as a whole. Here, the profits of the Trust will go to the individuals as unit-holders. To call this a public sector is a misnomer and it cannot be accepted."

This is one thing on which the Communist Party has changed its position. They are now realistic. Now, they think that the kind of stand which they had taken in 1963 was wrong. Now, I am told that they have invested about Rs. 50 crore in Unit Trust of India. If I am wrong they can also tell us as to how much amount they have given and where from did they get this money? We do not have that much of money...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he must be an insider in UTI. He knows so much.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, we are for the people...(Interruptions)

We urge the Parliament, the Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to take measures to investigate and find out who are responsible for this failure and take action against them. We all support him because he is our last hope so far as this nation is concerned.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was scam in the US-64 of UTI and 2 crore people, who invested their hard earned money, having faith in UTI, a Government organization...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talks please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, what are you doing. Please take care of the dignity and decorum of the House.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, in this US-64 scam of the UTI, we should not forget that the people have invested their hard earned money having faith in this Government organization and all the people in the country, the entire world and also the Government are agreeing to it, but the hon. Minister of Finance is repeatedly giving the clarification that he did not know about this scam since UTI is an autonomous body and as such the Government are not responsible. The Chairman has been imprisoned. So a lot of discussion has taken place in this regard. Such an incident had occurred in 1957. The Moondara case is one of the

famous events of this country. In this, shares worth Rs. 1.56 crore were purchased and when the question of resignation did come up, then Shri T.T. Krishnamachari had said that the Insurance Corporation is autonomous. This was the plea given by him, rest we do not know. But ultimately Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru asked him to resign and he resigned, and this is a historical fact now. What is the difference between these two - At that time the scam involved Rs. 1.56 crore and now it involves Rs. 4151 crore.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the big industrialists bought shares worth Rs. 4,151 crore. At that time in the Mundra case there were irregularities in the shares to the tune of Rs. 1 crore 56 lakhs only. Now, they are saying that all the irregularities were due to autonomy and the Minister is saying that he does not know, so whether such a Minister should remain on this post. If he is not aware of this scam then you are to be blamed for being ignorant and guilty. But this is not so. Mr. Subramanyam has told in the prison that a call was received from P.M.O. and from the Ministry of Finance. So based on that the Minister is directly responsible for the same.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we go by law of the land, the practice and the system, there was B.P. Verma scam, share scam during this Finance Minister's time. The Parliamentary committee is probing the share scam. Thereafter UTI scam took place. Scams after scams are taking place and the Minister of Finance says that he is not accountable. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will also tell you what happened in Bihar. Fodder scam took place in Bihar. An officer was found involved therein and he was given extension and on the basis of that conspiracy Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav is being repeatedly sent to jail. When CBI had raised objections against his extension, why he was given extension today Subramanyam is in jail, why the person who gave extension to him is not being sent to jail and Shri Laloo Yadav is being repeatedly sent to jail? Why there double standards are being adopted? You drew political mileage by giving extension to Subramanyam repeatedly despite the objections from CBI and now you have sent him to jail and are reigning. I hold the Minister responsible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, which law will govern the country? I would like to draw your attention to a news item published in Hindu wherein it is written that laws are not same for every Bihari. Under this law Laloo is being repeatedly sent to jail and the Finance Minister Shri Sinha who also belongs to Bihar is a Minister in the Union

Cabinet while the nature of their guilt is the same. These are double standards. There was B.P. Varna scam, share scam, UTI scam and for all these scams Finance Minister is responsible.

Mr. Speaker, George Fernandes tendered his resignation in wake of the scam exposed by Tehelka.com. But he was seen on the front benches today, he delivered his speech. He got an opportunity after four months. That is why he came to defend himself and said this and that should happen. Mr. Speaker the people of the country and the world today are seeing that..* and directly P.M.O. has been talked why then he was not named, who has the guts, why did not Sanjay Nirupam speak out, did he tender his resignation, why is the Finance Minister mum. The question is, why he is not tendering his resignation. To hush this up, under a political conspiracy the hon'ble Prime Minister was cleverly talking about tendering his resignation. The entire N.D.A. withdrew and the Prime Minister was asked to continue. The people of the country want to know as to what had happened to the hard earned money which the two crore poor investors had deposited with the UTI? We raised the question. The non-banking company like J.V.G., Kuber, Williams etc. in your Government looted investors. They lost money in UTI, in shares and now I feel that even these banks will loot money and run away like Marcos. That is why such people needs to be arrested immediately. How can fair inquiry be expected from CBI which is working as a political tool. *..(Interruptions)* The case of disproportionate assets is in the High Court. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A senior officer had said that money was seized from the residence of four minister and a note to the contrary that nothing was seized was got written from his subordinate. The case is pending in the High Court. Four of their ministers are involved in the case relating to disproportionate assets. *..(Interruptions)***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*..(Interruptions)***

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Finance Minister should resign. *..(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*..(Interruptions)***

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar): Mr. Speaker Sir, discussion is going on the Adjournment Motion brought by the opposition. I fail to understand why the opposition brought this Adjournment motion. After all, it a very big weapon in the hands of the opposition. They would have used it any time. They could have held discussion on the topic under any rule like in Rajya Sabha. Detailed discussion could be held for one or two days because this was a serious issue. After all why did the opposition use this weapon. I think it was not necessary to use this weapon at this moment. Therefore, first of all I would oppose this motion.

19.00 hrs.

I was listening to Shri Dasmunsi. Just now, I was listening to our colleague Shri Raghuvansh ji as well. It would have given the more pleasure had he discussed UTI or the financial policies of the country, their working procedure or functioning. But you do not hold discussions on those topics but individuals. There are all kinds of individuals good or bad everywhere and that it is never the policy of an individual but it is of the Government. Shri Dasmunsi was discussing the Finance Minister and holding his policy responsible for all this. He was saying that in 1991 even during the tenure of Chandrashekhar Government, he was the Finance Minister. There is no doubt that he was the Finance Minister but at that time only 54 members were there in his party and the Government was run with your support. I would reiterate that it is never the policy of a Finance Minister but of the Government and your 200 M.Ps. were supporting that Government that is why, if there were some mistakes or lacunae either in the policy functioning or working procedure of UTI, then only the Finance Minister is not to be blamed, you should also think about it. The entire blame can be put on you as well.

This issue was discussed in detail, and hon'ble George ji rightly said that UTI has been badly affected in the country while I would say that the economy of this

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

country has been badly damaged. There have been several scams for a very long time, whether these are related to mutual funds, banking or insurance. Several cases were discussed here like Malviya case, Mundra case and Rs. 6500 crore were lost in Harshad Mehta scam. Recently, about Rs. 3000 crore were lost in Ketan Parekh scam. The poor people of the country were robbed of their savings amounting to Rs. 1500 crore in the J.V.G. case. There are hundreds of such non-banking institutions functioning in the country which are robbing the masses. That is why I am saying that the House should ponder over this.

You shed tears, do all sort of things but what will happen to those who have been looted...*(Interruptions)*
Sir, I want to speak my mind very quickly. I do not want to deviate, this is not my nature.

Shri Krishnamachari was the Finance Minister when the UTI Bill was brought in this House in 1963. At that point some questions were raised by Dr. Lohia and later on by Shri Meenu Masani. At that point of time he had expressed apprehensions and said that Unit Trust made investment and earned capital. This is an extract from the speech made in the House by Shri Meenu Masani on December 4, 1963:

[English]

"If Unit Trust invests in a company, it gets capital. If the Unit Trust does not invest in it, it does not get capital. Think, Sir, of the financial power of corruption that will be implicit in such an arrangement."

He further says:

"The granting of credit will be a favour and the denial of credit will be a punishment."

[Translation]

Now a nexus has been formed between UTI, brokers and cyber trading as per prevailing situation in the UTI which is causing all mismanagement and lakhs of small investors are being duped of their deposits. Allegations and counter allegations are levelled but it does not help those who lost their deposits. Therefore, Meenu Masani Saheb had said at that time:

[English]

"The essence of the Unit Trust is a voluntary coming together of small investors. The essence of it is that it is non-official and the Government has no role to play whatsoever, except that of supervising the honest administration of these funds."

[Translation]

Whichever Government comes to power, does not supervise their funds. George Saheb has said that investment of these funds has been made in 1400 companies out of which 654 companies are not in existence. Only 81 companies were making some profit at that time. Then who will look after these funds? You may say that present Government was not in power in 1991 or 1994 to 1996 but this is the duty of the Government to see that if there is any shortcoming in laws related to supervision or in some of the rules then it should be amended by the House.

I would make the last point. Members from all parties are sitting here but what happens actually? When we sit in the opposition, we start remembering the public, investors but when we come to power, we forget everybody. When we go out of power, again we start remembering them all. Allegations and counter allegations do not heal up the wounds. Shri Meenu Masani had cited an example of Britain. He had said-

[English]

"In Britain, Unit Trusts have succeeded because the men who run them are not only honest but are also captains of industry and finance, because they know how to make profit. They know what will make a profit. They have got judgement. Now, the bureaucrats who are officials in State institutions are good people. They are honest people and they will do an honest job. But they are not fit for the role of being entrepreneurs or judging entrepreneurs."

[Translation]

UTI has about 2400 employees but only 15 out of them have experience in the field of investment, they, too have been removed. These things should be taken care of and efforts should be made to remove whatever shortcomings are there, so that such scams do not take place again in future. People are losing faith in financial institutions due to it. If such things continue to happen then what will be the condition of the country, you can well imagine that.

With these words I oppose this Adjournment Motion.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Adjournment Motion. I support this motion. The situation is very grave. The economy of our country is going through a bad phase. As the Prime Minister has said the clouds are hovering, such indications should be comprehended by the coalition partners as well. The hon'ble members from treasury benches have tried to defend the Finance Minister in regard to the UTI scam. I want to blame the Finance Minister that he has to accept the responsibility for such mismanagement. Whenever the Prime Minister came under attack he offered his resignation, when he pressurised by allied partners he withdrew his resignation. But the US-64 scam has taken place in strange conditions. Almost two crore small investors have been affected. Poor people, marginal farmers and small traders have been affected by it. But one person who was not affected by it was our hon'ble Finance Minister and this is very regretful. The way, Prime Minister had offered his resignation similarly the Finance Minister should also muster courage and tender his resignation as he failed to check such a scam.

He should enquire into the matter through J.P.C. instead of saving a big institution like Reliance company, but before that he should tender his resignation. Earlier, the Congress has been a ruling party and it has enjoyed power for long. Today it is NDA's Government. These two are making allegation against each other, but nobody is paying attention to the real issues, i.e. how to curb those scams which are happening in our country. There is a need to pay attention to it and to check it. The Government under the leadership of Vajpayee ji owe responsibility to check the recurrence of such scams.

If scams have taken place then they must take the responsibility. Particularly, the Finance Ministry should take the responsibility, therefore, I want that the Finance Minister should tender his resignation in the House. With these words I conclude.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHOURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scams on which we are having a discussion is a very serious issue. As has been mentioned, about 2 crore small investors have been duped of their money. First, it was Tehelka episode and now it is another kind of Tehelka about which people are taken by surprise. If people lose all their deposits due to scams then what they will do. Pensioners, small investors all are sharked. We should ponder over it seriously. Our former Defence Minister is here to defend the Government but he could not defend himself when allegations were levelled against him. On one hand army officers involved

in tehelka case are in Jail and the person at whose residence deals were struck is sitting here, he should come up with details. Alongwith that, I known that Finance and Defence Ministries are the two ministries which are controlled from abroad, they take orders from abroad. Therefore, I can see clearly that our Finance Minister is not the Finance Minister of India. He has been appointed on the directions from abroad. He will be removed on their direction only, not on our demand. Therefore, we, the Members of this Parliament want that he should resign after such a big scam. Another thing I want to say it that PMO's involvement in this matter has come to light in the other House. It is clear that Johri Brothers, who have been arrested, are linked with the PMO and I want to say:

[English]

'We know that Johris belong to PMs constituency, Lucknow and were neighbours of the powerful local BJP leader, who helped them to get the PM inaugurated the Cyber Park Project jointly owned by them and the UP Government.'

[Translation]

It is evident that the PMO is involved in it. I think, enquiry should be conducted into it. Finance Minister should resign and PMO should be brought under the purview of this enquiry so that the truth may come out. Beside I would say that this matter should be referred to the JPC. With these words I support the Motion.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today an important issue is being discussed here. I thank you for allowing me to speak. I feel that while establishing UTI, it was opined that many a drops make an ocean and from this dividend will be aid to the investors. But at times now it has been felt that in place of common poor people, labourers and farmers, who invested money in it, a few rich people are enjoying its benefits. There are 87 schemes of UTI and US-64 is a popular scheme. About one crore 85 lakh persons have invested in UTI and the total capital base is Rs. 5926.13 crore. The Government is responsible for managing this money because while reposing faith in the Government, the investors deposited their hard earned money with a hope to reap dividends in future. It is not for the first time that such scam took place. Present Government should not be blamed for such things. If we review the functioning of former Governments then we will find that such scams were also unearthed during their regime. Choudhary Devi Lal used to say that health of democracy depends on respecting the sentiments of masses. Poor

[Shri Sushil Kumar Indora]

people, including labourers and farmers, who are worried about their future have reposed faith in this Government and deposited their money. Now it is the duty of the Government to fulfil their aspirations. The Government should ponder over the accountability and responsibility of the management and the Ministry in this regard. I would like to make a mention of the question raised here on 22nd July. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance was asked as to how much money was invested in UTI and profit earned by the UTI along with the details of portfolio investment made by UTI. The Hon'ble Finance Minister replied that facts and information in this regard is being collected. Sir, here the question arises as to whether we are alert to the desired extent and performing our duty? Public of this country elected us and now it is duty of the Government to protect their social as well as economic interest. I would like to submit that an impartial inquiry should be conducted into this scam. Report of the inquiry should not be put in the dustbin. Facts should be brought before the public. It should become clear that an impartial inquiry is being conducted for protecting the interests of the public...*(Interruptions)* Recently, the Government has given Rs. 3000 crore to UTI. Poor people have deposited their hard-earned money in UTI and Mutual Fund as investment for future. All such scams have occurred in share markets not in small saving schemes of Post Offices. The Government should pay attention towards it and special measures should be taken in this regard. Inquiry should be conducted as to why scams are taking place in share market and UTI. A few capitalists are trying to exploit poor people which should be checked. Facts should be brought before the people after conducting an impartial inquiry into the UTI scam and to remind the public that Government is worried about their interests.

Sir, I oppose the Adjournment Motion as other methods are also there to highlight an issue and bring facts before the people. It is not necessary to adjourn the important proceedings of Parliament. There are several agencies and methods to bring out facts before the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is the last speaker.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, the unprecedented decision by the UTI last month to suspend the sale and repurchase of US-64 for six months stunned and shocked the people. It exposed a major scam,

a crisis engineered by the deliberate mismanagement of public financial institutions at the behest of the Finance Ministry, frustrated as it is, by the failure of its own gambles.

Sir, the people have been reposing faith in the Scheme in the belief that it has the backing of the Welfare State—the Union of India. They had reposed confidence in the Scheme, called a Trust, in the belief that it is a Government-run Mutual Fund. Today, over two crore people are dejected, disheartened and forlorn. They feel betrayed and cheated by the managers of UTI. At their cost, the UTI has chosen the company of and decided to oblige big operators in the stock market. This handshake has wreaked havoc for the ordinary investors including pensioners. It has broken their hearts and their backbones.

Sir, in an environment where we do not have social security benefits, there are people who have depended on their income from the UTI for their day-to-day living. The investors' genuine need for cash in emergencies like an operation, a marriage, a bereavement, has been severely affected.

It was in 1999 that the Deepak Parekh Committee had made certain valuable recommendations including reduction in equity exposure and private placements in shares, discouraging corporations from investing and inducing transparency and efficiency in fund management. Three years have been wasted. No heed has been paid to these recommendations of the Committee.

Shri Arun Jaitley sought to explain away the present malaise afflicting UTI by referring to the purchase of PSU shares amounting to Rs. 4,722 crore in 1990. What his jaundiced view fails to note is the reckless dalliance by the UTI with stocks of dubious repute in the last two years reflecting poorly on the quality of fund management. Shri Arun Jaitley forgot to recollect that in late 1995, the scheme earned over Rs. 2100 crore as interest from investments in securities or debt instruments whereas in the year 2000, this dropped to Rs. 395 crore only.

Sir, UTI's exposure in top IT stocks has taken a backseat to the games of the likes of Ketan Parekh. The UTI has not chosen Infosys but Cyberspace Infosys. It has not chosen Wipro but the likes of DSQ Software and Pentamedia Graphics. And when share prices were falling, US-64 was saddled with huge stocks of the likes of Ketan Parekh. The swelling equity portfolio became enough to wipe out 60 per cent of its reserves. What is most astounding is that even when the values of Shri Ketan

Parekh's stocks were falling in the market this year, the UTI continued to invest heavily in them and ultimately came to hold these shares at a massive loss not only to itself but to the small investors too.

Intervening in the debate, Shri Vaiko and Shri George Fernandes referred to the time when the Reliance Industries' shares were bought. They forget that it was this Government that compromised with those people. It was this Government, which, through the CBI, filed an affidavit in the High Court of Delhi compromising with the Reliance Industries Limited. When one hears Shri George Fernandes speak,

[*Translation*]

I remember one point that "Jo pesh pesh raha har gunah mein yaron usi ne talab kiya gunahgaron ko.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

May I repeat it? It is:

[*Translation*]

"Jo pesh pesh raha har gunah mein yaron
usi ne talab kiya gunahgaron ko".

[*English*]

This Government professes to be a Government with a difference. It swears by transparency. How does Shri Yashwant Sinha then explain the fact that just before the suspension of repurchases there was a large-scale withdrawal of funds by some corporate houses, badly bruising the scheme? Is insider trading not connected to these massive redemptions by the corporate sector? I would like him to answer these questions. What has been the role of the Trustees? Were they not privy to sensitive information about the decision to freeze the sale and repurchase before it was actually announced on the 2nd July? What is the nexus between these Trustees, the top brass of the UTI and the corporate houses, which have redeemed shares worth over Rs. 4,000 crore?

Last week, Shri P.S. Subramanayam, the sacked Chairman of the UTI stated categorically that the UTI Board had acted under the directions of the Ministry of Finance. This puts the Government in the dock. It is for this Government to answer those vital questions relating to the scam of the magnitude which is no less than the scams that have been rocking this Government one after the other. Today, after having sacked Shri Subramanyam, there are efforts made by this Government, after the

statement made by him, to mend fences with him. The statement by the lawyer of the sacked Chairman is rather an indication of the fact that he would go scot-free. That is perhaps the reason why this Government, today, after having sacked him, is coming up with the plea that nothing has gone wrong with the scheme. Undoubtedly, the UTI is the biggest domestic investor in the stock market and the biggest mutual fund investor. Why has it also degenerated into the worst performing Mutual Fund today? I would like Shri Yashwant Sinha to answer this. Why have 50 of its schemes invested in under performing stocks? Is this the transparency and is this the accountability to the public that you swear by?

Shri Yashwant Sinha theoretically talks of a constitutional answerability to the House. I am nobody to remind him but yet I would like to tell him that answerability to Parliament is not restricted only to answering questions in this House. It goes much beyond that. It is the duty cast upon him to gather the moral courage to accept responsibility for what has been going on under his nose.

It is not only a question of this scheme. What happened to the Rajyalakshmi scheme is a grim reminder and indicator of what has been going on in the Ministry. Before that also, what happened to the HUF investors in the National Savings Certificates, who after five years, at the time of maturity, were told that they were not entitled to the benefit? Similar is going to be the fate of the eleven Monthly Income Plan schemes. I would only like him to answer all these questions. I do not mind if this Government courts the company of rich people but certainly this Government must stop basking in a make-believe world of complacency.

Sir, I demand that this Government must not forsake the interest of the common man. If it does so, if it does not prove its *bona fide* by agreeing to the formation of a JPC, if the hon. Minister does not agree to step down and in case of his failing to do that, if the hon. Prime Minister — who has offered yesterday to go in for an inquiry if need be — does not dismiss the Finance Minister, the Government will be doing so at its own peril.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, ours is a two-Member Party. Please allow us to speak for a few minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, an hon. Member from his Party has already spoken. Please allow us also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please take your seat. I have called his name.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The member of his party has already spoken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should not be blamed if leaders from opposition parties are not allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time for his speech on this issue should be fixed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow us. A Member from his Party has already spoken at length. ...*(Interruptions)* We also have a right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. He is the last speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been kind enough to give me an opportunity. I feel relieved. The entire House is agitated over what has happened. ...*(Interruptions)* We are trying to find out some solution. What is the solution? Ultimately, the House will come to its conclusion. But I do not know why this impatience is there on a very vital matter. The hon. Minister of Finance had a session in the other House and he has come here and he is not showing any impatience. I am thankful to him.

Sir, we had seen a very aggressive intervention today from Shri George Fernandes. After his visit to the 'Tiger' of Mumbai, he feels probably the problem is over. But I find that Shri Geete is not participating in the debate.

However, he has, still optimistically, kept his seat at Division no. 4 in the House hoping for a rehabilitation soon and that has inspired his friends in West Bengal, who do not know where they are sitting in the House although they had left the NDA for the purpose of demanding his resignation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, some time back we have clarified this position here. It is not correct to say it. ...*(Interruptions)* I challenge it. I will resign from Parliament if I am wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, since my Party's name was taken by an hon. Member about the investment of my Party in UTI, I have to clarify it. I believe it is not a crime. I hope so. Please tell them. Even then I am saying that what is said here is despicable, untruth. I wish we had so much of money ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: How much money is invested?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Your Finance Minister who is also in charge of the Income-tax Department will tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

The problem is, Sir, some of us, some politicians, in this country cannot accept the verdict of the people of this country. That is what we see today. I do not want to take others' time. I am on one particular vital issue which I think is extremely important for the future of this country. I am not going into the question that this Government is equated with scams and corruption and all that. We all know about it. You have decimated the financial condition of this country by the economic depredations that you have carried on by your complete surrender to the mercenaries within and outside the country. Therefore, I am not going into the details. But, Sir, today a theory is being adumbrated by the Finance Minister of the Government of India, which is governed by a written Constitution, where the accountability is the

kingpin of the whole basic structure of our Constitution, that for a statutory corporation, the Government has no responsibility. I am appealing to all the hon. Members on all sides of the House that this is not a single occasion where things like it will happen or have happened; it might happen anywhere else. It has happened in the LIC, it can happen in GIC. Today, IFCI is in trouble. ~~Shri Vaiko. You are gloating over that there was not much of a meandering queue yesterday before the UTI Office.~~ Those people who had spent Rs. 14 or Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 for acquiring this Unit, why should they sell at Rs. 10? You are not answering that. But, Sir, is a Minister in the Government of India responsible to this House on this issue or not? I am not going into what T.T. Krishnamachari had said. He said, "This is a Fund which has been created for the common people, middle-class people, small investors for their protection. It will be a public institution." That is why, Sir, it was constituted under a statute; a specific Act of Parliament was brought in and was passed., Sir, it is being said, "Well, it is an autonomous corporation, what can I do? I am a very humble, powerless Finance Minister of the Government of India. I cannot do anything. I am not a telephone operator. I cannot keep track of telephone calls. Therefore, how do I know anything?" He said this in the other House.

I believe you have got a copy of the Act, Mr. Finance Minister. It was a deliberate decision of the Parliament of India, which has become a law of this country for so many years. Section 3 says that, "It shall be a corporation by the name of Unit Trust." Therefore, it is a statutory corporation. Section 3 (a) prohibits, such is the importance which is given to the Unit Trust, "That no other company, nobody else in this country, can incorporate the word 'unit' in its name" because of the importance that was given to Unit Trust of India. Who are the contributors to the capital? Capital contribution is by Reserve Bank, which is under the Government of India, Life Insurance Corporation, which is under the Government of India, State Bank and the subsidiary banks, which are under the Government of India, and the scheduled banks and their subsidiaries. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): The Reserve Bank's contribution has now been transferred to IDBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is a nice man but in such a bad company...*(Interruptions)*

Section 9 says that, "Management is statutorily vested in a Board of Trustees." The law provides that. Kindly note what Section 9 (2) says. Why I am a little shocked is because in the year 2001, it is being said solemnly by the Government of India's representative that the Government of India has no responsibility.

Sir, it says, 'the Board shall in the discharge of functions under this Act act on business principle regard being to the interest of the unit-holders.' Therefore, the beneficiaries are the people.

Sir, so far as the Board of Trustees are concerned, who are they? Statutorily it is constituted by them. It consists of the Chairman, IDBI, the Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, LIC, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Syndicate Bank — a public sector bank — and the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the State Bank of India. They are controlling this. They are comprising the Board of Trustees along with some others. Now, this Board of Trustees is acting under the dictates of the Government of India in various other matters and in any event they are not in a position to ignore the advice or the suggestions or the directions that may be given by the Government of India in every matter.

Sir, the salary of the Chairman is provided by the IDBI. From whom is the UTI able to borrow? They can borrow from the Reserve Bank of India and they can raise funds by issuing bonds and these bonds, under section 20 of the Act, are guaranteed by the Government of India. The bonds issued by UTI shall be guaranteed by the Central Government. This is the nexus between this corporation and the Government of India. It has no existence, as it were, if the Government of India was not supporting this organisation or this body through different agencies like the RBI and the IDBI.

Sir, now, if there are losses by this organisation, as they have done in the past, what will happen then? Who will provide the money? It says that special contribution will be made by the Reserve Bank of India or the Industrial Development of India to meet the losses. Who are these bodies? Under whose control are they? They have made losses in the past without the knowledge of the Government of India.

Sir, audit has to be done by auditors appointed with the consent of IDBI. The accounts and returns are to be

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

published in the Gazette. All information are available. Under section 30, which is very important, the Reserve Bank of India can give directions to the Board of Trustees. It says, 'in the discharge of functions under this Act, the Trust shall be guided by such directions in matters of policy involving public interest as it may give in writing, when any question arises relating to the matter of policy involving public interest, the decision of the Reserve Bank of India thereon shall be final. They have the power to give directions. So far as the Government of India is concerned, they have the power to re-constitute the Board at any time it wants.

Sir, the UTI cannot be liquidated according to section 42, save by the order of the Central Government. This legislation had a lot of good intentions behind it, like it was being set up for the benefit of the small investors and for the benefit of the middle class people. Now, this fund has accumulated. I am not going into the details. I have no time. It has been stated by the other Members who have participated in this debate. The Finance Minister had asked the Chairman, UTI to go. He had to go and he has gone. He has put in his papers. But I would like to know, did he or did he not know at any time before the 2nd, 3rd or 4th of July that things were not normal in the UTI? Did he or did he not know that the Government had to bail out this Corporation with massive funds worth Rs. 3,000 odd crore? Did he or did he not know that Deepak Parekh Committee had been appointed and it has given its recommendations? Did the Government of India try to find out whether recommendations were being complied with or not? Did it not occur to the Government of India as to why UTI had appointed Deepak Parekh Committee?

He is a very distinguished person. I have the privilege of knowing him personally. He, with his colleagues, had submitted a report where he had said that things went extremely critical in the affairs of UTI, affecting the interests of the common unit holders, the ordinary people. He said that the whole pattern of investment should be changed. He said that it has to be debt-oriented. The ratio of debt and equity now is 28:72. This is all pointed out in the Deepak Parekh Committee report and the Government was sleeping over it.

The Finance Minister could reconstitute the Board at any point he liked. Why did he not look into it? That is not a question of day-to-day management. I am not saying that the Finance Minister should have attended the UTI Board meetings and decided upon the investment in

Cyberspace Infosys. I am not asking him to find out at the Board Meeting as to who is this Pradeep Mathur, and who are controlling these investments. I would not ask the Finance Minister to come down to that extent. But, the overall responsibility is his. In this country nobody in the Government, no statutory authority can exonerate itself from being accountable to Parliament of India. How is that accountability to be exercised? It can be enforced through the Ministers. They are accountable to the people of this country whom we are representing here. It is the duty of the Government of India, the Council of Ministers, to be accountable and to give answer to the Parliament of India. Can they say, 'No, I do not know anything.'? The Finance Minister has forfeited his right to occupy his seat once he had said that he did not know. It is his duty to know. He is the Finance Minister of India. UTI is under the overall control of the Finance Ministry. How can he come and say, 'well, how can I be responsible?'

In continuing his debate he said

CBI filed its FIR on 18th July, within 15 days of the order of 2nd July. The Minister had come to know of it on 30th June. What did the CBI say in its FIR? CBI gave the details of acts of impropriety and criminality in its FIR. How could CBI, within 15 days find out all those things? CBI could find all those things from the records of UTI. If I had more time, I could have read out relevant portions of the FIR which would have revealed that misdemeanours and crimes were being committed in a statutory corporation under the Government of India where the Board of Trustees are entirely appointed and controlled by the Government of India. They are drawing their salaries from the funds of the UTI which is a public body. The Finance Minister says, 'we could not know, we did not know.' The CBI could come to know about all these facts and figures from the records of the UTI within a fortnight. And our worthy Finance Minister - he may be a worthy party loyalist but he is not serving the country — has abdicated his responsibility. On moral and ethical grounds at least he should quit and set the standard of probity in public life.

We are proud of our Constitution. Some of the provisions of our Constitution are being copied by others. But, there is a deliberate attack on the Constitution of this country by this Government which has become synonymous with scams. I demand the resignation of the Finance Minister and I demand that the matter should be examined by a JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Finance Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my submission that he should not be interrupted...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me begin by saying that this has been an outstanding debate except for that small unfortunate and entirely unnecessary interruption when our senior leader and colleague Shri George Fernandes was intervening in this debate.

I would like to compliment all the 19 Members who have participated in this debate and made a very valuable contribution to our understanding of the problem that we are dealing with. Let me also assure this hon. House that I shall do my duty in the same manner in which the hon. Members have done their duty where they have cast aside personal feelings.

Sir, I am grateful to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, the mover of this Adjournment Motion, for the kind words that he uttered about me as a human being. But he said that his kindness extended only to our personal relationship, that he was bound by the duty that he has to perform in this House to tell me where I have gone wrong, to tell me where I have faulted.

Sir, I am extremely grateful to my friend of very long standing. Do I have to name him?...(Interruptions) We have known each other for long forty years...(Interruptions) All these forty years, I believed, he was a man of honour; all these forty years, I believed, he was a man of character; all these forty years, I believed, he was a man of conviction; all these forty years, I believed, he was a man of competence until a point came in this House during the debate today when he made some remarks

and was challenged by hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, and within seconds, he not only stood up to withdraw whatever he had said but he also apologised for the remarks that he had made.

Now therefore, Sir, it has cast a doubt on all that he said in the course of this debate. If I were perhaps to become as aggressive as hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had become, then probably, he will immediately say that he withdraws everything that he has said, that he does not believe in what he has said. But it is not in my character to be that aggressive. And therefore, I shall let him be. I hope, our friendship will continue.

Sir, many issues have been raised in the course of this debate and I shall endeavour to answer them as briefly as possible because many of the facts are already known. What is the problem that we are talking about? What exactly is the problem? I am not referring to all the irrelevancies to which Raghuvansh Babu alluded to. His intervention is not worth my reply. ...(Interruptions) Sir, he has made personal allegations which have no basis. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is a senior Member. The remarks against him are objectionable. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): He should be removed from the cabinet...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has not uttered anything.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have said nothing unparliamentary. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Will the ruling party be allowed to say such things. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): They raise a issue and left the House...(Interruptions) They are preparing for leaving the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No. No. Let me see the records please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see the records. If it is objectionable, then definitely it can be expunged. Please take your seats. Let me see the records. What is this? If it is objectionable, definitely it can be expunged. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see the records.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the Finance Minister's remarks are objectionable. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If they are objectionable, definitely they will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see the records please. What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to say what he has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has to withdraw his remarks. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, his remarks are very objectionable and he has to withdraw his remarks. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see the records. If they are objectionable, definitely they will be expunged. What is this? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he must apologise. ...(Interruptions) He has to withdraw his remarks. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, there has been a demand in this House that I should submit my resignation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that if it is objectionable, it can be definitely expunged. Let me see the records. What is this? Unless I go through the records, how can I say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw his remarks. It is not a good remark. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: There is nothing unparliamentary in what I have said. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am not going to withdraw. ...(Interruptions) I am not going to withdraw. I have said nothing unparliamentary. ...(Interruptions)

20.00 hrs.

He wanted me to be arrested...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. Let me examine the records. I will see what he has said.

...(Interruptions)

20.01 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Absolutely no...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I have already said, let me go through the record. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. I will look into the record and if there is anything objectionable, it can be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members to go to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats. Please understand that this is an Adjournment Motion. I will look into the records and take necessary action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Let me examine the records.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not going to resume your seats, I am going to put the Motion to the vote of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. Otherwise, I will put the Motion to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you to resume your seats. Otherwise, I will put the Motion to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has to exercise his right of reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I say that we want a JPC. The alleged role of the PMO should be inquired into. We want the Prime Minister's commitment in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not going to resume your seats, I am going to put the Motion to the vote of the House. Shri Dasmunsi has to exercise his right of reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not listening to me. I have already told you about those remarks. I will look into the record and take necessary action. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Without seeing the records, how can I say?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Without seeing the records, it is impossible for me to say anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

20.26 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is here. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the hon. Prime Minister. He is already on his legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are creating a new procedure in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has not completed his reply. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has replied. Let us go for voting now. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, is it your reply?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did you call me to reply? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it your reply?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is it your reply?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has made a very objectionable observation on a very senior Member of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, I have already said that I would look into the record and take necessary action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, I have to see the record. How can I say anything without seeing the record?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, how can he talk like that? It is not a question of seeing the record. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After looking into the record, I will definitely take necessary action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is it your reply?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

20.28 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and another hon. Member came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to give his reply.

...(Interruptions)

20.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the hon. Speaker has already assured the House that the record would be verified.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unless the record is verified, it will be very difficult to say anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot insist like that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already told you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, please go to your place.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has gone on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker will verify the records. He has already assured that in case there is anything unparliamentary or objectionable, he will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your place.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Speaker has told the House that after seeing the whole record action will be taken. We cannot do anything more.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You raise the point of order from your place and not here.

...(Interruptions)

20.33 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear the point of order.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Under rule 352 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, it has been specifically mentioned that a Minister or any Member while addressing the House shall not:

"(ii) make personal reference by way of making an allegation imputing a motive to or questioning the bona fides of any other member..."

[Sardar Buta Singh]

He has insulted Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.
 ...(Interruptions) He must withdraw his words.,
 ...(Interruptions) He has committed a contempt of this House. ...(Interruptions) You must uphold the dignity and ask him to withdraw his words and apologise. Otherwise, adjourn the House. ...(Interruptions)

20.34 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Buta Singh, please read the explanation. There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Hon. Speaker has already assured that he will look into the records and take necessary action.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask all the Members to go to their respective seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Record will be seen in this regard and appropriate action will be taken.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has already given a ruling, I cannot give another ruling on that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the hon. Finance Minister is not being allowed to speak. Hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may please exercise his right to reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Prime Minister assured the other House that if need be an inquiry could be made into the functioning of the Prime Minister's Office. I insist in my reply that the Prime Minister in his own magnanimity accept our demand of appointing a JPC to investigate into the affairs of the UTI including the involvement of the Prime Minister's Office, as assured by him in the other House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This being an Adjournment Motion, the House has to vote on the Motion. I am, therefore, constrained to put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

...(Interruptions)

20.43 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Matters Under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(I) **Need to take stringent measures to prevent 'production and sale' of fake products in Delhi**

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Delhi has become the capital of fake material — whether it is fake drugs, fake currency notes or other fake products. The fake material are found in lanes and by-lanes of the capital at a fraction of the original cost.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

On July 4, 2001, fake drugs worth a couple of crores of rupees were recovered from the city's largest wholesale market Bhagirath Place, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. Most of the brands which had been faked were commonly prescribed and consumed by people in all corners. This detection is only a tip of the iceberg.

The Drug Control Department is ill-equipped to check the menace thereby leaving an open field for the unscrupulous chemists and drug manufacturers to play havoc with the lives of the people in connivance with each other. The Government should pay serious attention to nip this evil in the bud.

[Translation]

(ii) Need to set up Industrial Development Centre at Alwar in Rajasthan

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The State of Rajasthan is lagging behind in the field of industrial development as the basic facilities provided there are insufficient. The Union Government had declared an Industrial Development Centre Scheme in 1988, primary object of which was to provide basic facilities for the development of industries.

Despite the fact that district Alwar comes under the National Capital Territory Region and many industries are being shifted here from Delhi, no Industrial Development Centre is there in Alwar. Lack of basic facilities cause difficulties for the industrialists here.

I, therefore, request the Government that Industrial Development Centre may immediately be set up in district Alwar of Rajasthan.

(iii) Need to advise Jharkhand Government to amend Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Bill, 2001 with a view to provide representation to other castes also.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): I would like to tell the House under rule 377 that the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Bill, 2001 prepared on the basis of the recommendations of Bhuria Commission has been passed in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. In this Bill, the provision for reservation of standard single posts viz, Mukhiya, Up-Mukhiya, Up Pramukh, Zila Adhyaksh and

Upadhyaksha for the Scheduled Tribes has been made in twelve districts, which is not right. If the posts of Mukhiya, UP-Mukhiya, Pramukh Adhyaksha are made reserved in such panchayats where the scheduled caste people comprise more than fifty percent of the total population, then no one would object to it. Non tribal backward, dalit people and people belonging to other castes form a substantial part of the population, they have not been provided with sufficient reservation in the posts due to which there is a lot of discontentment amongst this category. This would hamper the developmental work and would lead to mutual conflicts.

I, therefore, request the Government not to hold Panchayat elections in Jharkhand until amendment is made in the provisions of this Bill and the Bill must be amended immediately as the tribal population in the State is 27 percent and rest of the people are non-tribals.

(iv) Need to make Hindustan Machine Tools unit at Ajmer, Rajasthan viable.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The city of Ajmer located in midst of Rajasthan holds great importance from historical, cultural, religious and educational point of view. A unit of the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) was established here many years back and thousands of workers are employed here. There are many important machines worth crores of rupees which are managed and operated by many skilled, experienced and technical experts deployed here. This HMT unit at Ajmer has also obtained the I.S.O. 9002 certificate. Many important machines manufactured and produced in this unit are exported to various foreign countries. If this unit gets order to manufacture specific goods or products from the Defence Services and the Department of Railways etc., it can very easily make supply of these products with the help of good equipment and proper basic facilities available here. The HMT Unit in Ajmer is the only Public Undertaking of the Government of India which has given impetus to industrial development here. Due to industrial slump and their inability to get orders for the disposal of manufactured goods, many skilled workers in this unit have been given retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

I, therefore, request the Government that in any situation they should make this unit of the HMT viable and people here should be given a maximum of the job work on the basis of basic facilities and equipments available here.

(v) Need to provide halt to Howrah-Ahmedabad express train at Dharangaon in Erandol Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): There is one railway station by the name of Dharangaon Railway Station in my Constituency Erandol. There are 50 villages around this Railway Station comprising of a population of around 5 lakhs. This is a trading centre visited by traders and businessmen from other places come here for business purpose and people of this area also go to other places for the same purpose but all of them have to face a great difficulty as there is no express train halt at Dharangaon Railway Station. People of this area have been demanding for a halt of an express train at this station for a long time. Even I had made a request to the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard but failed to get any response, people here are now compelled to agitate.

Through you, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways that in the interest of the people, he may kindly issue orders for short halt of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express train at Dharangaon Railway Station keeping in mind the just demand of the people.

[English]

(vi) Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an International Airport and set up cargo hub there.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): To give impetus to the economic development of Vidarbha region and Central India as a whole, the Government of Maharashtra planned to develop a Multi Model International Passenger and Cargo Hub at Nagpur. The Hub airport is proposed to be developed adjacent to the existing airport integrating the available facilities of Nagpur airport.

Nagpur is not only geographically located at the centre of the country but also strategically located between South-East Asia and Europe.

The Government of Maharashtra have already taken the decision to develop this airport and a consortium of consultants appointed to prepare techno feasibility report.

I would urge upon the Central Government to take early decision on the following matters:—

- (1) Nagpur airport be declared as International Airport both for passenger and Cargo.

- (2) Ministry of Civil Aviation should give permission for landing of international airlines under the open sky policy.

- (3) The Central Government should join hands with the State Government as equity partner in forming Special Purpose Company for the development of Multi Model International Hub Airport at Nagpur and existing assets be transferred to this SPC free of costs.

- (4) International airlines and domestic airlines should be encouraged to develop maintenance facilities and transit facilities at Nagpur airport as hub airport.

(vii) Need to allocate adequate funds for early completion of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project in Rajasthan.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAMA CHOUDHARY (Barmer): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Indira Gandhi Nahar Project which was started during early fifties. This project being the life line for drought-prone districts — Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pali, Nagaur, Bikaner and Jodhpur of Western Rajasthan — needs to be completed early. This Nahar Project has crossed Jaisalmer and entered Barmer, but due to non-release of funds by the Central Government the construction work on this National Project has come to a standstill.

As you are aware, Sir, this year out of 32 districts of Rajasthan, 31 districts have been declared drought affected and are reeling under severe drought. The Western portion of Rajasthan has been under drought for the third consecutive year. The Indira Gandhi Nahar Project is of great help by way of production of fodder for animals and water for irrigation and drinking purposes.

I request the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds for this national project for this early consumption.

(viii) Need to include 'Chain Community' of West Bengal in the 11st of Scheduled Castes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Thirty lakh people of "Chain Community residing in the districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Birbhum, West Dinajpur in the State of West Bengal are predominantly poor and downtrodden. Literacy rate among male is one per cent and for female is as negligible as 0.001 per cent. Farming and vegetable vending are the only way of their livelihood. But in spite of their backwardness, they have not been included in the list of scheduled community.

Cultural Research Institute (CAL) has on more than three occasions recommended to the Union Government for considering the inclusion of this community in SC list under Article 341. A motion in this regard was mooted in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly which was adopted on 24.11.1997. Moreover, the community does have the distinct language namely Chain Bhasa. Even "Mandal Commission" has acknowledged the Chains as a weaker and backward class in political, social and economic terms. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take such a step to assuage the feeling of this community by giving them the status of Scheduled Caste.

- (ix) Need to allocate adequate funds for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 17 passing through Kannur District, Kerala.**

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): I rise to draw the attention of the Centre to the deplorable conditions of National Highway No. 17 passing through Northern Kerala district including Kannur.

In pursuit of mega projects that are beyond our reach, we should not ignore the basic upkeep of our National Highways. NH-17 passing through Kannur district needs widening, reinforcement and upgradation of riding quality.

Due to railway accident at Quilandy recently, the link between Northern districts of Kerala, Kannur, Kozhikode etc. with rest of Kerala was snapped, putting much pressure on the roads both for goods and passengers traffic. This has caused premature wear of the NH-17 in the northern districts of Kerala.

The condition of NH-17 in my district is worse than other State Highways. I would, therefore, urge the Minister for Road Transport and Highways to include widening, reinforcement and upgradation of riding quality of the NH-17 passing through Kannur in the on-going work programme and provide adequate allocations of funds for the same.

- (x) Need to construct cement-concrete embankment to check soil erosion caused by tidal waves in 'Diviseema' area of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.**

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Tenali constituency in Andhra Pradesh is on the coastal line of Bay of Bengal. There is frequent erosion of soil on the coast due to high level tidal waves particularly in 'Diviseema' area of Krishna District.

On several occasions it was represented that there is need for construction of pucca, cement concrete tidal banks to arrest erosion and save valuable private land and habitations and other properties. I urge upon the Government, Department of Ocean Development to take up survey of such vulnerable spots on the coast and construct cement-concrete tidal banks to check the soil erosion.

[Translation]

- (xi) Need to open computerised booking office at Fatehgarh and Kayamganj stations in Farrukhabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.**

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Two places in my Parliamentary constituency — Fatehgarh and Kayamganj are very important in every respect. These two places have been linked to the main railway line for quite a long time but the facility of reservation has not been available at these places till now. At present this facility is available only in Farrukhabad.

Fatehgarh is the district headquarter of Farrukhabad. Various offices of the Uttar Pradesh Government including the office of District Magistrate are located in Farrukhabad only.

One of the major military training centres of the country is located in Fatehgarh.

In a way, Farrukhabad and Fatehgarh are twin cities. The distance between the two is no more than 10 kms.

Similarly, Kayamganj is an important tobacco trade centre in the country. Due to lack of the facility of reservation, the traders and local residents have to travel 30 kms to reach Farrukhabad for reservation.

I request the Union Government to provide the facility of 'computerised Reservation' at the two places falling in my constituency.

- (xii) Need to authorise State Government of Maharashtra to export surplus agricultural produce.**

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Maharashtra is an agricultural State. Maharashtra produces cotton on a large scale and the State Government procures cotton under the 'monopoly' scheme. Apart from cotton, soyabean and onion are also produced on large scale.

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

Union Government gives permission every year for the export of agricultural produce but due to the delay in permission for export, farmers are not able to get reasonable price for their onions and soyabeans. Therefore, State Government should be empowered to accord permission for the export of surplus agricultural produce so that exports could be made in time.

(xiii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. for free bore-well scheme for the benefit of poor people.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): The southern part of Uttar Pradesh is known as Bundelkhand. Districts of Banda, Chitrakut, Mahoba and Hamirpur in Chitrakut division of Bundelkhand were drought affected areas during the year 2000-2001 and to resolve the problem of drinking water and for relief work, Union Government had provided some funds. As a part of drought relief measures, recovery of land revenue from farmers was suspended. Other proposed works include deepening of ponds through digging.

With a view to provide relief from drought to the farmers, implementation of free bore tubewell scheme in large scale is necessary. Farmers should be extended economic assistance through State Governments for installing small borewells. Launching of schemes on large scale under drought relief works is necessary for the solution of drinking water problem. Hand pumps should have greater depth so that they could survive severe droughts. During drought, cattle die in large numbers as a result of shortage of fodder and water. This aspect should not be ignored while making plans for the solution of drinking water problem.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide necessary funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for this purpose.

[English]

(xiv) Need to provide adequate funds to Orissa Government for reconstruction of cattle sheds in flood hit areas of the State.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Orissa has been successively and enormously hit by cyclone, drought and flood. This year it is an unprecedented flood. Twenty-one out of thirty districts of the State have been severely affected. Instead of taking long-term measures to address particularly drought and flood problems, *ad hoc* approaches are always being made. I urge upon the Government for making an attitudinal change and take on the problems squarely and permanently.

Cattle population plays a significant role in the economy of Orissa. No attention has hitherto been paid for their protection and upkeep after every natural calamity. This unprecedented flood has washed away or razed the mud houses to the ground including cattle sheds. These cattle folk are the means of major livelihood for poor and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. I urge upon the Government to help each of the family below poverty level rearing these animals of economic importance.

I also request the Government of India to help to construct cattle sheds.

[Translation]

(xv) Need to formulate a Fuel policy

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Development can be attained only through a judicious use of the fuels. Major sources of the fuel in the country are coal, petroleum and electricity. Even when coal has more than 50% ash content, it is being sold in our country at a rate higher than that in the international market because the cost of production in our country is high. For petroleum products, prices are determined on the basis of the procedure adopted for fixing prices by the Government wherein cost of production has no place. Therefore, no one bothers about lowering the production cost. In the power sector, the generation of power is considerably less than our installed capacity and we are suffering loss with regard to 50% of even what we produce. That is why, Boards are running in loss.

All this is the result of the absence of a fuel policy based on concrete assessment of the capacity and requirements of the country. Therefore, I request for the formulation of a fuel policy without delay, so that fuel is available in the country on demand and on reasonable rates.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

20.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 3, 2001/Sravana 12, 1923 (Saka).

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