

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 18, 2002/Asadha 27, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we don't want to stop the Question Hour but I would like to apprise the House about the tragic incident which took place in Faizabad and it is absolutely necessary to do so. There was an electricity failure. The residents left their House at 11 O'clock and went to ask the authorities as to why this loadshedding is going on but police started to beat the agitators. A person named Rajesh Gupta was beaten so much that he was forced to flee and take refuge in a house. Police pursued him and beat him black and blue resulting in fractures and injuries. He was taken to the medical college where he died...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you raised it in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Not only this, even his last rites were not allowed to be performed...(Interruptions) Who are you to teach me about rules, I will speak on it...(Interruptions) Not one but several incidents of this type are taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you raise this matter in Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 61—Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. You should give directions to the Government in this regard. Such killings are taking place in Uttar Pradesh everyday...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of power crisis should be discussed here...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The Congress Government is in power in Delhi. Ask them also to take steps in this regard.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of the Uttar Pradesh are facing problem due to the lack of power supply there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvedi ji, you ask the Question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had asked all the hon. Members to raise such issues in Zero Hour and not to interrupt during the Question Hour. Despite knowing all rules and your requesting them, such situation persist. You have to devise some solution in such a situation.

MR. SPEAKER: I am certainly going to find some solution on this subject. Now you ask the Question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, sir, who is he to teach me the rules?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that I am on my legs. When Mr. Speaker is on his legs, Members ought to sit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvedi ji, I am fully aware of the Question asked by you. I am certainly going to take proper steps. Now you ask the Question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I was requesting you in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, there is no need to speak now. You sit down peacefully.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Who is he to say so to a senior Member...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rail Accidents

+
*61. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents occurred during the last three years and the loss of lives and property suffered in each accident till 30th June, 2002;

(b) the amount of compensation provided to the next of the kin of those died as well as to the injured persons alongwith the basis of providing the compensation;

(c) the number of such cases pending with the Government till date; and

(d) the causes leading to rail accidents and the details of measures taken to prevent such accidents in future?

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

Statement

(a) The number of consequential train accidents, persons killed and loss to property during the last three years is as under:—

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002*	2002 (upto June, 2002)*
Number of accidents	463	473	415	103
Number of persons killed	616	216	311	111
Loss to Railway property	Rs. 81.94 Crore	Rs. 54.98 Crore	Rs. 48.54 Crore	Rs. 5.08 Crore

* Figures are provisional.

(b) Rs. 25.87 Crores were paid as compensation during 1999-2000 to 2001-02, to next of the kin of those killed and injured passengers in train accidents.

Under the Railway Accidents and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997, norms have been fixed for paying uniform scale of compensation to dependents of deceased passengers and those injured in accidents as under:—

(i) Rs. 4 lakhs for death and permanent disability.

(ii) Rs. 32,000/- to Rs. 3,60,000/- depending upon the gravity of injury.

(c) There are 536 accident cases pending for claim compensation with Railway Claims Tribunal as on 30th June, 2002.

(d) Train accidents are caused by failure of railway staff, equipment failures, lapses on the part of road vehicle user at level crossings, Sabotage, combination of factors and other incidental reasons.

Important steps taken to prevent accidents are as under:—

(i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crore has been set up for

renewal of over aged assets and for safety enhancement works.

(ii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes having speed above 75 kmph. has been done and remaining portion of the work is under progress.

(iii) A pilot project of European Train Control System (ETCS) on trial basis for Mathura-Palwal section of Central Railway has been sanctioned.

(iv) Extended field trials of Anti Collision Device (ACD) are being conducted for Northern Railway. After successful completion of extended field trials, a decision would be taken for its wider application.

(v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced over 175 block sections and more sections are being progressively added.

(vi) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.

- (vii) Walkie—talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (viii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps having better visibility.
- (ix) Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines and Track Renewal Trains are being used to get superior track geometry.
- (x) To monitor track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (xi) For detection of hidden flaws in rails/welds, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (xii) At the Rail Rolling Mill, Bhilai, online Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) and eddy current testing is being done to weed out rails with defects. Vacuum degassing is being done to reduce hydrogen content and thus improve quality of rails. Indian Railway and Bhilai Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited are also planning together to produce longer rails i.e. 26 metre and 65 or 78 metre, instead of conventional 13 metre length to reduce number of welds in the track.
- (xiii) The specification of Rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (xiv) Funds being received from the diesel cess are being use for safety related works pertaining to level crossings, Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings.
- (xvii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns are undertaken to educate road users on the precaution to be taken at level crossings.
- (xviii) Level Crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xix) Steps are being taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xx) Periodical Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters is being conducted.
- (xxi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xxii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses.
- (xxiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xxiv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.
- (xxv) Majority of four wheeler wagons (CRT wagons) with vacuum brake system have been phased out.
- (xxvi) All new coaches are being fitted with Bogie Mounted Brake System. In addition, some of the existing coaches having adequate residual life are also being retrofitted with this system.
- (xxvii) To improve crash worthiness of coaches, as an immediate measure, coach interiors are being re-designed with improved fittings and features, which would not cause injury. Simultaneously, the coach body will be re-designed to absorb more impact so as to keep passenger carrying areas intact.
- (xxviii) New wagons being inducted into the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies. Bogie Mounted Brake System has also been developed and is under trial. The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.
- (xxix) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality Maintenance System.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has the biggest railway network in the world but equally true is the fact that it is the least secure one. It is seen from the safety point of view that the numerous accidents take place every year. Inquiry Committees are constituted to submit their reports and the same process goes on. The same reasons, which are pointed out by the Inquiry Committees for causing accidents repeatedly, cause further destruction and rail accidents.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister in two parts. First thing as has been told by the hon. Minister in his reply is that 1454 railway accidents have occurred during the last three years i.e. upto 2002 in which 1254 persons have died but the number of injured persons has not been told. These accidents have resulted in the losses of railway property to the tune of 190.54 crore rupees. One of the reasons for the causes of railway accidents as told by the hon. Minister is the departmental failure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many accidents have occurred due to failure or error, negligence on the part of the railway staff i.e. drivers, guards signal operators and station masters etc. and what action has been against them. Besides, I would like to know in how many cases the high level officers which include DRM and those in Railway Board which is a white elephant and other senior officers have been held responsible and action was taken against them.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern of the hon. Member is quite apt. Every countrymen and the railway user would concede to the fact that railway journey should be safe. Steps should be taken to achieve the target of averting railway accidents. I have replied to teach question of the hon. Member in detail in the reply of the original question. Through the House I would apprise the hon. Member that as far the safety performance of railways is concerned it is considered to be of world standard. It is true that efforts should be made to achieve the target of Zero level accident. If compared to the railway network abroad performance of Indian railways is considered better. Going by the yardstick of accident taking place at per million kilometres distance, we are constantly towards improvement and progress. While the number of accidents occurring per million kilometres was more than 5, this has been reduced to 0.65 today. As I said that many steps should be taken to bring the situation of averting the accidents completely and several steps have been taken in this direction. If roughly observed, it could easily be gauged as to why

rail accidents take place, and that 65 percent of the accidents take place due to human error while 22 percent do take place owing to the mistakes by the railway users. As we also include the railway accidents occurring at railway crossings while these accidents are not included in the accident figure anywhere in the world. This way 65 percent of the total rail accidents result due to human error on the part of the railway employees and officers. As I said 22 percent accidents occur due to the mistakes of the road users and if seen roughly 13 percent accidents occur due to equipment failure or quick accident. Several steps to check those have been taken and the foremost step which has been taken only recently last year is the renewal of the railway tracks but it is not proceeding due to the paucity of funds.

A special railway safety fund of Rs. 1700 crore has been created for the renewal of tracks. An amount of more than Rs. 1400 crore was spent previous year out of it and this year there is a proposal for spending 2210 crore rupees to be utilised for renewal of tracks and changing of railway coaches and changing the bogies of the goods train and also for constructing new bridges in place of the old bridges. This way several schemes have been adopted and a safety drive to minimise the human error is going on. We have also included the union and federation in it.

One of the question asked by the hon. Member is that how many officers and employees have been held responsible for the railway accidents occurring due to human error. I would make available the statistics to the hon. Member in this regard. However the officers and the staff are punished in large numbers. Now after the Gaisal accident...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had asked a very pin pointed question as to whether any senior DRM or any Member of the Railway Board has been held responsible. Accidents are taking place regularly. This question is related to railway accidents. Hon. Minister is saying that I will make the figures available. My supplementary question originates very much from the original question. You must have come prepared for it...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg your pardon, perhaps I could not tell about it properly. As you asked about the rail accidents in that how many officers and staff have so far been punished and what action has been taken against them during the last three years. I had said that I will make you available the details in this regard but as far the action against the high level officers is concerned, I was mentioning to that as to what action has been

taken against the high level officers after the Gaisal tragedy. As you are aware that the primary responsibility is fixed on the basis of the ongoing report of the Commissioner, Railway safety inquiry or the inquiry report to be submitted under the Commission of Inquiry Act and then the case for secondary responsibility is made out to prove the worthiness of the blame. DAR rules are formulated on that basis and the action is taken on the basis of those and the action in this regard has been taken in this direction. As far punishing the officials is concerned, the action against 99 officials and employees have been taken. Action has been taken against 561 officials in 1999-2000 against 564 in 2000-2001 and against 557 in 2001-2002. As far your question regarding the junior level employees is concerned, I told you statutory inquiry of accidents is done by the Commissioner, Railway Safety and by other railway officers in the cases where it is not done by the Commissioner and a provision for holding such statutory inquiry has also been made. As you know that the Commissioner, Railway Safety is not under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways. To main its impartiality and fairness, this post is kept under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Action is taken on the basis of the report submitted by him and also on the basis of the report submitted by the judicial or other commissions constituted from time to time under the Commission of Inquiry Act. As I said and I would like to reiterate that the action against someone is taken only after conducting thorough probe and fixing the primary and secondary responsibility and once the blameworthiness against the accused is proved. Besides, several Government rules are framed in this regard and under these rules also the action is taken against the accused only after giving the him opportunity to present his defence.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that I did not get the proper reply of my very clear and precise question. I wanted to know as to whether any action has been taken against a senior officer—this is still unknown to us. Further, I would like to know as to how much of the funds have been allocated in the year 2002-2003 out of the Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17000 crore constituted on the basis of the recommendations of the Khanna Committee and what is the projectwise details thereof and also whether any step has been taken to ensure that this fund would be fully utilised during the year 2003. Whether the standard of quality in the projects proposed to be undertaken would be maintained? As the information in regard to the large scale pilferage and corruption prevailing at both lower and higher level is resulting in declining standard of quality and eventually to accident is being received it is requested that these things be clarified.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In light of the recommendations of the Khanna Committee it has been held on several occasions and as also mentioned by me as well as by the hon. Member and House is aware of the fact that a non-lapsing special Railway Safety Fund worth Rs. 17000 crore was set up and it has two components. A safety surcharge has been imposed on the passengers by which Rs. 5000 crores would be mobilised and the Government of India is providing Rs. 12000 crore as grant. This special railway safety fund was made effective from 1 October, 2001. An allocation of Rs. 1400 crore was fixed for the financial year 2001-2002. You would be happy to know that as per the information on the basis of the actual figures we spent a total of Rs. 1434 crore i.e. 34 crore more money was spent. A provision of Rs. 2210 crore rupees has been made in the year 2002-2003. A target of meeting of overdue renewal projects by utilising these funds in the six years has been fixed.

As far your question regarding itemwise expenditure is concerned, the following provision has been made for it—Rs. 6818 crore for track renewal, Rs. 1530 crore for the bridges, a provision of Rs. 2757 crore for Telecommunications, Rs. 2985 crore for rolling stock, Rs. 1018 crore for safety enhancement measures and Rs. 1851 crore has been made to meet the inflationary effects. This way an amount of Rs. 17000 crore have been provided. Not only this, we have maintained a Green Book which has already been laid on Table of the House which mentions the items under which this money would be spent. Those works have been identified and this information has been given to the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

The House had been informed about the work to be undertaken through the Special Railway Safety Fund and has been included in a book which is known as Green Book apart from the Pink Book. That has already been placed before Parliament.

[Translation]

As far as your reference to pilferage is concerned, I would say that we are eager to listen to any specific incident in this regard and if any irregularity is found in any matter then we would take prompt action thereon...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have a request to all the Members.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: Nitishji, please listen to me. His question has not been recorded.

I request to all the hon. Members that they should ask specific questions only and their reply should also be specific because these are many important questions in the list. Today's fourth question is the most important. Hence, I want that the questions as well as reply should be specific.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have given Notice for discussion on that subject.

MR. SPEAKER: If that question is brought right now it can be replied now. The House has to decide about it not I. However, both question as well as the reply should be specific

[English]

so that it is possible to make more questions in the House.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister towards the 18th point of his today's reply regarding the provision of interlocked signal system in level crossings. In Kannur-Kasargode Section, most of the level crossings are without the interlocked signal system, that is why the DRM in Palakkad Division decided to keep the gates closed during last week. This created a lot of problems for the local people. Both sides of the rail in our area are thickly populated. Each and every hour hundreds of vehicles pass through the level crossings.

The decision of the DRM affected the social and economic life of the people of these areas. People are highly agitated. Because of the intervention of the local MPs and MLAs, the DRM withdrew his decision and reopened the gates. To avoid such difficulties, I would request the hon. Minister to take measures to provide inter-locked signal systems in all level crossings in the area.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can give an assurance for considering the suggestion by the hon. Member because the signal work is done in accordance with the traffic intensity at the level crossing of a particular route. It is also true that there are densely populated settlements on both sides of the track in Kerala and I have seen it myself while doing traffic inspection in many

areas. I would certainly give special consideration to the area mentioned by the hon. Member in his question.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity.

On the 27th of this June, at Punnur gate, which is falling in my constituency 3 kms. to the south of Tellicherry Station and nearly 2 kms. north of Mahe Railway Station, a major accident took place. A school bus had been completely jammed; the bus driver got killed and a boy who was in the bus was actually very seriously injured. In fact, it would have been a very major tragedy if the bus had been full of students. It was actually coming back from the school after dropping the children. After that, as pointed out by Shri T. Govindan, the railway gates which are without inter-locking system had been closed by the DRM, Palghat Division. It is always closed. Several vehicles plying between these gates in the northern part of Kerala, that is Malabar region, had been diverted and the people are facing very great difficulties.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It would be better to ask specific questions and do not make speeches.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: I am coming to the point. An inquiry was conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety from Bangalore on 30th June and 1st July. But it was kept 25 kms. away from the venue of the accident.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a straight question. That is what I have said. If you go on speaking like this, the Minister would not be to give you the answer.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: I am coming to the question. Very frequently inquiries are conducted, but nothing comes out of it. On 21st June 2001, the Kadalundi accident happened in which nearly 52 persons were killed. They are yet to get compensation. What is happening to the Commissioner's report? As far as our knowledge goes, the Commissioner's report has not been published.

MR. SPEAKER: You get the information from the Minister as to what happened to the report.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: I would like to know as to what is the position of the report given by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety; or, has he not given

the report at all? We would like to know the details if they are available.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has already submitted his report. Action is being taken based on the recommendations of the report. So far as the publication of the report is concerned, only the recommendation part has been published as per the advice of the Commissioner. So far as the full report is concerned, it is not published. That is the case.

So far as the other part of her question is concerned, I have already responded. I will look into the Kerala matter separately.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The Railway Minister has stated in his answer that 29 important steps have been taken to prevent accidents. But more number of accidents has taken place after issuing these orders. Anyway, one important point has not been taken into consideration. That is, how is the Civil Aviation Secretary, who is the Railway Safety Commissioner also, who is there as permanent Commissioner, connected with the railway safety? If the Minister wants to have an independent body to inquire into accidents and to suggest safety measures, he may appoint a Commission with a judge. Civil Aviation has nothing to do with the Railways. Today somebody is there, tomorrow somebody else may be there.

Another point is, the permanent Commissioner for Railway Safety is not your Railway employee; he is your *ex officio* employee. He is not even of the grade of the General Manager of the Zone. How can you get an inquiry done properly when he goes to the Zone and inquire into the accident? Will the Minister reply to these two points?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Railway Safety Commissionerate is a separate organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Secretary, Civil Aviation is not its Chairperson. He is properly selected. Commissioners have been given powers under the 1989, Railway Act and their duties are also defined. Their service conditions are different. Hence they have been kept independent of Railway.

As far their selection is concerned, the persons having knowledge of Railways are selected. Secretary, Civil Aviation is not its Chairman, he is separately selected.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: To protect the Railways, you are having another Secretary and another Government Department.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I think he is not following.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Yes, I am following.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Secretary, Civil Aviation is not the Chairman of the Railway Safety Commission. It is a separate Commissionerate. It acts and functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. This arrangement has been made to keep it independent of railway administration. That is the case. People are selected through a proper procedure. Proper selection is done by adopting a proper procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have made it clear.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Normally, whenever railway accident takes place, a Commission is announced very promptly *suo moto*. People are having a common feeling that Reports of all the Commissions are thrown into the waste paper box. No action is taken on them.

MR. SPEAKER: No comments please. Ask your question now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: An amount of Rs. 17,000 crore has been allotted for safety and security of the Railways of which Rs. 12,000 crore is Government of India's budgetary support and Rs. 5000 crore will be collected by the Railways by way of a surcharge of Re. 1 per ticket. Thus, the amount of Rs. 5000 crore will be collected and thus, it will be total up to Rs. 17,000 crore.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any apprehension of fund diversion of this amount of Rs. 17,000 crore which have been allotted for the safety and security by setting up of new Zones in different Railways which have been opposed by all the Expert Committees of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Not even a single penny of Special Railway Safety Fund can be diverted to other works. As I told you earlier also that a list of the works where it would be spent has already been prepared as

Green Book and laid in House. I would like to make it clear to the hon. Member that not even a penny from it can be diverted to other areas.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the Minister of the list of causes for accidents which have been indicated. I invite his particular attention to point (ix) in page 2 which is about tie tamping and ballast cleaning. Unfortunately, substandard ballasts are being supplied to the Railways and particular attention is not being paid to fastening of the rails and the rails are not properly being changed.

The other day, when I was coming by Unchahar Express from Allahabad to Kanpur, I had a feeling that I was riding a roller coaster rather than getting into an express train. With my little knowledge, I got down to find out that a large number of ballasts had been pulverished. May I ask the hon. Minister as to whether, in investigating the accidents, he has come across substandard ballasts provided by the contractors and the officers who were responsible for accepting those ballasts have been punished or not.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If he has any information about substandard ballast then it should be given to us. It would be thoroughly investigated. As far maintenance of tracks is concerned, ballast is an equally significant factor which include proper ballast caution and ballast cleansing. Now machines are being used to ensure the complete symmetry for the maintenance of tracks. As pointed out by the hon. Member it seems that he has experienced these things in particular section. I would immediately order a probe into the track condition of the section which he has mentioned on the basis of his experiences there. Necessary improvements would be made and I would also apprise the hon. Members of it.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that in the lifeline of Barak Valley, Mizoram and Tripura, there is a heavy landslide in between Lumding and Silchar. Unless it is restored very soon, the cost of essential commodities will go up very high. Will

the hon. Minister let us know as to what actions have been taken, how many senior officers have visited that area, and by what time it is likely to be improved?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The railway service there has been affected and thwarted due to landslide. On one side there are mountains and on the other valley. Hence efforts are being made to clear the debris accumulated due to the landslide on either side of the track. It will take some time. I have also asked the Member engineer to personally inspect the site.

Foreign Exchange from Uplinking of Channels

*62. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the applications received by the Government for uplinking Indian and Foreign channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof including news channels available till date, and the foreign exchange earned therefrom at the time of uplinking the channel during the last three years, year-wise, channel-wise;

(c) whether uplinking in the country is cheaper as compared to other developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Uplinking can be done from India or abroad. Details of channels, to whom permission has been accorded for uplinking from India, before and after July, 2000, when the uplinking policy was liberalized, is enclosed as Annexure. The Government does not maintain any database of foreign exchange earned, as a result of uplinking of channels from India.

(c) and (d) Reliable cost comparisons are not available. However, Indian Broadcasters uplinking from India do get the advantage of not having to spend on maintaining offices/personnel abroad only for uplinking purposes.

Annexure**(A) Details of companies given permission for uplinking from India prior to July, 2000**

Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.
2.	Sumangali Publications Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Gemini TV

1	2
4.	Udaya TV Ltd.
5.	Asianet Communications Ltd.
6.	Vijaya TV Pvt. Ltd.
7.	TV International
8.	Jain Studios Ltd.
9.	Mavis Satcom Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Technology Media Group Pvt. Ltd.

(B) Details of companies given permission for uplinking from India from July, 2000 to March, 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Channels	No. of channels	Date of Permission
1	2	3	4	5
1.	TV Today Network Ltd.	India Today	1	4.12.2000
2.	Jain Studios Ltd.	Jain TV	1	4.1.2001
3.	Sun TV Ltd.	Sun TV	13	26.3.2001
		Sun News		
		Surya TV		
		Surya News		
		SCV		
		Sun-II		
		Surya-II		
		Ushe TV		
		Udaya News		
		Teja News		
		Gemini TV		
		Teja TV		
		KTV		
4.	Raj TV Network Ltd.	Raj TV	2	29.3.2001
		Raj Digital Plus		

(C) Details of companies given permission for uplinking from India from April, 2001 to March, 2002

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the channels	No. of Channels	Date of Permission
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Vijay Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Vijay	1	9.4.2001
2.	Udaya TV Ltd.	Udaya TV	2	10.4.2001
		Udaya TV II		

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Sky (B) Bangla Pvt. Ltd.	Akash B	1	12.4.2001
4.	Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	ETV Telugu, ETV Bengali, ETV Marathi, ETV Kannada (in Analog & Digital Mode), ETV Urdu, ETV Oriya, ETV Gujarati (in Digital Mode Only) ET UP (Hindi) ETV MP (Hindi) ETV Rajasthan (Hindi) ETV Bihar (Hindi) ETV Punjabi ETV Tamil ETV Assami ETV Malayalam	7 8	6.6.2001 20.11.2001
5.	Asianet Communications Ltd.	Asianet (Analog) Malayalam Asianet Global (Digital), Asianet (Digital) Malayalam	1 1 1	13.6.2001 19.6.2001 18.7.2001
6.	Technology Media Group Pvt. Ltd.	TMG Enter	1	14.6.2001
7.	Intelivision Ltd.	Splash TV Num TV	2	15.6.2001

1	2	3	4	5
8.	STV Enterprises Ltd.	Punjab Today	1	5.12.2001
9.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Marathi Alpha Gujarati Alpha Bangla Alpha Punjabi Zee News Zee Music ZED TV	7	6.12.2001
10.	Malayalam Communication Ltd.	Kairali	1	1.1.2002
11.	Entertainment Television Network Pvt. Ltd.	Etc Hindi Etc Punjabi	2	5.2.2002

(D) Details of companies given permission for uplinking from India from April, 2002 to date

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Channels	No. of Channels	Date of Permission
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maa Television Network Ltd.	Maa TV	1	9.4.2002
2.	Dikaat Transworld Ltd.	Win TV	1	11.4.2002
3.	Sahara Sanchar Ltd.	Sahara TV, Sahara TV Digital, Sahara TV Entertainment, Sahara Samay National & International Sahara Samay UP, Sahara Samay MP, Sahara Samay Bihar, Sahara Samay Mumbai, Sahara Samay Rajasthan, Sahara Samay- NCR	10	10.5.2002

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Kaveri Alpha Bharathi Alpha Krishna Alpha Urdu	4	28.5.2002
5.	Sri Adhikari Brothers Television Network Ltd.	SABe TV	1	31.5.2002
6.	Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Bangla Tara Marathi Tara Gujarati Tara Punjabi	4	3.6.2002
7.	New Delhi Television Limited	NDTV	1	7.6.2002

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: The reply of the hon. Minister to the original question clearly points out that the Government has not been able to fulfil its responsibilities in many matters. As I had asked whether uplinking in the country is cheaper as compared to foreign countries, the reply given was that no such estimate has been made by the Government. Second important thing is that the Government has not collected the figures of foreign exchange earnings so far. Thirdly, I had asked that the list contains the names of all Indian channels which have been uplinked from the country but I wanted to say that the channels with the widest coverage like STAR, ESPN, Zee T.V. are the pay channels and there uplinking in the country has nowhere been listed. It implies that these channels are uplinked from abroad and telecast in India. I feel that as many of those channels are pay channels and the subscribers give money to see them it results in the drain of Indian currency and the Government of India can fail to earn any profit from these pay channels. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we have such a law in the country that the channels which are uplinked from abroad and are telecast in India could be made to follow the provisions of Indian laws. It is a thing which has been supported by you also and I accept that the stringent measures taken by you have not been taken earlier. Second thing which I want to know is as to how long it will take to make an assessment in regard to the payment made by these pay channels to India vis-a-vis the foreign countries in lieu of uplinking facility received would be made. And if the uplinking is so cheaper in our country and the channels do not want to uplink from countries abroad then what steps would be taken in this regard?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as 4-5 questions have been asked, I would like to reply not in very brief but in one line to each question. First of all, through you, I would apprise the House that the policy of uplinking is only four years old. Prior to 1998, uplinking from India was not permissible. The decision to provide uplinking facility in India was taken after the formation of NDA Government only. Hence, this is a only four years old policy. I am happy to inform the House that we have given permission to uplink 76 channels during the last four years. Out of this 53 channels are already uplinked from India.

So far as uplinking cost is concerned, we have not calculated whether the uplinking has been done at a cheaper rate or at a higher rate. Earlier uplinking was done through VSNL and now we have allowed them to set up their own earth-stations for uplinking. One can also hire the teleport facility from others. It would be their own style of conducting business so as to ascertain the number of earth stations to be installed and the expenditure involved and also to compare it with the similar facilities available abroad. I can say that Indian channels if uplinked from abroad have to set up office there and also to send cassettes daily for this purpose. It will involve huge expenses. However, installing an earth-station here and even beaming telecasting more number of channels would be much cheaper. However, the Government can not figure out whether uplinking would be cheaper here or abroad. So far as foreign exchange is concerned, its outflow to other countries is always done with the permission of RBI. Regarding the concern expressed here in respect of foreign exchange, the

Government have evolved a solution that if somebody requests for the foreign exchange to uplink from abroad, we would not allow him to do so for more than two years. The channel was to uplink from India for two years. We have formulated a policy to save the foreign exchange that if Indian broadcasters take foreign exchange to uplink from abroad the channel has to uplink from India for two years. So far as foreign channels are concerned, we are not losing any foreign exchange as they are not taking it from us. In the third phase of our policy, we have permitted every T.V. channel, Indian or foreign, to uplink from here, though it has not been made mandatory till now. However, regarding your concern, it is not permitted to show anything. Because every programme telecast here is regulated through cable Act. Every programme of cable is transmitted from satellite. Cable Act is applicable upon them and they have to abide by our programme code and advertising code also. If they fail to do so, the channel can be banned. Therefore, this problem has been dealt with under other legislation.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government and the hon. Minister that they have taken several measures to allow some channel to uplink either from abroad or from here. These channels are broadcasting their programmes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question directly.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Today surrogate advertisements for wine are being shown on these channels. I would like to know from the Government if our code would be applicable on channels uplinked from abroad. And in third phase of legislation whether it would be made mandatory for these channels to uplink from India and after that only they would be allowed to telecast programmes. There is doubt whether Indian code would be applicable on those channels also which are availing uplinking facility from abroad and whether the Government would formulate some legislation to make it mandatory?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now I have stated that it is not that it would be enforced rather it is already in force. Any channel uplinked from abroad can be shown through downlinking only. It can not be shown just through cable. That's why it is already in force.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that a liberalized policy has been adopted in the matter of uplinking. Several foreign channels are being shown. There is an arrangement for their broadcasting. Foreign channels are uplinked first with

satellite and then these are broadcasted through satellite. The point is that if any programme against the country's interest is telecast or wrong information is telecast from any channel all over the country, it would be harmful for the Government or the country on several fronts then. My submission is whether the Government have made some arrangements for previewing of such programmes of uplinked channels so that the channel which is broadcasting such programme could be stopped well in time.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no arrangement for the preview or precensoring of the TV programmes. Precensoring is done only of the films. As you have asked about the action being contemplated against such a channel, I would say that court case can be filed against that channel and the channel can also be banned. However, there is no provision for preview of TV software.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Is the hon. Minister considering to make arrangements for preview of TV programmes as it is the question of national interest?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, I have said that there is no arrangement for preview. However programme code and advertising code is applicable on them also. They submit an affidavit and affirm that they will abide by it and will broadcast accordingly. If law in this regard is flouted, then action is taken against the guilty, but preview is not under consideration.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir, action could be taken later on but by then the country interests would be definitely adversely affected by the telecast. Therefore, an arrangement for preview should be there.

MR. SPEAKER: I as well as the hon. Minister have understood your question. She will definitely take the required action.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir it is surprising to note that the Government has not maintained any database of foreign exchange earned through these channels after liberalisation. In the written answer, it has been found. Is it not the duty of the Government to maintain a database of foreign exchange earned from these channels? The hon. Minister has mentioned about ten channels. It has been mentioned that about ten companies have been given permission for uplinking from India prior to 2000. It will take time to read it and so I

will not read it. Then, about four companies have been given permission for uplinking from July 2000 to March, 2001. Prior to getting these transponder facilities from 1992-93 and till date, some companies have been operating. What is the data that the Government has in this regard? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some channels have earned foreign exchange and whether some channels have violated the foreign exchange regulations. Has the Government got information about any such channels? Is it not the duty of the Government to maintain a database of foreign exchange earned by each company?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, it is not I & B Ministry's job to keep the details or database about foreign exchange. They seek permission from us so as to get foreign exchange from RBI. RBI gives that permission. As I have said, a condition has been imposed. Prior to 1998 it was not allowed and all the companies were asking for foreign exchange from there only. There were eight such companies.

[English]

There were only eight companies which were asking for foreign exchange from the RBI. In 1998, we granted permission to only those eight companies which were asking for foreign exchange from the RBI to uplink from India and that too through the VSNL. But now we have permitted all the companies. So, all those companies who want foreign exchange, they go to the RBI. But we have put our condition that within two years they must uplink from India. That is the only control that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has. We do not keep any database of foreign exchange earned by those companies.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Diesel and Petrol

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*63. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDLWAL:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether prices of petrol and diesel were further increased in the first week of June this year;

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

(c) the estimated increase in revenue thereby and the extent to which it would reduce the deficit in oil bill;

(d) whether with the increase in prices, the excise duty leviable on petrol and diesel was decreased to counter the impact of rise on international prices of oil;

(e) if so, the extent to which it is likely to match the international prices of oil;

(f) whether the need for increase in these prices was again felt;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check the rise of prices of petrol and diesel frequently?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (h) On 1st March, 2002, the Government had reduced the retail selling price of petrol and diesel by around Re. 1.00 per litre and Re. 0.50 per litre respectively. Later, the oil companies increased the retail selling price of petrol and diesel by around Rs. 2.50 per litre and Rs. 1.50 per litre respectively from 4th June, 2002 and by around Rs. 0.25 per litre for each products from 16th June, 2002, taking into account the increase in the international oil prices.

Simultaneously, with a view to partially contain the impact of the increase in the average Indian crude oil basket price, from around US \$19.50 per barrel for the month of February, 2002 to around US \$25 per barrel for the month of May, 2002, on the retail price of petrol and diesel, the Government reduced the excise duty rate on these products by 2% each from 4th June, 2002.

Based on estimated June, 2002 sales volume, the aforesaid changes in prices would result in an increase in the revenue of the oil marketing companies by around Rs. 700 crore per month. As regards the reduction in the oil pool account deficit, with the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), the oil pool account has been wound up effective 1st April 2002.

Further, after the dismantling of the APM, the public sector oil companies are fixing the consumer prices of petrol and diesel after taking into consideration the prevalent international oil prices.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have decontrolled petrol and diesel this year which is bound to lead either to price rise or to reduction in prices on the basis of fluctuating international prices. International prices increased from 19.50 \$ to 25 \$ per barrel last month. To ease the burden of producers and to control the price rise in domestic market, export duty has been reduced and a part of the burden has been put on public. It has even led to an increase in budget—deficit. I would like to know from the Government if the steps like reducing excise duty or any other duty to control the prices would always be taken at the time of increase in international prices as has been done this time and simultaneously the steps would be taken to control the budget deficit also. If the Government propose to formulate a long term policy in this regard? If so, the details in this regard?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble member has said, excise duty has been reduced and efforts have been made that the consumers are not burdened. In this regard, we have adopted a policy under which with the introduction of administered Price Mechanism, oil companies will review the extent of fluctuations in prices of international market every 15 days and also find a solution if fluctuations is very sharp and frequent. On its part, the Government will also review it after every 3 months and will decide whether it reduce or hike the excise duty. Such a policy has been formulated and we are working accordingly. It must have been noticed that oil companies did not hike the prices on 1st and 16th July as international market was stable at that time. Stability in international market will lead to stability in domestic market also. You must have noticed that we reduced the prices of petrol by Rs. 1.39 in January. Subsequently Re. 1 in March. Hence, the rates were reduced by Rs. 2.39 per litre in toto. Thereafter, the rates were increased by Rs. 2.50. Hence the rates have been increased by 11 paise only in 6 months. We are trying to succeed by adopting this policy.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, the complete reply to this question has been made. Now there is no need to ask supplementary. Sir, the fourth question is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to proceed to fourth question only with the consent of all the hon'ble members of the House.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: With the increase in international prices, the prices of diesel and

petrol go up automatically in domestic market as well. As the rates of sales tax vary in different states, the rates are increased by 10.30%. The prices are more in those states where the rate of sales tax is higher. Hence, the prices vary among the states. I would like to know whether the Central Government in cooperation of the State Governments are contemplating to formulate any policy so that the increase in international market may not lead to the increase in the rates of sales tax in the states and that there should be uniformity in the prices of petrol and diesel in the whole country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister is making efforts continuously for the last two years for the uniformity of sales tax in all states. However, he has not yet succeeded in it but we are making efforts and I hope all the State Governments will agree to it soon. It has one drawback also. Some state Governments got benefit when we reduced the excise duty by 2%. Sir, in Maharashtra from where you also get elected, the state Government has increased the sales tax by 2%. It has been increased in Madhya Pradesh also.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: It is 30% in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Yes, it has increased in Madhya Pradesh also. the House comprises of different parties. I would request the state Government not to increase the sales tax when we reduced the rates so that benefit of concession may be passed on to the consumers.

[*English*]

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many times the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene have been increased since the dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism on petroleum products on 1st April, 2002. I would also like to know whether the Government realises the fact that frequent changes in the prices of petroleum products is affecting the budget of the common people, as they are put to a lot of hardships.

Secondly, since the prices of petroleum products are stable in the international market, will the Government assure this House that the prices of petroleum products would not be increased by the oil companies in India till the next Budget?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the basic idea behind dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism is, whatever changes that are taking place in the international market, they are reflected here. While doing it, as far as possible, we will try to maintain stability.

The specific reply to his question is that two times—on 4th June and 16th June—the prices were increased, and two times, they were not increased.

We will try to ensure that the common man is not put to inconvenience. But the international prices are not in our control. We have to go by whatever happens there because we import 70 per cent of our requirements. So, that effect will be there. That is why the administered price mechanism has been dismantled....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Railway Zones

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*64. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jurisdiction of newly created railway zones has been finalised/notified;

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

(c) whether these new railway zones have started functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which these zones are likely to be made functional;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far on creating of these zones;

(f) whether any committee, appointed by the Government has commented upon the creation of Railway zones/division;

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

(h) whether the move of creating new zones has been widely criticized by various railway organisations/States; and

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

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of jurisdictions zone-wise and their date of operationalisation are given as under:

S. No.	Railway	Area of Jurisdiction	Date of operationalisation
1	2	3	4
1.	East Central Railway, Hajipur. Notified on 14.6.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonpur and Samastipur Divisions of North Eastern Railway. Danapur, Mughalsarai and Dhanbad Divisions of Eastern Railway. 	1.10.2002
2.	North Western Railway Jaipur Notified on 14.6.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bikaner and Jodhpur Divisions of Northern Railway. Jaipur and Ajmer Divisions of Western Railway. 	1.10.2002
3.	East Cost Railway, Bhubaneswar Notified on 4.7.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur Divisions of South Eastern Railway 	1.4.2003
4.	Southern Western Railway, Hubli Notified on 4.7.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangalore and Mysore Divisions of Southern Railway. Hubli Division of South Central Railway 	01.4.2003

1	2	3	4
5.	West Central Railway, Jabalpur Notified on 4.7.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jabalpur and Bhopal Divisions of Central Railway. • Kota Division of Western Railway 	1.4.2003
6.	North Central Railway, Allahabad Notified on 4.7.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allahabad Division of Northern Railway • Jhansi Division of Central Railway • Agra Division (New) 	1.04.2003
7.	South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Notified on 4.7.2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagpur and Bilaspur Divisions of South Eastern Railway • Raipur Division (New) 	1.4.2003

(e) An expenditure of approximately Rs. 50 Crores has been incurred on new zones upto 31st March 2002.

(f) and (g) The Railway Reforms Committee (1984) had recommended creation of four new zones. Based on further review, Government has decided to set up new zones.

(h) Yes, Sir. The various Railway Federations have been opposing the setting up of new zones. However, since the notifications issued, we have not received any formal communication. As regards States, only Chief Minister, West Bengal had raised certain apprehensions, which have been allayed through a reply sent to him.

(i) Government does not agree with their views.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like you to listen to what the question is about.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that there have been *bandhs* from both sides...(Interruptions) We do not want to divide the country on any issue...(Interruptions)

I would request you to allow a discussion on this matter. Let the Government hear all the views during the discussion. Let there be an atmosphere of harmony and friendship...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed the hon'ble member to ask the question.

He may be given the opportunity to ask the question first...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We do not like to fight...(Interruptions) But we sincerely feel that a discussion should take place...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want a fulfilled discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken up the question. The question has been laid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Member put his question. I have no objection for permitting a discussion on the issue. The question has already come. The Member has taken a lot of pains to see that this question comes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has every right to put his question. Let the Minister give the basic reply. Thereafter if the House so desires, I will take it to the Business

Advisory Committee for a debate. Let the question be asked and replied.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply to my question has stated that jurisdiction to newly created railway zones has been finalised and the same would come into force by April 2003. I thank the hon'ble Minister for this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me make it clear to everybody. I have already ruled that the question and answer will come on record. There is nothing wrong in it. Why are you agitated?

You are interested in a question. You are interested in the debate. I have already agreed that if the BAC agrees, the debate will take place as early as possible. Therefore, if you do not want the question to be asked, then, it would be unfair. Let the question come and the answer be given.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, yesterday, a notice for Calling Attention was converted into a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: That was the desire of the whole House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It can be done in this case also.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; these hon. Members want that the question should be taken up in the Question Hour also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is my request to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you worried for what I am not doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: I would like to know from the hon'ble Railway Minister about the new zones which the Railway Ministry has decided to create keeping in view the recommendations made by the Railway Reform Committee in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Member as he has thanked me for creating new railway zones.

Hon'ble member has sought information about the name of the zones recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that Railway Reforms Committee was constituted in 1981 and it submitted its report in 1984. This committee had recommended setting up of four new railway zones. Later on, in 1996 Government proposed 6 more zones. Then in 1998 one more zone was proposed. Hence, Railway decided to create 7 new zones. Notification has been issued as per the provision of Railway Act for setting up of these 7 zones. I have mentioned it in my original reply also. Hon'ble member also wanted to know the names of the zones for which notification has been issued. I would like to tell him that notification in respect of 7 zones has been issued. Out of them 2 zones will start functioning w.e.f. 1.10.2002 and the rest 5 zones will start functioning from 1.4.2003. Notification has been issued after finalizing their jurisdiction.

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 80% of Western Railways lies in Gujarat but its Headquarter is in Mumbai. It is the long standing demand of the Government as well as people of Gujarat that headquarter of Western Railway should be in Ahmedabad. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister by when headquarter of Western Railways would be set up in Ahmedabad.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no such proposal is under consideration of the Railway Ministry.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that 2 zones will start functioning w.e.f. 1.10.2002. I would like to know which are these two zones. I would like to tell that newspapers and media have reported about a meeting held in Prime Minister's office on the issue of zones. I want to now from the hon'ble Minister about the decision taken in this meeting and whether it would have any

effect on the creation of zones. Hon'ble Minister has mentioned that two zones will start functioning from October. Will it virtually start functioning? People are doubtful in this regard. Hon'ble Minister should state clearly whether these zones will really start functioning from 1.10.2002 and that there would be no hindrance.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two zones—East Central Railways and North-Western Railways will start functioning from 1.10.2002. In regard to the meeting the hon'ble member has referred to, I would like to say that Government hold such meetings in routine and several issues are taken up for discussion during these meetings. So far as the notification regarding creation of zones is concerned, it has been issued and the steps required to make it effective are being taken.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, the matter has been referred to the Cabinet again in the meeting held at the residence of the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) The matter has gone then to the Cabinet...(Interruptions)

There is a possibility for a discussion on this...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in spite of opposition from various sectors like various experts, former Chairman of Railway Board, Expert Committee like Rakesh Mohan Committee, C&AG and the Railway Standing Committee, the Railway Minister has announced the creation of seven new zones and he has already announced the time-table of the functions of new zones.

12.00 hrs.

What he has stated in his reply is that this decision is on the basis of review. There was no review. In reply to several questions, he has said that review is being taken place. It has appeared in the newspapers that this decision to create new Zones is being sent to the Cabinet for review. I would like to know from the Minister whether it has been sent to the Cabinet for review or not...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Time is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please ask the Minister to reply to my question...(Interruptions) Sir, I have asked for information whether it has been sent to the Cabinet for review or not...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia has raised a question. There are a number of Members who want to put a question on this. I have already assured the House that I will go to the Business Advisory Committee. If the Committee agrees, then we will have a discussion on this issue under some rule or the other. I do not think that this question can be resolved in Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to know from the Government the justification to send it to Cabinet again. There is no justification in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: It is being sent to Business Advisory Committee for justification. Discussion on this issue will be held there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Chairman. Standing Committee on Railway has recommended...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a great misfortune...(Interruptions)

We sincerely feel that this is not a matter between one State and the other. We do not want it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of Bihar have an apprehension that they are gerrymandering the jurisdiction of Hajipur zone under political pressure. People are launching a big agitation due to this. Public may turn violent if Government do any gerrymandering in the jurisdiction...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Children's Films

*65. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) whether a very few children films are produced in the country and screened in the National Film Festivals and International Film Festivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have allocated funds for films/programmes/serials on children in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the film producers to produce more children films/programmes/serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Film production activity in India is mainly in the private sector. As children's films have a limited market, private producers do not produce many children films.

In so far as the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI) is concerned it produces, acquires, distributes, exhibits children's films on regular basis and enters eligible films for participation in National Film Festivals and International Film Festivals in India and abroad.

(c) to (e) A provision of Rs. 17.60 crores has been proposed for production of films/programmes/serials for CFSI in the 10th Five Year Plan. To encourage the production of children's films, CFSI has taken up the matter with various State Governments to provide subsidy for the children films produced in their respective regional languages. In order to encourage telecast of children's programmes on Doordarshan as also outside production, Prasar Bharati's rate card provides concession of 25% on the telecast fee for sponsored programmes in the children's category at non prime time. Children's films

are also telecast on the National network and DD Bharati. Children's programmes are also telecast by the other channels of Doordarshan in various regional languages.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

*66. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the number of Bio-gas plants set up and total capacity of power generation of these plants during the last three years;

(b) the subsidy given to entrepreneurs/farmers for setting up of these plants, year-wise;

(c) the total amount earmarked and spent under the scheme during the said period; and

(d) the details of financial assistance given to the State Governments so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Four projects with a total installed capacity of 4.73 MW power generation from biogas produced from industrial wastes have been set up during the last three years under Waste to Energy Programme (WEP). Under a separate scheme, Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme, a total of about 1130 cattle dung and night-soil based institutional biogas plants have been set up for cooking fuel and motive power generation during the same period.

(b) The amount of subsidy given to four industries/entrepreneurs concerned was Rs. 215.33 lakh in 1999-2000 and thereafter Rs. 40.95 lakh in 2001-02 under WEP. For institutional plants, the Central subsidy was given in fixed amounts ranging from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 8.00 lakh per plant depending upon type and size of plant, area and nature of institutions. Farmers are given Central subsidy for family type plants mainly for cooking purpose under a separate scheme.

(c) Information on Budget Estimates/Revised Estimates and actual expenditure incurred is given below:-

(Rupees in crore)

Programme	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	BE/RE	Expenditure	BE/RE	Expenditure	BE/RE	Expenditure
WEP	12.00/5.00	6.37	20.00/8.00	8.00	15.00/15.00	14.35
CBP/IBP/NBP	7.50/7.50	7.50	7.00/6.70	6.12	5.85/4.85	5.85

BE—Budget Estimates

RE—Revised Estimates

(d) The Central financial assistance was given to industries through either Financing Institutions or State nodal agencies under WEP as per details given in Statement-I. Details of funds released to different States under CBP/IBP/NBP Programme are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise information on the Central financial assistance released under the Waste to Energy Programme (WEP) during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

State	Fund released during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 (Rupees in lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	69.44
Delhi	57.14
Gujarat	45.85
Maharashtra	588.95
Madhya Pradesh	190.47
Punjab	0.10
Tamilnadu	223.61
Uttar Pradesh	750.00

Statement II

Information on funds released to different States during the last three years, i.e., 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 under Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme

State/UTs/Agency	Funds released during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 (Rupees in lakh)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.30
Arunachal Pradesh	1.40

1	2
Assam	18.40
Bihar	0.60
Chhattisgarh	16.00
Delhi	110.96
Gujarat	34.50
Kerala	80.15
Madhya Pradesh	10.10
Maharashtra	156.21
Manipur	1.40
Meghalaya	16.00
Nagaland	17.00
Orissa	14.50
Punjab	292.22
Rajasthan	36.50
Sikkim	1.40
Tamil Nadu	19.27
Uttar Pradesh	496.17
Uttaranchal	16.00
West Bengal	77.33

Print Media to Foreign Investors

*67. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed 26% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Print Media without

taking the Parliament into confidence and ignoring the House Panel's recommendations;

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

(c) whether the Government have studied the pros and cons for allowing FDI in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of proposals received and cleared by the Government in this regard so far;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the Indian Newspaper Industry;

(g) whether the Government have issued any guidelines/directions in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government propose to review its decision of allowing FDI in print media;

(j) If so, the time by when it is likely to be reviewed; and

(k) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The decision of the Government, after addressing the concerns expressed by the House panel, is

(i) to allow FDI upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs, on a case by case basis subject to suitable safeguards,

(ii) to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals on a case by case basis, and,

(iii) to allow foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals on a case by case basis.

(e) No proposal has been received by the Government so far.

(f) Adequate safeguards like verification of antecedents of the foreign investor, keeping editorial and management control in the hands of resident Indians and ensuring against dispersal of Indian equity holding, have been provided.

(g) and (h) No guidelines have been issued so far.

(i) to (k) The Government does not propose to review its decision of allowing FDI in print media in the near future, as it is a well considered decision.

Constitution of Tribunal to Solve Inter-State Disputes

*68. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Inter-State Disputes pertaining to Hydro-electric Power has adversely affected its implementation and reflected adverse Hydro Thermal Mix;

(b) if so, the number of such projects, which are under dispute for more than five years, especially in Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering to ensure that these projects are implemented within a definite time frame;

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to set up Inter-State Tribunal consisting of eminent electrical and Civil Engineers headed by a sitting/retired judge of the Supreme Court/High Courts; and

(e) if so, the time by which such a Tribunal is likely to be constituted to settle long pending disputes?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) At present, 33 hydro-electric projects with a total installed capacity of 6085 MW, which were submitted to Central Electricity Authority, are held up due to non-resolution of inter-State aspects. All these schemes were conceived more than five years ago. State-wise list indicating the number of such projects is enclosed as statement. This includes the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Project (50 MW) in Punjab and Rahughat Stage-III project (160 MW) in Rajasthan.

(c) The implementation of these projects would depend on the successful resolution of inter-State aspects. The Ministry of Power facilitates the evolution of a consensus among States wherever possible.

(d) and (e) The Government is at present not contemplating setting up inter-State tribunals for hydro-electric power projects.

Statement***Name of the Hydro Electric Schemes Involving Inter-State Aspects***

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects
Northern Region:		
1.	Punjab	1
2.	Rajasthan	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1
4.	Uttaranchal	1
Western Region:		
5.	Maharashtra	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3
7.	Goa	1
Southern Region:		
8.	Andhra Pradesh	1
9.	Karnataka	6
10.	Kerala	6
11.	Tamil Nadu	7
Eastern Region:		
12.	Assam	1
13.	Jharkhand	1
14.	Orissa	2
Total		33

Royalty on Crude Oil

*69. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering hiking of royalty on crude oil;

(b) if so, the details of royalty per tonne at present and the royalty after the proposed hike; and

(c) the time by which a final decision about royalty rate is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government had set up a Committee to devise a new scheme of royalty on indigenous crude oil. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under the consideration of the Government.

The rate of royalty on indigenous crude oil is at present Rs. 850 per Metric Tonne, on provisional basis. The revised rate of royalty will be known once a decision is taken by the Government on the report.

Crash of Fighter Aircraft

*70. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIG-21 and 23 aircraft crashed recently;

(b) if so, the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the compensation paid to the family members of deceased;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted to go into the causes of accidents;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether another MIG aircraft with its two pilots went missing on April 25, 2002; and

(g) if so, the fate of aircraft and its pilots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (g) On 3rd May, 2002 a MiG 21 aircraft crashed on the outskirts of Jalandhar city and on 26th June, 2002 a MiG-23 aircraft crashed near Sidhwan Khas Range, close to Air Force Station Halwara. In both the cases Courts of Inquiry have been ordered and are still in progress.

The MiG-21 aircraft crashed into a building housing the Bank of Rajasthan, killing 09 and injuring 12 people. The bank and a plywood godown inside the building were gutted. The MiG-23 aircraft crashed in a paddy field. However, there was no loss of life/injury to anyone due to this accident.

In both the cases the losses are still being assessed and compensation will be paid as per the existing rules.

A MiG-21 trainer aircraft, with two pilots, is missing since 20th April, 2002. The aircraft got airborne for a fighter manoeuvring exercise from Tezpur airfield, Assam. It did not return to base after the exercise. There was no Radar contact also with the aircraft. A search was initiated to locate the missing aircraft enlisting the assistance of Government of Bhutan also. However, the wreckage and the missing pilots have not been located. So far, search efforts have been hampered by the thick forest that covers the hilly terrain. Efforts are still in progress to locate the crash site. It is presumed that both the pilots have been killed in the crash.

Rural Electrification under APDP

*71. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to launch a project under the Accelerated Power Development Programme on rural electrification in the country and specially in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned and released for the purpose;

(d) whether the progress of the projects is not up to the mark;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the State Governments have sought additional assistance for rural electrification; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) to (g) The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was introduced in February, 2001 with the sole objective of restoring the financial viability of the State owned power utilities. The programme aims at upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network below 33 KV/66KV. In the first phase, 63 circles have been identified all over the country to be taken up for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution under the APDP. These circles include urban as well as rural areas. Out of these 63 circles, 3 circles in Karnataka and 5 circles in Maharashtra have been identified under this programme. The details of funds released and utilized in these circles are given below:

Karnataka

Rupees in Crore

Circle Name	Status of Funds				
	Cost of Project	APDP Fund Sanctioned	APDP Fund Released	Loan Sanctioned	Fund Utilized
Belgaum Bijapur Mysore	114.52	57.26	57.26	57.26	57.26
R&M of Generation	44.48	24.24	24.24	24.24	24.24
Total	159.00	81.50	81.50	81.50	81.50

Maharashtra

Rupees in Crore

Circle Name	Status of Funds				
	Cost of Project	APDP Fund Sanctioned	APDP Fund Released	Loan Sanctioned	Fund Utilized
Ratnagiri Jalgaon Solapur Osmanabad Sindhudurg	189.87	90.22	90.22	16.14	72.33
R&M of Generation	98.48	44.24	44.24	44.24	—
Total	288.35	134.46	134.46	60.38	72.33

The States have also been asked to identify 5-6 additional circles to be taken up for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system under APDRP schemes.

The funds for the projects identified under the APDRP are released in accordance with the scheduled drawn up in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Implementing Agencies. The progress made can be assessed only after completion of the time schedule drawn up for the project.

Investments by Retailing Oil Dealers

*72. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether applicants for retailing oil are required to furnish proof that they can invest Rs. 2000 crore over 10 years in 'non-market' operations;

(b) if so, the manner in which entrepreneurs with smaller capacity be able to fulfil technical and safety guidelines of oil retailing and allowed to set up shops in the country;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for private investors; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to attract the smaller investors in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government have issued guidelines for granting authorisation to market transportation fuels to the new entrants including the private sector, which inter-alia include:-

- (i) the companies investing or proposing to invest Rs. 2,000 crore in exploration and production (E&P), refining, pipelines or terminals may be granted authorization to market transportation fuels;
- (ii) the eligible investment would be in setting up new refineries, expansion of the existing refineries, exploration and production of hydrocarbons including coal and methane and associated facilities like crude oil/natural gas pipelines and processing plants, terminals for crude oil/LNG, common carrier natural gas/petroleum products/LPG pipelines, and investments in these activities for setting up additional assets for improvement of product quality to meet environmentally related norms;

(iii) the investment should result in additionality to the existing assets and/or creation of new assets in the eligible activities;

(iv) in case of companies proposing to invest, a bank guarantee of Rs. 500 crore will be obtained. Further, the time frame for making investment would be 10 years including 5 years earmarked for financial closure. The investor would be required to sign an agreement containing conditions and milestones with the Government/Regulatory Board;

(v) every eligible company would get only one authorization and it will not be transferable without permission of the Government. The applicant will be required to submit a scheme for marketing to the Government or the Regulatory Board and while granting authorization, the latter may impose conditions in public interest including the obligation to set up retail outlets in remote areas and low service areas and that the eligible company will not encroach upon the retail networks of existing marketing companies.

The investment conditionality of Rs. 2,000 crore is to attract investment in the crucial sectors like E&P, refining, natural gas/LNG infrastructure by the new entrants for entering into oil retail business to create the necessary infrastructure and to maintain oil security in the country.

[Translation]

Reservation of Seats for SCs/STs in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council of States

*73. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no provision has been made till date to reserve seats for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils of the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide reservation to the said categories of candidates in the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of requests received by the Government from the honourable Members of Parliament and various organizations in this regard during the last three years, till date; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Constitution provides for reservation of seats to be filled by direct elections in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies only for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(c) No, Sir. The Government does not think appropriate to extend similar reservation of seats to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Upper Houses of Legislatures.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Private Participation In Defence Sector

*74. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to open defence sector for private investors players has got a poor response;

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

(c) the steps taken to attract the private investors in defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Defence industry sector was opened in May, 2001 for participation by Indian Private sector upto 100% of equity, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), component of it being permissible upto 26%, both being subject to licensing permission. This includes all types of defence equipment. However detailed guidelines were issued after consultations with the Ministry of Defence and Industry Associations by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), for consideration of applications for grant of licence on 4.1.2002. The basic objective of allowing FDI in this sector is to attract more investment and to infuse foreign technology.

All applications from the private entrepreneurs will be considered by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) in consultation with the Ministry of

Defence, and the licence would be granted by DIPP. The licensees are required to put in place adequate safety and security procedures, which would be subject to verification by authorized Government Agencies. The quality of the product would be ensured by the Quality Assurance Agencies of the Ministry of Defence.

Consequent to the above decision and issue of detailed guidelines, six applications for grant of industrial licence for the manufacture of various types of defence equipment have been received by the DIPP. The defence industry sector is a high technology sector requiring substantial capital investment and hence caution on the part of private entrepreneurs is understandable. It is also rather early to assess the impact of the decision to open up the sector. Government is continuing its dialogue with the Industry representatives on various aspects of procurement through the private sector.

Danger of Sealed AC Compartments

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

(a) whether attention of the Research, Designs & Standards Organization has been drawn to the danger of sealed AC compartments during derailments and fires and other accidents;

(b) whether the Government are aware that passengers cannot get out of AC compartments at the time of accidents;

(c) whether RDSO has made any plans to change the design of such coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the newly designed coaches would be made available to Railways; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The air conditioned coaches are quite safe and in case of accidents, passengers can get out of the air conditioned coaches by breaking the window glasses as there are no safety bars on the windows.

(c) and (d) In order to further facilitate emergency exist from air conditioned coaches in case of accidents, RDSO has designed emergency exist windows which can be opened without breaking the glass, and coaches provided with such windows are already available in service. The design of the emergency exit window is

being further improved to make it suitable for air conditioned coaches with wider Windows.

(e) Air conditioned coaches, with such improved emergency exit windows, are expected to become available within next one year.

(f) Does not arise.

Opening of Sainik Schools In Bihar

*76. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to open more Sainik Schools in order to set up training centre in various States, particularly in Bihar, is under the consideration of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The opening of a Sainik School is contingent upon the State Government/UT Administration concerned agreeing to provide land, buildings, equipments, scholarships and special grants-in-aid for the opening and smooth running of the school. No such proposal, out of 30 requests received in the recent past from various State Governments/UTs, MPs and VIPs, meeting all the stipulated requirements, is pending with the Government.

Proposal for setting up of four Sainik Schools in Bihar has been received. The Government of Bihar has, so far, not given any commitment to provide necessary funds, a pre-requisite for opening of a Sainik School.

[English]

Purchase of Stationery

*77. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have laid down their own rules and instructions relating to purchase of stationery instead of following the General Financial Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria and basis followed in asking for earnest money deposit (EMD);

(d) how the EMD and the price of the Tender documents are determined; and

(e) the steps taken to rationalise the charges of tender form and EMD so as to allow more people to participate in the tenders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The procurement of stationery stores is made by the Railways as per the stores purchase policy of the Government of India, as contained in the General Financial Rules except for local purchases from Kendriya Bhandar, Khadi Village & Industries Commission (KVIC), Super Bazar, National Co-operative Consumers Federation (NCCF), their branches and local Central/ Wholesale Consumer Co-operative Societies for which Government of India has waived the procure laid down under the General Financial Rules regarding calling of tenders for such purchases.

(c) and (d) Earnest Money Deposit is obtained to prove the earnestness of the offer on the part of the tenderer. The amount of the Earnest Money to be deposited should be sufficiently large to be a security against loss in the event of the contractor failing to furnish the required security within the appointed time after acceptance of his tender, or until such time as the sums due to him form a sufficient guarantee as the case may be. Railways in their tenders, are asking Earnest Money Deposit up to 2.5% of the tender value. For the sake of uniformity, Ministry of Railways has issued instructions regarding the price of the tender document. The tender documents are priced as Rs. 150 for tenders upto Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 500 for tenders valuing above Rs. 5 lakhs and upto Rs. 15 lakhs, Rs. 1000 for tenders valuing above Rs. 15 lakhs and upto Rs. 50 lakhs, Rs. 2000 for tenders above Rs. 50 lakhs.

(e) the charging of the tender form price and Earnest Money Deposit is already rationalised as stated in reply to the items (c) & (d) above.

Committee to Review the Working of SEBs

*78. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to review the working of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) whether the said Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) No Committee has been constituted by the Union Government to review the working of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). However, Union Government had set up an Expert Group under Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia to suggest a one time settlement of the dues owed by SEBs to CPSUs and capital restructuring of the SEBs including provision of structural adjustment loans so as to enable them to overcome the financial crisis. Recommendations made by the Expert Group under Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia with regard to one time settlement of SEB dues have been accepted. According to this scheme, the present and future outstanding dues of the CPSUs against SEBs will be liquidated. The scheme provides that 60% of the interest/surcharge on the delayed payments as on 30.09.2001 would be waived off and the rest of the dues would be securitised through tax-free bonds issued by the respective State Governments. There would also be incentives to the States for timely payment of current dues.

To address the issue of capital restructuring another Group under Shri Deepak Parekh, Chairman, Industrial Development Financial Corporation (IDFC) has been recently constituted. The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

- (1) Examine the ongoing efforts under the existing APDP, with focus on the distribution segment, and suggest improvement measures;
- (2) Identify the reform approaches that are currently being pursued by the States, ascertain their rationale for preferring a particular approach vis-a-vis other options, and critically evaluate these approaches;
- (3) Based on (b) and an assessment of the international best practices, devise a reform approach or a menu of reform approaches to restore and sustain financial viability of the sector; and
- (4) For 5-6 selected States, devise State-specific reform programmes, in consultation with the respective State Governments, that are fair and equitable to all the major existing and prospective stakeholders in the power sector. For each State, the reform programme shall
 - (i) Provide a specific reform approach;
 - (ii) Provide a timeline for major reform milestones; and

- (iii) Make a quick assessment of the transition support required and the extent and the manner in which Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) and other funds could be deployed for achieving the reform objectives.

Deficiencies in Billing System of DD

*79. **SHRI SUNIL KHAN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 45 agencies against whom Rs. 33,445.84 lakhs are due for years, are being allowed to telecast programmes on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether C.A.G. has pointed out several deficiencies in billing system of Doordarshan, which are having adverse effect on its earnings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report for the year ended March 2001, Union Government (Civil) (Transaction Audit Observation-No. 2 of 2002) has referred to systemic deficiencies and procedural lapses in the billing practice of commercial programmes of Doordarshan. It has highlighted that Rs. 33445.84 lakhs is outstanding against 45 agencies. The Report of the C&AG has been tabled in the House. The details of the Report are available to the public, on the website of C&AG.

(e) The Report of the C&AG is under examination of the Ministry in consultation with Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

Revenue Sharing System for FM Radio

*80. **DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:**
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt the revenue sharing system in place of existing licence fee system in the field of F.M. Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals and suggestions to adopt revenue sharing system have been received by the Government;

(d) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which this system will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific proposals or suggestions have been received from the licencees.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Bullet Trains

616. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways had signed a MoU with the Spanish Railways for introduction of bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a feasibility study done earlier in 2000 by the Japanese had found that a bullet train was neither practicable nor financially viable here; and

(d) if so, the reasons for signing the MoU with Spanish Railways when the Indian Railways had rejected many proposals for introduction of railways in many areas with the plea that they were not financially viable due to resource crunch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b)

Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Ministry of Railways and the Spanish Railways (RENFE) for undertaking a feasibility study for running of High Speed Train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad. The proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance for further processing. Ministry of Finance has further forwarded the proposal to Spanish Embassy in New Delhi.

(c) and (d) A study was undertaken by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) in 1987 for Railway Improvement Plan of Transport Capacity and Train Speed on the Delhi-Kanpur section. Total investment was put at around Rs. 2200 crores (in 1987 prices) for laying a new high speed corridor between Delhi-Kanpur. This study is about 15 years old. The traffic figures now indicate that Mumbai-Ahmedabad is the heaviest corridor.

It is considered worthwhile to undertake a fresh study. The decision about its funding will be taken up once the feasibility of the project is established. It will be offered to prospective investors Build, Own, & Operate route or through Public-private partnership, based on the feasibility established.

Appointment of Chief Justice

617. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered any alternative to the present practice of appointing the senior-most judge as the Chief Justice of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details about the facilities being extended to a retired Chief Justice of India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement**Retirement Benefits to Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts**

No.	Benefits	Supreme Court		High Courts	
		Chief Justice	Judges	Chief Justice	Judges
1.	Pension	1,98,000/- p.a. (Maximum) (1.1.96)	1,80,000/- p.a. (Maximum) (1.1.96)	1,80,000/- p.a. (Maximum) (1.1.96)	1,56,000/- p.a. (Maximum) (1.1.96)
2.	D.C.R.G.	3.5 Lakhs (Maximum) (1.1.96)	3.5 Lakhs (Maximum) (1.1.96)	3.5 Lakhs (Maximum) (1.1.96)	3.5 Lakhs (Maximum) (1.1.96)
3.	Family Pension	60% of the pension sanctioned to Judge/Chief Justice, High Court/Supreme Court, for first seven years of retirement/death or upto 65 years of age, whichever is earlier and thereafter 30% of the pension sanctioned to Judge/Chief Justice, High Court/Supreme Court.			
4.	Commutation of Pension	1/2 of the gross pension		1/2 of the gross pension	
5.	Leave Encashment	300 days of leave on full allowances (1.7.97)		300 days of leave on full allowances (1.7.97)	
6.	Other Post retiral benefits	Rs. 3000 p.m. for an orderly and 1500 free telephone calls p.m. (These benefits are exempted from income-tax) and Rs. 10,000 p.m. only to retired Chief Justices of India for service of steno-grapher on contract basis (25.5.2001)		-Nil-	
7.	Medical Facilities	C.G.H.S. facilities through S.C. Registry. In addition, medical attention in authorised hospitals and expenditure incurred by them for the treatment in the authorised hospitals may be reimbursed through Supreme Court Registry.		C.G.H.S. facilities in CGHS covered areas. In addition, any other facility extended by the State Government under Section 23D of the High Court Judges (C/S) Act, 1954.	

*[Translation]***Computerised Reservation Centres**

618. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to set up Computerised Reservation Centres even in those districts of the country which do not have railway lines and railway station;

(b) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the manner in which this system will function in those areas which do not have railway network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It would be done in a phased manner.

(c) Channels will be hired whenever railway network is not available.

*[English]***Assets and Profits of ONGC, BPCL and HPCL**

619. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of ONGC, BPCL and HPCL and the profits made by these oil companies; and

(b) the logic behind moving for privatisation of these PSUs in which thousands of crores of Government money is invested?

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 assets and profits of the three companies as on 31.3.2002 were as under:

	Total Assets (Rs./crores)	Profit After Tax (Rs./crores)
ONGC	37897.00	6198.00
HPCL	10242.00	788.00
BPCL	8545.01	849.83

(b) There is no proposal to privatise ONGC. Regarding HPCL and BPCL, the Government have taken an in-principal decision to disinvest in HPCL and BPCL through strategic sale. The main objective of disinvestment of government shareholding in public sector undertakings (PSUs) is to make them more competitive and market oriented, by involving strategic partners.

Shooting of UAV

620. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was shot down by Pakistani fighter jets near Lahore late on 7.6.2002 night; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) One Indian Air Force Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was shot down by a Pakistan Air Force aircraft on June 7, 2002.

Purchase of Computers by Relaxing Portion of GFR

621. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computers purchased by the Railway Board, and the Northern Railway Head Quarter from the NCCF and the Kendriya Bhandar during the

last three years, along with the make and configuration and cost thereof;

(b) whether the prices charged for the computers are much higher than the open market;

(c) whether the DOP&T unauthorisedly and illegally extended the relaxation portion of the GFR for not inviting tenders as agreed to by the Ministry of Finance in the case of Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and Super Bazar as replied by the Finance Ministry to USQ No. 4252 dated April 19, 2002 and USQ No. 7738 dated May 17, 2002; and

(d) if so, the action propose to take to ensure that they buy stationery and other items on the basis of open tender from NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Tehri Hydel Project

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

(a) the details of completion and cost envisaged originally for Tehri Hydel Project;

(b) the present status of the project and the cost incurred till date; and

(c) the details of the unit cost of electricity generated by the project when completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In March 1994, approval was accorded to the Tehri Hydro Power Corporation for implementing the Tehri Dam & HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 3391.40 crores (March 1993 Price Level) including IDC of Rs. 427.74 crores. The cost estimates included the committed works of Koteshwar HEP and essential works of Tehri PSP. Two units were to be commissioned during 1997-98 and balance two units during 1998-99.

(b) Considerable progress has been made on Tehri Stage-I works. The main Dam has been raised to an elevation of EL 800 m. and balance height to be raised is only 40 m. against the total height of 280.5m. The work on various fronts of Chute Spillway, Right Bank Shaft Spillway, Left Bank Shaft Spillway is also progressing. The civil works of underground Power House

are nearing completion. The erection work of Electro-mechanical equipment of the Units is in progress. The first unit is scheduled to be completed by March 2003 and the balance units by August 2003. The expenditure incurred on Tehri Stage-I (1000 MW) till May 2002 is Rs. 4286.89 Crores.

(c) The projected cost of generation at the Revised Cost at Price Level of August 1999 was estimated at 141.17 paise/unit. The unit cost of generation will be determined on completion of the project by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Supreme Court's View about Taken Money

623. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held that mere taking of money does not lead to the fact that he is corrupt till it is proved or till there is no other evidence to the effect etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to amend the necessary laws in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of Subhash Parbat Sonvane Vs. State of Gujarat reported in 2002(4) SCALE 40 has held that unless there is evidence on record that accused 'obtained' for himself or any other person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage by either corrupt or illegal means or by abusing his position as public servant or he obtained for any person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage without any public interest.

(c) At present no action is being contemplated by the Government to amend the necessary provisions of law in the light of the above mentioned judgement of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has not laid down any new proposition of law but has merely reiterated the legal position already settled by it in its earlier judgements referred to in the aforesaid recent decision.

[Translation]

Losses in Non-Completion of Projects

624. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of Public Sector Undertakings have caused the loss of thousand of crore of rupees due to non-completion of a number of projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified such projects of the public enterprises; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 31.12.2001, the latest period for which information is available, there were 458 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above in the central sector. Of these, 208 projects have reported cost overrun of 70.3% and 154 projects have reported time overrun, ranging from 1 to 204 months, with respect to the originally approved cost and schedule. The original cost of these 458 projects was Rs. 1,64,947 crore and now anticipated cost is Rs. 2,04,261 crore thus showing an overall cost overrun with respect to the original estimates of 23.8%. The detailed status of the implementation of projects is given in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which is a published document.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government vary from project to project and time to time to tackle the situation. However, the general measures taken by the Government are monthly and quarterly review at appropriate levels, inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature, making available matching funds on yearly basis based on updated costs to complete the projects, etc.

[English]

New Railway Station in Mumbai

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more railway stations in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether he has discussed with Central Railway officials regarding the need of setting up of new railway stations in Mumbai during his Mumbai visit on April 16, 2002;

(c) if so, the locations identified for setting up of new railway stations in Mumbai;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which these stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) During his visit to Mumbai on 16.04.2002, Minister of Railways discussed the need for two new Railway Stations with Central Railway. The locations discussed were near Mental Hospital at Thane and at Nahur between Mulund and Bhandup. Studies have been conducted by Railways for setting up the stations at these locations. It is not feasible to locate a station/suburban terminal near Mental Hospital at Thane. It has been decided to set up a halt station at Nahur. Time of commissioning of the station will depend upon the availability of funds.

Test Flight of LCA

626. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether test flight of second prototype of indigenously built light combat aircraft was conducted recently;

(b) if so, the extent to which the test flight found to be successful in meeting all the requirements; and

(c) the time by when the aircraft is likely to make its entry into the service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The second technology demonstrator of LCA (TD2) was successfully test flown twice, meeting all performance requirements.

(c) The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) is planned by the year 2005-2006.

[Translation]

Circulation of Newspapers/Magazines in Rajasthan

627. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weekly, fortnightly, monthly and daily newspapers/magazines published from Rajasthan, language-wise;

(b) the method of verifying the circulated number of copies of these magazines by the Government and the number of circulated copies of the major dailies; and

(c) the amount paid by the Government for advertisement to these dailies during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The total number of newspapers/magazines from Rajasthan registered with the Registrar of Newspapers from India (RNI) during the year 2000 was 3070. The language-wise and periodicity-wise details are given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) For purposes of DAVP advertisements the newspaper/journal should furnish authenticated figures of circulation certified by Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC), RNI or a Chartered Accountant. The details of claimed circulation figures of the major dailies published from Rajasthan during the year 2000 in Statement-II. The number of dailies to whom advertisements were issued by DAVP and amount committed by DAVP for such advertisements during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Dailies	Amount in Rs.
1999-2000	152	3,40,63,552
2000-2001	121	2,97,87,932
2001-2002	106	3,05,07,527

Statement I

The Language-wise and Periodicity-wise details of Newspapers/Magazines Published from Rajasthan during the year 2000

S. No.	Language	Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	English	4	7	14	20	45
2.	Hindi	421	1018	1115	291	2845

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Bengali	0	0	1	0	1	
4. Malayalam	0	0	0	1	1	
5. Marathi	0	1	0	0	1	
6. Punjabi	0	1	0	1	2	
7. Sanskrit	0	0	0	1	1	
8. Sindhi	4	9	5	1	19	
9. Urdu	11	4	3	4	22	
10. Bilingual	4	21	36	47	108	
11. Multilingual	0	2	3	12	17	
12. Others	0	2	2	4	8	
Total	444	1065	1179	382	3070	

Statement II

The details of Claimed Circulation Figures of the Major Dailies Published from Rajasthan during the year 2000

S. No.	Name of the Publication	Language	Place of Publication	Claimed Circulation
1.	Dainik Bhaskar	Hindi	Jodhpur	98285
2.	Navajyoti	Hindi	Jaipur	102317
3.	Navajyoti	Hindi	Ajmer	95194
4.	Navajyoti	Hindi	Kota	94719
5.	Pratahkal	Hindi	Udaipur	88058
6.	Rajasthan Patrika	Hindi	Jaipur	223325
7.	Rajasthan Patrika	Hindi	Jodhpur	101231
8.	Rashtradoot	Hindi	Jaipur	111337

[English]

Supply of Low Sulphur Fuels in Hyderabad

628. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide clean fuels with less Sulphur and Benzene levels in more cities particularly in Hyderabad; and

(b) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Oil from Oil Wells and Refineries

629. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of a proper monitoring system, theft of oil worth Rs. 600 crore from oil wells and refineries takes place every year; and

(b) if so, the concrete action taken to check this theft by the Government?

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 being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rail Line between Jalandhar and Jammu

630. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new rail line between Jalandhar and Jammu;

(b) if so, the action taken for commencement of work on the said rail line;

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Rail link between Jalandhar and Jammu Tawi already exists. The proposal for doubling of this section was included in the Budget 1997-98 for which necessary clearances have recently been obtained. The final location survey has been taken up. An outlay of Rs. 19.21 crore has been provided for the work during the current financial year.

[English]

Pending Cases of Accident in Claim Tribunals

631. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accident cases are lying pending in claims tribunals for more than one to three years till June 30, 2002;

(b) the reasons for delay in their settlement; and

(c) the steps being taken by the court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 222 train accident cases.

(b) the main reasons for delay in settlement of cases are as under:—

(i) A large number of vacancies of Members.

(ii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

(iii) Adjournments sought by the applicants/their counsels for producing their witnesses or other evidence.

(iv) Transfer of claims cases from one Bench to the other, sought by the claimants.

(c) For effective and expeditious administration of justice, applications for transfer of accident cases by the applicants to R.C.T. bench near the place of their residence are also allowed so that the applicants do not have to travel long distances for seeking justice.

Setting up of Mini, Micro and Small Power Projects in NER

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

(a) whether the policy of the Government has shifted focus of setting up of community owned mini, micro and small power projects in the North Eastern Region to light up rural house-holds in the region;

(b) if so, the decision taken to promote such projects; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the scheme, indicating the number, location and power capacity of the plants set up and to be set up under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of India is according high priority for development of mini, micro and small hydro-electric projects along with development of the large hydro electric projects. The development of small hydro-electric projects upto 25 MW is under the purview of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The Ministry of Power and its Public Sector Undertakings like the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) are supplementing the efforts of the Ministry and the State Governments in identification/implementation of mini, micro and small

hydro-electric projects. These projects help in electrification of remote villages in different locations besides serving as focal points for decentralized generation. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is encouraging local body, community, NGO participation in setting up of mini-micro Hydel projects. They are also providing special incentives to over upto 90 per cent of the project cost for micro hydel projects upto a capacity of 1 MW in the North-Eastern region. This grant is given to State Government/State Agency setting up such projects.

(c) 91 small hydro projects (upto 25 MW) with an aggregate capacity of 152.75 MW have already been set up in various States of the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim and 55 Projects with an aggregate capacity of 135.90 MW are under execution. Based on information received from various States and studies conducted by Central Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have identified 1059 Mini Micro and Small hydro electric schemes in the various States of North Eastern Region and Sikkim, with an aggregate capacity of 2028.34 MW. State-wise break-up is given below:

Sl. No.	State	Projects Set-up		Project On-going		Identified Potential	
		Nos.	Capacity (MW)	Nos.	Capacity (MW)	Nos.	Capacity (MW)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	32.10	20	44.31	492	1059.03
2.	Assam	1	2.00	10	51.11	46	118.00
3.	Manipur	7	4.70	4	3.50	96	105.63
4.	Meghalaya	3	30.71	9	3.28	98	181.50
5.	Mizoram	15	14.76	3	15.50	88	190.32
6.	Nagaland	7	19.87	5	11.00	86	181.39
7.	Tripura	3	16.01	—	—	8	9.85
8.	Sikkim	11	32.60	4	7.20	145	182.62
Total		91	152.75	55	135.90	1059	2028.34

[Translation]

Electrification of Villages of Jharkhand

633. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Jharkhand without electricity as on date, district-wise;

(b) the time by which total electrification is likely to achieve in Jharkhand; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove such impediments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) District-wise details of unelectrified villages in Jharkhand as on 1.4.2002 as furnished by Jharkhand State Electricity Board are given below:

Sl. No.	District	No. of un-electrified villages
1	2	3
1.	Ranchi	1806
2.	Palamu	1431
3.	Garhwa	650
4.	Latehar	727
5.	Gumla	831
6.	Simdega	408
7.	Lohardaga	306
8.	Hazaribagh	704
9.	Koderma	808
10.	Chatra	1111

1	2	3
11.	E. Singhbhum	1156
12.	W. Singhbhum	1767
13.	Saraikela	
14.	Dumka	3399
15.	Jamtara	
16.	Pakur	1031
17.	Sahebganj	1211
18.	Deoghar	2277
19.	Godda	1660
20.	Giridih	1635
21.	Bokaro	399
22.	Dhanbad	374
Total		23691

(b) and (c) Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) aims to achieve total electrification of villages by the end of 10th Five Year Plan. In order to achieve this objective, JSEB has adopted the strategy to execute village electrification work on turnkey basis and departmentally.

Although it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to electrify the villages, in view of the resource constraint faced by State Governments/SEB the Government of India are providing financial assistance for village electrification programme.

Government of India have released an amount of Rs. 379.60 lakhs and Rs. 2819.00 lakhs under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) respectively for rural electrification during 2001-2002 to Jharkhand. Planning Commission have made an allocation of Rs. 7446.00 lakhs for all the six components of PMGY including rural electrification, as Additional Central Assistance for the year 2002-2003. Under the revised guidelines, the States have the flexibility to decide allocation of ACA among the six PMGY sectors as per their own plan priorities and discretion. Besides, it has been proposed to allocate an amount of Rs. 6800.00 lakhs to Jharkhand under MNP during 2002-2003 for rural electrification.

[English]

Expansion of Rural Electrification Scheme In Tamil Nadu

634. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the expansion of Rural Electrification Scheme in Tamil Nadu during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred in this regard; and

(c) the number of persons benefited in Tamil Nadu by this scheme during the plan period upto March, 2002 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Tamil Nadu had achieved 100% village electrification before the commencement of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Therefore, no target was fixed for village electrification during the above mentioned plan for the State of Tamil Nadu.

However, in order to achieve the national objective of electrification of all households by 2012, Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 11.736 crores in 2001-2002 under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) to Tamil Nadu for rural electrification/load intensification during the year 2001-2002. Planning Commission has made an allocation of Rs. 115.47 crores for all the six components of PMGY including rural electrification, as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to Tamil Nadu for the year 2002-2003. Under the revised guidelines, the States have flexibility to decide their *inter-se* allocation of ACA among the six PMGY sectors according to their own plan priorities and discretion. In addition, during the Ninth Plan period, REC released an amount of Rs. 603.61 crore to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board under REC financed scheme for augmentation and strengthening of distribution system.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Jharkhand

635. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps operating in Jharkhand at present; and

(b) the number of LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps proposed to be opened in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 407 Retail Outlets and 103 LPG distributorships in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) It is difficult to indicate the exact number of LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps to be opened in the State during the current year. However, OMCs have the plan to set up 30 Retail Outlets and 44 LPG distributorships in the State of Jharkhand.

[English]

Gas Exploration in Mahanadi

636. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where Gas exploration drillings have taken up during the last three years and a number of borings made by the organizations deployed therefor;

(b) whether exploration drillings have been started in Eastern coast particularly Mahanadi onshore and offshore regions and the names of organizations deployed for the purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the zones identified and taken up for exploration, so far; and

(e) the details of survey report of oil and Natural Gas deposits in various parts of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During the last three years (1999-2002), a total of 498 exploratory wells were drilled by National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private/joint venture (JV) companies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh as also East and West Coast offshore areas, of which 248 wells were oil/gas bearing.

(b) No exploratory drilling has been carried out by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and private/

joint venture companies in Mahanandi offshore and onshore regions. However, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) had drilled 4 wells in Mahanadi onshore and 11 wells in Mahanadi offshore/North-East offshore in the late 1970s and 1980s, without any discovery of hydrocarbons. Exploration drilling has been carried out in East Coast offshore by the following private/JV companies:—

- (i) M/s Caim Energy Corporation Ltd., Vedeocon Petroleum Ltd., ONGC, Ravva Oil Singapore Ltd.
- (ii) Hardy Oil & Gas, Niko Resources Ltd. Nagarjuna Fertilizers.
- (iii) Mosbacher India Ltd. HOEC, Energy Equity India Petroleum Ltd.

The exploratory drilling is continuing in the East Coast by ONGC.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question.

(d) The exploratory drilling in the Mahanadi basin will be planned based on the results of seismic survey data already acquired and fresh seismic survey data to be acquired in respect of exploration blocks awarded to NOCs and private/JV companies under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(e) The details of prognosticated oil and gas resources of the country are given below:—

Basin	Hydrocarbon Resources (Million Metric Tonne)
Andaman-Nicobar	180
Assam-Arakan Fold belt	3,180
Bengal	190
Cambay	2,050
Cauvery	700
Himachal Foothills & Ganga Valley	520
Kerala-Konkan	660
Krishna-Godavari	1,130
Kutch-Saurashtra	1,050
Mumbai	9,190
Rajasthan	380
Upper Assam	1,860
Deep Water	7000
Grand Total	28090

Wasteful Expenditure

637. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give his recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and departments;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this commission as on December 31, 2001;

(d) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented by his Ministry or departments under his Ministry alongwith the reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure had set up Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) to conduct a study on the expenditure of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. This Commission has conducted a study of 36 Ministries/Departments of Government of India. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources was not taken up by the ERC for a separate review. Department of Science and Technology being the Nodal Ministry for Scientific Ministries has been requested to constitute a Committee for review of this Ministry alongwith other Scientific Ministries as per the advice of the Expenditure Reforms Commission. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Utilisation of NCES**

638. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons (in percentage) utilizing non-conventional energy sources, State-wise;

(b) the details of achievements of IREDA during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of Energy Parks developed in Maharashtra along with the number of Energy Parks proposed to be developed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry is promoting use of various non-conventional energy systems/devices such as biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar cookers, solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems etc. These systems/devices are used by individual families for meeting their energy requirement of cooking, heating and lighting. State-wise details of these non-conventional energy systems are given in Statement-I. In addition, non-conventional energy projects of about 3522 MW aggregate capacity have also been installed the country by end of 31.3.2002 for generating power.

(b) IREDA has sanctioned a total of 444 projects with a loan commitment of Rs. 2668.46 crores and has disbursed Rs. 1612.04 crores during the last three years. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-II.

(c) 18 Energy Parks have been sanctioned in the State of Maharashtra out of which 11 Energy Parks have been developed and 7 are under implementation as on 31.03.2002. The Ministry has also received 17 proposals for developing Energy Parks in the State of Maharashtra during the current year till date.

Statement I

State-wise details of non-conventional energy systems/devices as on 31-3-2002 being utilised by the families

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas Plants	Improved Chulha	Solar Photovoltaic Systems		Solar Cooker
		(Nos.)	(Nos. in lakh)	Home Lighting (Nos.)	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	(Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	333962	40.42	1033	27707	11984
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1514	0.43	750	4937	530

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	51269	6.04	2337	541	80
4.	Bihar & Jharkhand	121979	11.87	781	44649	730
5.	Goa	3355	1.21	51	443	1499
6.	Gujarat	351745	15.3	2552	31603	56321
7.	Haryana	44152	11.15	9666	32727	18905
8.	Himachal Pradesh	43937	6.64	10848	20697	26367
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1965	4.48	12519	9202	345
10.	Karnataka	339567	16.44	4156	7334	250
11.	Kerala	79182	9.45	8689	39681	194
12.	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	207202	29.32	1316	9412	183449
13.	Maharashtra	675097	24.63	721	8680	53842
14.	Manipur	1956	0.71	650	3883	365
15.	Meghalaya	2209	0.22	540	4875	1164
16.	Mizoram	2818	0.52	1645	5812	110
17.	Nagaland	1667	0.38	143	95	0
18.	Orissa	185690	22.17	2686	7823	3169
19.	Punjab	68762	11.49	2520	14495	22050
20.	Rajasthan	66556	26.08	28464	4716	36600
21.	Sikkim	3475	0.86	310	720	20
22.	Tamil Nadu	201395	28.09	471	12086	1355
23.	Tripura	1719	0.59	2238	17805	79
24.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	371587	40.59	83142	79842	43323
25.	West Bengal	203626	37.66	25916	3662	7391
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	137	0.33	405	796	59
27.	Chandigarh	97	0.19	275	1675	1523
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	169	0.15	0	0	81
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0.01	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	676	2.66	0	4753	27990
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0.05	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	573	0.43	13	637	88
33.	Others	0	—	1895	26399	10383
Total		3368038	350.56	206732	427687	510246

Statement II*State-wise details of projects sanctioned, loan amount and disbursement by IREDA during last 3 years*

Rs. in crores

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Total		
		No. of Projects	IREDA's Loan Amount	Disbursed Amount
1	2	3	4	5
A. STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92	748.38	562.71
2.	Assam	1	8.93	2.72
3.	Bihar	1	0.15	0.17
4.	Chhattisgarh*	2	1.18	4.84
5.	Gujarat	10	8.91	53.42
6.	Goa	6	0.46	0.04
7.	Haryana	3	5.19	0.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	126.86	14.39
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0.05	0.00
10.	Jharkhand*	1	0.26	—
11.	Karnataka	67	604.79	230.88
12.	Kerala	7	2.31	6.10
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7	71.55	41.34
14.	Maharashtra	111	650.49	398.18
15.	Manipur	2	0.29	—
16.	Mizoram	0	0.00	—
17.	Nagaland	1	0.82	—
18.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	15	23.18	11.63
19.	Orissa	0	0.00	14.47
20.	Punjab	12	27.08	10.46
21.	Rajasthan	21	52.47	22.18
22.	Tamil Nadu	47	239.66	162.26
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8	40.72	40.89
24.	Uttaranchal*	1	2.22	1.08
25.	West Bengal	15	45.85	31.76
Total "A"		443	2,661.80	1609.42

1	2	3	4	5
B. UNION TERRITORY				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.00	0
2.	Daman & Diu	1	6.68	1.49
3.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	1.13
Total "B"		1	6.68	2.62
Total "A"+"B"		444	2668.48	1612.04

*Sanction has been shown after the formation of the respective States.

[English]

Poor Quality of Food on Running Trains

639. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for supplying poor quality of food on the running trains;

(b) whether vendors are allowed to roam about freely on the running trains who often commit a lot of thefts; and

(c) if so, whether the Government would take cognizance of this and improve the quality of food especially on long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Food quality is generally satisfactory.

(b) No, Sir. Unauthorised hawking/vending in trains and stations premises is a punishable offence under Railways Act. Regular checks are conducted to curb this menace in trains and station premises and persons apprehended are dealt with as per provisions of the Railways Act.

(c) Unauthorised hawking on railway stations and trains in punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989. Railway administration conducts special drives from time to time to control unauthorised hawking through prosecution and imposing penalties on such activities. To ensure quality, hygiene and satisfactory catering services, Railways have taken various steps which includes, use of quality raw material from approved sources, introduction of casserole meals in place of open Thalies in Mail/Express trains, use of eco-friendly packaging materials, supply of ISI approved safe packaged drinking water, etc. Regular inspections are carried out at various level and strict punitive action taken against the defaulters.

CNG Dispensing Units

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

(a) whether CNG operated compressor and heavy duty dispensing units of CNG have reduced the cost of dispensing and have increased the efficiency of CNG online stations;

(b) if so, the number of online stations facilities on IOCL petrol pump having separate electricity meter on CNG have been closed in Delhi due to disputes of sanctioning the amount less than the actual electricity charges by IGL;

(c) whether the suffering of public shall still have to face more inconvenience caused due to indifferent attitude by the IGL authorities;

(d) whether the Government propose to pass necessary directions to restart the closed facilities of such online station by installing CNG and compressor and heavy duty dispensing units have low cost of dispensing;

(e) if not, the reasons for closing the existing facilities and installing new facilities; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found responsible for causing unnecessary harassment to the motoring public?

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 (e) 5 retail outlets of IOC have online CNG dispensing facilities. The compressors at these stations

are having electric motor drive. The payment by IGL to Oil Marketing Companies for electricity charges is on average basis. Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) pays electricity charges to the Oil Marketing Companies on average basis and not on actual electricity consumption basis. The average electricity charges per kg of CNG produced has been worked out by a committee comprising representatives of Oil Marketing Companies. As such there is no discrimination.

One IOC dealer namely I.P. Service Station was not satisfied with this amount and unilaterally decided to deduct higher electricity charges. Supplies to the concerned dealer were temporarily suspended. Supplies have since been restored from 9th July.

(f) As there has been no malafide on the part of any official, there is no question of taking action against any official.

Hike in Prices of Petrol and Diesel

641. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether early disclosure of probable price hike of petrol and diesel on June 3, 2002 has caused the chaos and panic demand in the markets;

(b) whether the oil corporations have not released the supplies of petrol and diesel on the orders of the Government or had stopped the supplies at their own to earn profits;

(c) whether the General Secretary HPDA had made representation to the Government and had sent the fax on June 3, 2002 on this subject; and

(d) if so, the details of the representation and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found responsible?

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 Government did not issue any instruction of the Oil Corporations for stopping the supply. It is also not correct to presume that the Oil Corporations had stopped the supply to earn profit. The Oil Companies have followed the procedure. However, on 3rd/4th June, 2002 requests were received for replenishing the stock as per demand estimated.

Displaced Kashmiri Pandits

642. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAM RATI BIND:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the names of displaced Kashmiri Pandits do not figure in the latest voter list of Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter of problems faced by Kashmiri Pandit voters because of discrepancies and procedural difficulties in the present postal ballot system;

(d) so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken up with the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) The Election Commission has informed that it has been meeting representatives of the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir whenever the Chief Election Commissioner, other Election Commissioners and officers of the Commission visited that State. In none of these visits, the issue of large scale deletion of Kashmiri Pandits has been raised. With the revision of electoral rolls being carried out in a summary manner, the Commission feels that there should not be any large scale deletion of any group or community. However, ample opportunity has been extended and continues to be extended to all concerned to ensure that every person, who is a legitimate voter in Jammu and Kashmir and whose name has been left out, is able to get his name included in the electoral roll in time for the elections. The scheme of postal ballot system for Kashmiri Pandits is being modified to some extent by the Commission to bring about a more effective system of casting of votes by voters from this community in the forthcoming elections.

C.B.I. Raid on Tehelka.Com

643. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has conducted searches at the offices of Tehelka.Com recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any indiscriminate documents were found in the office of the Tehelka.Com;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this raid is likely to hurt the investigation of alleged corruption in defence deal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The CBI in connection with investigation of Registration Case (RC) 5/2002-SIU.XI raided the residential and office premises of a reporter of Tehelka.Com at New Delhi on 26.6.2002. The searches were conducted under Section 165 of the Criminal Procedure Code to unearth evidence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Large number of documents directly connected to the investigation of RC5/2002-SIU.XI have been seized from both the premises.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Iran Defence Agreement

644. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any defence agreement has been signed between India and Iran; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No defence agreement has been signed between India and Iran.

(b) Do not arise.

Underground Railway Crossing Near Dehre

645. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of underground railway crossing near Dehre in Manmad section is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing this proposal so far; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Partnership Norms for LPG Dealers

646. SHRI RAM RATI BIND:
DR. BALIRAM:

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

(a) the prescribed rules/terms and conditions governing the appointment of partners by the dealers after securing the dealership;

(b) the number of such cases granted permission by IBP company since July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002;

(c) whether I.B.P. company has allowed appointment of partner in violation of rules;

(d) if so, whether such cases have been got verified from the Vigilance Wing; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The main features of the guidelines governing the reconstitution of LPG distributorships inter alia include:—

(i) Reconstitution is not allowed before 3 years from the date of commissioning except under the certain exigencies like death of proprietor or on compassionate grounds.

(ii) New partner must satisfy multiple dealership norms and generally satisfy other criteria for normal selection, such as age, educational qualification, income etc.

- (iii) The existing partner(s) will retain majority share.
- (iv) For the distributorship belonging to SC/ST category, the incoming partner should also be from amongst SC/ST.
- (v) The incoming partner should not be convicted for any criminal offence or moral turpitude.

(b) IBP has not allowed any reconstitution of its LPG distributorship during the period 1st July, 2001 to 30th June, 2002.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up Military Station in Himachal Pradesh

647. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Command Headquarter (Chandimandir) has requested Government of Himachal Pradesh to allot 790 acres of land in one pocket in Una for setting up Military Station;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has accorded its approval to assign the aforesaid land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Himachal Pradesh Government had indicated its willingness to offer land in Una to the Army in two pockets separated by a strip of land. The Army Authorities while accepting the offer, in principle, for locating their units and establishments, requested the State Government to offer land in one pocket, keeping in view the security considerations. The State Government has, therefore, been requested to confirm the availability of land in one pocket as well as to bear the cost of infrastructural development.

(b) and (c) The Army authorities are considering the suitability of the land suggested by the State Government.

[*English*]

Withdrawal of Navratna Status from PSUs

648. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw 'Navratna' status granted to some major Public Sector Units (PSUs);

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

(c) the steps, the Government propose to take to help them to regain their original status;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to create another bigger class of PSUs called "Maha Navratnas"; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the criteria laid down for determining PSU as "Maha Navratna" and the way in which it would be different from Navratnas?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Immediately, there is no proposal under consideration to withdraw the Navratna status of any particular PSE. However, the Government has created an institutional mechanism for the review of the performance of Navratna enterprises, grant of status of Navratna to new CPSEs and divestment of their Navratna status, as the case may be. An Apex Committee has been constituted for this purpose for which instructions have been issued on 15.3.2002. The format for reviewing the performance of Navratnas PSUs has since been drawn up. All the administrative Ministries/Departments have been asked to advise the Navratna PSUs under their administrative control to complete the format and forward it to the department of Public Enterprises through the administrative Ministry/Department.

(d) The Navratna status was given with a view to delegate enhanced financial and operational powers to some select PSUs that have comparative advantages with a view to support them in their drive to become global giants. Periodically reviewing performance of PSUs is an ongoing process. As a part of this process, 'Maha Navratna' status for large profit making PSEs has only been discussed.

(e) Does not arise.

Sale of Petroleum Products by Private Companies

649. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI K.A. SANGTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have permitted some private oil companies to operate retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the details of companies and the agreement made in this regard and the share of North-East, particularly of Nagaland therein;

(c) the implementation plan worked out therein; and

(d) the present status 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) The Government have granted authorisation to market transportation fuels in the country to two private oil companies i.e. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL). These companies have proposed to set up 7,549 Retail Outlets in various parts of the country. These companies have been asked by the Government to set up 10.9% of their total Retail Outlets in remote/low service areas including the North Eastern States as per the condition laid down in the Government resolution dated 8th March, 2002.

[Translation]

Rules for Advertisements on T.V.

650. SHRI BHUPENDERA SINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether advertisements being shown on television are not complying with the rules;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-compliance of the Rules in this regard; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for the strict compliance of the rules?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Advertisements telecast on television channels, re-transmitted through Cable TV Network, are required to adhere to the Advertisements Code prescribed in the Cable Television (Regulation Act, 1994). The Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee to take cognizance *suo moto* or of specific complaints regarding violations of the Advertisements Code. Appropriate action as per rules is taken against the channels violating the Code.

Dropping of Pipeline Projects by IOCL

651. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has dropped some of its pipeline projects;

(b) if so, the details of such dropped pipeline projects and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in lieu of these projects, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has proposed to take up a dozen new pipeline projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The viability of product pipeline proposals depends on the through put. The supply/demand scenario and growth pattern of petroleum products in the country have undergone substantial change. In view of this, the projects are being reviewed for their economic viability.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Firing by Pakistan

652. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is frequent firing by Pakistan on international border and Line of Control since December 18, 2001;

(b) the names of places and number of skirmishes taken place during the last three months;

(c) the loss of property suffered by the country due to shelling/firing by Pakistan;

(d) the loss suffered by the Pakistani side;

(e) the number of soldiers/civilians killed and injured by the Pakistani firing during the last three months;

(f) the compensation paid to the next kin of deceased soldiers and civilians; and

(g) the assistance given for the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and civilians?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There has been frequent exchange of firing along the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir since December 18, 2001. Firing has been more pronounced in the Siachen, Kargil, Dras, Punch, Rajouri and Jammu Sectors in J&K over the last three months.

(c) The loss of property suffered in J & K during March 31st to May 31st, 2002 is as under:

Government buildings	=	3
Educational Institutions	=	1
Houses	=	17
Shops	=	8
Bridges	=	2

(d) Since December 18, 2001, 1386 Pakistan soldiers/civilians are assessed to have been killed/wounded and approximately 432 of their bunkers and six guns have been destroyed/damaged.

(e) The details of soldiers/civilians killed and injured by the Pakistani firing during the last three months are given below:-

	Killed	Injured
Army personnel (1st April to 10th July, 2002)	28	136
Civilians (1st April to 30th June, 2002)	233	110

(f) and (g) Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been providing ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to next of kin in case of death and Rs. 75,000, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 1000 for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively to the civilians.

As regards soldiers, a comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for next of kin of deceased battle casualties killed in enemy/terrorist action. Facilities also exists for resettlement of war disabled soldiers.

Rail Over Bridge at Maihar

653. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the Rail Over bridge at Maihar in Jabalpur railway division;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of the said bridge; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The State Government has yet to decide whether to construct the proposed Road Over Bridge on 'deposit' terms or on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) terms. An estimate for Rs. 2.45 crores for construction of Bridge proper (portion over Railway tracks) by Railways on 'deposit' terms has, however, been accepted by Chief Engineer (NH) Division PWD, Bhopal but funds have not yet been deposited. Further action in this case can be taken only after State Government takes a decision & acts on it.

[English]

Action against Cable Operators

654. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to empower the local Station House Officer or sub-inspector of Local Police to take action against cable operator including seizure of assets in case the operator does not telecast DD-National, DD-Metro and DD-Bharati on prime band (i.e. 1 to 12 bands);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been found that compliance of Government's orders regarding telecasting of DD channels is very low;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by when such orders are strictly made mandatory for all cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The Cable Networks Regulation Act, 1995 provides for Authorized Officers, which include, District Magistrate,

Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police, within their local limits of jurisdiction, and other officers notified by Central Government or State Governments to take action against Cable Operators for violations of the provisions of the Act. It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to obtain compliance of the provisions of the Act, with regard to compulsory transmission of the notified Doordarshan Channels. Although instances of non-compliance have come to notice, Doordarshan is carrying out an awareness campaign to make people aware of their rights. The government is also taking up the matter with State Governments to ensure that the notified officers ensure compliance by Cable Operators in this regard. Doordarshan has informed that they are meeting Cable Operators at regular intervals to monitor the Doordarshan channels being carried by the Cable Operators.

[Translation]

High Court for Haryana

655. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for setting up a High Court exclusively for Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a separate High Court is likely to be set up for Haryana; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government of Haryana has forwarded a copy of the resolution of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha for creation of a separate High Court for Haryana in the existing premises at Chandigarh by allocating 40% building, ministerial staff and administrative functionaries along with the Judges appointed from the Haryana quota.

(c) and (d) As establishment of a separate High Court for Haryana would depend upon on the shifting of its Capital from Chandigarh as also developing infrastructure for a new High Court within the State of Haryana, it is not feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

[English]

Restructuring of LPG Marketing in Delhi

656. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BPCL has taken due exercise of restructuring of LPG Marketing among its distributors in Delhi as per Government's directions;

(b) if so, the names of agencies which have been benefited; and

(c) if not, the action being taken by the Government to implement its decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) BPCL has informed that it is working out the modalities of restructuring its distributors in Delhi as per the directions of Government. Government have advised BPCL again to complete the exercise at the earliest.

[Translation]

Fund for New Projects

657. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is trying to mobilise ten thousand crore rupees to create a fund for new projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to mobilise the ten thousand crore rupees for the fund; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) A decision has been taken to strengthen the Golden Quadrilateral and the diagonals connecting the four metropolitan cities—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The investments required to undertake the necessary capacity enhancement works are expected to be in the range of Rs. 8000 Crores. In addition, Railways are also trying to mobilise resources to the tune of Rs. 3600 crores for construction of Mega Bridges. All possible avenues of funding, including multilateral financing and creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for mobilising funds are being explored. The proposal for creation of SPV for Golden Quadrilateral works is presently being processed. The Mega Bridges projects are also tentatively proposed to be taken up by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

*[English]***Cess on Petroleum Products**

658. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have doubled the Cess amount from Rs. 900/MT to Rs. 1800/MT;

(b) if so, whether the liberalized regime has enhanced the responsibilities of the States and now they have a greater role to play; 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. Central Government has specified the rate of duty of excise in respect of crude oil at the rate of Rs. 1800 per tonne w.e.f. 1st March, 2002.

(b) and (c) As per provisions under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 the cess is levied and collected by the Central Government and not by the State Governments.

Clearance of Power Projects of Karnataka

659. SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the Power projects namely Almatti, Bellary (Jindal), Bidadi and Mahadayi in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the investment made in each project along with its generating capacity;

(c) the power tariff fixed for each project;

(d) whether there is any inter-state issues involved in it; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal to bring the equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) to Almatti Dam Power House (1x15+5x55=290 MW) in Karnataka State on 28.2.2002 for execution by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL).

CEA has not yet accorded techno-economic clearances to Torangalu Expansion (2x250 MW) project proposed to be set up by M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Ltd. in Bellary District of Karnataka and Bidadi (700 MW) project proposed to be set up by M/s. KPC Bidadi Power Corporation Ltd. in Bangalore District of Karnataka as various essential inputs/clearances were not tied up.

The Detailed Project Report of Mahadayi Project (2x10+2x12.5+2x150=345 MW) was returned to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in March 1992 mainly due to inter-state aspects with Goa.

(b) and (c) The Almatti Dam Power House project with an installed capacity of 290 MW has been accorded TEC by CEA an estimated completed cost of US\$ 3.50 million + Rs. 657.75 crores (equivalent to Rs. 674.38 crores) including 'Interest During Construction' and financing charges of Rs. 106.12 crores at an exchange rate of 1 US\$=Rs. 47.50. The levelised tariff as per the TEC is Rs. 2.88 per Kwh.

(d) Almatti Dam Power House Project involved inter-state aspects mainly relating "limiting total utilization of water at Almatti and Narainpur to 173 TMC, according to Supreme Court judgement of April, 2000". Above limiting total utilization of water at Almatti by Karnataka and other essential inputs/clearances were tied up till December, 2001 and then project was taken up for clearance by CEA.

(e) Financial Package (Tentative) for Almatti Dam Power House Project (for completed cost is debt 80% and equity 20%. Equity is from promoters KPCL being Rs. 134.88 crores.

Pending Cases in Courts

660. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) whether the measures, so far, taken to clear the huge arrears of pending cases in different High Courts in the country, have not yielded the desired results;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases in Courts and High Courts in the country, State-wise, including Gujarat and Karnataka High Court by the end of June 2002;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider amendments to the existing laws to ensure early dispensation of justice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts are at Statement I & II.

(c) and (d) The Government has considered amendment to the existing laws to ensure early dispensation of justice. These include simplification of substantive laws and procedural laws on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and the Code

of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2002 have been brought into effect as per the Government notification dated 1st July 2002. The two Amendment Acts in Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 provide, *inter-alia*, fixing time frame for submission of written statement, early examination of witnesses by Commissions, restriction of number of adjournments to three to a party to a suit and delivery of judgement within 60 days after the hearing is over. As many laws adopt the procedure prescribed under the Civil Procedure Code, the amendment to the Code will have a much wider salutary effect on reducing delays in courts.

Government has set up the Malimath Committee for revamping the criminal justice administration comprehensively.

Statement I

Number of cases pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country

(Based on the quarterly reports received from High Courts)

		Cases pending	As on
Supreme Court of India		23,012	1.5.2002
Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending	As on
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	8,92,622	12/2001
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,63,127	12/2001
3.	Bombay	2,93,280	9/2001
4.	Calcutta	42,689	9/2001
5.	Delhi	1,78,001	12/2000
6.	Guhati	41,317	3/2001
7.	Gujarat	1,29,026	1-6-2002
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17,947	3/2002
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	33,365	3/2002
10.	Karnataka	1,02,648	30-6-2002
11.	Kerala	4,21,337	12/2001
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,17,141	6/2001
13.	Madras	3,49,836	6/2001
14.	Orissa	1,47,813	3/2002
15.	Patna	80,956	12/2001

1	2	3	4
16.	Punjab & Haryana	2,34,757	12/2001
17.	Rajasthan	1,32,306	12/2000
18.	Sikkim	117	12/2001
19.	Chhattisgarh		(Newly created High Court
20.	Jharkhand		(Newly created High Court
21.	Uttaranchal		(Newly created High Court
Total		33,78,285	

Statement II*State-wise pendency of cases in the District/Subordinate Courts*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	As on	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12/2001	542744	388388	931132
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	06/99	331	1469	1800
3.	Assam	06/2001	37229	118424	155653
4.	Bihar	06/2001	207417	809789	1017206
5.	Chhattisgarh	06/2001	51994	157620	209614
6.	Goa	06/2001	26132	11732	37864
7.	Gujarat	06/2001	704725	2357496	3062221
8.	Haryana	06/2000	197809	305806	503415
9.	Himachal Pradesh	06/2001	69976	73194	143170
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12/99	43418	82596	126014
11.	Karnataka	12/2001	592380	398960	991340
12.	Kerala	12/2001	229714	437266	666980
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12/2001	298564	853223	1151787
14.	Maharashtra	12/2000	924757	2130671	3055428
15.	Manipur	12/2000	4278	3487	7765
16.	Meghalaya	12/99	1561	11322	12883
17.	Mizoram	12/2000	817	986	1803
18.	NagalandNot available.....			
19.	Orissa	12/2000	135457	556759	692216

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Punjab	06/2000	209975	249479	459454
21.	Rajasthan	06/2001	274277	558083	832360
22.	Sikkim	12/98	467	1352	1819
23.	Tamil Nadu	06/2001	593703	267601	861304
24.	Tripura	12/2001	7313	14957	22270
25.	Uttar Pradesh	06/2001	1073234	2431929	3505163
26.	West Bengal	12/99	473325	861754	1335079
27.	A & N Islands	12/99	580	26790	27370
28.	Chandigarh	06/2000	15215	33349	48564
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12/2001	429	2096	2525
30.	Daman & Diu	12/2000	642	742	1384
31.	Delhi	12/2001	146398	451789	598187
32.	Lakshadweep	12/2000	87	104	191
33.	Pondicherry	06/2001	6204	7239	13443
Total					20477404

Visit of DG of Israel

661. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Israeli Defence Ministry visited India recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit; and

(c) the outcome of meetings held by him with the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Director General of Israeli Ministry of Defence visited India in the first week of June, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Defence discussed defence and security issues of mutual interest with Defence Secretary and other concerned officials of the Ministry of Defence.

Sale of Equity Shares by IOCL

662. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited proposed to issue 7.8 crores fresh equity shares at the face value of Rs. 10 per share;

(b) whether the proposal submitted by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited in this regard has been considered by the Government;

(c) if so, whether this would bring down the Government equity in the IOCL from 82.03 per cent to 74.5 per cent; and

(d) if so, the reasons for mopping up the amount through the issue of equity shares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has requested the Government to permit issue of fresh equity shares up to 10% of the existing paid up capital of the company. Decision is yet to be taken by the Government on this proposal. the issue of fresh equity shares of 10% of the existing paid up capital of IOC, if agreed to, would bring down the Government shareholding in IOC to 74.57 per cent.

(d) IOC is required to make sizeable investments during the Tenth Five Year Plan to finance new projects and for modernisation schemes including product upgradation. For this, fund is proposed to be raised through public issue of equity shares which will also help in improving the debt-equity ratio of IOC.

Parekh Committee Report for APD and Reform Programme

663. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received the Parekh Committee Report of structuring the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(c) the response of the Government on each recommendations made by the Parekh Committee?

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

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

Representation of SC/ST/OBC

664. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given adequate representations for persons belonging to SC/ST and OBCs in class-I/Gazetted officers in his Ministry and all its autonomous bodies like ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, ONGC, Videsh, EIL, GAIL etc.;

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

(c) the number of vacancies available in each category and the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacancy and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up;

(d) the total number of class-I or Group-I Gazetted Officers working in the Ministry as well as in its Autonomous bodies/offices; and

(e) the total annual expenditure incurred in way of paying salaries, allowances, conveyances and other benefits extended to these officials during the last three years, year-wise?

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

[Translation]

Supply of LPG by ONGC to Consumers

665. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether ONGC has sought permission from the Government for direct supply of cooking gas to consumers; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Ban on PTV

666. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently formulated plans to counter propaganda made by Pak TV and also to ban telecast of Pak TV programmes as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated June 2, 2002;

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

(c) whether a group of Senior Officials have been set up to examine the role of Pak TV;

(d) if so, the time by which the group is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(e) the details of the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to counter Pak propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to counter propaganda made by Pak TV through suitable programmes on DD/AIR. Under a Special Package extension and upgradation up of Doordarshan's infrastructure to increase DD's coverage in the border areas, has also been undertaken.

There is no proposal at present to ban Pak TV. A Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 1995, has been constituted to look into violations of the Programme Code, prescribed under the said Act and Rules framed there-under. Necessary action are taken on the recommendations of the Committee, from time to time.

Assessment by NTPC on Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants

667. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has completed the assessment on the various aspects of the captive power plant of Raurkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar assessment has also been made by NTPC on Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the performance of these captive power plants;

(e) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of these plants;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Captive Power Plant-II (CPP-II) of Rourkela (2x60 MW) = 120 MW was assessed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). Thereafter a joint venture company of NTPC and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been formed with the name 'NTPC—SAIL Power Company Pvt. Ltd. in March 2001 to take over, operate and maintain the power plant.

(c) and (d) Assessment was also done in case of Durgapur CPP-II. It has been taken over and is being operated and maintained by NTPC-SAIL Power Company Pvt. Ltd.

For the Captive Power Plants of Bokaro Steel Plant it has been decided by SAIL and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to form a Joint Venture Company to take over, operate and maintain the power plant.

(e) to (g) There is no proposal for expansion of these plants.

[Translation]

Additional Revenue Sources

668. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring additional sources of revenues in railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to go by these ways to make them a success; and

(d) the rate of success of the Government in regard to the steps taken so far and the nature of success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The freight and passenger earnings constitute around 90% of the railway revenues. In order to generate more revenue, railways are continuously striving to capture more and more traffic. In case of freight, all possible marketing strategies which include rationalisation of freight structure, volume discount scheme etc. are being adopted. Besides, railways with the participation of private entrepreneur, are developing terminal and warehousing facilities so as to provide better freight handling facilities. Efforts are made to step up passenger earnings by providing additional coaches and running special/new trains to cater to the growing demand. Besides, customer interface is also being improved by expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS), introduction of Self Printing Ticketing Machines (SPTMs) and Coupon Validating Machines (CVMs), besides improving information system.

Apart from this, railways are also emphasising on the revenue generation by commercial exploitation of railway land and air space and commercial publicity on rolling stock and railway stations etc. Feasibility/Market

studies are being taken up to see commercial potential of railway land/air-space. So far, 65 such sites have been identified out of which, in 14 cases, bidding process has been initiated or completed.

Traffic performance and earnings therefrom are being monitored closely and necessary corrective measures taken.

[English]

Production of Light Aircraft

669. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation is working on the light aircraft which can be accommodated on small aircraft carrier;

(b) if so, whether a tentative time frame for its production has been finalised; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Project Definition Phase (PDP) and Pre Project Phase (PPP) for developing Naval Variant of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been completed. LCA (Navy) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) proposal is under consideration of Government which include:

- (i) Design, development, building and ground testing of two aircraft and a structural test specimen.
- (ii) Carrying out flight testing of approximately 400 hours towards operational clearance.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Unmanned Aircraft 'Lakshya'

670. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has manufactured the Unmanned Aircraft 'Lakshya' to cater the needs of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such aircrafts manufactured and handed over to the army for their use so far and the cost of each aircraft;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to sell these aircraft to other countries; and

(d) if so, names of nations which have shown interest to procure the Indian manufactured aircraft 'Lakshya'?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Limited Series Production has commenced at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), with support from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to meet the urgent requirements of Services.

(b) On successful development Indian Air Force and India's Navy have inducted 'Lakshya'. The delivery for Army is planned in 2002-2003. Five aircraft with ground launch and control equipment are under manufacture for Army. Each aircraft is costing approximately Rs. 205 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The efforts in this regard have not yet resulted in the sale orders from any country.

Railway Racket in Lucknow

671. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item regarding "Railway racket in Lucknow" appearing in 'Nav Bharat Times', dated June 18, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that there is a racket in theft of Railway goods and rail lines at Lucknow. A few cases of touting have come to notice wherein action has been taken under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989. Following steps have been taken to check this menace:

- (1) Regular raids are conducted by RPF, Commercial and GRP staff jointly.
- (2) Frequent surprise raids are conducted by task force teams constituted by Sr. Officers.
- (3) Staff in plain clothes is detailed for conducting surprise checks at the stations to nab the culprits.
- (4) Severe action is taken against the railway staff if found involved in such activities.

[English]

Procurement of Energy Meters

672. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and similar Central Government agencies are extending financial assistance to State Electricity Boards for procurement of energy meters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) and Karnataka Power and Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) are procuring defective energy meters from private manufactures;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received against procurement of defective energy meters by GEB and KPTCL during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban/black-list the private manufacturers supplying defective meters to these Boards;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken against the persons procuring defective energy meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Meters are procured by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Power Utilities themselves in accordance with their prescribed procedures. These include *inter alia* quality specifications, performance guarantees, testing and inspection procedures as per standards laid down. SEBs have a system of quality control, verification and procedures for identifying defective meters. They have suitable mechanisms to take corrective action, in case of any instance of meters found defective subsequently.

Railway Safety Measures

673. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of increased plan allocation and budgetary support for execution of railway safety measures, the Indian railway is suffering from financial crunch;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether an expenditure on railway safety has been increased from 2313.04 crore in 1998-99 to 3517.04 crore in 2001-2002 and further in 2002-2003 the safety measures are not getting speedy pace;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Indian Railways has asked the Union Government to provide more funds to safety measures to Indian Railways; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) While the total budgetary support to the Railways in 2002-2003 has increased compared to last year, there is still a shortfall because the committed requirements of the Railways, which include the contribution for the Special Railway Safety Fund, are not fully met. The Railway's internal generation is also not yet adequate to fully take care of replacement requirement.

(c) and (d) The expenditure of railway safety was Rs. 2313.04 crore in 1998-99, Rs. 3344.94 crore in 2001-02 and in 2002-03 the allotment for safety measures is Rs. 5304.72 crore implying an increase of 129% in safety related works.

(e) and (f) The Government, in 2001-02, has constituted a Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17000 crores to wipe out the arrears of replacement/renewals in a fixed time schedule of six years. The amount of Rs. 17000 crore includes a contribution of Rs. 12000 crore from the Government over six years and the balance Rs. 5000 crore is to be raised by the Railways through levy of safety surcharge on passenger fares. During 2001-02, the SRSF has received a contribution of Rs. 1000 crore from the Central Government and during the current year Rs. 1350 crore are being contributed.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in the Country

674. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent rail accidents have been noticed in the recent past in which a sizeable number of persons were killed because of unmanned level crossings, State-wise;

(b) the number of manned/unmanned level crossings exist in the country as on 30th June, 2002; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to make the unmanned crossings into manned crossings with the assistance of State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The record of accidents are maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. The number of consequential train accidents (Zone-wise) at unmanned level crossings and persons got killed during 2001-2002 and first three months of 2002-2003 are given below:—

Railway	2001-2002*		2002-2003 (upto June, 2002)*	
	No. of accidents	Deaths	No. of accidents	Deaths
Central Railway	6	14	—	—
Eastern Railway	—	—	—	—
Northern Railway	27	55	11	10
North Eastern Railway	15	45	7	7
Northeast Frontier Railway	2	—	—	—
Southern Railway	9	9	1	1
South Central Railway	10	13	3	3
South Eastern Railway	8	11	2	—
Western Railway	3	5	5	16
Konkan Railway Corporation	—	—	—	—
Total	80	152	29	37

*Figures are provisional.

(b) There are 16424 manned and 20291 unmanned level crossings in the country. The state-wise details are as under:—

States	Manned	Unmanned
1	2	3
Assam	430	593
Andhra Pradesh	1233	1478
Bihar	1050	1114
Chhattisgarh	193	376
Delhi	55	2
Gujarat	1493	2849
Haryana	553	318
Himachal Pradesh	41	14
Jammu & Kashmir	18	12

1	2	3
Jharkhand	319	512
Karnataka	630	946
Kerala	407	138
Madhya Pradesh	1136	1266
Maharashtra	1164	1208
Manipur	1	2
Mizoram	0	1
Orissa	324	1134
Punjab	766	998
Rajasthan	1412	1728
Tamil Nadu	1228	1297
Tripura	1	15

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	2781	3038
Uttaranchal	62	7
West Bengal	1097	1233
Chandigarh	6	1
Pondicherry	9	9
Goa	14	2
Nagaland	1	0
Total	16424	20291

(c) For manning, unmanned level crossings, necessitated due to increase in the volume of the road traffic only, the initial capital as well as capitalized cost of annual recurring maintenance and operational cost has to be borne fully by the State Government/Local Authorities concerned. However, considering the serious consequences of the accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man hazardous level crossings at its own cost. 4449 such unmanned level crossings have been planned to be manned in a period of 5 years. Efforts are being made to persuade the State Government to come forward with their proposals for manning of unmanned level crossings on 'Deposit' terms.

Mega Power Projects in Tamil Nadu

675. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government to declare some power projects of the State as 'Mega Power' projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of declared Mega Power projects in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In April, 1999, the Government of Tamil Nadu had requested the Union Government to accord mega power project status to the power projects in the State whose capacity is 1000 MW above, especially the Jayamkondam Thermal Power Project (1500 MW) and the 1884.645 MW integrated LNG cum Power Plant at Ennore. The matter was examined in the Ministry of Power and Government

of Tamil Nadu were requested to confirm their willingness to adhere to the various conditionalities prescribed in the mega policy guidelines, viz. provision of an acceptable payment security, setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, privatization of distribution in cities having a population of one million, recourse to State's share of Central Plan Allocation (CPA) and other devolutions, etc. The Government of Tamil Nadu did not agree to adhere to some of the above conditionality. However, as Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) had awarded this project through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route and the tariff for the project was attractive, it was decided that Power Trading Corporation of India Limited (PTCIL) should initiate discussions with the developers and the potential off-taking States to develop suitable arrangements for sale of power from the project with an appropriate payment security mechanism which does not put PTC to undue risk. The decision had also been communicated to GoTN on March 30, 2000.

(c) Details of the 19 identified mega power projects as per the revised Mega Power Policy of the Government of India announced in November, 1998 are given in the Statement enclosed. In addition to the projects listed in the Statement, the Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (4x660 MW) being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation in Chhattisgarh, has been accorded mega power project status by the Government of India in December, 2001.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the project/ State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
PRIVATE SECTOR		
1.	Hirna Thermal Power Project, M/s Southern Electric Asia Power Ltd. (SEAP), Orissa	3960
2.	Cuddalore Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	1000
3.	Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1500
4.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000
5.	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000

1	2	3
Public Sector		
1. Kahaigaon Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar		1500
2. North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar		2000
3. Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC, Bihar		2000
4. Maithon Thermal Power Project, Damodar Valley Corporation		1000
5. Cheyyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I NTPC, Tamil Nadu		1500
6. Anta CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Rajasthan		1300
7. Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh		1300
8. Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat		1300
9. Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat		1300
10. Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar		710
11. Chamera HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh		300
12. Teesta HEP Sage-V, NHPC, Sikkim		510
13. Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh		800
14. Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh		800

[Translation]

Funds to Rajasthan for Power Generation

676. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Rajasthan for power generation by the Government during the last three years; and

(b) the amount utilized so far by the State out of the amount allocated by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The allocation and utilization for power sector in the State of Rajasthan for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
1999-2000	841.94	763.63
2000-2001	993.66	1085.60 (RE)
2001-2002	1277.56	N.A.

[English]

Compensation Paid to Victims of Kadalundi Train Accident in Kerala

677. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid to victims of Kadalundi Train Accident occurred last year in Kerala so far,

(b) the number of cases pending as non-paid; and

(c) the steps taken to finalise these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The amount of compensation paid so far to the victims of Kadalundi Train Accident, occurred last year, is Rs. 58.81 lakhs.

(b) As on 11-07-2002, three cases in which decrees have been passed are under process of payment by Southern Railway. The number of cases awaiting decision of Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) are 204.

(c) The following steps are being taken for speedy disposal of claims of passengers:-

I. Administrative Action:

(i) Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways that, as soon as a passenger train accident takes place, all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms be sent to claimants, and the record should also be made available to the concerned bench of Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) When claims are filed and put up for hearing, the Railways give all possible assistance to the Tribunal for speedy settlement.

(iii) Written statements are to be filed by the Railways in such cases within 30 days after receipt of notice from Railway Claims Tribunal.

- (iv) After the decretal amount of claim has been sanction, Railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days.

II. Action by the Tribunal:

- (i) Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.
- (ii) For convenience of claimants, circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the benches.
- (iii) In case of non-availability of Members in one bench, Members from other benches are also deputed.
- (iv) Requests of claimants, for transfer of cases from one bench to the other, near to their residence, for their convenience are given due consideration.
- (v) Adjournments are not granted ordinarily.

[Translation]

Appointment of Dealers by Oil Companies

678. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted oil companies to appoint distributors of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the procedure through which the distributors of kerosene, petrol, diesel and LPG would be appointed?

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) Consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector w.e.f. 1.4.2002, all Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved. The selection of dealers/distributors for petroleum products will now be made by the Oil Marketing Companies themselves as per the approved guidelines.

[English]

Unified Command of Armed Forces

679. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three wings of the Armed Forces have been unified recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Unified Force would have the necessary administrative and financial powers which were hitherto not available to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff; and

(g) if so, the time by when it is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Neither have the three wings of the Armed Forces viz. the Army, the Navy and the Air Force been unified nor is there any such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. However, based on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers constituted to reform the National Security System in its entirety, joint structures such as 'Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff' and Joint 'Andaman & Nicobar Command' have been established with a view to ensure the most optimal utilization of the available resources. Further, higher Administrative and Financial powers have also been delegated to the three Services to ensure expeditious decision making. These newly established structures have also been vested with the higher authority at par with their counterparts in the three Services.

(f) and (g) The Group of Ministers had amongst others recommended creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff. Pending wider consultations with the political parties, a final decision in this regard has not been taken as yet.

Supply of Substandard and Uncertified Spares by HAL

680. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether HAL has supplied substandard and uncertified spares to Indian Air Force resulting in a spate of MIG-21 crashes;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that HAL is re-exporting quality spares imported from Russia to Algeria and Vietnam;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures adopted to acquire quality spares by IAF to avoid further MIG crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) HAL is authorised to export and reexport MiG-21 aircraft spares to friendly countries which include Algeria and Vietnam on payment of royalty. Since the sales were authorised no enquiry has been conducted.

(g) Quality certified spares are being provided to IAF by HAL.

Decrease In Prices of Petrol and Diesel

681. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to scale down the prices of petrol and diesel in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof the date from which the decision would become effective; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing effective 1st April 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have become decontrolled and the oil companies are fixing the prices of these products keeping in view the prevalent international oil prices.

Works Policy of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation

682. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the works policy of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC), the company will invite open tenders above the value of Rs. 1 lakhs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 13 contracts valued at Rs. 8.96 crore were awarded on limited tender basis, with individual cost of each contract being above Rs. 30 lakh;

(d) if so, the reasons for awarding limited tenders than open tenders depriving competitive rates;

(e) whether purchases of stationery in his Ministry etc. are being made not on the basis of open tender where the prices are above Rs. 50,000/- but through some coop. Stores;

(f) if so, the reasons for violating the provisions of GFRs;

(g) whether the GFRs were relaxed by the Finance Ministry; and

(h) the corrective steps taken to make purchases as per provisions of GFRs with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to the works policy of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC), the award of work is permitted through open, limited/restricted tenders and on single tender basis, depending on the value and requirements of work. Powers to invite tenders and award of works are delegated by the Corporation to the Project officers, from time to time in relation to the requirements of the project. In terms of policy applicable in THDC in 1989, while open tenders system was to be adopted for award of work costing above Rs. 1 lakh each, however in cases of urgency or for reasons as per requirements of works, awards could also be made by project officers on limited tender basis. According to the delegation of powers given to project officers, Executive Director (ED)/ General Manager (GM) had the power for award for works on limited tender basis upto Rs. 50 lakhs each in 1989, and Rs. 100 lakhs each in march, 1991. For award of works on limited tender basis, competitive rates are ensured by inviting bids from various likely and suitable parties, normally a minimum of five in numbers.

(c) and (d) In view of urgency for rehabilitation of affected families, 13 contracts of the total value of Rs. 8.96 crores, each costing above Rs. 30 lakhs, were awarded by project officers on limited tender basis prior

to 1995-96 under the provisions of the works policy/delegation of power of the Corporation, for construction in Resettlement centre (Colony).

(e) to (h) The purchase of stationery in the Ministry of Power is made in accordance with the Government Rules and orders, issued from time to time.

ONGC Videsh's Partnership with ROSNEFT

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

(a) whether ONGC Videsh has entered into a partnership with a Russian firm called ROSNEFT for buying oil fields in the inland of Sakhalin;

(b) if so, the details of this agreement;

(c) the sources from which ONGC Videsh get the resources;

(d) whether any study has been done on the return on this capital invested by ONGC Videsh;

(e) if so, whether it is better to buy oil on the international market than invest in oil fields; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to implement this study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has acquired 20% Participating Interest in the Sakhalin-I Project from Rosneft-S and SMNG-S, the two subsidiaries of Rosneft, the Russian national oil company.

(c) The funding of this project will be done from the internal resources of ONGC.

(d) OVL has undertaken detailed study of the project through their Financial Advisors, Technical Advisors and Legal Advisors. °

(e) and (f) For an oil deficit country like India, a portfolio of options to ensure oil security is essential, including equity oil abroad. Thus, in a scenario when the prices of oil are highly volatile, it is prudent to have an equity stake in properties in addition to buying oil from international market. OVL has been securing equity oil

for the country by participating in viable projects world over. They have been successful in acquiring equity participation in the Sakhalin-I project with EXXON-MOBIL and in the Vietnam Project with British Petroleum.

Manufacturing of Field Shelters

684. SHRI CHADA SURESH 'REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have engaged private sector for manufacturing of field shelters designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation to protect against nuclear, biological and chemical agents;

(b) if so, whether these shelters have been supplied to armed forces;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether shelters are being manufactured by civilian population in border areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation has designed and developed an Integrated Field Shelter, which is productionised by a private agency in the trade.

(b) and (c) Ten numbers of Field Shelters have been supplied to the Army.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rail Projects

685. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending/on-going rail projects/surveys in the country alongwith the progress made thereof project-wise, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated to each of the project and the expenditure incurred so far on each of the project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c)

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Supply of Spare Parts by Russia

686. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has recently discontinued the manufacture of essential spare-part of the aircraft supplied to Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, whether this has effected adversely repair works in the maintenance units of Indian Air Force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, in case of some aircrafts such as MiG-23 and MiG-25, the manufacturing plant are not producing some of the spares now.

(b) Yes, to little extent.

(c) The situation is being met by increasingly indigenising the manufacture of spare parts, as well as identifying alternate sources for their procurement. This is an ongoing process.

Damages to Western Railways

687. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the loss and damages caused by heavy rains to Western Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken/proposed to be taken any measures in this regard to avoid recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of damage to the Railway properties after the heavy rains in Mumbai on 26.06.2002 are as under:

Western Railway:

- (i) Arch Bridge No. 144 (3x12.2m) at km 99/24-26 between Palghar & Boisar had collapsed.

(ii) Wing wall of bridge no. 203 collapsed.

(iii) Sprandral wall of bridge no. 223 was damaged.

(iv) Minor breaches at two locations between stations Kelve road and Sanjan on Virar-Surat section.

(v) Signalling equipment like point machine, track circuiting equipment and signalling cables were damaged in Mumbai area. Besides OFC cable & associated equipment were damaged near Arch bridge No. 144 which had collapsed.

(vi) Minor damages were also caused to the overhead Electrical Traction Equipment.

(c) and (d) The breaches in Western Railway occurred due to unprecedented & unusually heavy downpour combined with high tide of the sea. However, railways take utmost precautions every year by way of patrolling and inspection before ensuing of monsoon to avoid damages.

Development of National Highway No. 44

688. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Border Roads Organisations has drawn up time bound action to plan for improvement, double laning and maintenance of National Highway No. 44, which is the only highway linking Tripura with rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate funds has been earmarked for upgradation and maintenance of National Highway No. 44; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) NH-44 is to be improved to NH double lane width in a phased manner. Works is in progress. Double laning work has been planned for completion by 2010.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The following funds have been released for upgradation and maintenance of NH-44:-

1995-1996	—	Rs. 1670.77 lacs
1996-1997	—	Rs. 1582.62 lacs
1997-1998	—	Rs. 1146.68 lacs

1998-1999	—	Rs. 2688.00 lacs
1999-2000	—	Rs. 4343.71 lacs
2000-2001	—	Rs. 3800.13 lacs
2001-2002	—	Rs. 2877.55 lacs
2002-2003	—	Rs. 3872.61 lacs

Oil Refinery at Paradeep in Orissa

689. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Oil Refinery Project of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) whether the construction work has slowed down at the project site because the oil major has sought the expert opinion on the viability of the project; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Possession of 3347 acre of the land has been taken over by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC). Land development by dredging and reclamation, construction of bridges and construction of approach road connecting NH-5A to refinery site have been completed. Balance infrastructure works like construction of boundary wall, plant roads, drains, site office, facilities for construction water/power supply etc. are in progress.

Presently the project is under review by the company for its schedules taking into account the revised project cost, demand—supply projections of petroleum products in the country and ICICI's appraisal report for the project.

Digital Doordarshan Kendras

690. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to provide digital service in all Doordarshan Kendras in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Kendra-wise, particularly Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra;

(c) the time by which the Proposed Kendras to be provided digital service; and

(d) the funds allocated for the said purpose during the tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has proposed digitalization of production facilities at its major Kendras during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Kendras details and inter-se priority for this purpose will depend on the availability of funds and other resources.

(c) and (d) The Tenth Five Year Plan outlay for this purpose has not been finalised so far. Therefore, it is not feasible to indicate a definite time-frame for the implementation of this proposal.

Levying of Extra Charges for the Overdrawn Power by Karnataka

691. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to levy extra charges for the overdrawn power by Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have approached by the Court challenging the said decision; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to drop levying extra charges for the overdrawn power by Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has been constituted under the Regulatory Commission Act, 1988 to inter alia regulate the tariff of generating companies owned and controlled by the Central Government, and regulate inter State transmission of power. The CERC has issued the Availability Based Tariff (ABT) order to reform the tariff structure to bulk power so as to improve grid discipline and operation. The ABT has the following three components.

(i) Fixed charge

(ii) Variable charge

(iii) Unscheduled interchange (UI) charges—which is a frequency linked component to be charged on generators/distributors violating the grid discipline.

(b) Yes, Sir. The petitions filed by the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in their respective High Court have been transferred to a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court on the orders of the Supreme Court of India.

(c) As wide frequency fluctuations tend to cause serious damage both at the generation and load ends, the application of ABT is necessary to enforce grid discipline by all generators and those drawing power. ABT order is being introduced in phases.

FIFA Telecast Rights to Ten Sports

692. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has sought Government intervention regarding FIFA telecast rights to Ten Sports in the recently concluded World Cup Football; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Electronic Courts

693. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to Electronic Courts set-up in the Supreme Court by August-September 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have completed the feasibility report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated amount of investment made for these Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) On the direction of the then Chief Justice of India in the year 2000, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) submitted a Project Report on the upgradation of computerization of the Supreme Court in September, 2000.

NIC in its Report had suggested that the existing Hardware and Software tools at the Supreme Court were required to be changed considerably. Some new applications namely, Management Information System (MIS), Public Interface System and Electronic-Courts (E-Courts) were proposed to be introduced. Total expenditure involved in the first Phase of the Project to the tune of Rs. 4.6 crores have been provided to the Registry of the Supreme Court. The First Phase of the Project is being implemented by the NIC which includes creation of two Court rooms as Electronic Courts. The Second Phase *inter alia* includes newly identified applications such as creation of additional E-Courts which is likely to be completed after six months of the completion of 1st Phase.

[Translation]

Free Legal Aid to Poor SC, ST and OBC of Rajasthan

694. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds being provided by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan for providing legal aid to poor sections of SCs, STs and OBCs are adequate;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided for the said purpose during last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has been unable to fully utilize the funds allocated for providing legal aid to eligible persons and a large amount of allocated funds has remained unutilized; and

(d) if so, the details of unutilized funds by the State, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). In terms of Sub-section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA allocates funds to various State Legal Services Authorities, including Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, for implementation of various Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes of NALSA which include provision for legal services to the weaker/poor sections of the society, including SCs/STs & OBCs and other poor people entitled to legal services under Section 12 of the Act. Adequate funds have been provided by NALSA to Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority over the years. The details of the funds provided for the aforesaid purposes during the last three years to Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority are as under:—

Period	Amount allocated Rs.
(i) 1999-2000	2,00,000/-
(ii) 2000-2001	40,55,000/-
(iii) 2001-2002	15,00,000/-

(c) and (d) In the very nature of things at times, the funds placed at the disposal of State Legal Services Authorities, including Rajasthan, do not get exhausted and are therefore, allowed to be carried over to the next financial year. In the case of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, Rs. 82,390/- was allowed to be carried over during the financial year 2000-2001, Rs. 5,54,753/- during the financial year 2001-2002 and Rs. 6,71,342/- has been allowed to be carried over during the current financial year.

[English]

Review of CBFC Guidelines

695. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board Film Certification (CBFC) suggested any review of CBFC guidelines pertaining to film certification;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the proposed revision; and

(c) the manner in which the improvement made upon the existing system of certification by CBFC?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No proposal has so far been received from the Central Board on Film Certification (CBFC).

Non Revision of Siding Charges

696. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether short recovery of Rs. 23.52 crore was made from the siding owners during April 1998 to March 2001 without revising the siding charges as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Reports No. 9 of 2002 (Railways) page 33;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired to find out the reasons for not fixing the siding charges correctly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials responsible for causing financial loss to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The C&AG Report is under examination and the comments of zonal railways have been called for taking necessary action as per extant rules.

[Translation]

Development of Cantonment Areas

697. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cantonments functioning in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of Cantonment Boards functioning at present, State-wise;

(c) the funds allotted to these Cantonments for developmental work during the last three year, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to hand over these Cantonment Boards to State Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are 62 Cantonments all over the country functioning in 16 States including two in Rajasthan. The Cantt Boards in all these Cantts are functioning at present. State-wise break-up is as per Statement-I attached.

(c) The allotment of funds during last Three years, state-wise, is as per Statement-II attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement I

Cantonments—State-wise

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1
Bihar	1
Delhi	1

1	2	1	2
Gujarat	1	Maharashtra	7
Haryana	1	Meghalaya	1
Himachal Pradesh	7	Punjab	3
Jammu & Kashmir	2	Rajasthan	2
Jharkhand	1	Tamil Nadu	2
Karnataka	1	Uttar Pradesh	13
Kerala	1	Uttaranchal	9
Madhya Pradesh	5	West Bengal	3
		Total	62

Statement II*Funds allotted as special Grant-in-Aid (State-wise)*

Name of State	Amount of Special Grant-in-Aid allotted to deficient Cantonment Boards for Development in last three Years (in Rupees)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1. Maharashtra (Aurangabad)	28,08,200	—	—
2. Uttaranchal (Clement Town)	4,00,000	—	—
3. Jharkhand (Ramgarh)	46,02,679	1,00,21,000	1,91,00,000
4. Uttaranchal (Ranikhet)	12,00,000	—	—
	90,10,879	1,00,21,000	1,91,00,000

1999-2000	90,10,879
2000-2001	1,00,21,000
2001-2002	1,91,00,00
Grand Total	3,81,31,879

*[English]***Railway Divisional Headquarter at Rangiya**

698. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate Rail Division at Rangiya;

(b) if so, the details along the jurisdiction thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the said division is likely to be made fully functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The jurisdiction of Rangiya Division is as under:

Rangiya/Northeast Frontier Railway

Jurisdiction Division from	Route Kilometres
Rangiya-Murkongselek-Alipurduar	450
New Bongaigaon-Rangiya-Kamakhya-Alipurduar	142
Balipara-Bhalukpong-Alipurduar	43
Rangapara North-Tezpur-Alipurduar	26
New Bongaigaon-Jogighopa-Alipurduar	33
Jogighopa-Kamakhya-Alipurduar	131
Total	825

(c) 40 acres of land was ensured to be given by Government of Assam free of cost for setting up offices and quarters of Rangiya Division in the year October 1995. However, the land offered was not suitable being low-lying area. The alternative land sought by Railway for the same is near Rangiya Section for which State Government is asking land compensation which was not catered to the time of planning for new Division at Rangiya. So far, an expenditure approx. Rs. 1.3 Crore has been incurred for levelling of some railway land which was available and consultancy contract for design of the new Divisional Railway Manager's Office building.

(d) The division shall be functional with effect from 01.04.2003.

[Translation]

Heavy Industry In Lohardagga

699. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any basic or heavy industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise particularly in Lohardagga of Jharkhand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) In so far as public sector units under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, there is no proposal at present to set up any new public sector unit.

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

[English]

100 MW Electricity Purchased by Karnataka from Kayamkulam Power Plant

700. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has decided to buy 100 MW of electricity from the Kayamkulam power plant of National Thermal Power Corporation in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether this agreement was reached during the meeting of Power Ministers of Southern States convened by the Union Power Ministers;

(c) if so, whether Karnataka has received the power from Kayamkulam power plant;

(d) if so, whether this will meet the power demand of the State; and

(e) if so, the details of help and assistance sought from the Union Government in meeting the power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) During the meeting convened by Union Minister of Power with Electricity Ministers of Southern Region (SR) States in New Delhi on 17.5.2002, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL)/Government of Karnataka agreed to buy 90 MW power from Kayamkulam stations along with 90 MW power from Eastern Region (ER) stations of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) after commissioning of Talcher-Kolar HVDC link by POWERGRID. This line is scheduled for commissioning this year.

Government of Karnataka requested for allocation of additional power from the unallocated quota of Central sector generating stations to tide over the present power crisis in the state. To meet this power shortage, Ministry of Power has made additional allocation of 60 MW of power from the unallocated quota of Central sector generating stations in Southern Region and another 50 MW from NTPC stations of the Eastern Region.

Use of LPG for 2/3 Wheelers

701. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for utilizing LPG as fuel for two wheelers and three wheelers;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

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 Government have received a proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government to allow the use of LPG as auto fuel with replaceable cylinder in 2/3 wheelers.

(c) and (d) Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) has not allowed the use of replaceable cylinders in 2/3 wheelers in view of the safety reasons and hence the Government have not accepted the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government.

Rescue Facilities with Indian Coast Guard

702. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities for search and rescue available with Indian Coast Guard at the time of air operation training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the resources available with Western, Southern and Eastern Naval Commands to tackle the situation during war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Indian Coast Guard has in its inventory 52 ships and 42 aircraft at the disposal of respective Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) to carry out search and rescue operations. During out break of hostilities, the Coast Guard would function under the command of the Navy. In such an eventuality the ships and aircraft available with Western, Southern and Eastern Naval Commands including Coast Guard assets will be deployed to undertake search and rescue operations.

New Pension Scheme to Railway Employees

703. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going to introduce a new pension scheme for the railway employees;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have obtained the views of railway workers in this respect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways would introduce a new Pension Scheme for railway employees if a final decision is taken by the Government of India to introduce a new Pension Scheme for all Central Government employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any new scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the new Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Government employees.

(b) to (d) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The features of the new Pension Scheme and date from which the scheme will become effective are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the DOP&PW. As the decision of the DOP&PW on pensionary matters in respect of all Central Government employees is required to be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the railway employees, separate consultation with the railway employees is not necessary.

Crime Free Political Atmosphere

704. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a new legislation to provide crime free political atmosphere in the near future;

(b) if so, the main features of the legislation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) With a view to curb criminalisation in politics, the government intends to bring a suitable legislation, in consultation with the political parties, in the current session of Parliament A draft of the Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002 has already been circulated to the political parties for ascertaining their views.

Cost of Electricity Charges on CNG Stations

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

(a) whether the MGL in Mumbai is paying/reimbursing the actual cost of electricity charges to the Retail outlets of different oil companies who have separate electricity meters of running on the online CNG station;

(b) if so, whether the IGL in Delhi is also adopting the same criteria;

(c) if not, the reasons for discrimination;

(d) whether this discrimination has caused the closure of some on line CNG stations which has further increased the difficulties of the suffering motorists;

(e) whether this discrimination is to defame the IOCL dealers only as the BPCL official are holding the senior position in IGL on deputation;

(f) the number of electricity units consumed for dispensing 100 Kg of CNG in Delhi and Mumbai respectively and the electricity cost respectively; and

(g) the time by which this discrimination shall be rectified and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found responsible?

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) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) pays electricity charges to the Oil Marketing Companies on average basis and not on actual electricity consumption basis. The average electricity charges per kg of CNG produced has been worked out by a committee comprising representatives of Oil Marketing Companies. As such there

is no discrimination.

(d) One dealer was not satisfied with this amount and unilaterally decided to deduct higher electricity charges. Supplies to the concerned dealer were temporarily suspended. Supplies have since been restored from 9th July.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In Mumbai the average number of electricity units consumed for compressing 100 Kg CNG is in the range of 21 to 23. For a daughter booster station where the gas is required to be recompressed, the average number of electricity units consumed for compressing 100 kg. is in the range of 28 to 30.

Approx. 15 units of electricity is reportedly consumed for producing 100 kg. of CNG in Delhi. The unit cost of electricity in Mumbai varies from Rs. 5.2 to Rs. 6.75 per unit and in Delhi is Rs. 5.25.

(g) As there is no discrimination, question of taking action against any Official does not arise.

Modernisation of MIG Aircraft

706. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to modernise MIG aircraft in view of their frequent crashes;

(b) whether a team of Russian experts had visited India;

(c) if so, the reports of the Russian experts and also the reports of experts of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in this regard;

(d) the target fixed in regard to modernisation of the MIG fleet; and

(e) the reasons for refitting of R-25 engines in these aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) MiG-21 Bis aircraft (the latest variant of the MiG-21 series) are being upgraded to enhance their operational capability. The upgrade plan is not related to aircraft accidents.

(b) No, Sir, not in the context of the upgrade project.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) A total of 125 MiG-21 Bis aircraft are to be upgraded by the financial year 2004-2005.

(e) The R-25 engines are being retained as these have been found suitable for the upgraded aircraft.

Doordarshan Studio Complexes

707. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

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

(a) whether Doordarshan is contemplating to set up some Studio Complexes in the country during the next two years;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to complete the work of Studio Complexes within the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Nine Studio projects are, at present under implementation in various parts of the country. Details are given at the Statement enclosed. Regular monitoring of project is carried out at the Zonal and Headquarter levels and remedial measures, as necessary; are taken for their completion as per schedule.

Statement

Doordarshan Studio projects under implementation

State/UT	Location
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal
Haryana	Hissar
Jammu & Kashmir	Rajouri
Kerala	Calicut
Punjab	Patiala
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamilnadu	Coimbatore Madurai
Delhi	DD Bhawan

Judicial Administrative Penal Code

708. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a comprehensive study regarding Judicial Administrative Penal Code and the existing system of legal procedure;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to give the judiciary a new look by streamlining the judicial process to make it affordable for common man in order to make it popular; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Shri V.S. Malimath to recommend comprehensive changes in the existing Criminal Justice System.

(c) and (d) Both Government and judiciary are concerned with streamlining the judicial system of the country. This is an ongoing and continuous process. Government has been taking a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Steps have been taken to dispose of petty offences like traffic cases through 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. These are being extended to cover public utilities. Extensive amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 have been brought into force w.e.f. 1st July 2002 which, *inter-alia*, include fixing of time frame at various stages of suit, taking evidence through commissions, restriction of adjournments to three to a party in a suit and delivery of judgement within 60 days after hearing. Efforts are also being made to improve the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of information technology to speed up the delivery justice and improve access to courts through the use of e-mail and internet.

The enquiry/facilitation centres have been set up in the Supreme Court and most of the High Courts. A pilot project is being implemented in four major metro cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai with facility for

electronic filing of cases and retrieval of copies of court orders through the Internet. The project will develop the facility to enable parties to know the status of their cases through internet.

[English]

Violation of Human Rights

709. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints through Officers/Soldiers of the Army regarding violation of human rights in various States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years up to June 2002;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any inquiry into such cases to ascertain the facts;

(d) if so, the number of complaints found genuine; and

(e) the number of persons against whom action has been taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the period under consideration, 3 complaints regarding violation of human rights have been received from serving Armed Forces personnel—2 relating to harassment by the State Police and the third, seeking ex-gratia financial assistance from the Central Government for the death of a child in an IED blast by militants in a bus in J&K.

(c) to (e) In the first two cases relating to harassment by State Police, the respective State Governments were requested to investigate and send their reports. One State Government have completed investigation and has awarded punishment. In the other case, State Government has ordered investigation through the crime branch. In the third case relating to the death of his daughter in an IED blast, the serving officer requested for compensation. There is no provision for payment of ex-gratia compensation in such cases. Therefore, his request could not be acceded to.

[Translation]

Testing of Missiles

710. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of missile tests conducted by the Government since January, 2002 till date, along with their range;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each test;

(c) the time by which the said missiles are likely to be induced into the Indian armed forces;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to conduct more tests in future keeping in view the missile programme of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Seven development flight trails have been carried out since January 2002 which includes two flight tests of Naval version of Trishul, one of BrahMos, one of Akash, two of Nag and one of Agni-1. The ranges of these missiles are as under:

Naval Trishul	—	9 km.
Nag	—	4 km.
Agni-1	—	700 km.
BrahMos	—	Upto 300 km.
Akash	—	25 km.

(b) One Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation is dedicated for conducting flight testing of missiles. In addition a large number of scientists and personnel from other laboratories who have developed the missile and support system are involved in the testing. It has not been the practice to apportion the different costs of testing missiles.

(c) Development work of Trishul Akash and Nag Missile Systems is expected to be completed by December, 2003 and December, 2004 respectively after which missiles will be ready for User's trial, production and induction. Development work of Agni-1 has been completed and missile is going to be tested once more before getting into production and induction. BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is likely to enter production phase by end of 2003 and it will be inducted by 2004.

(d) and (e) Design, development and flight test of missile system is continuous process based on strategic requirements of Indian Armed Forces and security requirements of Nation.

*[English]***Violation of Norms in Army Contracts**

711. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Government pulled up for norm violation in Army contract" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated June 15, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry to establish the identify of the officials responsible for violation of laid down norms;

(d) if so, the action taken against the officials held responsible;

(e) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued any office Memorandum exempting the provision(s) of the General Financial Rules for the purchase of stores from Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar/NCCF only, irrespective of their high rates than the open market;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reasons for not giving credence to the OM;

(h) whether the Ministry of Finance also issued an OM in December, 1998 asking for tenders to be invited for purchases above RS. 50,000/-;

(i) if not, the reasons for not inviting open tender for purchases of above Rs. 50,000/-; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (j) Government is aware of the news-item captioned "Government pulled up for norm violation in Army contract" published in the Hindustan Times dated June 15, 2002. The report is based on the judgement delivered by High Court of Delhi on June 6, 2002 in Writ Petition No. 572 of 2002—Ghadra Chemicals Ltd. Vs Union of India and Others.

The facts of the case are that Army Headquarters (Directorate General of Supplies and Transport) invited tenders for procurement of 50 kiloliters of Temephos 50%, an insecticide, against the requirement for the year 2002-2003 and the same were opened on 27.11.2001 by a

Board of Officers. The price quotation received from three suppliers against the tender enquiry are as given below:-

(a) M/s Gharda Chemicals Ltd, Mumbai	— Rs. 481.40 per litre
(b) M/s AgriMore Ltd, Atul Gujarat	— Rs. 503.00 per litre (offered 5% free goods)
(c) M/s Ficom Organics Ltd., Mumbai	— Rs. 610.52 per litre

The tenders were processed in the Directorate of Supplies and Transport who accepted the offer of discount offered by M/s AgriMore Ltd and recommended negotiation with M/s AgriMore Ltd., Atul, Gujarat being L-1. A duly constituted Price Negotiation Committee negotiated the offer made by M/s AgriMore Ltd and accepted the net price of Rs. 479.05 per litre.

Aggrieved by the above decision of the Price Negotiation Committee, M/s Ghadra Chemicals Ltd, Mumbai filed Writ Petition No. 572 of 2002 in the High Court of Delhi who in its order dated 6.6.2002 did not accept the free offer by M/s AgriMore Ltd. as a discount offer. The Court, however, decided not to award the contract in favour of the petitioner. At the same time the Court has directed that the supplies already made by M/s AgriMore Ltd will not be rejected and that the firm shall not be allowed to supply any further material under the present supply order. The Court has also directed to call for a limited tender for the balance quantity of the material.

Further the High Court of Delhi has neither found any officer guilty nor has it suggested any enquiry in the matter and therefore there is no proposal to hold any enquiry.

The Government vide its order dated 14.7.1981 made it incumbent on all Central Government departments to make all local purchases of stationery and other items also from Kendriya Bhandar in relaxation of the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations prescribed in General Financial Rules (GFR).

As regards applicability of General Financial Rules to the Defence purchases it is clarified that Rule 99 of General Financial Rules provides for framing of Departmental regulations/rules/instructions by departments concerned which are responsible for large purchases, manufactures or consumption of stores. Accordingly, Defence Service Regulation-Financial Regulations have been framed and followed by Ministry of Defence. The procurement of Temephos 50% was done as this Regulation and as per the laid down Standard Operating

Procedure from manufacturers registered with the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence and Central Insecticide Board (CIB), Faridabad.

As regards Office Memorandum issued by Ministry of Finance for purchase of stores above Rs. 50,000 through open tender as fixed in 1986, it has since been revised on 28th May 1999 to Rs. 2.00 lakh. The procurement of Temephos was done through open tender advertised in leading national dailies.

Joint Power Working Group

712. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to form a joint Power Working Group comprising of Indian and British experts in power sector;

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

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) During the visit of the Ministry of Power to U.K. in the last week of June, 2002, a MOU was signed between India and U.K. for cooperation in the power sector. The MOU, inter-alia, envisages establishment of a Joint Power Sector Working Group to promote and facilitate reforms in the power sector. It also envisages sector related studies, exchange of experts and other forms of cooperation in power generation, transmission and distribution. The MOU also speaks of cooperation in the field of power by sharing information, experience and best practices.

[Translation]

Defence Preparedness

713. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan and China are importing more weapons than India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have analysed or propose to analyse the implications as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A country resorts to import of weaponry, suiting its own needs towards modernisation. The acquisitions of weapons by neighbouring countries have been factored in, while determining India's requirement of weapons to maintain the requisite combat edge.

[English]

Recommendations of Editor's Guild on Violence in Gujarat

714. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Editor's Guild of India for the appointment of a judicial officer examine the writings of those section of the media which the guild alleged incited violence and spread hatred in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether they have recommended any action against them; and

(c) if so, the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Editors Guild has suggested that a high judicial officer be appointed by the Government to examine the writings of those sections of the media that are prima facie in flagrant violation of the law and recommend what action, if any, should be taken against them.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Such issues are to be dealt with the Press Council of India, which is at present headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge. The Press Council of India is responsible for maintenance of high standards and encouraging the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among the media. The Council may also, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so, warn, admonish or censure any newspaper, agency, editor or journalist in cases where it feels that standards of journalistic ethics or public taste

have been offended or a professional misconduct has been committed.

Fast Movement of Trains in Kazipet and Secunderabad

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

(a) whether track between Kazipet and Secunderabad in South Central Railways is not suitable for fast movement of trains;

(b) whether the concerned staff has made any report on this particular sector of track in view of dangers of trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the other sections in South Central Railways which do not allow fast movement of trains; and

(e) if so, the proposed to improve this track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Kazipet-Secunderabad section of South Central Railway is suitable for fast running of trains for the permitted speeds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All the main routes of this railway allow movement of fast trains.

(e) Improvements in track is an on-going exercise. Apart from regular maintenance, track renewals are also carried out, when required depending upon availability of funds.

Installation of Marker System

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

(a) whether Market system is a final check to detect adulteration of petrol/diesel;

(b) if so, whether the Government have approved the installation of marker system;

(c) if so, the initial price of this machine quoted and the price at which it is being purchased;

(d) whether it is being purchased on global tender system or on single enquiry system;

(e) whether President Federation on All India Petroleum Traders had any role to play behind this purchase;

(f) if so, the details of local representatives who are supplying this machine; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found responsible for purchasing these machines at higher prices than quoted initially?

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 Market System is not the final check to detect adulteration of petrol/diesel. It is one of the quick and effective checks to detect adulteration of fuels.

(b) Government has directed the oil industry to extend further trials on market system based on ROHM & HAAS technology on full scale at Delhi and Mumbai to start with.

(c) For the purpose of conducting the trials, the supplier namely M/s. Rohm & Haas supplied market at a cost of a 1 paisa per litre and six digital danalyzers out of which three were supplied free of cost and for balance, there is a nominal lease charges. However, for commercial exercise the price of the digital analyzers would be higher. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) also procured a dosing pump at a cost of Rs. 9.5 lakhs.

(d) The market system under implementation is of proprietary nature and was selected by the high powered study group. In view of this, the system for introduction for large scale trial is being procured on single enquiry basis.

(e) No such role has been brought to the notice the Government, as the purchase is being done by the Oil Marketing Companies as per the laid down procedure of the Companies.

(f) The digital analyzer along with market and dosing equipment will be supplied by M/s. Rohm & Haas from their U.K. Office.

(g) So far machines have not been procured. However, a committee consisting of representatives from

all the oil companies is negotiating with M/s. Rohm & Haas for procurement of total market system. Therefore, the question of action against the concerned does not arise.

Export of State of Art Locos

717. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has drawn a long term plan to export state of the art locos;

(b) if so the names of country identified for export of such locos;

(c) whether the Indian Railways has started the production of state of the art locos;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the production cost of the said locos; and

(f) the number of such locos produced by the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Indian Railways are exporting all types of Rolling Stock, including state-of-art diesel and electric locomotives through their marketing wing namely RITES and IRCON. As this is to be achieved through participation in international competitive bidding, it is not possible to draw a long term plan to identify names of countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) 3 high horse power WDG4 locomotives were manufactured during 2001-2002 by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi. Another 25 diesel locos of this type are planned for manufacture during 2002-2003.

As per the Budget Estimate 2002-2003, the estimated cost is Rs. 12.75 crores per locomotive.

Similarly, 3 WAP5, 4 WAP7, 27 WAG9 electric locomotives were manufactured up to 2001-2002 at Chittaranjan locomotives Works. Another 25 electric locos of these types are planned for manufacture during 2002-2003. Average cost of manufacture of electric locomotive ranged from Rs. 21.41 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 13.65 crores in 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Fake Bills in Catering Department of Northern Railway

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

(a) whether monthly payment through fake bills in the catering department of the Northern Railway continues unabatedly;

(b) if so, the amount being paid per month and to whom;

(c) whether the Government conducted any investigation regarding payments made on the basis of fake bills;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) to (e) No specific instance has come to notice about payment through fake bills by the Catering Department. However there was a newspaper report on this issue in Rashtriya Sahara on 14.6.2002 which was investigated by Zonal Railway and no irregularity was substantiated.

Shortage of Power in Madhya Pradesh

719. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh is facing an acute power crisis these days and the State is not generating even half of its requirement;

(b) if so, the measures being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the power projects in Madhya Pradesh are given Central Assistance for their completion; and

(d) the time by which the power crisis in the State is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The power

supply position in Madhya Pradesh for the period April-June 2002 is given below:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	7190	Peak Demand	4572
Availability	6122	Peak Met	3642
Shortage	1068	Shortage	930
% age	14.9	% age	20.3

During April-June, 2002 the State Electricity Board has generated 3531 Million Units (MU) as against a target of 3383 MU from its own sources representing an increase of 4.4% over its target. This is also 15.7% higher than the corresponding period of last year.

(b) In order to augment the availability of power in the State of Madhya Pradesh, the State has been allocated 32% from unallocated quota of Central Sector stations in Western Region and about 250 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region. Efforts are also being made to improve the availability of power by adopting measures like demand side management, reduction in T&D losses, energy conservation, Renovation and Modernization and like extension of old and inefficient plants etc. As per assessment, additional generation capacity of 2399.5 MW is expected to be added in Madhya Pradesh during Xth Plan. In addition, the state is also expected to get its due share from Central Generating Stations which are being set up in Western Region.

(c) and (d) No central assistance is provided directly to any State including Madhya Pradesh by Ministry of Power for completion of power projects. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to help states achieve the goal of 'Power for All by 2012'.

[English]

Introduction of Bio-Diesel

720. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the environment friendly biodiesel in the country particularly in Metropolitan Cities like Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in decreasing pollution in the country; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced in Delhi and other metropolitan cities?

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) Only R&D studies are in progress presently.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

[Translation]

Tariff of Electricity

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff of electricity for the consumers in various States of the country are different;

(b) if so, the tariff of electricity charged from domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural consumers in the country, State-wise;

(c) the criteria prescribed for determining the tariff; and

(d) whether these criteria are uniformly applicable or all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tariff of electricity for various classes of consumers in different states are at statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) According to provisions of Section 59 of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are to adjust their tariff in such a manner as to ensure that the total revenues in any year of account shall after meeting all expenses, taxes on income and profits, depreciation and interest and after taking credit for any subvention from the State Government leave such surplus as is not less than three percent or such higher percentage as the State Government may specify, of the value of fixed assets of the Board in service at the beginning of such year.

Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 enabling the State Governments to constitute State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC). SERCs are required to determine the tariff in such a manner that it progressively reflects the cost of supply, promotes economy and efficiency safeguards the interests of consumers and at the same time ensures that the consumers pay for the use of electricity in a reasonable manner.

Statement

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (updated upto 31.12.2001)

(Rates in Paise/Kwh)

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2 KW 100 Kwh/ Month	Domestic 5 KW 400 Kwh/ Month	Domestic 10 KW 1000 Kwh/ Month	Commercial 5 KW 200 Kwh/ Month	Commercial 10KW 1000 Kwh/ Month	Commercial 20 KW 2000 Kwh/ Month	Agriculture 5 HP, 15% LF 408 Kwh/ Month	Agriculture 10 HP, 15% LF 816 Kwh/ Month	Small Industry 50 KW, 40% LF 1361 Kwh/ Month	Medium Industry 50 KW, 40% LF 14600 Kwh/ Month	Large Industry 1000 KW, 65% LF 474500 Kwh/ Month	Heavy Industry 11 KW, 60% LF 4380000 Kwh/ Month	Heavy Industry 33 KW, 50% LF 5475000 Kwh/ Month	Railway Traction 12500 KW, 30% LF 2737500 Kwh/ Month
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO)	01-04-01	213.50	366.83	495.25	513.50	703.50	727.25	43.30	51.22	414.69	439.88	438.15	491.05	501.39	460.01 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	01-09-98	228.20	280.92	292.35	566.40	490.59	494.17	99.50	120.17	284.26 U 139.76 R	321.60	352.79	365.71	373.72	—
3.	Bihar	01-07-93	139.00 U 46.00 R	150.75	161.10	451.00	287.80	289.90	40.15	40.15	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV
4.	Gujarat	10-10-00	577.50 U 519.50 R	717.38 U 640.85 R	792.69 U 697.75 R	844.50	883.65	885.83	65.36	65.36	606.43	665.22F	720.66	760.94	772.08	743.65
5.	Haryana	01-01-01	348.00	394.25	429.50	455.00	455.00	455.00	65.00	65.00	461.00	461.00	444.00	444.00	432.00	462.33 at 66 KV and above
6.	Himachal Pradesh	01-05-00	95.25	153.94	200.18	265.00	297.50	306.25	65.00	65.00	222.00	247.00	272.00	272.00	268.25	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	01-04-99	292.80	244.00	244.00	489.22	311.10	311.10	40.26	40.26	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—	—
8.	Karnataka	29-12-00	261.00	337.50	421.00	611.25	575.75	577.88	50.00	50.00	341.32	406.65	446.65	459.17	467.44	468.75 at 11 KV
9.	Kerala	15-5-99	107.80	243.93	330.77	591.25	710.05	742.78	60.39	59.04	274.53	265.09	266.30	270.79	—	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	05-10-01	211.35	312.00	374.73	520.48	553.70	557.60	82.10	84.61	322.47	435.00	448.79	451.84	446.54	466.69 at 132/220 KV
11.	Maharashtra	01-05-00	244.25	364.57	452.43	426.80	627.71	654.91	97.77	147.77	340.23	365.53	434.85	44.36	—	425.00
12.	Meghalaya	01-06-00	115.00	167.50	190.00	276.00	300.00	303.00	56.00	56.00	256.12	277.77	204.79	206.87	—	—
13.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	01-02-01	135.00	315.00	315.00	415.00	455.00	455.00	105.00	105.00	320.00	340.00	344.26	357.06	384.46	407.45 at 25 KV
14.	Punjab	01-07-00	174.00	271.50	297.00	376.00	376.00	376.00	0.00	0.00	276.00	311.00	332.00	332.82	322.82	415.00
15.	Rajasthan	01-04-01	322.50	305.63	302.25	555.00	551.00	553.00	105.03	99.91	391.04	417.86	447.07	448.83	450.19	446.66
16.	Tamil Nadu	01-12-01	153.25	289.06	371.13				0.00	0.00	271.02					
	Chennai					517.13	532.35	533.45				458.26	424.80	441.61	448.04	470.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Metro Area															
	Non-Metro Area															
					506.63	521.85	523.95					447.76	414.10	431.11	437.54	480.00 at 25 KV
17.	Uttar Pradesh	09-08-00	229.00U 72.00R	239.00	273.00	484.00	454.00	480.25	67.40	67.40	411.04	408.16	431.23	433.92	419.30	—
18.	West Bengal	26-01-99	181.25U 168.81R	339.44U 319.33R	405.83U 361.75R	362.18U 349.92R	477.50U 460.53R	477.50U 460.63R	54.66	123.00	336.56U 313.57R	407.46	377.48	370.73	370.37	391.70 at 25 KV
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	01-02-00	162.56	211.88	231.75	357.50	387.50	391.25	—	—	345.00	361.44	393.95	394.89	—	—
20.	Goa	01-07-00	125.00	170.00	220.00	355.00	402.50	418.75	125.00	125.00	255.00	310.00	370.99	373.58	380.29	—
21.	Manipur	12-07-01	252.20	274.70	—	410.20	267.20	345.80	267.20	267.20	267.20	294.73	268.33	268.93	270.25	—
22.	Mizoram	01-03-00	115.00	200.00	227.00	195.00	275.00	285.00	55.00	55.00	242.65	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	—
23.	Nagaland	01-06-01	250.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	350.00	380.00	380.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
24.	Sikkim	01-11-00	157.50U 112.50R	208.13U 163.13R	272.25U 227.25	270.00	333.00	346.50	315.00	332.42	355.40	216.26	258.47	261.26	—	—
25.	Tripura	01-04-99	269.00	192.50	170.00	605.00	264.00	286.00	120.00	120.00	140.00	190.00	—	—	—	—
26.	A & N Islands	01-01-00	100.00	217.50	261.00	310.00	390.00	400.00	60.00	60.00	275.30	288.83	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	01-02-01	150.75	216.94	255.18	389.00	389.00	389.00	100.00	100.00	278.00	318.00	371.00	371.00	360.20	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01-02-87	72.50	85.63	88.25	122.00	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.36	180.86	181.85	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	01-05-99	130.00	172.50	204.00	232.50	258.50	261.75	55.00	55.00	225.00	244.18	253.83	256.01	—	—
30.	Delhi (DVB)	01-06-01	157.50	252.00	327.60	525.00	462.00	525.00	78.75	78.75	430.50	430.50	459.05	462.30	454.80	480.58
	(NDMC)	01-06-01	158.00	252.25	327.70	500.00	462.00	525.00	—	—	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	576.00
31.	Lakshadweep	01-04-00	200.00	337.50	375.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	—	—	450.00	450.00	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	01-06-00	55.00	130.00	140.00	230.88	282.88	290.88	7.66	7.66	188.36	193.92	235.93	244.78	—	—
33.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	26-02-98	312.73	384.13	420.89	522.31	633.74	642.62	312.44	312.04	368.36	399.80	417.32	420.65	—	—
34.	Calcutta (CSEC)	19-10-98	205.43	365.98	436.25	401.55	510.00	510.00	—	—	377.01	425.50	424.12	427.14	422.80	438.06
35.	D.V.C.	01-09-00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(a) Bihar Area								—	—	—	—	311.53	319.44	326.00	400.43 at 32 KV
	(b) W.B. Area								—	—	—	—	327.49	336.00	343.05	382.48 at 132 KV
36.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01-05-99	180.25	338.44	404.83	361.18	467.00	467.00	158.00	219.96	327.86	445.44	400.46	406.46	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
37.	Mumbai															
	(BEST)	15-07-97	82.50	306.55	443.99	623.95	757.15	801.55	—	—	674.30	725.90	426.04E	429.65E	—	—
	(BSES)	01-10-98	151.80	443.05	457.30	612.26	644.12	655.38	50.00	50.00	578.41	540.23	394.52	395.51	—	—
	(TATA's)	01-12-98	143.00	331.53	390.13	428.90	428.90	428.90	—	—	412.74	412.74	378.80	382.24	391.73	415.44
																6.6KV to 33 KV

U-Urban R-Rural

*Service charges extra, free supply for small farmers

E-Exclusive of Reactive Energy Charge @ 98 paise/Kwh

F-Exclusive of Reactive Energy charge @ 10 paise/Kwh

The average of rates given above are indicative based on assumed consumption levels. The actual rates may vary in some cases due to minimum/fixed charges etc. depending on connected load and level of consumption.

[English]

Benami LPG Agencies of BPCL in Delhi

722. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of gas agencies of BPCL in Delhi which have been found to be operated in violation of distributorship agreement by the Government during the last one year;

(b) the decision of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether decision of the Government has been implemented by BPCL; and

(d) if not, the action taken/is being taken against the concerned officials of BPCL?

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 Government have advised Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in April, 2001 to implement the terms of LPG Distributorship Agreement strictly against the following six distributors of Delhi found to be operated in violation of Distributorship Agreement:-

- (i) M/s. Kitchen Flame, Mangolpuri.
- (ii) M/s. East End Enterprises, Dilshad Garden.
- (iii) M/s. Friends Gas Services, Sukhdev Vihar.
- (iv) M/s. Mayapuri Gas Company, Rajouri Garden.

(v) M/s. Gas Plaza, Preet Vihar.

(vi) M/s. Victory Enterprises Nangloi.

(c) and (d) BPCL has informed that the erring distributors were advised and warned to personally manage the affairs of the distributorship and have since complied with this requirement. Government have sought certain details from BPCL to take a final view in the matter.

[Translation]

Production and Import of CNG and LNG

723. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of CNG and LNG produced during 2000-2001; and

(b) the total import made on this account during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There is no production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in the country. Natural gas is compressed to high pressure of 200-250 bars to provide CNG. Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) sold 328.8 lakh kg. and 173.9 lakh kg. of CNG respectively during the year 2000-2001.

(b) There was no import of LNG or CNG during the year 2000-2001.

News Published in Jansatta Dt. 21.6.2002

724. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Supreme Court ki karyawahi Par Pani Pheme mein Juti Kendra Sarkar" appearing in "Jansatta" dated 21.6.2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The newspaper is entitled to express its own views. The Government had discussed the matter with the political parties on 8.7.2002. There was unanimous view in the said meeting that only Parliament had the power to legislate on this matter. The meeting also felt that there was need to curb criminalisation in politics by enacting suitable legislation in consultation with the political parties. A draft of the Bill has been circulated to the political parties to ascertain their views.

[English]

Derailment of the Shramjeevi Express

725. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons died and several injured following derailment of the Shramjeevi Express recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether any sabotage in the derailment of the train is suspected;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. In this accident, 11 passengers lost their lives, 15 passengers were grievously injured and 32 others sustained simple injuries.

(c) The cost of damage is estimated to be around Rs. 204 lakhs.

(d) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, in his Preliminary Report, has concluded 'that the accident occurred most probably due to opening out of fish plated joints by some unknown persons.'

(e) and (f) Action can be initiated on receipt of Final Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

**Relocation of Petrol Pumps from
"National Highways"**

726. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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 "Oil Companies, National Highway Authority of India, at Loggorheads over relocating pumps on highways" appearing in the Indian Express of June 25, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Oil Companies have expressed their difficulties to relocate the existing pumps as it will involve an expenditure of Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores for each pump;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry had convened a meeting on July 5, 2002 with the National Highway Authority of India, in which Oil Companies were also present; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the meeting?

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. To discuss the various issues, a meeting was held on the 5th July, 2002 in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, which was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, National Highway Authority of India and Oil Marketing Companies. Different aspects including problems relating to the existing retail outlets on the highways as well as the new retail outlets, that may be set up along the Highways, were discussed.

Compensation to Farmers

727. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
 KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
 SHRI J.S. BRAR:
 SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
 COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Forces has acquired land of farmers along LoC and International Border for deployment of armed forces and laying land mines;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the per acre compensation paid to the farmers whose land have been acquired by the armed forces, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any dissatisfaction among the farmers regarding compensation paid to them;

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

(f) the number of incidents of landmines blast occurred during the Operation Parakaram, place-wise;

(g) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(h) the compensation paid to kin of deceased soldiers and civilians;

(i) whether precautions were not taken and mines were old and substandard quality having defective fuses; and

(j) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

(f) to (j) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Defence Forces have not acquired any land of the farmers along the Line of Control (LOC) and International Border in connection with current mobilisation of the troops in the border areas. However, Armed Forces

have temporarily occupied lands in the border areas for operational purposes in connection with current mobilisation of the troops in such areas. Ministry of Defence have already decided to pay ex-gratia compensation to the people/farmers for the damages occurred to their crops during the preparatory stage of defensive preparations/movement of Armed Forces in the border areas of the States of the J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan & Gujarat and pay rental compensation for the lands occupied. For this purpose, Board of Officers have been ordered by the Army Authorities to conduct joint surveys in association with the representatives of Director General of Defence Estates and Local Revenue Authorities to assess the damages occurred to the crops and the lands occupied by the Armed Forces. The details of lands under occupation of Armed Forces for the purpose and the damages occurred to the crops of the farmers would be known after the joint surveys are completed.

However, in order to give immediate relief to the farmers for the damages occurred to their crops, a sum of Rs. 36 crores, which is 25% of the amount projected by the State Revenue Authorities as loss towards the crops, has been sanctioned to the State Government of Punjab as "on account" payment to be made to the farmers. Out of this, about a sum of Rs. 21 crores has already been disbursed to the affected people/farmers. Another sum of Rs. 30 crores has also been sanctioned to the State Government of Punjab as compensation to the damages occurred to the crops, on the recommendations of Army Hqrs.

A sum of Rs. 13.80 crores, which is 25% of the amount projected by the State Revenue Authorities as loss towards the crops, has been sanctioned to the State Government of Rajasthan as "on account" payment to be made to the individual farmers. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 10 crores (approximately) has been disbursed to the affected people/farmers. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 3.75 crores, which is 25% of the amount projected by HQ Northern Command as loss towards the crops, has been sanctioned to the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir as "on account" payment to be made to the individual farmers.

The payment made to the people/farmers will be adjusted against the final bills to be submitted by the Board of Officers constituted for the purpose by the Local Military Authorities.

The compensation is being calculated on the recommendation of the State authorities. The Government is not aware of any dissatisfaction amongst the farmers.

Cooperation on Missile Defence System with U.S.

728. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have agreed to cooperate on the Missile Defence system to enhance security and stability in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and agreement so reached between the two countries;

(c) whether any discussion was held between India and US Defence Policy Group (DPG); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which India is likely to be benefited by this cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. No cooperation has been reached between India and the US on the subject of a missile defence system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Indo-US Defence Policy Group meeting was held in May, 2002. In the meeting both sides decided to hold future missile defence workshops as a measure to enhance cooperative security and stability.

Joint Indo-US Military Exercise

729. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US held high level discussion to expand cooperation in military affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Joint Indo-US Military exercises have taken place on Indian Soil and sea;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the same US military forces with whom the Pakistan army have conducted/is conducting joint operation in their so-called fight against terrorism;

(f) whether the Government are aware about the fact that the US military Commitment to Pakistan remains both at the strategic and practical levels more important to the USA than its support to India;

(g) if so, whether India's increasing military and Defence Co-operation with the USA and the conducting of joint military exercises would only compromise our sovereignty to defend ourselves and counter such activities on cross-border terrorism; and

(h) if so, the reasons for conducting military exercises with USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During May, 2002 Indo-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) Meeting was held in USA to discuss ways of strengthening Indo-US Defence Cooperation. Both sides discussed a wide range of issues affecting the bilateral defence relationship. They agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the various defence related areas.

(c) and (d) An Indo-US Joint Military exercise took place in Agra in May, 2002. This was aimed at achieving mutual understanding and cooperation between the two forces.

(e) No, Sir. India is conducting joint exercise along with US Pacific Command while the operations in Pakistan & Afghanistan are being conducted by forces belonging to US Central Command.

(f) Government is aware of the nature of U.S.-Pakistan military cooperation in the context of the U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. Indo-U.S cooperation, including in defence and security matters, is based on the shared recognition that this relationship is important for building stability and security in Asia and beyond. India's defence cooperation with the United States is based on mutual interests and not in the context of any other country.

(g) and (h) Closer defence and military cooperation with the United States is aimed at enhancing mutual capabilities in a number of areas common interest, including combating terrorism. Government's defence policies are guided solely by national security considerations and do not in any way compromise nation's sovereignty.

Losses of HMT Bangalore

730. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the HMT Bangalore unit is running under losses;
- (b) if so, the details of loss incurred by HMT during each of the last three years, till date;
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce fresh VRS to reduce the extra work force;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government are planning to restructure the HMT; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HMT as whole and some of its units/subsidiaries individually are incurring losses. Details of losses incurred in last three years by HMT including its subsidiaries are as under:-

Year	Loss (Rupees in crores)
1999-2000	294
2000-2001	137
2001-2002	188

(c) and (d) HMT has been operating VRS from time to time for rightsizing manpower. The revival plan 2000 envisaged reduction of manpower to an extent of 6947 during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in HMT. So far total 6959 employees have been separated during the last two years.

(e) and (f) The revival plan 2000 under implementation includes organizational and financial restructuring. Watch and Machine Tools Business group has been converted into three separate subsidiaries namely:—

- (i) HMT Watches Ltd., Bangalore
- (ii) HMT Chinara Watches Ltd., Srinagar
- (iii) HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore

This restructuring would help closer monitoring of the individual subsidiaries and *inter alia* facilitate successful strategic disinvestments of various subsidiaries.

With regards to the financial restructuring, Government have provided the following assistance:—

1. Fresh infusion Rs. 250 crore equity.
2. Plan investment of Rs. 7.20 crore.
3. Conversion of Rs. 39.70 crore loan into equity.
4. Waiver of interest of Rs. 12.74 crore.
5. Guarantee fee subsidy@1% for VRS bonds of Rs. 469.00 crore.
6. 50% Interest subsidy on VR bonds.
7. Budgetary support for salary & wages for Srinagar Watch Factory for three years i.e. upto 2002-2003.
8. Guarantee for working capital bonds of Rs. 40.40 crores for Watch Group for 2 years.

Conversion of Track between Kulam and Vasco-Da-Gama

731. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether track between Kulam and Vasco-Da-Gama section was to be converted from MG to BG at an estimate cost of Rs. 26.78 crore for which special limited tenders were invited which were later on cancelled and open tenders invited thereafter and the rates of 3 items of earthwork were unjustified as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Report 9 of 2002 (Railway);

(b) if so, whether the Government has looked into the matter;

(c) if so, the steps taken to protect the public money being squandered by the official;

(d) whether the audit has blamed the Railway officials of poor supervision of execution of work for making over payment of Rs. 0.71 crore; and

(e) if so, the action taken to fix the accountability and responsibility of the officials and to tone up the working of the railway administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No additional payment has been made to the contractors. However, in one case, as per the final orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, payment was made for actual work done. The rest of the cases will be dealt with separately.

(d) the observation of Audit is not factually correct.

(e) Departmental action has already been initiated against the erring officials.

Regulatory Guidelines for Developing Oil and Gas Sectors

732. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have sought separate regulatory guidelines for developing natural gas and petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposals/plans in this regard from CII; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Amendments in Hindu Marriage Act

733. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to bring amendments to the Hindu Marriage Act and corresponding sections of the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission of India in its 178th Report and the National Commission for Women (NCW) in its Annual Report 1999-2000 have

recommended amendment of section 19 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 with a view to make it analogous to section 126 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 so that a woman could file suit for maintenance or relief of any other kind at a place of her residence. This proposal has been circulated to all the State Governments for their comments.

New Rail Lines

734. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new Railway Lines which have been proposed to be taken up not as spill over projects, but completely new during Tenth Plan, zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) the rate of return assessed in each case as surveyed;

(c) whether survey to Talcher-Bimalagarh Railway Lines has been completed;

(d) if so, the rate of return as per the survey report;

(e) the number of times prior to this latest report, this new line was surveyed;

(f) whether it has been taken up for construction during Tenth Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The new railway line projects are taken up on operational, strategic social and other considerations from time to time. The work of new line from Kolayat to Phalodi in Rajasthan has been included in budget 2002-2003 on strategic considerations.

(b) Rate of return assessed in Kolayat-Phalodi new line was (-) 4.08%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 10.22%. However, the survey reports under examination.

(e) The line had been surveyed once earlier.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Oil and Gas Field in Cambay Basin

735. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Gas Group has suspended operations at a major Oil and Gas field in Cambay basin off the Gujarat Coast;

(b) if so, whether the British Gas has urged his Ministry to suspend drilling operations at the Cambay offshore field as its expatriate officials have had to leave following advice from the British Government;

(c) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be resumed as there are signs that tension on the border is easing; and

(d) the impact of suspension of work on 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) and (b) British Gas, the operator, decided to suspend the drilling operations in the exploration block CB-OS/1 in the Gulf of Cambay off the Gujarat Coast.

(c) Work in the block has been resumed from the midnight of 3rd July.

(d) There is no impact on production as CB-OS/1 is an exploration block and there is no oil/gas production therefrom.

Foreign Investment in Power Sector Reformation

736. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to promote power sector reformation by inviting some foreign investors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the other donor agencies have been providing financial assistance to some of the States to undertake power sector reforms.

Establishment of Sub-Stations in T.N. by PGCIL

737. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government to strengthen the transmission lines to bring power to Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government in this direction;

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India are considering to establish some more sub-stations in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Based on needs and specific requests of TNEB, the following scheme have been taken up by POWERGRID for strengthening the transmission system for transfer of power to Tamil Nadu:

(i) Vijayawada-Nellore-Sriperumbudur (Chennai) 400 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line at an estimated cost of Rs. 396.28 crores. The scheme is scheduled to be completed by February, 2003. With the completion of this line, TNEB will be able to draw their share of power from Ramagundam Thermal Power Station without any constraint and also avail assistance from neighbouring regions.

(ii) Talcher-II transmission system at an estimated cost of Rs. 3865.61 crores. The scheme includes the following elements:

- (1) 2000 MW, +500 KV Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole
- (2) Kolar-Sriperumbudur (Chennai) 400 KV S/C line
- (3) Kolar-Hosur 400 KV D/C line
- (4) Hosur-Salem 400 KV S/C line
- (5) Salem-Udumalpet 400 KV S/C line
- (6) Kolar-Hoody 400 KV D/C with high capacity Quad conductors
- (7) Loop-in-Loop-out of existing Cuddapah-Bangalore 400 KV S/C line at Kolar.

- (8) Establishment of new 400/220 KV substation at Hosur with 2x315 MVA transformer and at Kolar with 4x167 MVA transformers.

The AC portion of the above Transmission System along with the first pole of HVDC is likely to be commissioned by December, 2002 and the second pole is likely to be commissioned by June, 2003. After completion of the Transmission System, it would be possible to transfer additional 2000 MW power from Eastern Region to Southern Region, including Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e) In order to meet system requirements of the Tamil Nadu Grid, a proposal of TNEB for establishment of Almati and Maduranthagam 400/220 kv Sub-stations by LILCO of Vijayawada Nellore-Sriperumbudur (400 kv) is under examination in Central Electricity Authority. POWERGRID is considering to establish new 400/220 kv sub-stations at Pugalur, Kayathar, etc. along with future generation capacity addition like Neyveli TS-II expansion (2x250 MW) and Kudankulam (4x1000 MW).

Expansion of Engineers India Limited

738. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Engineers India Limited (EIL) has proposed for expansion;
- (b) if so, the expansion programmes drawn up by EIL; and
- (c) the details of new areas identified for the expansion of EIL?

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) There is no expansion programme of Engineers India Limited in terms of either capacity addition or addition to the assets.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Decontamination System

739. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation have developed a nuclear, biological and chemical decontamination system;
- (b) whether this system has been provided to army men posted at border areas;

- (c) whether this system is also proposed to be supplied to civilians; and

- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of decontamination systems primarily meant for decontamination of chemical agents have been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation. These are Personal Decontamination Kit (PDK), Portable Decontamination Apparatus (PDA), Decontamination solution and Mobile Decontamination system (MDS).

(b) Three items namely Personal Decontamination kit (PDK), Portable Decontamination Apparatus (PDA) and Decontamination solution have been supplied to the Army. Supply of Mobile Decontamination System is in progress to the Army.

(c) These Decontamination Systems are available to anybody through the trade.

(d) The Personal Decontamination Kit (PDK) is meant for decontaminating the contaminated areas such as exposed body parts, clothing, gloves, overboots etc. against chemical agents. Decontamination solution is a chemical formulation used for decontamination of chemical agents. Portable Decontamination Apparatus is used for decontamination of small surface areas of vehicles, equipment etc. The Mobile Decontamination System is used for large area decontamination of terrain, vehicles, equipment and personnel.

Investment in Power Projects

740. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total investment made in power projects during 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (b) the investment target for the 10th Five Year Plan;
- (c) the total investment made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal in power projects during the said periods; and
- (d) the extent to which the targets have been achieved, plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) State-wise details of outlay and expenditure during the 7th & 8th Five Year Plans and Outlay for 9th Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) For the Tenth Plan, the outlay fixed for the Ministry of Power is Rs. 1,43,399 crore.

(c) and (d) The details of power sector outlay and expenditure together with percentage achievement for the State of Andhra Pradesh is given below:

Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. in crore)

Plan	Outlay	Expenditure	% achievement
7th Plan	1104	1117.4	101.21
8th Plan	3040.62	3546.56	116.64
9th Plan	5749	5299.44 (1997-98 to 2000-01 Prov.)	92.18

The State of Uttaranchal came into existence in 2000-2001 as a result of bifurcation of Uttar Pradesh. An

allocation of Rs. 89 crore was made for Uttaranchal in 2001-02. The allocation and expenditure along with percentage achievement in respect of Uttar Pradesh during 7th, 8th and 9th Plans is given as under:—

Uttar Pradesh

(Rs. in crore)

Plan	Outlay	Expenditure	% achievement
7th Plan	3395.0	2763.1	81.39
8th Plan	6974.76	5423.42	77.76
9th Plan	7468	4044.56 (1997-98 to 2000-01 Prov.)	54.16

Statement**State**

(Rs. in crore)

	7th Plan		8th Plan		9th Plan
	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1104.9	1117.4	3040.62	3546.56	5749
Assam	485.0	610.2	1192.46	677.76	850
Bihar	1065.0	1057.1	2120.83	586.21	2300
Delhi	364.3	832.2	1212.00	1540.54	2985
Gujarat	1437.0	1437.8	2635.00	2502.62	4000
Haryana	1010.3	645.4	1701.99	1197.98	2648
Himachal Pradesh	260.1	347.5	500.00	628.78	1020
Jammu & Kashmir	278.2	422.1	1175.18	1240.23	2387
Karnataka	800.0	873.6	3024.86	2957.61	3650
Kerala	396.8	373.2	1226.20	1616.57	2531
Madhya Pradesh	2646.0	2091.0	3563.36	3701.01	3464
Maharashtra	3048.9	2621.2	4572.64	5493.53	5580
Meghalaya	70.0	122.0	166.48	52.90	312
Orissa	780.0	537.3	2638.30	1254.68	4623
Punjab	1638.0	1991.1	2417.50	3347.00	2927
Rajasthan	874.2	917.4	3200.00	3078.72	4489

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamil Nadu	2000.0	1768.2	3000.00	3103.46	6000
Uttar Pradesh	3395.0	2763.1	6974.76	5423.42	7468
West Bengal	1248.0	1244.9	3016.00	2865.49	5632
Arunachal Pradesh	35.9	54.3	148.28	332.46	451
Goa	35.5	33.0	52.50	65.33	129
Manipur	36.0	50.2	185.35	184.70	333
Mizoram	27.8	62.2	101.05	152.27	222
Nagaland	33.5	28.6	59.00	93.71	115
Pondicherry	12.0	24.0	102.22	160.09	230
Sikkim	33.9	58.7	133.00	131.78	341
Tripura	46.0	79.7	116.50	159.58	172
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	57.97	68.93	140
Chandigarh	—	—	55.00	45.87	86
Daman & Diu	—	—	7.37	15.50	30
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	5.11	19.36	48
Lakshadweep	—	—	6.21	6.63	15

World Bank Loan for MRVC-MUTP

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

(a) whether World Bank has cleared the proposal of Railways to finance MRVC-MUTP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any payment has been released;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways is going to lift additional cess on the commuters of Mumbai; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank Board of Directors have approved a loan of US\$ 364.9 million to fund the Rail component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase I, (MUTP Phase I).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Railways propose to levy a surcharge on the Mumbai Suburban Commuters to finance the World Bank loan. The surcharge is to be levied before the award of contract for procurement of EMUs. It is expected to generate Rs. 2891 crores over a 14 period. 50% of this amount is to be given to the Ministry of Finance and 50% to Government of Maharashtra for funding the World Bank loan.

[Translation]

Premium Grade Petrol

742. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all three major oil companies of the country are preparing themselves for selling premium grade petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies are cheating the public in the name of premium;

(d) if so, the reasons for granting such permission to these companies by the Government;

(e) whether the Government propose to restrict these companies for selling premium grade petrol; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have planned to launch a premium grade of petrol shortly through selected retail outlets in major markets.

(b) The premium grade of petrol will be introduced in Mumbai & Delhi markets to start with the thereafter, based on the response from consumers, the same would be extended to other major markets.

(c) The premium grade of petrol is fortified with performance enhancing additives that would increase the performance of petrol engine in vehicle.

(d) The Oil Companies are permitted to introduce such products for which there exists demand from a section of consumers.

(e) and (f) The Government always encourages oil companies to upgrade products and services so as to benefit consumers. The introduction of premium grade petrol by oil companies is one such initiative that will benefit consumers as well as reduce vehicular pollution, thereby helping to conserve the environment.

[English]

Oil Equity of ONGC Videsh

743. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh have acquired for acquiring oil equity abroad;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC Videsh have recently lost out to the Chinese competitor for two hot oil properties, both good producing fields in Oman and Indonesia; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures proposed to be taken up to avoid recurrence of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is engaged in hydrocarbon exploration and production (E&P) activities abroad. At present OVL is participating in the following overseas projects:

- (i) Block 06.1 offshore gas project in Vietnam, with 45% participating interest
- (ii) Sakhalin-I oil and gas project in Russia, with 20% participation interest.
- (iii) Block A-I offshore gas project in Myanmar, with 20% participating interest.
- (iv) Exploration Block 8 in Iraq with 100% participation interest.

OVL is also pursuing E&P opportunities in some countries like Sudan, Oman, Libya, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Venezuela.

(c) and (d) The 50% participating interest in Block-5 in Oman which was being negotiated by OVL was subsequently awarded to a Chinese company by the owner of the Block.

As regards the Indonesian property, when OVL submitted the offer to purchase the participating interests, the seller informed that they had entered into negotiations with another party on an exclusive basis and that if the negotiations could not be completed within the desired time frame, then the seller would commence discussions with OVL.

OVL has been acquiring oil and gas properties abroad on the merits of the assets and after careful evaluation of the worth of the properties. The company has laid down its minimum hurdle rate of return for acquiring such properties. Similarly, international oil companies have their own criteria of evaluation and would be competing on their terms. In such a situation OVL cannot be expected to be the winning bidder on every transaction.

*[Translation]***Allocation of Budget for Defence**

744. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Defence spending as a proposition of the Central Government expenditure during the last three years;

(b) the amount utilised against the budget allocation made for defence during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the reasons for not utilising the allocation amount during the last three years, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The total final allocation of funds for Defence spending in proportion of Central Government expenditure and the amount utilized is given in the attached Statement.

(c) The main reasons for not utilizing the allotted amount during the last three years were non-finalisation of certain contracts and non-materialisation of supplies against some contracts. The detailed reasons are given in the Appropriation Accounts Defence Services for the respective years laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Actual Defence Expenditure and as a percentage of total Central Government Expenditure

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Final Defence Allocation	Actual Defence Expenditure	Defence Expenditure as % of Central Government Expenditure
1999-2000	47614	47071	15.79
2000-2001	51351	49622	15.24
2001-2002(RE)	57000	Accounts not yet closed	15.64

*[English]***Storm Brewing over DD News**

745. SHRI SUTLAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "storm brewing over DD News" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated June 27, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry and Prasar Bharati are at loggerheads over the move of launching much published news channel;

(d) if so, whether the proposed new DD channel is economically viable keeping in view the stiff competition posed by other news channels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that at present, there is no proposal to start a New Channel.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Revision of Fare Structure

746. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the fare structure of the Railways following the recently hike in prices of diesel and petrol;

(b) if so, the anticipated additional financial implication involved as a result of increased price of diesel and petrol during the current year; and

(c) the decision taken or proposed to be taken about the revision of rail fares?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Supreme court Ruling regarding Election
to Democratic Institutions**

747. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed new guidelines for all the candidates seeking election to all the democratic institutions within a period of two months ending on July, 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have enacted a law to make these guidelines mandatory for candidates seeking elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 2.5.2002 directed the Election Commission of India to issue order within a period of 2 months ending 1.7.2002 calling for the following information on affidavit from candidates at elections:—

- (i) Whether the candidate is convicted/acquitted/discharged of any criminal offence in the past if any, whether he is punished with imprisonment or fine.
- (ii) Prior to six months of filing of the nomination, whether the candidate is accused in any pending case, of any offence punishable with imprisonment for two years or more, and in which charge is framed or cognizance is taken by the court of law. If so, the details thereof.
- (iii) The assets (immovable, movable, bank balance etc.) of a candidate and of his/her spouse and that of his dependents.
- (iv) Liabilities, if any, particularly as regards dues of any public financial institution or government.
- (v) The educational qualifications of the candidate.

The Government had discussed the issue with the political parties on 8.7.2002 wherein unanimous view was expressed that only Parliament had the power to legislate

on this matter. The meeting also expressed the view that there was need to curb criminalisation in politics by enacting suitable legislation in consultation with the political parties. A draft Bill has been circulated to the political parties to ascertain their views.

[English]

Utilization of Unallocated Power of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

748. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any unallocated power of about 220 Megawatt at the Thermal Power Station, Station II of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the manner in which this unallocated power is utilized;

(c) the reasons for not allocating the generated power; and

(d) the details of power allocated to Tamil Nadu in view of the demand for power in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of present allocation out of unallocated quota from Thermal Power Station-II of Neyveli Lignite Corporation are given below:

Neyveli TPS-II Stage-I & II	
Unallocated Quota	220 MW Allocation (%)
Andhra Pradesh	9.61
Karnataka	73.05
Tamil Nadu	8.71
Kerala	1.25
Pondicherry	7.38
Total	100.0

(d) (i) the details of firm allocation to Tamil Nadu from Central Sector generating stations of Southern Region are given below:—

	MW
Ramagundam STPS (NTPC)	470
Madras APS (NPC)	253
Neyveli TS-II (ST-I)	176
Neyveli TS-II (ST-II)	265
Kaiga APS (NPC)	220
	1384

- (ii) The present allocation out of unallocated power of Central generating stations: 116 MW during peak hours and 108 MW during off peak Hours.
- (iii) The present Allocation from Eastern Region—100 MW
- (iv) In addition, Tamil Nadu avails 29% of Off peak seasonal surplus power imported from Western Region over Chandrapur—Ramagundam 400 KV line.

[Translation]

Production of Public Sector Enterprises

749. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and actual production of Public Sector Enterprises during each of the last three years, PSE-wise; and

(b) the reasons for not achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The information relating to installed/rated capacity and actual production of important products of manufacturing units during the last three years are given in the Public Enterprises Survey for the year 2000-01, laid on the Table of the House on 7th March, 2002. The reasons for lower production/capacity utilisation vary from PSU to PSU and these are also indicated in the Survey. These include, sluggish market/low demand, shortage of power and raw material, paucity of working capital, obsolete plant & machinery, etc.

[English]

Fast Track Court in Bihar

750. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released 3.20 crores of rupees for running of fast track court in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the implementation of fast track court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 21.30 crores has been released so far by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar under the Scheme of Fast Track Courts.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others have directed:

"The concerned High Court shall periodically review the functioning of the Fast Track Courts and in case of any deficiencies and/or shortcoming, take immediate remedial measures, taking into account views of the Administrative Judge nominated."

The Supreme Court has further directed that the State Government shall ensure that there exists no vacancy in Fast Track Courts by 5th August, 2002.

Purchase of Oilfields by ONGC Videsh in Vietnam

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

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. has purchased an oilfield in Vietnam;

(b) if so, the details of this purchase;

(c) the estimated oil reserves in Vietnam in this particular oilfield;

(d) the present annual production from the said oilfield; and

(e) the details of cost of production including the cost of capital invested in this oilfield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) signed a production sharing contract with M/s. Petrovietnam in 1988 for undertaking exploration in Blocks 6.12E and 19 of Vietnam Offshore. As a result of the exploration work undertaken by OVL alongwith its consortium partners, viz. British Petroleum of UK, Statoil of Norway and Petrovietnam of Vietnam, the country's largest gas fields of Lan Tay and Lan Do were discovered in 1992-93. The estimated reserves of these fields are about 58 billion cubic metre.

(d) and (e) Commercial production from these fields is scheduled to commence by late 2002 or early 2003. OVL's share of the development capital expenditure is around US\$ 228 million, i.e. Rs. 1117.2 crore at the exchange rate of US \$1=Rs.49.

LPG for Vehicles

752. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one outlet so far to supply LPG for vehicles in the entire Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to open more outlets to supply LPG for vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) At present, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has installed 3 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) at existing Outlets in Bangalore in the State of Karnataka. Further, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have the plan to set up 10 more ALDS in the State of Karnataka by March, 2003.

Gas Transportation Infrastructure

753. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very limited gas transportation infrastructure is available in the country;

(b) if so, whether the gas sector need investment encouragement measures; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to encourage such investments?

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) Gas Transportation Infrastructure is available in the country to take care of the distribution of available gas. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), a public sector company, has been entrusted with the distribution and marketing of natural gas. GAIL owns more than 4400 kms. of cross country pipeline for transmission and distribution of approximately 62 MMSCMD of natural gas in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. GAIL has committed an investment of Rs. 3410.97 crore for laying approximately 1078 kms. of natural gas pipeline during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Further, GAIL is also considering proposal for about 2100 kms. pipeline at an approx. cost of Rs. 3876 crores.

Power Projects in North-Eastern Region

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

(a) whether the Government have been examining the question of bearing the Security Expenditure of power projects in the insurgency hit north-eastern region; and

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on providing such security to power projects during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The question whether the security expenditure should form part of the cost of power projects or be met separately is being examined by the Government.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

High Power Locomotives

755. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have assured for 10 more high powered locomotives during May-June, 2002;

(b) if so, the total requirements of the Railways;

(c) the extent to which their demand has been met;

(d) whether the company has already shipped the passengers train engines which have a maximum speed of 160 km. per hours; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Total requirement of locomotives depends upon the freight and passenger traffic carried and replacement arising. Requirement for 10th Five Year Plan has been projected at 89 locos per year including 25 high horse power locos per year.

(c) So far, 24 freight and 10 passenger high horse power locomotives have been put into service.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Contract for purchase of 10 passenger locomotives was placed on M/s General Motors, USA in January 1999, these locos have been received in May, 2001.

[*Translation*]

Effect of Rain on CNG Stations

756. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to rainfall machines installed at various CNG Stations in Delhi went out of order, as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated 30.5.2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of stations affected; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that machines at CNG Stations do not remain out of order due to rain in future?

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

(b) Because of heavy rains on 28th May, 2002 there were wide spread power failures resulting in non functioning of 12 CNG stations ranging from 1 to 12 hours.

(c) 30 generator sets of different capacities have been put in the CNG stations to enable the CNG compressors to operate in the event of grid power failure.

Allotment of Stalls at Railway Stations

757. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any allotment of stalls at railway stations out of his discretionary quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 1998 till date zone-wise; and

(c) the rules framed in regard to allotment of such stalls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No allotment has been made in last 5 years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transfer of Cases to Fast Track Courts

758. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the number of cases transferred to fast track courts and the number of cases disposed off by them; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to remove administrative shortcomings of the fast track courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) As per available information, 1,35,502 cases have been transferred to fast Track courts out of which 58,662 cases have been disposed off by them.

(b) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to establish Fast Track Courts as envisaged under the Scheme. However, the Central Government have been making all efforts towards removing the administrative shortcomings of the fast track courts by giving necessary clarifications to the States from time to time.

The Supreme Court has directed on 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others as follows:—

'At least one Administrative Judge shall be nominated in each High Court to monitor the disposal of cases by Fast Track Courts and to resolve the difficulties and shortcomings, if any, with the administrative support and cooperation of the concerned State Government. State Government shall ensure requisite cooperation to the Administrative Judge.

The Chief Secretaries of the State have also been requested to monitor the setting up of earmarked number of Fast Track Courts and ensure smooth functioning of such courts.

The directions given by the Supreme Court including those regarding filling up of vacancies in fast track courts within the time limit and periodical review of the Scheme by the High Courts have been communicated to the State Governments for compliance.

[English]

Shares to States on Oil Exploration

759. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether States are getting any share of profit from any oil or gas struck in their territory at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the share of profit so provided to the States so far;

(c) whether his Ministry has mooted a proposal for clearance for giving States a share in the profit made from any oil or gas fields in their territory in future;

(d) if so, the share of profit likely to be made available to States;

(e) whether this move is likely to give States the past profit also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) While concurring with the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), some State Governments have requested for a share of profit petroleum under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the onland areas signed by the Government of India under the NELP and the above requests are under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures

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

(a) the amount spent by the various departments under his Ministry on various heads during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose any economy drive to reduce expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering, inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payments made against STD and STD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of air conditioners and coolers and other such expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A Statement showing amount spent by the various Departments under the Ministry of Power on various heads during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance to effect economy in expenditure through measures that include ban on creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, reduction in office expenses, and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, etc. are being followed in the Ministry of Power.

Statement

The detailed Provision—Object Headwise

Description	Actuals 1998-99		Actuals 1999-2000		Actuals 2000-2001	
	Plan	N. Plan	Plan	N. Plan	Plan	N. Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Salaries	13514	319677	14340	323277	13444	344236
Wages	0	902	0	627	0	621

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Overtime Allowance	154	1155	178	1244	181	1263
Domestic Travel Expenses	3921	5022	5353	7857	3115	8180
Foreign Travel Expenses	658	2977	9184	4552	1199	3746
Office Expenses	4017	34224	10774	41211	8481	40625
Rent, Rates & Taxes	0	0	0	17297	0	16576
Publications	0	479	0	617	0	703
Other Admn. Expenses	0	1250	0	1418	0	1881
Advertising & Publicity	0	48	0	91	0	59
Minor Works	1410	130	3303	131	3424	162
Contributions	0	25	0	32	0	25
Professional Services	800	1032	906	537	1867	5812
Grants in aid	750035	44200	748692	47000	1312213	49400
Other Contractual Services	0	5327583	0	7632100	0	8836123
Subsidies	3400000	23	2953300	24	2950000	6
Lumpsum Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspense	0	20000	0	20000	0	16500
Interest	0	215000	0	206899	0	0
Other Charges	2370	31402	9178	21244	5309	21284
Machinery & Equipments	9643	30000	4081	15025	5030	16747
Major Works	15102	0	17186	0	15355	0
Investments	12197900	0	12426900	0	12820000	0
Loans & Advances	14020000	0	15199132	0	10776399	0
Other Capital Expenditure	664293	0	293466	0	445323	0
Inter Account Transfer	0	169165	0	141515	0	0
Grand Total	31083817	6204294	31695953	8482698	28361340	9363949

*[English]***Gas Pipeline from Iran and Bangladesh**

761. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal by Gas Authority of India Limited for piped gaslines from Iran and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it will be beneficial to our country; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed and become operational?

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) Under Indo-Iran bilateral cooperation, there is a proposal to explore both on-shore and off-shore gas pipeline options from Iran to India. For this project Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies by the respective Governments. For offshore pipeline option outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan a feasibility study has been jointly awarded by GAIL and NIOC to M/s Snamprogetti-Saipem of Italy which is progressing.

With regard to Bangladesh, a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited will participate in the import of natural gas. Government of Bangladesh have however yet to take a decision about export of gas to India.

The pipeline gas imports would certainly benefit the Indian gas market as domestic supplies are inadequate to meet the growing gas demand. The core sectors like fertilizer and power need larger and large quantities of gas. Similarly, industrial, residential and transport sectors too would require more gas in coming years.

(c) Time frame for Indo-Iran pipeline project can only be known after the techno-economic viability of this project, based on Detailed Feasibility Report, is established. Whereas in case of Bangladesh it can only be known after the decision of the Government of Bangladesh is formally communicated.

Lost and Found Office

762. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways operate any lost and found office in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the rules;

(c) whether lost luggages or forgotten goods in trains are not stored by the conductors or returned/handed over to station masters for safe-keeping; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to increase awareness and lay down rules in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) The existing provisions are adequate to take care of lost or unclaimed articles.

Statement

Railways do not operate any exclusive functional "Lost & Found Office". However, provision exists in Chapter XXII of Indian Railway Commercial Manual, Vol. II for Safe custody/Disposal of lost or unclaimed articles.

Booked parcel, luggage and wagon-load consignments which gets unconnected *en-route* due to various reasons are connected by Not Received Cells, working at various levels of Indian Railways.

End to end tracing of these consignments is done to ensure that the consignment reaches the desired destination within a reasonable time.

Computerisation of parcels has already been undertaken at major terminals to streamline the booking and carriage of parcels and also the project of Freight Operating Information System (FOIS), which will virtually eliminate the possibility of unconnected wagons and facilitate real time location of all wagons, is going to be commissioned shortly.

Luggage left behind by passengers in trains or station premises, or found in empty carriages by RPF and TXR staff, or left in cloakrooms and any other unconnected consignments either parcel or wagon-load are handed over to station master for further disposal, who will make necessary arrangements for their safe custody.

For safe custody of the articles in the Goods/Parcel Office, Station Master himself sees to it that the lost property is restored to the rightful owner on the basis of any clue as to the ownership found from the packages, etc. All lost property, if claimed and identified to the satisfaction of the Station Master, is delivered to the owner on obtaining an application from him and completion of necessary formalities. In case of any doubt about the ownership of the lost property, delivery is made only after obtaining the orders of the Divisional Commercial Manager.

In order to ensure regulated, systematic & safe custody of these articles, following measures are taken:—

- (1) Proper record of the articles is maintained in the station i.e. All lost & unclaimed articles found by the railway staff or deposited by any person are entered in the "Lost Property Register". Each article is entered separately with full particulars of its description, marks, actual weight, approximate value (if ascertainable) etc.,
- (2) These articles are properly repacked to the original condition and sealed with the station seal to avoid damage and pilferage.

- (3) Each article or package is labelled with the serial number of its entry in the Lost Property Register.

All unclaimed consignments and leftover things which could not be connected and handed over to rightful consignee/owner are auctioned as per existing instructions from time to time.

Procurement of Wagon

763. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had procured wagons through Wagon India Limited (WIL) at higher rates during 1994-95 to 1997-98 instead of purchasing them by inviting open tenders through newspapers;

(b) whether the procurement resulted into extra expenditure of Rs. 23.24 crore;

(c) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and accountability and responsibility fixed against persons for causing pecuniary loss to the State; and

(d) if so, the policy for making purchases and the reasons for not purchasing at economical rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Prior to 93-94, orders for wagons were placed by the Ministry of Railways directly on member units of Wagon India Ltd. (WIL) which was constituted with the Cabinet approval in 1974. In this system of procurement, prices were determined in accordance with the recommendations of Pricing Committees formed first under the Chairmanship of Chairman/BICP and subsequently under Chief Adviser (Cost)/Ministry of Finance on the basis of cost analysis done by these independent agencies. In view of larger perspective of liberalization of economy as per measures taken by the Government of India in early nineties, Ministry of Railways took a decision to go for competitive tenders also as a parallel measure. Accordingly, wagons were procured during 94-95 to 97-98 through WIL as well as through open tender for partial requirement for testing the market and achieving the economy. Keeping in view the financial savings accruing to the Railways through competitive purchase and after the revised system of procurement of wagons through open tender stabilized, Railways switched over to system of procurement of 100% requirement through open tender from 98-99 onwards. Thus, 94-95 to 97-98 was a transition period during which the new system was evolving. Procurement through WIL at slightly higher rate during the above period for partial

requirement has to be viewed in the background of Government's objectives of formation of WIL, recommendation of Standing Committee as well as evolving policy of Ministry of Railways to achieve economy and transparency in procurement.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) & (b) above.

(d) The revised system of procurement through open tender was initiated in phased manner to achieve further economy and competitiveness and from 98-99 onwards, Railways are making procurement of 100% requirement through open tenders.

Ban of use of Cellular Phones at Petrol Pumps

764. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

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

(a) whether the Oil Industry Safety Directorate has recommended for switch off of cellular phones at petrol pumps;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any direction to create awareness among customers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the directions effectively?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has directed that steps should be taken to create an awareness amongst customers about the need for switching of cell phone while at retail outlets. Further, the Oil Marketing Companies have been instructed to display warning notices apart from orienting field staff at the retail outlets for distributing suitable pamphlets to each vehicle entering the premises for a period of 30 days or so. A Press Release was also made on 27th June, 2002 for the information of the public at large.

[Translation]

Non-Utilisation of Amount Allocated for Development Work

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

(a) the amount allocated to Railways for development works during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount allocated every year for the development work has been fully exhausted;

(c) if so, the details of development work undertaken during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) Works involving developmental activities in the Railways are distributed across several plan-heads. The net amount allocated and the net expenditure in the last three years on the plan-heads primarily covering developmental activities has been as under:

(figures in Crs. of Rupees)

Plan head	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure (Approx)
New Lines etc.	600	521.03	825	710.24	1015	891.06
Gauge Conversion	645	543.07	600	454.04	665	686.44
Doubling	625	554.57	655	524.10	672	600.06
Railway Electrification	350	319.16	325	302.22	225	269.47
Metropolitan Transport Projects	300	245.22	400	262.66	378	280.82
Traffic Facilities	220	170.82	225	148.79	225	172.18
Railway Research	10	7.07	10	9.21	10	7.56
Passenger and other Users amenities	130	115.14	200	136.36	200	168.70
Other electrical Works	130	103.68	130	92.67	120	97.65
Workshop and Production Units	250	166.80	220	165.09	220	205.69
Computerisation	70	39.88	70	55.49	70	67.95
Machinery & Plant	110	90.39	100	90.95	100	82.59
Total	3440	2876.83	3760	2951.82	3900	3530.17

Shortfall in expenditure has been mainly due to inadequate availability of resources because of financial support extended to Konkan Railway Corporation and the shortfall in international generation of resources.

[English]

Under Weight LPG Cylinders by BPCL

766. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BPCL distributors in Delhi are getting under weight cylinders from bottling plant;

(b) if so, whether BPCL has received the complaints from their distributors in this regard;

(c) if so, the remedial action taken by BPCL in this regard;

(d) whether distributors who have complained to the company have been harassed by the company; and

(e) if so, the facts 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) Some underfilled cylinders were detected while unloading the same at the end of BPCL distributors in New Delhi which is a part of BPCL's quality control measure. The distributors have been given credit note for the same.

(b) BPCL have not received any complaints of underweight cylinders from the distributors.

(c) Strict quality control checks and regular inspections are carried out while bottling LPG to ensure that no under weight cylinders are delivered to the consumers.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Introduction of F.M. Radio on Long Distance Trains

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

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibility of introducing FM Radio on various long distance trains along with music etc. already being relayed on them to improve recreational standards in the interest of passengers;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the time by which such arrangement be made in all such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways have, however, conducted joint trials with All India Radio (AIR) for extension of Direct to Home (DTH) Radio Channels launched by AIR, for passengers, on one Rajdhani Express Train. Further decision on extension of the service on other Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains will be taken after receipt of the report of the trials.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Vendors Selling Items in Trains

768. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several unauthorised vendors sell catering items in the trains in connivance with the railway authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of guilty persons against whom action has been taken in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Unauthorised hawking on railway stations and trains is a punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989. Railway administration conducts special drives from time to time to control authorised hawking through prosecution and imposing penalties on such activities.

(b) and (c) Cases of connivance of railway staff with unauthorised hawkers/vendors have not come to notice. However, as a result of checks conducted during the last three years viz. 1999, 2000 and 2001 as many as 50907, 59639 and 80514 unauthorised hawkers and vendors had been apprehended respectively.

[English]

LPG Plants based on Cow Dung

769. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up cooking gas plant from cow dung with the Japanese assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance received from Japan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

Expenditure Incurred on Advertisements

770. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on advertisements issued by various ministries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether each ministry has a specific budget for the purpose; and

(c) if so, whether the expenditure was within the grants sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The total expenditure committed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) on advertisements issued by various Ministries/Departments inclusive of Autonomous Bodies & Public Sector Undertakings through DAVP during the years 1999-2000; 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was Rs. 81,13,14,143/-, Rs. 73,88,05,298/- and Rs. 88,62,56,376/- respectively.

For releasing advertisements through DAVP, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been classified into two categories; namely, Paying and Non-Paying. While, Paying Ministries/Departments place the requisite funds in advance at the disposal of DAVP for their advertisements to be released by DAVP; the expenditure on release of advertisements for Non-Paying Ministries/Departments is met from the Sanctioned Budget Grant of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The expenditure incurred from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Budget was from within the grant sanctioned. DAVP does not maintain the details of Sanctioned Budget Grants of other Ministries/Departments.

Special Halls for X-Rated Films

771. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "X-tra special halls for X-rated films" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated June 17, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Censor Board proposes to allow screening of X-rated films without cuts in special houses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the justifications for making changes in the Cinematograph Act, 1952?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Comments of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) had been called for. CBFC has informed that the news-item refers to a suggestion received by the Board in connection with an exercise undertaken to recommend to the Government various

suggestions for review of the Cinematographic Act 1952 and the Rules made thereunder. In the light of the objectives of Film Certification, the Government has advised CBFC that the stray suggestion received by CBFC regarding 'XA' (X Rating) film certification is neither desirable nor in order and therefore need not be considered.

Savings of Working Expenses

772. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the savings of working expenses of railways have crossed the estimates during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner by which the working expenses were reduced by the railways; and

(d) the target fixed for the current year and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ordinary Working Expenses of Railways registered a saving of Rs. 1487 cr. in 2001-02 as against a target of Rs. 910 cr. set in the beginning of the year. The saving occurred mainly due to strict implementation of various economy and austerity measures on the Railways, non-materialisation of certain items of expenditure for which budget provision existed and, to a small extent, shortfall in the targeted freight loading and the resultant drop in the level of activity.

(d) In the current financial year, a saving target of Rs. 650 cr. has been fixed and the Railways, inter-alia, are taking the following steps to achieve the target:-

- (i) Better manpower management for improving per capita productivity.
- (ii) Energy conservation.
- (iii) Efficient utilisation of assets.
- (iv) Reduction in equipment failure.
- (v) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of spending limits and monthly budget proportions and also through control on cash outgo.
- (vi) Austerity in areas of hospitality, publicity, advertisements etc.

Indravati Hydro-Electric Project

773. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost and actual amount spent on the Indravati Hydro-Electric Project so far;

(b) whether the left side canal of that project has become weak and require urgent renovation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The estimated cost of Upper Indravati hydroelectric Project at December, 1996 price level was Rs. 1107.10 crores and the cumulative expenditure till March, 2002 was Rs. 1118.36 crores.

(b) and (c) The left main canal from RD 00 to 15 Km. had become weak and required urgent renovation. According to the Government of Orissa, Rs. 44 lakhs were allotted for de-silting works and Rs. 20 lakhs for lining of left main canal during the last financial year.

Engineering Workshops in Tamil Nadu

774. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the Engineering Workshops in Tamil Nadu presently are not getting job orders and workshops are not being used at their optimum level;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu to make these workshops to Mechanical workshops with some training to workers;

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

(d) the details of engineering workshops which are not being used at their optimum level in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. The only Engineering Workshop in Tamil Nadu, i.e., Arakkonam Engineering Workshop has sufficient workload at present and shop is being used satisfactorily.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nil.

Construction of RoB in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal

775. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for the construction of road over bridges in their States, location-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the present status of on-going projects of road over bridges in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal alongwith the funds allocated to each of the project; and

(d) the time by which construction of such bridges is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) A statement, containing proposals of ROB's falling in Andhra Pradesh is attached. However, no firm proposals of ROB has been received from the State Govt. of Uttaranchal.

(d) Railways will complete the work on bridge proper (across tracks) simultaneously with the work on approaches to be done by State Govt. concerned.

Statement

(Fig. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of work	Railway	Sanctioned during	Allocation during 02-03	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ballharshah-Kazipet ROB in lieu of LC No. 62 at Km. 237/8-10 near Bellampalli station.	SCR	2000-01	100	Revised estimate under process.
2.	Tirupathi-Reningunta Section: ROB in lie of LC No. 105 at km 92/9-10 between Tirupathi town	SCR	1999-00	100	GAD approved.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Ankapalli-Thadi ROB in lieu of LC No. 487 at km. 747/1-2 on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Sec.	SCR	2000-01	100	GAD approved.
4.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 122 at km. 528/32-34 near Madhira station on KZJ-BZA section.	SCR	2000-01	100	Tender under finalisation for. Portion, State portion tender called for.
5.	Guntur-Dunakonda ROB in lieu of LC No. 306 at km. 10/8-9 near Perecherla stn.	SCR	2000-01	100	GAD for approval with State Govt.
6.	Nuzvid-Vatlur ROB in lieu of LC No. 336 at Km. 470/1-2 in BAZ-VSKP sec.	SCR	2001-02	150	Final alignemnt to be decided by State Govt.
7.	Wadi-SC-ROB in lieu of LC No. 26 at Km. 165/13-14 near Hafizpet station.	SCR	2000-01	80	GAD approved. Estimate under process.
8.	Gudur-Oduru ROB in lieu of LC No. 99A &B at Km. 135/2-4, 03/-4 on Gudur-Renigunta-BZA section.	SCR	2000-01	150	State Govt. to finalise location and alignment
9.	Bhadrachallam RUB in lieu of LC No. 18KK at Km. 54/8-10 on Domakal-Bhadrachalam road section.	SCR	2000-01	95.08	Rly portion contract awarded. Approach work started.
10.	Anantpur yard ROB in lieu of LC No. 128A in GTL-DMM sec.	SCR	2001-02	120	GAD sent to State Govt. Estimate for approaches awaited from State Govt.
11.	Budwel-Umdanagar-ROB in lieu of LC	SCR	2001-02	100	GAD under finalisation. Tender for soil exploration are being invited.
12.	Maula Ali-ROB in lieu of LC No. 3MG at Km. 19/2-3 in SNF-MLY bypass	SCR	2001-02	100	GAD finalised by Railway. GAD sent to State Govt. for approval.
13.	Tadi-Duvvada ROB in lieu of LC No. 490 at Km. 755/3-4 in BZA-VSKP sec. (Anakapalli)	SCR	2001-02	146.13	GAD under preparation.
14.	Pedavadlapudi ROB in lieu of LC No. 301 at Km. 415/34-36 in BZA-GDR sec.	SCR	2001-02	150	GAD approved. Detailed estimate under process.
15.	PEDDAPALLI-ROB in lieu of LC No. 41 at Km. 290/16-18 in KZJ-BPQ sec.	SCR	2001-02	100	GAD approved. Estimate of State Govt. portion awaited.
16.	Ongole-ROB in lieu of LC No. 208 at Km. 291/1-2 in BZA-VSKP sec.	SCR	2001-02	150	GAD sent to State Govt. for approval.
17.	Anaparthi Station Yard ROB in lieu of LC No. 413 at Km. 602/1-2 in BZA-VSKP sec.	SCR	2001-02	150	State Govt. requested for change of location. Revised plan is awaited from State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Kagaznagar yard ROB in lieu of LC No. 77 at Km. 202/24-26 in KZJ-BPQ sec.	SCR	2001-02	100	Final location and alignment awaited from State Govt.
19.	Saffiguda ROB in lieu of LC No. 254 at Km. 615/3-4 in SC-DNC sec.	SCR	2001-02	100	Alignment yet to be finalised by State Govt.
20.	Guntur-Dronachallam ROB in lieu of LC No. 285 at Km. 43/11-12 near Narasareopet station.	SCR	2000-01	100	GAD approved. Detailed estimate under preparation.
21.	Mahaboobabad-ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 82 @ Km. 437/28-30 in KZJ-BZA sec	SCR	1999-00	120	Work in progress.
22.	Kuppam-ROB in lieu of existing LC No. 101 at Km 251/13/14 at Kuppam of Jolarpettai-Bangalore City section	SR	1998-99	300	Work in progress.
23.	Jamai Osmania-Road-over-Bridge in lieu of LC No. 2 @ Km. 4/4-5 in SC-DNC Sec.	SCR	1990-91	75	Tender under finalisation.
24.	Palakollu-Gorintada-Road-over-Bridge in lieu of 'B' class LC No 23 @ Km. 31/2 in BVRM-NSP sec.	SCR	1990-91	110.25	Railway portion completed approaches in progress.
25.	Kazipet Yard-ROB in lieu of LC No. 59-A at Km. 324/1-2	SCR	1992-93	100	GAD aproval awaited from State Govt.
26.	Chirala ROB in lieu of LC No. 244. @ Km. 340/12-14 in BZA-GDR sec.	SCR	1994-95	54.47	Foundation and substructure completed. Old tender terminated Fresh tender under finalisation.
27.	Zaheerabad—ROB in lieu of of L-Xing No. 30 @ Km. 60/11-12 in VKB-AWB sec.	SCR	1994-95	100	Work nearly in completion.
28.	Sitafalmandi—ROB in lieu of LC No. 1 @ 2/7-8 near Sitafalmandi in SC-DCN sec.	SCR	1996-97	100	Tender under finalisation.
29.	Guntur-Tenali-Roadover bridge in lieu of LC No. 250 @ Km. 23/11-12 in GNT-TEL sec.	SCR	1998-99	250	Work in progress.
30.	Khammam—ROB in lieu of LC No. 104 @ Km. 484/32-34 in KZJ-BZA sec.	SCR	1999-00	100	GAD approved. Detail estimate awaited from State Govt.
31.	Pithapuram-ROB in lieu of L.c. No. 429 @ Km. 638/12-13 in BZA-VSKP sec	SCR	1999-00	0.1	GAD approved by railway. Estimate awaited from State Govt. State Govt has requested for change in alignment. Final plan awaited from State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Palavalasa Rob at Km. 655.594 on NH-5 bet. Baruva-Mandasa Road, LC No. 236	SER	1999-00	75	As per Dir/NHA/VSKP ROB to be avoided by re-alignment of NH5.
33.	Duvvada Rob at Km. 752/1-3	SER	2001-02	100	GAD approved. Estimate under progress.
34.	Haripuram ROB at Km. 664.442 on NH 5 bet. Mandasa Road-Summadevi LC No. 242	SER	1999-00	75	As per Dir/NHA/VSKP ROB to be avoided by realignment of NH 5.
35.	Kanchilli ROB at Km. 646.469 on NH-5 between Baruva-Sompata LC No. 229	SER	2000-01	100	GAD approved. Structural drawing and launching scheme to be submitted by NHA.
36.	ROB between Chipurapalli-garividi at km 792/12-13	SER	2002-03	1.00	Fixing of alignment is in progress.
37.	ROB between Nellimaria-Vizianagaramrividi at km 811/3	SER	2002-03	1.00	Preparation of drawing is in progress.
38.	ROB between Kantakapalli-Kotavalasa at km 851/1 on District Road	SER	2002-03	122.5	Preparation of drawing is in progress.
39.	ROB between Pendurthi-Simhachalam at km 863	SER	2002-03	122.5	Preparation of drawing is in progress.
40.	Mellamadugu-Khammam-ROB at km 484/16-18 on KZJ-BZA section	SCR	1999-00	100	GAD being revised.
41.	Phirangipuram-Satuluru-ROB at km 28/12-13 in lieu of LC No. 295 on GNT-DKD section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD approved. Drawings under scrutiny.
42.	Vinukonda-Gundlakamma-ROB at km 91/8-9 in lieu of LC No. 295 on GNT-DKD section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD approved.
43.	Vinukonda-Gundlakamma-ROB at km 86/1-2 in lieu of LC No. 262 on GNT-DKD section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD approved.
44.	Bellamkonda-Piduguralla-ROB at km 71/9-10 in lieu of LC No. 62 on GNT-SC section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Work in progress.
45.	Munimaka-Santamagaluru-RUB at Km 60/1-2 on DKD-GNT section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Work in progress.
46.	Saturu-Narsaraopet-ROB at km 42/5-6 in lieu of LC No. 286 at km 43/1-2 on GNT-DKD sections	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD approved.
47.	Tarlupadu-Cumbam-ROB at km 169/10 on DKD-DNC section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD awaited from State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6
48.	Vellalacheruvu-Savalypuram-ROB at km 66/4-5 in lieu of LC No. 272 on GNT-DKD section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD approved.
49.	ROB at km 91/6-7 between VKM-GKM stations on GNT-DKD sections	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD under progress.
50.	ROB at km 84/10-11 between VKM-GKM stations on GNT-DKD section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Plan and estimate under preparation
51.	Challavaripai-tadipatri-ROB at km 366/2-3 on RU-GY section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	GAD awaited from State Govt.
52.	Giddalur-Diguvametta-ROB at km 209/11-12 on DKD-DNC section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Work in progress.
53.	Vemulapadu-Rayalacheruvu-ROB at km 279/14-15 on RU-GY section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Work in progress.
54.	Gangayapalle-Kamalapuram-ROB at km 279/14-15 on RU-GY section	SCR	1999-00	BOT	Work in progress.
55.	ROB at km 388/13-14 in lieu of LC No 170 on Rj-Gt section	SCR	NA	BOT	Work in progress.
56.	ROB at km 81/13-14 on RU-GDR section.	SCR	NA	BOT	Work in progress.
57.	ROB at km 189/10 in lieu of LC No 221 on DKD-DNC section	SCR	NA	BOT	Work in progress.
58.	New Rub at Azampura at Km 9/4-5 on SC-DNC section in lieu of exg. RUB 27a	SCR	NA	BOT	Details awaited from state Govt.
59.	New RUB at Azampura at km 7/20-21 on SC-DNC section in lieu of exg. RUB 20	SCR	NA	BOT	Details awaited from state Govt.
60.	RUB No. 564 at km 33/1-2 near Chittoor on TPTY-KPD section	SCR	1999-00	Deposit	GAD approved.
61.	ROB at km 20/3-4 between Guntur-Vejandla on NH-5	SCR	1999-00	Deposit	Work in progress.
62.	ROB at km 421/5-7 between Krishna canal and Kolunukonda on NH-5	SCR	NA	Deposit	Work in progress.
63.	RUB at Alampur at km 240/6-7 between Kurnool and Alampur Stns.	SCR	NA	Deposit	GAD approved. Work in Progress
64.	Widening of exg. ROB No. 163A at Tirupati Renigunta end	SCR	NA	Deposit	Work in progress.
65.	Rebuilding of exg. RUB No. 150 on Tirupati-Pakala MG line (2x9.8 PSC)	SCR	NA	Deposit	Work in progress.
66.	Alugaddabavi-Proposed widening of exg. RUB No 1A	SCR	NA	Deposit	Work in progress.

No firm proposal has been received from the State of Uttaranchal

Potential of Wind Power

776. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the potential of wind power generation in the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual utilization of the potential of wind power in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether wind power generation is much cheaper and non-pollutant; and

(d) if so, the cost of generation per unit and the capital investment required to install such a power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential, which can be tapped at present is, however, about 13,000 MW. A total wind power capacity of 1628 MW has so far been installed in the country. A Statement on the gross and technical potential, and installed capacity, State-wise is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The generation of power from wind is non-polluting and environmentally benign. The levelised cost of wind power generation compares favourably with cost of conventional power, taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects. The capital cost of wind power varies between Rs. 4.5 crore to Rs. 5 crore per MW, and the cost of generation ranges between Rs. 2.25-Rs. 2.75 per unit depending upon the site.

Statement

*State-wise Gross and Technical Potential & Wind Power Installed Capacity
(As on 31.03.2002)*

Sl. No.	State	Gross Potential (MW)	Technical Potential (MW)	Total Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275	1750	92
2.	Gujarat	9675	1780	167
3.	Karnataka	6620	1120	69
4.	Kerala	875	605	2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5500	825	23
6.	Maharashtra	3650	3020	399
7.	Orissa	1700	680	—
8.	Rajasthan	5400	895	16
9.	Tamil Nadu	3050	1750	857
10.	West Bengal	450	450	1
11.	Others	—	—	2
Total		45195	12875	1628

Direction for Screening of Documentaries/Films

777. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question no. 5952 on August 31, 2001 regarding "Rules for

Screening News Documentary in Cinema Houses" and to state:

(a) whether the writ petition in the High Court of Kolkata has been disposed of; and

(b) if so, the details of the order given by the court?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Growth Rate of Power Generation

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

(a) whether power generation in the country decelerated during April-May, 2002 to 2.1% as compared to a growth rate of 3.4% last year for the same period;

(b) if so, the reasons for this reduction in growth of power generation in the first two months of this year;

(c) whether new generation capacity has been added in the last year;

(d) if so, the reasons for lower growth of power generation in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the performance of the power generating capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The growth rate of All India Electricity generation in the country during April-May, 2002, was 3.5% as compared to 2.4% during the corresponding period last year (2001-2002).

(c) Yes, Sir. New generating capacity of 3115.25 MW was added during 2001-2002.

(d) The growth in Electricity generation during 2001-02 was 3.1% as compared to 3.9% during 2000-2001. The decline in growth during 2001-02 was mainly due to (i) Less hydel generation due to less inflow of water in the major reservoirs of the country, (ii) less generation in gas based/liquid fuel stations due to inadequate supply of gas, (iii) Less drawal by States from Independent Power Producers due to high cost of Naphtha, (iv) Inadequate capacity addition.

(e) The performance of generating capacity is being reviewed regularly. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Thermal Power Stations in the country during the year 2001-02, was 69.9% as compared to 69% during 2000-01. However, following steps are being taken to improve the performance of generating capacity:

(i) Revised norms for planned maintenance of large thermal units.

(ii) Early revival of units under forced outage.

(iii) Renovation and modernization and life extension of existing old and in-efficient generating units.

(iv) Disbursement of loan by the Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of Thermal Power Stations under accelerated generation programme.

Setting up of 1000 MW Power Projects

779. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a captive coal based 1000 MW power plant is planned to be set up for power supply to the Capital, in Korba-Chhattisgarh coal pit-heads

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof, indicating the estimated distribution losses likely to be incurred thereby; and

(c) the economic justification of the captive plant for Delhi being located at Korba-Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Government of Delhi has proposed a 1000 MW coal based power plant in Korba-Chhattisgarh pit heads for supply of power to the NCT of Delhi. The proposal is at a very preliminary stage. The Central Electricity Authority has been assigned the work formulation of the preliminary conceptual feasibility report for consideration of the project by the Delhi Government.

(b) and (c) Since the proposal is still at the conceptual stage, it would be premature to indicate details such as the cost, transmission and distribution losses; and economic justification etc.

[Translation]

Availability of LPG with HPCL

780. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) the quantum of LPG available with the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the quantum of LPG being used at present;

(b) whether the HPCL proposes to increase the supply of LPG and open more LPG outlets in the country;

(c) if so, the location identified for providing LPG connections by HPCL; and

(d) the number of LPG distributors set up by HPCL in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, the monthly availability of LPG with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is 55.5 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) against the use of 160 TMT per month. The balance requirement of HPCL is met through the supplies from other refineries and fractionators as well as from imports as and when required. HPCL also have the plan to increase the supply of LPG by opening new 683 LPG distributorships in various parts of the country.

(d) As on 1.7.2002, HPCL is operating 1,839 LPG distributorships across the country.

Setting up of Defence Procurement Board

781. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Defence Procurement Board to bring transparency in Defence deals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board has started its functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to bring transparency in defence deals in future and to accelerate procurement of arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government have set up a Defence Procurement Board (DPB) to bring about a higher degree of professionalism, operational efficiency, cost effectiveness and co-ordination in defence acquisitions. The Board is chaired by the Defence Secretary and has senior level representation

from all Departments and Service Headquarters of the Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Orders have been issued, in consultation with CVC and C&AG for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurement cases. The role of authorized Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers has been defined and a system of registration laid down. This is available on the Ministry's website. In addition, it is the Ministry's constant endeavour to simplify the acquisition process.

Austerity Measures

782. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the various Departments under his Ministry on various heads during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose any economy drive to reduce expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering, inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payments made against STD and STD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of airconditioners and coolers and other such expenditure; 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) The amount spent by this Ministry on various heads during the last three years viz. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is Rs. 558.18 lakh, Rs. 632.70 lakh and Rs. 645.50 lakh respectively.

(b) and (c) The instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance on austerity measures are complied with by this Ministry.

[English]

New Generation Weapon Systems

783. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are exploring fresh areas for joint research, development and production of new generation weapon systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A joint working group between Russia and India has been set up to evolve research projects.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Sneaking of Militants in J&K

784. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Al-Qaeida Militants reported to have sneaked into J&K as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated June 14, 2002;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Some reports have been received to suggest that a few Al-Qaeida terrorists may have moved into Jammu & Kashmir after their expulsion from Afghanistan. This has, however, not been confirmed by the Intelligence agencies and Army troops operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) Army troops deployed along the Line of Control/ International Border and those operating in the hinterland, have been sensitised to the possibility of Al-Qaeida terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir.

Representation of AIPEA to withdraw Electricity Bill, 2002

785. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Power Engineers Associations has asked the Government to withdraw the Electricity Bill, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the said association has demanded that Government should not go for privatization in power sector; and

(c) if so, the Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers/ Power Ministers held in March, 2001, it was resolved *inter alia* that 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.

The Electricity Bill, 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.8.2001 and was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

Investment of Foreign Companies In Development of NCES

786. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of proposals from foreign companies to invest in the field of development of non-conventional energy during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals out of them have been given approval;

(d) the areas identified for those proposals, state-wise;

(e) the latest progress of each proposal; and

(f) the details of foreign companies already involved in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per the Government of India Industrial policy, for entire non-conventional energy

sector, 100% foreign direct investment is allowed under the automatic route without prior information to the government. No prior approval of Government is required to set up an industrial undertaking with FDI/NRI/OCB investment. However, during the last three years Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Government of India received and approved five proposals for foreign investment in the non-conventional energy sector. The proposals have direct foreign investment component of

about Rs. 44 crore. It includes Rs. 28 crore in wind energy area, Rs. 11 crore in solar PV and Rs. 5 crore in biomass area. The details of the proposals approved are given at Statement I.

(f) In addition to the proposals approved during last three years, FIPB had approved fifteen proposals during the 1994-95 to 1998-99. The details, of foreign companies involved is given at Statement-II.

Statement I

Foreign Investment Proposals Approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board in Renewable Energy during last three years (from 1999-2000 onwards)

Programme	Collaboration		Total cost (Foreign Equity)	Objective & states where projects are proposed to be set up	Year
	Indian	Foreign			
1. Wind Energy:					
(i)	M/s Enercon Wind Farms (Karnataka)	M/s Enercon GmbH Germany Pvt. Ltd.	Rs. 40 crores (65%)	To set up a 21 MW wind farm in Chitradurga, Karnataka.	2002-2003
(ii)	Pioneer Wincon Ltd.	Wincon A/s Denmark	Rs. 4.00 crore (30%)	For manufacturing wind operated electricity generators in the state of Tamil Nadu.	1999-2000
2. Solar Photovoltaic:					
(i)	Mahrishi Solar New Delhi	Mahrishi Technology CorpnBV Netherland	Rs. 10.60 crore (99%)	For upgradation of solar technology in India. Production facility has been set up in Andhra Pradesh.	1999-2000
(ii)	M/s STECA India Solar Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Helix Solar elektronik GmbH & Mr. Cavstar Michelson	Rs. 20 lakh (100%)	For planning, design and engineering of solar energy system and products in the state of Tamil Nadu.	1999-2000
3. Cogeneration Plant with Woody Biomass:					
(i)	M/s Dheeru Power & Project Pvt Ltd.	Camdon Atlantic Ltd. UK & others	Rs. 24.50 crs. Rs. 4.80 crs.	For setting up of a 6 MW Biomas power project at Nittur Village, Gulti Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka	2001-2002

Statement II**List of Foreign Companies involved in Renewable Energy**

Programme	Company
1. Wind Energy	(i) LM Glass Fiber Denmark & The Industrialisation Fund for developing Countrying (IFU), Denmark.
	(ii) Enercon GMBH, Germany
	(iii) Micon, Denmark
	(iv) NEG Micon, Denmark
2. Solar Photovoltaic	(i) Hileos, Italy
	(ii) Conard Jauslin, etl., Switzerland
	(iii) Sun Power Technik Gmbh, Germany
	(iv) Plum Street Enterprise Inc. USA
	(v) Solar Electric Light Fund & M/s E&Co.
	(vi) Royal Dutch/Shell, UK
3. Battery Operated Vehicles	(i) Frazer Nesh, UK
4. Cogeneration Plant with Woddy Biomass	(i) M/s Frend, Switzerland
5. Municipal Solid Waste into Energy	(i) Eco Technology JVVOY, Finland
	(ii) Mr. Jaishankar Menon, Germany
6. General	(i) Guascor S.A., Spain

Destruction of Terrorist Camps

787. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
 SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terrorist camps being operated against India in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir with the help of ISI;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the number of terrorists sent to India from these camps;

(c) if so, the effective measures being taken in this regard;

(d) the details of ISI activities at different places of Indo-Pak borders and LoC as observed by the Armed forces;

(e) the steps taken to check the Pakistan sponsored terrorism;

(f) the number of terrorists killed by the armed forces during the last six months;

(g) whether the infiltration across the border is going on even after the mediation of USA and assurance by Pakistan;

(h) if so, whether the Government have assessed the current situation; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are about 70 to 80 terrorists training camps operating in Pakistan occupied Kashmir & Pakistan.

(b) and (c) As per information available with the Army about 97 terrorists have infiltrated into Jammu & Kashmir during the month of June, 2002. Adequate military measures have been taken to check terrorist infiltration from across the Line of Control/International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. These include a multi-tiered defensive-cum-counter infiltration posture on the Line of Control, with all known routes on infiltration being guarded and patrolled by troops deployed on ground. Although, due to configuration of terrain and the prevailing climatic conditions, it is not possible to hermetically seal the Line of Control, the counter, infiltration posture is being constantly reviewed based on intelligence inputs.

(d) and (e) ISI continues to harbour, train and fund the terrorist organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir. Suitable military measures have been put in place by the Army to address the problem of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, through a continuous process of technological upgrades and refinement in operating procedures.

(f) As per the reports available, 762 terrorists have been killed by the Indian Army and Rashtriya Rifles in Jammu & Kashmir during the period of January to June, 2002.

(g) to (i) Infiltration into Jammu & Kashmir, continues, though there is a marginal reduction. In June, 2002 four infiltration bids were foiled in which 14 terrorists were killed. The marginal reduction in infiltration, can be attributed to the enhanced vigil being maintained by our troops. These trends would need to be watched for some more time before any conclusive assessment can be made.

Revision of Prices of Petroleum Products by Oil Companies

788. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism in petroleum sector, periodic revision of the prices of petrol and diesel has become the order of the day;

(b) if so, the details of revisions made by oil companies since the APM was dismantled; and

(c) if so, any other mechanism evolved to ensure that the oil companies and petrol pump owners do not fleece their customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism effective 1st April 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have become decontrolled and the public sector oil companies are fixing the prices of these products keeping in view the prevalent international oil prices. The oil companies increased the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel by around Rs. 2.50/litre and Rs. 1.50/litre respectively from the midnight of 3rd/4th June 2002 and later by 25 paise for each product from 16th June 2002.

Equity Investment Fund

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

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an 'Equity Investment Fund' for newly established power plants and power generating units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Equity Investment Fund also seek funds from multi-lateral institutions;

(d) if so, the extent of funds and expected corpus fund likely to be generated;

(e) whether any priority is being given to small hydel projects to encourage eco-friendly sources of power; and

(f) if so, the details of such priority and benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has projected a requirement of capacity addition of about 1 lakh MW by 2012. This along with associated transmission & Distribution (T&D) system estimated to require an investment of around Rs. 8,00,000 crores. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has mooted a concept of India Power Fund (IPF) to meet the debt and equity requirements for this purpose. The proposal is at present at concept stage.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is giving high priority for the development of small hydro power projects (SHP) upto 25 MW capacity in the country. Various incentives such as financial support for detailed survey and investigation for SHP sector, Detailed Project Reports (DPR) preparation, Capital Subsidy for Government Sector projects and Interest subsidy for private sector and joint sector projects are available to encourage SHP development in the country.

Reward to Honest Railway Employees

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

(a) whether Railways have any incentive scheme to reward honest railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for introduction of such Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c)

There is no separate incentive scheme to reward honest Railway employees on the Railways. However, Railway employees are suitably rewarded individually as well as in groups for their meritorious service at the Divisional level, Zonal Headquarters' level, Railway board's level and Railway Week and Award at the Minister's level. The awardees are granted Cash Awards, Shields, Merit Certificates, Medals, Commendation Letters, Insignia etc. in appreciation of their contribution meriting recognition in the fields of new innovations, processes, procedures leading to economy in expenditure, improvement in production, import substitution etc., acts of bravery, exemplary work to improve operations, better maintenance and utilization of assets, security and safety, contribution in the field of sports leading to international/national recognition, averting accidents etc.

Rail-cum-Road Bridge over River Ganga in Monghyr

791. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 4096 dated April 18, 2002, regarding Bridge over river Ganga in Monghyr and state:

(a) whether the Railways has obtained necessary clearance for construction of rail-cum-road bridge over river Ganga in Monghyr;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in obtaining the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The work of construction of rail bridge over river Ganga in Monghyr was included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 with the stipulation that work would be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances. Subsequently, based on persistent demand, Final Location Survey for construction of rail-cum-road bridge over river Ganga at Monghyr has been carried out and necessary action has already been initiated for obtaining requisite clearances. No target date for completion of the work has yet been fixed.

[Translation]

Austerity Measures

792. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the various Departments under his Ministry on various heads during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose any economy drive to reduce expenditure on publicity, advertisement, entertainment, catering inauguration functions, seminars, tours within the country and abroad, including the payment made against STD and ISTD Bills, electricity bills particularly the bills of airconditioners and coolers and the other such expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Details of expenditure on the Railways are maintained function-wise and not department-wise. This function-wise break-up is reflected in the various demands for grants. The year-wise amount spent by the Ministry of Railways in various heads under various demands for grants is available in "THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS for Expenditure of the Central Government on RAILWAYS PART-II" presented in the House along with the Railway Budget.

(b) and (c) Railways are taking steps to both control expenditure and increase revenue for maintaining the financial viability of the system. Measures to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, asset utilization, inventory management, fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc. are being implemented. The austerity and economy instructions, issued by the Ministry of Finance, are also followed scrupulously on the Railways. The zonal railways have been given a saving target of Rs. 650 cr. over the current year's Budget to be achieved by implementing the various expenditure control measures.

[English]

Internet Kiosks at Major Stations

793. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railtel, telecoming of the Railways is planning to set up manned internet Kiosks at major stations STD/ISD/FAX/Videoconferencing and chatting facilities for passengers;

(b) if so, the details of the stations identified State-wise so far in the country; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose and time by which these kiosks are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), a Government Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways, has planned to set up kiosks, on trial basis.

(b) Presently following 3 sections have been identified for pilot project:—

- (i) Ludhiana-Amritsar
- (ii) Ahmedabad-Vadodara
- (iii) Chennai-Chengalpattu

(c) The design of kiosks is still in the conceptual stage as these kiosks are to be customised to meet all possible requirements including those of Rail users. The time frame and investments to be made in this activity are yet to be firmed up.

Expansion of Railway Network

794. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has asked the Railways to submit the details of financing structure it would like to have for its massive expansion plans;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have already submitted a Rs. 26,000 crore proposal for expansion and augmentation of its network;

(c) If so, the details of the proposal;

(d) whether the Railways have got approval of the Finance Ministry; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to implement the proposal for expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Railways, in association with the Ministry of Finance has decided to draw up a proposal for strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and its two diagonals, connecting the four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi. In addition, a proposal for construction of Mega Bridges has also been formulated. The investment required for capacity enhancement work on Golden Quadrilateral have been estimated to be in the range of Rs. 8000 crores and

those for construction of Mega Bridges in the range of Rs. 3600 crores. All possible avenues of funding, including multilateral financing and creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for mobilising funds are being explored. The proposal for creation of SPV for Golden Quadrilateral works is presently being processed.

MOU between HPCL and GAIL to Supply Gaseous Fuels

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

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and GAIL have signed a memorandum of understanding with Andhra Pradesh Government to supply gaseous fuels;

(b) if so, whether the detailed feasibility report has been completed;

(c) if so, the details of financial contribution from financial institutions; and

(d) the extent to which such fuels are likely to be supplied through the piped system?

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), (c) and (d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have signed an MoU for setting up a joint venture company for distribution of natural gas/auto LPG/piped gas in the cities of Andhra Pradesh. Projects for the city gas distribution would be taken up after establishing feasibility.

GAIL and HPCL will hold 22.5% equity each and 5% of equity shall be offered to Government of Andhra Pradesh. Balance 50% of the equity is proposed to be offered to the Financial Institutions and public.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Mutual Cooperation of India and Finland in Power Sector

796. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finland has offered to collaborate with India in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Minister of Power had visited Finland from June 26-29, 2002 in response to an invitation extended to him by the Finnish Government. The two countries agreed to promote cooperation in the power sector and to make energy one of the focal areas of the Joint Commission.

[English]

Election Reforms

797. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have called any meeting of the political parties on the election reforms in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government discussed with the political parties on 8.7.2002 the situation arising out of the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 2.5.2002 directing the Election Commission to call for certain additional information on affidavit from the candidates at elections as part of the nomination forms. There was unanimity in the said meeting that only Parliament had the power to legislate in this matter and there was need to curb criminalisation in politics by enacting suitable legislation in consultation with the political parties. A draft of the Bill on the subject has been circulated to them.

Rehabilitation of Retired Judicial Officers in Tribunals & Fast Track Courts

798. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointments in Boards, Tribunals and Commissions and Fast Track Courts are rehabilitating retired judicial officers;

(b) if so, the number of instances of such appointments in respective areas during the last three years; and

(c) whether the Government plan to stop this practice and provide avenues to younger generation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Appointment of District Judges and other judicial officers is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India. Thus, information in respect of appointment of retired judicial officer is not maintained in this department.

The Supreme Court, vide its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India and ors. has, *inter-alia*, given following directions regarding appointment of retired judges to Fast Track Courts:

"The second preference in appointments to Fast Track Courts shall be given to retired judges who have good service records with no adverse comments in their ACRs, so far as judicial acumen, reputation regarding honesty, integrity and character are concerned."

As per available information, States like Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Orissa have appointed retired judges as Presiding Officers in some of their Fast Track Courts, numbering more than 100.

High Court Bench in Kerala & Gujarat

799. SHRI Y.S. SIVAKUMAR:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any new proposal for setting up of High Court Bench from some State Governments including Governments of Kerala & Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which High Court Bench in States are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The setting up of a Bench of a High Court, away from its principal seat, is considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from

the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. As the Government has received complete proposals for setting up Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively, a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri is proposed to be established after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accommodation for Judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court. No complete proposal has been received either from the State Government of Kerala or Gujarat.

(c) As the establishment of Benches of the High Courts involves Parliamentary legislation, it is not feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

SC's Order Regarding Declaration of Parties Candidates about Assets

800. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its order dated May 14, 2002 asked the Government to amend the rules so that it is made obligatory on the candidates/parties to give information about their assets and liabilities, qualifications and criminal antecedents;

(b) whether the National Commission to review the working of the constitution also recommended for a comprehensive legislation regulating the registration and functioning of political parties or alliance of parties; and

(c) whether the Government have examined the orders/recommendations of the Supreme Court and the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 2.5.2002 (not 14.5.2002 as referred to in the question) has given directions to the Election Commission of India to call for the said information on affidavit from the candidates at elections as part of their nomination paper.

(b) and (c) As far as the order of the Supreme Court is concerned, the matter was discussed with the political parties on 8.7.2002 and a draft of Bill has been circulated to them to ascertain their views. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has made certain recommendations recently which are under examination by the Government.

Weakness in the Law relating to Divorce

801. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Law has studied the weakness in the law relating to divorce and maintenance of deserted, divorced and destitute women;

(b) if so, the amendment proposed to be made in the Hindu Law and other related law to help such women in distress;

(c) the time by when the legislation is proposed to be brought out in this regard; and

(d) the number of destitute women in destitute homes, women homes, old age homes, beggar homes and jails in the country, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission of India in its 178th Report and the National Commission for Women (NCW) in its Annual Report 1999-2000 have recommended amendment of section 19 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and to make it analogous to section 126 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 so that a women could file suit for maintenance or relief of any other kind at a place of her residence. This proposal has been circulated to all the State Governments for their comments.

(d) The information is not available with the Union of India, as, the States are concerned with this aspect.

Securitisation of Dues

802. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gridco has decided to sign a tripartite agreement with the Union Government regarding the Securitisation of dues to the central power utilities;

(b) if so, the main reasons given by Gridco in this regard;

(c) whether the Gridco has also stopped power supply to Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) The Tripartite Agreement to operationalise one-time settlement of outstanding dues payable by State Electricity Boards to the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) is to be signed among the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India the State Governments concerned. Government of Orissa sought a few changes in the terms of the agreement, viz., full waiver of interest on delayed payment (against 60% waiver provided in the scheme), waiver of 30% of outstanding principal amount, moratorium of 5 years on the payments of interest on the bonds, starting full payment of current dues from the third year of the scheme, giving Orissa the status of "most favoured State" in allocation of Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme funds for having already implemented the reforms.

However, they have been advised to sign the model Tripartite Agreement without deviation as the CPSUs have already made large sacrifices by way of (i) waiver of 60% of interest/surcharge payable on outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001; (ii) incentive of 2% of the nominal value of the bonds (to be paid by the State Governments) payable by the CPSUs for opening and maintaining Letters of Credit; and (iii) incentives payable by the CPSUs upto 19% of the nominal value to the bonds to be issued by the State Governments for not defaulting on repayment of current dues and adhering to performance milestone, etc. As this model which has already been approved by the Government of India has emerged after discussions in the high level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers, which also include Chief Minister of Orissa and was Chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, further changes and concessions are not feasible now.

(c) It has been ascertained that power was transferred from GRIDCO (Orissa) to APTRANSCO (Andhra Pradesh) through Balimela—Upper Sileru 220 KV line as per bilateral agreement valid up to 31.3.2002. This was extended upto 15.4.2002 on APTRANSCO's request. The supply to APTRANSCO was stopped from 16.4.2002 due to non-payment of dues by APTRANSCO to GRIDCO and power shortage in GRIDCO due to regulation of power supply by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). NTPC has withdrawn the regulation of power supply from 21.5.2002.

(d) Power purchase between State Grids being a bilateral issue, GRIDCO and APTRANSCO may now enter into agreement for power supply, if they so desire through mutual discussions.

Joint Venture Projects with State Government and NTPC

803. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to make the States more responsible and ensure financial viability of their projects, the Union Government have decided to initiate joint venture projects with state Governments and National Thermal Power Corporation as partners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 14 States have already agreed to sign the agreements and more States are expected to follow suit;

(d) if so, the States have signed the agreement; and

(e) the time by which this joint venture projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The development of power projects through joint ventures between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and State Power Utilities has been one of the suggestions for accelerating the power capacity addition programme.

NTPC and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 12.7.2002 for establishing a 1000 MW coal based power project at Ennore in Tamil Nadu as Joint Venture, subject to techno commercial feasibility and bankability of the project etc. This is the only joint venture that has been conceived till now.

Conversion of Parassala Railway Station Into Crossing Station

804. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Parassala Railway Station of Trivandrum-Nagarcovil sector into a crossing station; and

(b) if so, the progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work has been sanctioned in the current year's budget at a cost of Rs. 3.85 Crores.

Pricing of Crude Oil

805. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Gujarat for setting up a pricing agency on crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a Committee to devise a new scheme of royalty on indigenous crude oil. The Committee had sought suggestions from State Governments and Union territories. The State Government of Gujarat had, *inter alia*, suggested for an independent Agency for determining final price of indigenous crude oil. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

Election Commission's Direction regarding Modification in Nomination Forms

806. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has issued directions modifying the nomination forms for election to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the State Legislatures;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto and the consequences of non-compliance or furnishing of wrong information in the modified nomination form or the affidavit attached thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court as contained in its judgement dated 2.5.2002 directing the Election Commission of India to call for certain additional information on affidavit from the candidates at elections

as part of the nomination form, the Election Commission has issued an Order dated 28.6.2002 directing that every candidate at the time of filling his nomination paper for any election shall furnish full and complete information in regard to all the five matters, specified by the Supreme Court in aforesaid judgement, on an affidavit, in prescribed format. The Government has discussed the issue with the political parties on 8.7.2002 wherein unanimous view was taken that only Parliament had power to legislate on election laws. There was also agreement that there was need to curb criminalisation in politics by enacting suitable legislation in consultation with the political parties. Until the legislation is enacted, the directions issued by the Election Commission would be binding and the furnishing of false information on affidavit in that case may attract penal action under the Indian Penal Code.

Security Cover to Oil and Gas Pipelines

807. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

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

(a) whether the Hazira Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline's under water link with the oil and gas fields of the Mumbai coast is vulnerable to terrorists attack, which might bring the activities in almost half of the country to a grinding halt;

(b) if so, whether no security agency is prepared to provide security cover to the 500 metre periphery around the oil platforms to save the pipelines from severe damage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures of the Government propose to take to provide complete security to the entire region of the HBJ pipelines?

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 threat perception and vulnerability of various oil installations including Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline's under water link with the oil and gas fields of the Mumbai coast, has intensified due to recent terrorist activities in different parts of the country. Security of oil installations are reviewed from time to time internally by the concerned oil PSUs as well as by the Government. Recently a high

level Security Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (P&NG) with representatives from Oil PSUs, Security Agencies, some of the State Police Departments, as members of this Committee. The Committee reviews and recommends security of oil installations and measures to strengthen the security. Adequate security has been provided for oil installations and there is no let up in this regard.

[Translation]

Division of Jammu and Kashmir

808. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some political parties and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh have demanded division of Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Some voices have been raised by individuals/organizations in this regard. However, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Trials of Kaveri Engine for Flight Test Bed

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

(a) whether flight test bed of Kaveri Engine was assigned to centre for Air Borne Systems on the recommendations of the Aero-Engine Development Board at a total cost of 5.25 million US dollar, equivalent to Rs. 18.50 crore;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in its Report No. 8 of 2002 (Air Force and Navy) on page 32 in para 21 has brought out the fact that the contract concluded in December 1996 was premature and led to an additional expenditure of Rs. 7.36 crore;

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been made for concluding premature contract;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken to fix the accountability and responsibility of the persons responsible for causing financial loss to the State; and

(f) the steps taken to streamline the working of the defence headquarters?

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

(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) had stated that concluding a contract for Flight Test Bed (FTB) of Kaveri with Russia in 1996 was premature. Since the FTB trial programme involves considerable R&D effort, design and integration work, it requires a sufficient lead time. There was no possibility of checking of mechanical interfaces unless. Kaveri Engine was fitted with the flight test bed. The contract was essential and it was signed at right time for facilitating upfront activities.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

Availability of Natural Gas in North Gujarat

810. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Natural Gas available as on March 31, 2002 in the North Gujarat;

(b) the details of Units/factories in Gujarat which are allocated the Natural Gas as on March, 31, 2002;

(c) the details of units in Gujarat which are not consuming gas inspite of allocation; and

(d) the details of applications for Natural Gas pending as on March 31, 2002 in the North Gujarat Region?

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 average availability of on-shore gas in North Gujarat as on 31.03.2002 is 1 MMSCMD, the same is supplied through pipeline systems to various consumers.

(b) and (c) The details of natural gas allocation and units not drawing natural gas is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Since, the gas allocations in North Gujarat far exceeds the gas availability registering the demand of natural gas in North Gujarat has been stopped.

Statement*Gas Supply in North Gujarat*

S. No.	Consumers	Allocation	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	IFFCO	0.8400	
2.	AEC	0.4000	*
3.	Reliance Industries	0.1700	*
4.	Amol Decolite Ltd.	0.0035	
5.	Amul Dairy Anand	0.0450	
6.	Bhagawati Glass	0.0085	***
7.	Bharat Vijay Mills	0.0150	
8.	Bissaza India	0.0030	
9.	Gobind Glass & Inds	0.0320	
10.	Gopal Glass	0.0170	
11.	Gujarat Chromium	0.0050	**
12.	Gujarat Multi Gas Base	0.0070	
13.	Hi-Temp Ceramics	0.0020	
14.	Interkiln	0.0036	
15.	J.P. Ceramics	0.0025	
16.	Madhusudan Inds.	0.0330	
17.	Mahalakshmi Ceramics	0.0080	
18.	Meh. Distt. Co-op Dairy	0.0325	
19.	Mehsana Banas	0.0050	
20.	Reliance Industries, Ramol	0.0300	
21.	Ronak Ceramics	0.0025	
22.	Sabar Dairy	0.0250	
23.	Santosh Chemicals	0.0013	
24.	Siddharth Cer.	0.0035	
25.	Somani Pillington	0.0200	
26.	Sonya Ceramics	0.0030	
27.	Swastic Sanitaryware	0.0050	
28.	Vee Cee Inds	0.0035	***

1	2	3	4
29.	Jai Bhawani	0.0050	
30.	Nirma	0.0120	
31.	Sterling Chem.	0.0050	
32.	Jalaram Ceramics	0.0160	
33.	Pioneer Ind.	0.0065	
34.	Ril, Motera	0.0280	
35.	Sahajanand Ind.	0.0025	**
36.	Standard Ind.	0.0020	
37.	Ramesh Ind.	0.0013	**
38.	Ashok Chem	0.0035	
39.	Vimal Oil	0.0060	
40.	Akash Ceramics	0.0035	
41.	Ajita Sil	0.0025	
42.	Bhawani Chem.	0.0025	
43.	Akik Tiles	0.0040	
44.	Sterling Ceramics	0.0080	
45.	Probhat Potteries	0.0050	
46.	Shyam Industries	0.0030	
Grand Total		1.8400	

* Gas supply Stopped in view of rupture of AEC/RIL Pipeline.

** Gas Supply Stopped due to various reasons such as pending dues, temporary shutdown of plant, etc.

*** No Gas Supply in view of no valid gas supply contract

Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

811. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of Heavy Industries functioning in the country at present, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the total amount invested by the Government in PSUs during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the ratio of amount invested in public sector in Tamil Nadu as per the total investment made therein;

(d) whether this ratio is below the national average;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There are 49 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) functioning under the control of Department of Heavy Industry as on 31.3.2001, the period till which information is available. The details of CPSUs under different States/Union Territories and their location are given in Volume-I & II of Public Enterprises Survey, 2000-01, which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002 and is a published document.

(b) The details of amount invested in CPSUs in terms of gross block in different States for the years prior to 31.3.2001, is given in Table-16.1 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey of the respective years.

(c) and (d) The ratio of amount invested in public sector in terms of gross block in Tamil Nadu to the total investment made is 4.94% for the year 2000-01. The national average ratio of investment in terms of gross block per State/Union Territory comes to 2.86%. Therefore, the ratio of investment in gross block in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990:—

(1) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Junior Group 'D' posts) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. N-10/9/2001-PPC in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2002.

(2) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Senior Security posts) Service Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. N-10/4/2002-PPC in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002.

[Placed in Library See LT No. 5816/2002]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA— LAID

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 2002."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 2002."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 2002."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th July, 2002."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table four Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 17th July, 2002.

1. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
2. The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
3. The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
4. The Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Study Tour Report

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): I beg to lay on the Table the Study Tour Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings relating to Coal India Limited.

12.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 9th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 9 May, 2002.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): I beg to move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure

and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Anant Gangaram Geete ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Anant Gangaram Geete ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Accounts

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): I beg to move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Dr. Sahib Singh Verma ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Dr. Sahib Singh Verma ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): I beg to move the following motion:— "that the members of

this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by Subrule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri A.K. Moorthy ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule, 254, in the manner required by Subrule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri A.K. Moorthy ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I am going to take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, there is a very disturbing news that has appeared in the Press, that is, regarding the burning of the train at Godhra. This House was rocked and this House had also expressed its anguish over the death of the people who were burnt in the train. At that time it was suggested through video and audio media that this was an act of Muslim community, by some Muslim individuals and there was a backlash. It has now been established and it is part of the court case which has been filed in the Ahmedabad Court. A report of the Forensic Science Laboratory discounts the possibility of a mob throwing inflammable liquid from outside and then setting the coach on fire. Investigations by the Ahmedabad-based Forensic Science Laboratory have shown that almost 60 liters of inflammable material had been poured inside the compartment before it was set on fire.

A report of the Forensic Science Laboratory has now been placed as a part of the charge-sheet filed in the Godhra case. It has been stated both inside and outside

the House that it was part of the work of the ISI. Later on it was expressed by no less than the Prime Minister in the Goa meeting that had Godhra not taken place, there would not have been backlash. This House would like to know this. There are four investigation agencies which have given the report. One report which has come is of the railway police force. It concurs with the report of the Forensic Department.

The other report is of the IB, which also confirms this report. Then again, the RAW has conducted an inquiry and the fourth inquiry is of the local police.

In order to clear the doubt that has been created, the impression in the mind of the common man that the Godhra incident is the creation of a few Muslim individuals needs to be corrected. If this is to be corrected, the reports of these investigating agencies need to be placed on the floor of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar, this is 'Zero Hour'; you cannot give a long speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: If this forensic laboratory report is going to be referred to by the Inquiry Commission, the Prime Minister and others should inform this House what led them to say that it was the handiwork of the ISI. The House needs a clarification and I hope, hon. Speaker, Sir, that you would direct the Government to give a clarification on this issue.

12.12 hrs.

RE: INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO WEST ASIA

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, right from the days of our national struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi, followed by the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and even our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, India had formulated and articulated a very constructive approach to consolidate the peace process in the Middle East as well as contributed to all peace movements of the world.

Right from the days of Pandit Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi and also later on during several successive Governments, we tried to further consolidate the Non-Aligned Movement in order to see that the forces of aggression, designs of imperialist onslaughts and colonial onslaughts are defeated and frustrated. It is a misfortune that history could not keep pace in that order. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, some powers in the world have started showing

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

their teeth aggressively and nakedly, inviting all kinds of fascist culture, posing as warlords.

It is unfortunate that a country with a population of more than one billion, that is, India, which has been the pioneer of all kinds of peace movements against such onslaughts, is sitting like an onlooker of what is happening in the Middle East. It is our country, our Government and our sovereign Parliament, which has stood in defence of the Palestinian cause right from the days of our national struggle. It was our Congress Government, the Government of India and this Parliament, which recognised Palestine and its cause. We gave them the first diplomatic recognition. After the war in Afghanistan in the name of fight against terrorism was over, for the last three months, the focus has shifted to destabilise the cause of the Palestinian struggle. We are reading every day in the newspapers about what is happening in West Bank. Now, a dictation has started on who could be the leader and who would not be the leader, ignoring the right and might of the people. The last onslaught is on the State of Iraq. Even smaller nations like Bahrain, Jordan and Syria have started reacting against it. Even the Russian Parliament has reacted a few days ago. We would like to know where the Government of India stands in this scenario. We are not hearing any observation, any comment or any concern expressed by this Government.

In this process, if something goes wrong in Palestine and ultimately the war phobia comes to the Middle East, India would be affected next. The Seventh Fleet is operating near our zone. It is therefore in the fitness of things that the Government comes out with a clear statement in the House. There should be a discussion in the total ambit of the foreign policy at this moment, which the Lok Sabha has been deprived from discussing. Therefore, I demand that you may kindly advice or direct the Government to come out with a statement first and then all over the House to debate the whole issue. India cannot be treated like a banana nation in some other part of the world that would sit quiet and idle and not react at all. This is not only the concern of the Congress party; it is the concern of the entire House and the nation as a whole...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I congratulate Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi for raising this issue. I strongly demand that the Government must take its position clear. We cannot give up our national foreign policy which is in favour of these countries. Today, what is happening is bypassing of the entire agreed foreign policy of the country. It was our national foreign policy, which has been jettisoned...(Interruptions)

We cannot accept this...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is shortage of water and electricity supply in Delhi and people are calling for help. About 1.5 crore people live in Delhi...(Interruptions) Many people live in jhuggis and slums...(Interruptions) People are facing inconveniences due to non-availability of water and electricity for long hours. There is no water worth drinking. The Congress Government of Delhi has privatised electricity transmission and distribution work in Delhi...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is not a lighter issue...(Interruptions) Let the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs say something about it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If Shri Suresh Prabhu wants to say something he can say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a question of foreign policy...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is a question of country's image...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Government should react and make a statement...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I have heard you. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, on the very first day, you expressed your concern that the issues concerning the nation have to be responded by the Government. This is your own advice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please give me time to speak to Shri Suresh Prabhu, hon. Minister, who is present here. Please sit down. He is also a Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am speaking to the Minister. Do you not allow me to speak to him?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Shri Suresh Prabhu can respond...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): One of the corner-stones of India's foreign policy always has been of national consensus. The views expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi will definitely be passed on to the concerned Minister. We will definitely take note of whatever sentiments have been expressed here...(Interruptions) As I said earlier, the Indian foreign policy has been one of the most consistent ones in terms of articulating the consensus of the people, which has been reflected in the national foreign policy...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people living in JJ clusters and rehabilitation colonies in Delhi are facing shortage of water and electricity. These people remain awake whole night due to non supply of electricity in Delhi. The Delhi Government has restored to privatisation of power in Delhi. We are not against, privatisation, but I would like to submit that despite BSE and Tata being given this job, they are not able to manage the affairs. When a telephonic complaint is lodged in the BSES or TATA office no action is taken to rectify the defect. About 51% of the electricity in Delhi gets diverted illegally and it could a loss of Rs. 1200 crore every year. As a result, the total loss has gave upto Rs. 22 thousand crore.

There is Congress Government in Delhi. They are purchasing power at the rate of Rs. 2.50 but are selling it to those companies at Rs. 1.40. They have been given the freedom to supply power to Government agencies at the rate of Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per unit. Same is the situation of water. There is a shortage of drinking water. No new scheme has been started for arranging supply of drinking water. In order to solve the problem of drinking water, a MGD treatment plant in Sonia Vihar was planned which would have been completed in two years, but still the foundation stone has been not laid by Shrimati Sheela Dikshit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are demanding water and electricity. However, Delhi Government is promoting sale of liquor. If one make a telephone call, he would get liquor but not water. Sir, through you. I would like to

submit that Congress Government had no moral right to be in power while promoting sale of liquor. For many hours, there is no supply of power load shedding is resorted to for several hours. The whole administration is inactive. There is no one to pay heed to the complaints.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi is the capital of India. The Minister of power is present here, he should throw some light as to how this problem can be solved.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, we should also be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I am going to permit you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, I want to give opportunity to maximum number of Members to speak on the issues they have raised. But you must all cooperate; otherwise it may not be possible. Please listen to me. I have received 41 notices. We can at least take up 15 notices today, provided you cooperate. You are all aware of the important issue of floods and storm. How can I allow those issues to be raised during 'Zero Hour' on which we are going to have a discussion? I cannot allow them to be raised because we are going to have a discussion on them as early as possible. So, those Members who want to raise such matters during 'Zero Hour' can speak during the discussion.

Also, I have decided, right from today, that the issues which can be raised under Rule 377, should be raised under that Rule. This issue of Shri Tiwari was permitted because I did not know what exactly he wanted to say. But let me honestly tell you that if you want to raise the issues which are of national or international importance, they can be raised during 'Zero Hour'. Anyway, Shri Banatwalla had given me the notice yesterday, so I am allowing him to speak. So, please co-operate with the Chair. It is in your own interest. Otherwise, out of 41 issues, even five will not be taken up. If you want your issues to be raised, please co-operate with the Chair. That is my earnest request to you all.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of sugarcane growers are facing the problem of non payment of their dues to sugar mills which runs into crores of rupees...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you all standing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When your issue comes up, please speak then only. Shri Banatwalla had given a notice on this issue yesterday.

[English]

I have rightly permitted him. Please sit down.

[Translation]

If you continue to speak in between no one would be given permission.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In view of the gravity of the issue, yesterday I had given an Adjournment Motion with respect to the circumstances leading to the torching of compartment S-6 of the Sabarmati Express at Godhra...(Interruptions) We have the report of the forensic laboratory and that report of the forensic laboratory of Ahmedabad made startling revelations. All this time the nation was told that some miscreants from outside torched the compartment and set it on fire, including its passengers, but now the report of the forensic laboratory has made it very clear that considerable quantity of inflammatory liquid petrol was being carried in the passenger compartment itself and that the fire came from within the compartment. Some of those from within the compartment lit the fire and torched not only the compartment but also the passengers who were travelling in it...(Interruptions) All along we were told that the Ahmedabad carnage was the reaction of some miscreants from outside setting the compartment on fire...(Interruptions) The question is, what action the Government and the Railways have taken on the report...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, I have disallowed your Adjournment Motion. I have permitted you to raise the issue which you have raised. Now I am calling Shri Ramji Lal Suman to raise his issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude and take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When there was a period of tension, with *Kar Sevaks* coming and going, how was 60 litres of petrol allowed to be carried in a passenger compartment?...(Interruptions) That is a matter that the Governments to explain.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing that Shri Banatwalla says will go on record now.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please restore order in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Banatwalla ji, your speech shall not be recorded.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no arrangements have been made for the rehabilitation of minorities in Gujarat. I had been to Ahmedabad a couple of days back...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): There is no point in raising this matter again and again in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: These people are not prepared to listen to the right thing. No arrangements are being made there...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): This is a matter of State Government, so such matters cannot be raised here...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: There is no arrangement for rehabilitation of the riot hit people. They are rather going ahead with the 'Gaurav Yatra'...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek protection from you.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request you

[English]

Shri Ramji Lal Suman, rehabilitation of the victims of Gujarat is an issue which is definitely of an important nature. I am sure that the whole House will agree that rehabilitation has to be done properly. I do not think there is a matter of dispute on the issue. I only wanted you to draw the attention to the subject that rehabilitation should be nicely done. To that extent the issue can be understood. But, beyond that, nothing can be spoken because this is a State matter.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would most humbly like to submit that people in relief camps are not ready to go back to their homes...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: There is no such thing. These people are being given adequate assistance...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. People are not willing to go back to their houses from the relief camps. For those whose houses have been completely destroyed, the Government have announced a relief of Rs. 50,000 to them. I have got with me copies of three cheques which show amounts ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. The Government is not able to make adequate arrangement for the return of the people seeking shelter in camps. These people have become homeless. The State Government has hatched a plot so that these people could not go back to their homes and thus they would not be able to cast a vote in the ensuing elections. This is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister would make a statement on this subject.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be given an opportunity to speak on drought, situation.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allotted a discussion on the subject, you can express your views, then. There is no need to raise it now.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nagpur is the second capital of Maharashtra. As a result, thousand unemployed people come to Nagpur in search of employment. Presently, the population of Nagpur is above 35 lakh. All around the city, there are many jhuggis. According to survey, there are about 12 lakh jhuggis on the Government and private land. The State Government has taken a decision to regularise the jhuggis constructed before 1995, and give them the ownership right of the plot. But some people who did not get the plot, moved to the court. The Court has directed that all applicants should be given plots. If this is done, 8 lakh people are likely to be displaced in Nagpur. So other people went to Supreme Court and got a stay of three months. The Supreme Court has given its verdict that proper arrangements should be made for their relocation within 3 months. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can well imagine how it is justified to make arrangement for 8 lakh people within such a short period. This is not possible even for

the State Government. The Central Government is making arrangements from its side. New arrangements are being made for the homeless. In this situation, State Government and public representatives also spent for these slum-dwellers. Even poor people got their houses built by investing all the money they had. In this situation, to remove them from there would not be justified. Court gives its order in its own way. The State Government and the institution there undergo sufferings. Therefore, the need of the hour is to frame policies for those living in slums. The State Governments in the country are trying to deal with it, but they do not have resources for it. The State Government and the Union Government are chalking out programmes to provide houses to those who do not have. Secondly, such orders bring sufferings for the people. In Nagpur almost 10 lakhs of people are living in fear. What is going to happen tomorrow, they do not know and they might have to go 30-40 kilometer away from the town.

I, through you, appeal to the Union Government that it should come in defence of the State Government and the whole issue should be put before the Supreme Court in right perspective so that clear guidelines should be taken from the court.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of sugarcane farmers of the country are on the verge of starvation and farmers have dues worth Billions of rupees. In Uttar Pradesh, farmers have billions of rupees due. In my constituency alone farmers have one billion of rupees due...(Interruptions) People are not allowed even to weep. In my state three mills have been closed down and eight mills are going to be closed. The plight of the farmers of the country is becoming worse. The sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh are facing closure. This industry is coming to an end, through you, I would like to request the Government of India that State Government and Union Government must save the dying industry and arrangements should be made to repay the dues of the farmers which run into billion...(Interruptions) Already two have been killed in sugarcane agitation and if again firing takes place, what will be the situation. To avoid this in future, I would like to request the Government of India that it must pay for the produce of farmers.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the heel of scams by urban co-operative banks all over the country, it is now the turn of non-banking finance companies to dupe thousands of gullible depositors who stand to lose their life's hard-earned money...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Sir North India is facing drought...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion will take place on this subject.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Maharashtra Apex Corporation Limited, an NBFC headquartered at Manipal, Karnataka is reported to have duped thousands of depositors and is on the verge of winding up. The company had lured depositors from poor and middle class families to invest in the term deposits.

The Reserve Bank of India is supposed to monitor the day-to-day functioning of banks and financial institutions, including non-banking finance companies. The RBI has failed in its duty to protect the interests of depositors. I would urge the Centre to own up full responsibility for this financial scandal which has ruined thousands of small depositors from my region and freeze the assets of the promoters of Maharashtra Apex Corporation Limited and arrange for repayment of dues to depositors...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also one question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your question pertains to State.

[English]

It is a general issue in the interest of the nation, then only it will be taken up.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Taj is facing danger due to polluted atmosphere. In this regard, hon. Supreme Court has accepted a writ. Hon. Supreme Court has directed the Union Government that it provide money for the protection, conservation and to protect the Taj from pollution. As per the direction of the Hon. Supreme court the Union Government provided Rs. 600 crores to protect it from pollution and for its maintenance, and protection. There was a scheme in it that 20 kilometers away from the Taj TZ phase-I, TTZ Phase-II should be created. In it, State Government was asked to provide electricity to villages all around the Taj because people were using lantern or some other

thing for light which was having its impact on the Taj. But the Government is providing electricity only to the revenue villages. Electrification is not taking place in small villages, 'Nagla' and 'Majra'. The electrification is taking place to protect, the 'Taj' from pollution. Many schemes of the Government go upto only big village. But this electrification has to do with pollution and smoke. Even small villages also contribute towards pollution, though in less degree.

Sir, through you, I demand from the State Government that the whole population falling under TTZ should be electrified. The Union Government should intervene in it because it has provided Rs. 600 crore, therefore, monitoring of this money should be done. There members of Parliament come from TTZ-Shri Raj Babbar, Shri Ramjilal Suman and I, myself. We should be made members of the Committee which would look into the works being done there...(Interruptions) The road is not properly made there. When a vehicle would go through 'kuccha road, normally it would emit more smoke. This is dangerous for the 'Taj'. Therefore, roads should be properly made there. All the villages should be electrified and roads should be properly made there. I also know that less than 20 km radius Dhirpura, Laangi, Danikabas, Sujanpur, Jampur, Chamraula, Natha ka Nagala, Tehsil Edmadpur, Tundla, Jalesar, Sadabad legislative constituency villages are not electrified, not even the passing away of so much year of independence. Even after making available Rs. 600 crores electrification is not made. Therefore, I demand that electrification should be done in all these areas and roads should be properly made there....(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Please allow me to raise one important issue because it is a move to divide the country. For the unity of the country, please allow us to raise this important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you to speak, but it was already discussed before you came to the House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: There are some issues that have not been discussed. I appeal to you to allow us to raise this issue. Generally, I do not raise matters that are not important.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mumbai is the financial capital of India.

Mumbai gives much money to the Government of India, but in lieu of this, the money that Mumbai should get for its development, that is not given. You are elected from Mumbai and I was also elected from Mumbai. Therefore, demand has been made for development of Mumbai that Rs. 1150 crores should be given because many development works have to be done there. Therefore, I demand from the Government of India it should give 1150 crores of rupees. Likewise to compensate the losses due to rain in Thane, 300 crores of rupees should be given. Farmers have suffered there and buildings have collapsed. Therefore, the Government of India should give 300 crores of rupees. Sir, you convey our message to Prime Minister that such amount of money should be given to such town.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day, while replying to the debate on the Adjournment Motion, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister said with pride, and I appreciate that sense of pride, that his Government does not look to any foreign power to act in the interest of the country. Today, there is a disturbing news in a section of the media that just a week before the massacre in Qasimpura in Jammu and Kashmir, on the eve of the visit of the U.S. Defence Secretary, our Government had withdrawn three strike divisions from the borders.

It meant taking away of 18,000 Army people as a goodwill measure when we know very well that nothing will matter with Pakistan. Your goodwill initiatives in the past have proved futile. That is what the hon. Deputy Prime Minister himself said. I know that none of them is present here. But this being a very grave matter I would like any hon. Minister present here to take note of this and bring it to the notice of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and then get back to this House as to whether this is a fact that when the US Defence Secretary visited India just to be in his good books, the Government withdrew as many as 18,000 people from the border leaving our people to be massacred by the people whom the Government says are indulging in cross-border terrorism. Are we not leaving a fertile ground for them? What is the action that we are taking? Is our primary concern only to win the confidence or the goodwill of the people in the US? Or, is to protect the interest of the Indians here? I would like this to be told to this House by none other than the Deputy-Prime Minister who was present in the House the other day.

12.42 hrs.

RE: RE-ORGANISATION OF RAILWAYS ZONES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, I have received a number of notices on an important issue which was also discussed in the House. The issue is about the creation of new Railway Zones. I have received several notices. I may be able to read some of the names. They are as follows: Shri Adityanath, Shri Nitish Sengupta, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Ajay Chakraborty; and several other people have given notices.

This issue was raised during the Question Hour also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): But it was not replied to properly.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it was not fully replied to because of shortage of time. I personally feel that this requires a longer discussion. But since people have given notices and since we have inadequate time at our disposal, I would like a few Members to express their views on the issue. Their views should not be of any allegatory nature. They can simply put the views that they want to put so that the time is properly utilised. It does not mean that I am not in favour of allowing a discussion on this.

I would go to the Business Advisory Committee and take up this issue with the leaders of the different political parties. It can be decided in the meeting as to whether a discussion should be allowed or not and if it is to be allowed, then when it is to be allowed. In the mean time, those Members whose names are there in the list would be allowed to speak briefly.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I am withdrawing my name from the list in favour of Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

MR. SPEAKER: Her name is there in the list and she would be allowed to speak. We can go to one item. Let me also make it clear once again that those issues concerning the States, cities and concerning specific problems could be raised under Rule 377. During the Zero Hour, only important issues of the country and those issues which are of national and international importance would be permitted to be taken up. And those issues on which discussions are already allowed would not be allowed to be taken up here again and again during the 'Zero Hour'. That would help the entire House and those

[Mr. Speaker]

Members who are sincere about the business of the House.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia has given a notice of Adjournment Motion and another notice also on this, and so he will speak first on this issue and then Kumari Mamata Banerjee would speak.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, for the last three days I have been giving notices for 'Zero Hour' to raise an issue of national importance, namely drought.

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion on drought would be permitted.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, thank you.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, what about the flood situation?

MR. SPEAKER: Both the issues would be taken up together.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a number of questions have been raised in the past on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have to be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would be very brief because I know there would be a discussion on this under Rule 193 and at that time I can speak on it in an exhaustive manner.

Sir, a number of questions have been asked on the floor of the House in the past in regard to re-organisation of Zones. The reply that we have received is that the entire issue of re-organisation is under review in the light of resource crunch presently faced by the Railways. This was the reply given on 3rd August, 2000. There have been a number of similar replies.

In 1996, the then Railway Minister suddenly announced creation of six zones. We objected to that. I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways then. We immediately took up this matter for examination. We instructed the Ministry of Railways not to proceed in the matter as the Standing Committee had taken up this matter for examination. Without paying heed to the instructions of the Standing Committee, the Ministry of Railways went on with the laying of foundation stones for construction of new zones.

In 1998, another new zone was announced. The Minister was saying that creation of new zones was done based on the recommendations of Review Committee. That Committee was appointed in 1981. It submitted its report running into 12 volumes, one of which was on regrouping of sub-zones. That Committee recommended creation of three zones to start with. It recommended that after the first three zones start full-fledged functioning, the fourth zone could be started.

The situation in the year 1984, when the Railways Reforms Committee made its recommendation, was quite different from that of today. There has been a lot of improvement in information technology since then. After that, a number of Committees have examined this aspect, in addition to the Standing Committee. Very recently, Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report. This Committee was constituted in 1998 by the present Railway Minister in his first tenure. Rakesh Mohan Committee has vehemently criticised the formation of new zones. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is also there. C&AG also vehemently criticised the creation of new zones.

Sir, this is not a question of Bengal vs. Bihar. It is being posed as if this is a question of Bengal vs. Bihar. Our basic question is whether there is any need for creation of a new zone or not. According to five former General Managers, who are experts in this field, if two new zones with Headquarters one at Hajipur and the other at Allahabad are created, supply of coal and steel from the Eastern part of our country to the Northern parts would be disrupted. They said that multiplicity of management centre and zones would disrupt and trunk route that links the eastern part of India, where coal and steel deposits are available, with the northern parts of the country.

When Railways is facing a resource crunch, it was stated two years ago, what is the need to create new zones? What would be the expenditure that would be incurred on this? As per the estimate given in 1986, the minimum fund required to make one new zone functional is Rs. 250 crore. Today it will be double that amount. It will be about Rs. 500 crore per zone and that makes it a total of Rs. 3,500 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: You can say all this when you participate in the debate. You can only express your approach to the issue today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, moreover
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on which issue the discussion is going on. Its reply has already been given, now which discussion is going on...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I have given an adjournment notice...(Interruptions) Give me an opportunity to speak, I will open the whole secret...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is not the question of Bihar and Bengal...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, after the creation of a new zone whether the railways will be operational...(Interruptions) According to the Expert Committee, creation of new zones will not be adding the operational efficiency of the Railways. So, Sir, there is no need for any such zone...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you compel me to stand time and again...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, no single new project was announced...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a number of notices on this issue. I know that you all want to draw the attention of the House and also of the country on this important issue. Everybody is interested to see that the country remains united on this issue.

During the 'Question Hour', it was raised and there itself I had said that the BAC would be the proper authority to decide for a detailed discussion on this subject. But since I have received lots of notices, I thought that the discussion can take place in the next week probably. But at the same time, no injustice should be

done to the Members who have given notices. Therefore, my request would be only to state very briefly your view points. As brief as possible you can express your views.

So, please cooperate. This is in the interest of all the Members. It is not only the question of Bihar and Bengal, as he rightly said. It is the question of the entire country. Therefore, I am entirely aware of the issue. I have given the permission because the decency demands that those Members who have taken up any national issue should be allowed to speak for two minutes.

I hope, you will all cooperate. Let there be a nice discussion to focus the attention not only of the Parliament but of the entire country. Otherwise, any time I can stand up and say that the House is adjourned. But instead of doing that, I think that the best way is that the Members who are really desirous should make a very brief statement on this issue. During the discussion next week, they can make their speeches for as much time as they want. Now, please cooperate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, my last point is this.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The question on this issue was raised in the House and its reply was also given. Now the people of Trinamool Congress are speaking on this issue, what is the purpose of this discussion. They had discussed on this issue ten minutes before...(Interruptions) Previous ten minutes proceedings of should be seen.

MR. SPEAKER: When I give you an opportunity to speak only then you speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is on his legs. I will give a chance to you also. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let the entire issue be referred to an Expert Committee. Till then, the notification which has been issued should be kept in abeyance.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Hon. Speaker, Sir, when the Prime Minister and the Deputy

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Prime Minister sat together and decided that the issue should go back to the Cabinet, we thought that it would not be proper to discuss it in the House because we trust the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. They have already said that they will discuss this matter in the Cabinet.

But, Sir, today I am worried. Even after such a decision of the Prime Minister, I see in the reply of the one of the Starred Questions today where it has been mentioned that on the 14th June the notification has been issued. It is the reply of the hon. Minister. But the notification has been issued on the 4th July. On this matter, the Minister has misled the House. Already, the notification has been issued on 4th July and on 14th was the first meeting about the new zones.

Sir, I would like to inform you that the Government had said that this matter should go back to the Cabinet. Then how come the instructions are being given by the Department of Railways that more than 10,000 staff should be shifted from Calcutta to other parts of the country? Sir, as you know, Indian Railways are the lifeline of the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Please give us also an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You also speak.

[English]

Sir, Indian Railways are the lifeline of the nation. This Zone was set up because of the Railways infrastructure, the communication system, the port system, the coal availability and the availability of other infrastructure. Fortunately or unfortunately, Kolkata, Chennai, Mangalore, Hyderabad and Mumbai are A-1 Cities and have some basic facilities.

Two Zones are situated in Kolkata—the Eastern Railway and the South-Eastern Railway. The Central Railway and the Western Railway are situated in Mumbai. The Southern Railway is situated in Chennai. The South-Central Railway is situated in Secunderabad. The North-East Frontier Railway is situated in Guwahati and the Northern Railway is situated in Delhi. Why are we raising this question now?

They are talking about the reports of 1984. To all those reports, the Government so far said that this is no

need for doing that. But after 18 year, now they are saying that they are going to accept those reports. It is a major unilateral decision, without making any study.

Sir, you can, for the moment, forget about Bengal. We know what to do and what not to do. We did not divide and we do not want to divide the country. But here, some people are playing the dirty game to divide the country, but we are not. But, I would like to ask you, Sir, one question. You belong to Mumbai and if the Western Railway or the Central Railway is going to be bifurcated, what will you do? We do not want that the State should not get the opportunity. But I request them not to bifurcate. When I have the existing facilities, you have no right to withdraw those facilities or to shift those existing facilities. But this is happening. It is because of political vendetta; this is a dirty game to divide this country. If you cut-off the lifeline of the nation, the country will be divided.

The Standing Committee on Railways, not once, but three times recommended; the Railway Convention Committee has recommended; the Rakesh Mohan Committee has recommended. I did not set up that Committee when I was the Railway Minister, but it is the present Railway Minister who set up that Committee to do railway reforms and restructuring. He said that it is a dubious decision and that it cannot be done. So, we have the reports of the Standing Committee on Railways, the Railways Convention Committee, the CAG reports, the reports of other expert committees, the opinion of former Chairmen, etc. We do have even the opinion of the five recognised Unions including NFIR, AIRF, the Officers' Federation, the Promotee Officers' Federation and RPF Association. All are opposing this move. Why?

He is thinking that from his house, he would take the railway line; it should go through his house and from his house and thereby, dividing the country. We strongly object to it. I will request them to reconsider this. I feel that the Cabinet is the supreme. The Prime Minister and the Deputy-Prime Minister have said that this matter is referred to the Cabinet. So, the reply to this question should not be treated as the Minister's final reply. The House wants to know whether the Prime Minister is supreme or the individual Minister is supreme who is doing this because of political vendetta. We want to know this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 1996 the Government of India had taken

the decision to create a new railway zone. The then honourable Prime Minister Deve Gowda had inaugurated new zone in Hazipur, but in between, the speed of the work was slow due to political differences and discrimination. We people have already raised this issue one dozen times. When Kumari Mamata Banerjee was the Railway Minister, we had warned many times that if railway zone was not created then there will be no peace and tranquillity in India, people of Bihar will not tolerate it. Firstly Bengal Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution in this regard, in its reply Bihar also passed a resolution. The delegation from there has twice met honourable Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Railway Minister. This is the first chance and I have been observing since 1996 that whenever the matters related to Bihar came we were divided. Due to this much injustice was done and is still being done with Bihar. Fortunately now we have united.

13.00 hrs.

That is why, an agitation has been started in Hazipur. Honourable Mamata Ji is the leader. People of Bihar also give vote over there. Our people are also settled in Bengal. They are settled not only in Bengal but in the whole country...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: 40% of our people live in Bihar. We also protect them...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: All right, Hazipur zone has been created. Not even a single inch of its land is in Calcutta, but efforts are being made to keep Hazipur Rail Zone in Calcutta. We can not tolerate this. We can not tolerate manipulation. We will vehemently protest and Mr. Speaker sir "such agitation will be launched, not seen earlier". Any manipulation would lead the country to destruction. Mamata Ji, Hindustan will be divided. Has anybody been able to win the fight with Bihar. Even not a single train will go to Bengal from Delhi via Bihar....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Ji, take your seat. You have expressed your view.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me only two minutes time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I have just called the name of Yogi Adityanath to speak. Let him speak. After that I will allow you to speak. You all take your seats.

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (Serampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Member just said that even not a single train will be allowed to go to Bengal from Bihar...(Interruptions) Whether this is the dispute between Bihar and Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: I know that this is not the dispute between Bengal and Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath ji, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Mr. Speaker Sir, even not a single train will be allowed to go to Bengal from Bihar, how the honourable Member can say this?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: So, long you do not listen, how will you speak. You take your seat. I have asked Yogi Adityanath ji to speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is the issue of railway zone...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, I gave you an opportunity to speak. Now you please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: They are trying to divide the nation...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Member is saying that trains will not be allowed to go to Bengal from Bihar. Please expunge these words from the record...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: He is saying that no train will be allowed to pass through his State. How can it be?...(Interruptions) It is a provocation...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether this Parliament is of Bihar? The honourable

[Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker]

Member's statement that not even a single train from Bihar will be allowed to go to Bengal should be expunged from the record. It is not right to say such things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give the instruction that any unparliamentary language used should be expunged from the record.

Yogi Aditya Nath ji, you don't want to speak?

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, a representative of one State cannot threaten the representative of other State...*(Interruptions)* Our only objection is, he should not speak like this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards this disputed issue. Sir, my constituency is the Headquarters of the Zone. The Headquarters of north-eastern railway is in Gorakhpur. Two divisions Samastipur and Sonpur are being separated from the Headquarters of north-east railway zone of Gorakhpur...*(Interruptions)* They are in that zone...*(Interruptions)* You please take your seat and listen to me. The headquarters of north-eastern railway will be the smallest zone with the exclusion of these two divisions. Only three divisions namely Izzatnagar, Varanasi and Lucknow will be left in this. It is a conspiracy to connect Lucknow with central zone and Varanasi with Allahabad afterwards. It means that it will end the existence of railway zone. It is the oldest zone. In 1952 when six zones were created...*(Interruptions)* Raghuvansh Babu I did not interrupt you...*(Interruptions)* You can threaten Bengal but cannot us. Bihar going trains pass via U.P. so do not threaten me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, East India Company had connected the country by train but BJP Government is dividing the country by bifurcating the railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not worry, this will not happen.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYANATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier a conspiracy was also hatched to shift headquarter of North-East Railway. An agitation was also launched at that time. As a result, the headquarter of North-East railway was again set up at Gorakhpur.

I want to tell you that Ministry of Railways says that they do not have resources while various proposals for laying railway line are pending with them. Cases of doubling of railway line and electrification are also pending. Expenditure would increase due to the creation of new zones. I would like to submit that the funds which would be spent on the creation of new zone should be spent for doubling of railway line, gauge conversion, electrification of railway line or introduction of new trains.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all railway unions have opposed this matter. Rakesh Mohan Committee has also opposed it. Standing Committee of Parliament has also opposed this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Members of all parties are to be given a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to request you that this issue which is politically motivated should be postponed and it should be reconsidered otherwise the agitation which is likely to be launched in the protest of it would be very dangerous and this agitation has already been started in North-East railway. This matter should be reconsidered and postponed so that this agitation could not become violent and the people do not take to street.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very important matter. The Ministry of Railways has taken a very unfortunate and unwise decision of creating a new additional zone by bifurcating the existing Eastern Railway and the South-Eastern Railway. This decision has provoked discontentment and disapproval among the people of that region.

Sir, before taking this unwise decision, the Ministry of Railways has neither sought opinion of the Standing Committee on Railways nor of other Committees. Not only that, six former Chairmen, Railway Board, have written letters to the Prime Minister disapproving and opposing this decision regarding bifurcation. The financial condition of Railways is already bad and the job of creating new zone requires huge amount of money. So, this decision will put extra burden on the Railways.

Sir, I am sorry to say that the Railway authorities have not taken this decision for the development of the Railways. I am rather compelled to say that the Minister

of Railways has taken this unfortunate and unwise decision on parochial and sectorial outlook. He has not taken this decision for the development of Railways. I want to know the reaction of the Government. We oppose this decision tooth and nail. I request the Government to withdraw this decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Union Council of Ministers had decided to create a zone in 1996, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was Minister of Railway at that time. Kumari Mamata Banerjee was a member of Congress and Congress was supporting United Front Government in the Centre. That government had decided to create a zone. First, it decided to create six zones, thereafter decision of creating seven zone was taken. In between Kumari Mamata Banerjee got a chance to become Minister of Railways. If it was unjustified, zone should have not been created and why did she not reverse this decision at that time?

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: He is mentioning my name. That is why I want to give a personal explanation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Madam, please let me speak. You did not deny for it at that time. The dispute was started on the issue that who should be made Minister of Railways and thereafter it converted into the dispute of railway zone and Minister of Railways. They want to be Minister we have no objection to it but Bihar is not their colony. We did not take even an inch of land from Bengal, we created zone in our area in turn they are showing us their bossiness. All coal mines, coal area, coal belt are mostly in Bihar and Jharkhand and its headquarter is in Kolkata. Headquarter of DBC is in Kolkata. We will fight for it. It is not their colonialism. Government should not budge an inch on this issue and if the government bow to their pressure then Bihar will burn, country will burn and we will never tolerate it.

[*English*]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: It is not a question of Bihar and Bengal. It is the question of development of the Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you against giving her a personal explanation?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted her to give a personal explanation.

[*Translation*]

Mamata Banerjee is speaking, please let her give personal explanation.

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: My personal explanation is that I would request the hon. Member to cross-check from the Lok Sabha questions which have been replied to by me. When I was the Minister and when Members had raised this question, to every question I said in reply that "It is under review", because at that time my predecessor had set up the Rakesh Mohan Committee which went in detail into the question of division and restructuring. That is why I waited to see his comments and opinion.

The fact is that even Shri Digvijay Singh, who is from their Party, had also replied that "It is under review". From my part, I have only said, "It is under review". When the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report was tabled in the House, I had resigned. But I have seen the Report and I know that he has commented against this.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received your notice.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have given notice on Adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have myself given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: This discussion is not related to adjournment motion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one new zone has not been created, various other zones have also been created but there is wide discussion regarding Hazipur zone only and in Hazipur zone...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: We do not think so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please listen to me. This dispute is mainly related to Mugalsarai and Dhanbad

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

division in Hazipur zone. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell you that Hazipur zone have only old Bihar, new Bihar and Jharkhand. Besides, Hazipur zone does not have an inch of land of any other state. Discussion is being held on Dhanbad zone. Here, I would like to tell that out of the coal loaded from there, 98 percent is transported via Mugalsarai to Delhi, Banaras and other parts of country. Only two percent coal is transported towards Hawrah via Aasansol. I do not understand the justification to include this division in Hawrah. Neither the people of Bihar nor any other part of the country have raised this issue that why three General Managers have been posted in Hawrah. We do not have any objection to it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell that Basu Deb Acharia was the Chairman of Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Railways. He had recommended creation of new zone in his report.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not correct. You have not studied the report. You are saying this without going through it, first you read it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: One of our colleagues, a saint was also speaking on this issue. I want to tell him that people of Bihar did not object when two divisions were created including Banaras and Mugalsarai while distance between them is only three kilometre. But when a new zone is being created in Bihar everyone has problem. Trouble was started when agitation started in Bengal. As a result, agitation was also launched in Bihar and railway tracks were uprooted. This created an atmosphere of uncertainty in the country. The matter related to the creation of this zone has been discussed three times in Cabinet. It has been created after the approval of Cabinet. From administrative point of view it is the responsibility of Government of India and Ministry of Railways to decide as to where zone be created and how to run it with a view to administration. Questions related to economy is raised in this. I ask Shri Basu Deb Acharia that have you taken permission from Central Government for creating new districts. Police Stations and blocks in Bengal? The Ministry of Railways has formed that zone with economic point of view.

MR. SPEAKER: Now conclude your speech.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude just in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken five minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: During this period there was a hot discussion in News Papers and media on this issue. I say that much importance should not be given to

this issue so that this issue may become a issue between Mamata and Samata; between Bengal and Bihar. A number of Chief Ministers have congratulated to the Minister of Railways for forming this; Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are also among them. There is discussion about a report that some ex-chairman have written against this. Yesterday I told media persons that some ex-chairmen, sitting in Five Star Hotel of Delhi are committing forgery. They have got forged rubber stamps and doing business of railways. I told that CBI inquiry may be conducted in this regard and actions should be taken against them and they should be arrested.

Nobody can exploit Bihar. Whatever Shri Raghunath Jha ji has said is correct. He raised the question regarding office of coal India Limited. The office of Coal India Limited is in Kolkata. There is a small colliery there but the Government of Bengal purchase coal from China. It seems that he does not like coal of Bengal. Chinese coal is used in Bengal, therefore, there is no justification of its office being situated there. My demand is that offices of Coal India and BCCL should be shifted to Bihar. My request is that comments on railway zone may be stopped.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We will take up Matters under Rule 377 now.

Shri Anadi Sahu.

(i) Need to hand-over fifty acre stretch of salt land to Government of Orissa for distribution among SCs in K. Sumandi and R. Sumandi villages in Ganjam District

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Madam, there is a salt bay in Sonala-Sumandi area of Chikiti block of Ganjam district in Orissa. When salt was being produced in large quantity, it was being attacked in an area of 50 acres close to village K. Sumandi. As salt production went down because of the receding coast-line and high production cost, the 50-acres stretch of land was not used by the Salt Department, Government of India for the last 25 years.

The population of Keuta-Sumandi has increased four-fold within the last forty years. The largest community in this village belong to fisherman caste and they are Scheduled Castes. Many of them do not have homestead land. These areas come within the Berhampur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa. The Scheduled Castes, being poor, cannot purchase any homestead land for construction of houses.

Government of India may consider handing over the fifty-acre stretch of land to Government of Orissa for distribution among the Scheduled Castes of K. Sumandi and R. Sumandi of Ganjam District.

(ii) Need to bring down air fare between Delhi and Bhubaneswar

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The Indian Airlines has joined Jet Airways in slashing airfares upto 64 per cent in Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Kolkata, Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Chennai, Mumbai-Bangalore, Mumbai-Kolkata and several other routes. This relaxation has been in 41 sectors. This is just to attract tourists to these places of national tourist interest. There are many such places of tourist interest in and around Bhubaneswar and several other places in Orissa and other States. Thousands of tourists visit these places every day. But due to exorbitant rate of hike in the air fare, they travel by trains. When the Indian Airlines has drastically cut its air fare in some selected routes, the same yardstick should be applied to other routes and Bhubaneswar should also be considered for the purpose. The slashing of air fare to Bhubaneswar should also be announced forthwith.

(iii) Need for Early Completion of Construction work at Masan Dam Project in North Bihar

[*Translation*]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of Central Government

towards Masan Dam Project of North Bihar. This project has not been implemented till now due to Acts of Forest and Environment while Masan dam is under consideration since 1973 and this project has been sanctioned in 1982. It was to be completed in five years. Under this project a dam with the height of 85 feet and length of 5220 kilometre was to be constructed over Masan river for water catchment area of 350 square kilometre so that flood may be controlled by checking rain water in North Bihar. At the same time the flood water can be used for irrigation purpose. Each rainy season brings flood in North Bihar and crops worth of rupees crores are damaged. Lakhs of people become homeless due to the devastating flood. Development works in the areas of West and East Champaran are not carried out due to flood in Masan river each year.

Through the august House, I request the Government that Masan dam Project may be implemented as soon as possible so that North Bihar may get rid of flood permanently.

(iv) Need to take steps to check the Recurring Floods in Southern Bihar

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Madam Chairman, in Bihar about 10 lac hectare of land is under water logging. About one and a half lac hectare of land is under Tal area of water logging which is spread from Fatuha to Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Suryagarh and from Gangniyan to Kahalgau in Patna district on the bank of Ganga. This 'Tal area' needs a special central assistance so that the production of fertile land in this area can double. Eight districts of Bihar—Shekhpura, Nalanda, Lakhisarai, Jamui, Munger, Bhagalpur, Banka and Nawada—situated on south bank of Ganga river are always affected by drought and flood.

I would like to attract the attention of the Central Government to implement various irrigation projects for strengthening irrigation system, implement Centrally sponsored DPAP programme and get rid of the flood problem occurring every year.

[*English*]

(v) Need to expedite laying of Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line in Karnataka

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Madam, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Railway Minister regarding Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line. After great persuasion by the Karnataka State, the Railway Ministry had provided Rs. 10 crore during the Rail budget for 2000-01 and the then Railway Minister had also laid the

foundation for this line. During the year, it was reported that only about Rs. Three crore was spent out of the allotted funds, which shows that the work on this project is lagging behind and the amount allotted for the completion of this project have not been fully utilised. Again, during the year 2002-03, an allotment of Rs. 15 crore has been earmarked for construction of this Railway Line.

Presently, there is only one train running between Bangalore and New Delhi via Gulbarga and Pune. If this railway line is completed, this will reduce the journey time by at least five hours between Bangalore and New Delhi and will be convenient to the people of Hyderabad and Karnataka region.

I, once again, urge the Railway Minister to kindly instruct the authorities concerned to utilise the money allotted so far and provide more funds for early completion of Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line.

(vi) Need to check severe erosion caused by Ganga and Padma rivers in Murshidabad District of West Bengal

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Madam, Murshidabad is suffering from river bank erosion, since long. Ganga, the national river and Padma, the international river, are passing through this district by nearly hundred kilometres. In the right bank of both the rivers, where erosion is taking place, already lakhs of hectares of cultivated land, small and big towns, State Highway, mangroves and populated villages have been engulfed by the erosion.

In the last decades, lakhs of people were evicted from their residences. They are now compelled to live on the roadside or in unauthorised places and face a lot of problems of shelter, drinking water and others.

I would urge upon the Government of India to come out with a suitable rehabilitation programme for the people, who are evicted due to erosion of Ganga and Padma in Murshidabad, West Bengal. Financial assistance should also be given to the State Government in this regard.

(vii) Need to Provide Adequate Security and Better Facilities to the Amarnath Yatris

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Madam Chairman, Amarnath Yatra is a pious annual of pilgrimage of Hindus which is undertaken due the occasion of Raksha-bandhan. Lakhs of pilgrims including children,

old persons and young take part in this yatra. For the last several years some problem and others are created in this yatra. Sometimes on one hand pilgrims they have to face natural calamity and on the other hand they are killed in terrorist attacks. The terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir is at surge this time. It is not a long time to start this yatra. Therefore, through this august House, I make appeal to the Government that they should start making arrangements for the security of pilgrims and providing sufficient essential facilities like food, drinking water, blankets, tents, medical facilities etc. from the very beginning, proper arrangement should be made so that Amarnath yatra of this year may be undertaken without any obstruction and strict security arrangements may be ensured.

[English]

(viii) Need for doubling of rail track between Kharagpur and Midnapore via Giri Maidan in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Madam Chairperson, the Railway route from Kharagpur to Adra under South-Eastern Railway has become more important with the introduction of 2121/2422 Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from the month of July, 2002. The train service has been improved remarkably on this line. The electrification is complete. Other than Rajdhani Express, so many super fast, express local passenger and goods trains pass through this line. About 64 trains pass every day. As there is a single line from Kharagpur to Midnapore via Giri Maidan at present, the passengers face a lot of difficulties due to delay of Railway traffic clearance. But from Midnapore Kharagpur, no doubling of track has been done as yet. Only one Railway bridge on the river, Kansabati, is there. The age of this bridge is nearly hundred years. It seems to be weak and there is an apprehension of its breakdown at any time. So, the second bridge on the river Kansabati near Midnapore station is urgently needed. At the same time, the doubling of track from Kharagpur to Midnapore via Giri Maidan is urgently required. I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to take up the matter immediately.

(ix) Need to provide reservation to SCs/STs in private sector and educational institutions

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Madam, the present policy of reservation in public sector undertakings or statutory corporations should continue even after the Government equity in such public sector undertakings or statutory corporations is reduced to below 50 per cent. The policy of reservation should also be extended to the services in the private sector and

necessary legislative measures should be taken for this purpose.

A National Judicial Commission should be set up which should also have a representative of SCs/STs. The policy of reservation should be introduced in the higher judiciary also for SCs and STs.

There should be provision for reservation to the SCs and STs in the matter of admissions in educational institutions like schools, colleges, universities, professional institutions, including super-speciality courses in Medicine.

(x) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for early Completion of Kanhar Irrigation Project in Sonbhadra District

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Madam Chairman, in my constituency, Roberstganj in UP of district Sonbhadra of the Government started Kanhar Project in the year of 1980 for irrigation on which of rupees crores have been spent but due to lack of funds the work is lying standstill the last 10 years. Machines are getting. Through this said Kanhar Project lakhs of acres land of Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh Bihar and Madhya Pradesh will be irrigated.

At present the cost of Kanhar project is Rs. Three hundred crores. Due to paucity of funds the work on the Project is stopped.

I demand from Government of India that in the interest of farmers at least one hundred crore rupees in one instalment be for Kanhar Project so that work of this project could be started.

14.49 hrs.

**DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(VALIDATION OF ELECTRICITY TAX) ACT
AND OTHER LAWS (REPEAL) BILL 2002**

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We will now go on to the legislative business. We have the Repeal Bill. Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Madam Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Madam Chairman, a Commission was constituted by the Central Government to review all administrative laws, identify certain laws which could be repealed. On the basis of the recommendations of this Commission, it is proposed to repeal three Acts. First, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act of 1966 which validated the imposition and collection of certain taxes on the consumption or sale of electricity during the period from 1959 to 1966. Second, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act of 1966 which provided for eliciting the opinion of the electors of the erstwhile UT of Goa, Daman and Diu with regard to the future status of the UT. Third, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act of 1989 which repeals the Punjab Pre-emption Act, 1913 as enforced in the UT of Delhi and Chandigarh.

All these three Acts have since served their purpose and are no longer required on the Statute Book. Besides this, the Ministry of Law and Justice and Company Affairs also set up an Expert Group to review Acts administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This Expert Group recommended repeal of 19 Acts of Punjab State in so far as their application in the UT of Chandigarh is concerned, for the reason that these Acts have outlined their utility and here is no cogent reason for their continuance. Accordingly, it is proposed to repeal all the 19 Acts which are applicable to the UT of Chandigarh.

With these words, I commend this Bill to this august House for approval.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966, the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Not much to be discussed since it is a repeal Bill. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Madam Chairperson, in as much as this Bill seeks to repeal certain pieces of legislation which over the years have outlived their utility, have been rendered obsolete and redundant and in so far as this Bill seeks to remove the unnecessary flab of the Indian Statute Book, one would certainly welcome such an exercise. It is because, the Indian laws or the plethora of Indian laws that we have on the Statute Book are, in fact, known more for verbosity, more for repetition, which we could do without.

But, at the same time, when some pieces of legislation relating to Chandigarh, in particular, are taken up here, I would certainly like to take this opportunity to express my feeling of dismay and chagrin over the fact that the UTs, particularly, Chandigarh are not being accorded the primacy or the concern which in fact the Union Government should provide good governance to those UTs.

What immediately comes to my mind is the extension of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act to UT of Chandigarh. I know, there was a definite lobby of both the politicians and the bureaucrats working at that time to see somehow that the salutary provisions of the Constitution, then being enshrined in Part IX and Part IX A, should not be extended to the UTs.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is here. He played a very prominent role in one of the Select Committees. We somehow managed to see that those provisions were made applicable to UTs also. Accordingly, certain provisions were supposed to be extended to the UTs. I do not know what really is the fate of other UTs but I have seen it for myself that despite Punjab Municipal Corporation Act and Panchayat Act being extended to UT of Chandigarh, so far not one of the provisions relating to Panchayats in Schedule 11 have been conferred on the Panchayats—not one of those powers.

In the case of municipalities, the position may be slightly better but the municipality, that is, the Municipal Corporation has been emancipated of whatever legitimately it could have.

There is a provision for the Finance Commission. The Finance Commission has been set up but it is just in the name. When the powers of the Administration were being transferred to the Municipal Corporation, what somebody really did was very unfair to the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh. A large number of people,

who had been recruited over the years and perhaps for whom they had no work, all have been shunted off to the Municipal Corporation. And the Municipal Corporation is responsible for their salary. Imagine the burden that the Municipal Corporation has to bear after the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. We would not mind that if those people were recruited and sent to the Municipal Corporation provided commensurate work was also transferred to the Municipal Corporation and provided the Municipal Corporation was also given the power and those functions through which the Union Territory Administration, for that matter the Government of India earns revenue.

Incidentally, Chandigarh Union Territory is a revenue surplus State. The income tax paid by the people of Chandigarh Circle is much more than the income tax paid by Ludhiana Circle. Nobody may be knowing that. Ludhiana is called the Manchester of Punjab. Chandigarh Circle pays more income tax than Ludhiana circle. We acquire land there at eight lakhs of rupees an acre. And you sell it at—I am sure the hon. Minister would know—thousands and thousands of rupees; in the case of commercial properties, Rs. 50,000 a yard and for residential, Rs. 16,000 a yard. So, Chandigarh is paying you enormous amount. And in return, you are not paying them anything. The only thing that you are doing is wielding the stick "raise more resources and impose more taxes".

When Chandigarh was built, there was a promise held out to the people by Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the then Chief Minister of Punjab. He went round telling the people, "I want to build a beautiful city for you. Please come here". People were being wooed to come over there. And today, you want to impose more taxes on them. Then, you are not justifying the expenditure from what you are taking away from them.

Somehow I feel that—I would not like to make it a political issue at all—since the Congress won the last election of the Municipal Corporation, thereafter surprisingly, instead of raising more resources of grants in aid to the Municipal Corporation—not as a Khairat, not something that we are begging for—they reduced them. It is a legitimate right under the Constitution, which the provision of the Constitution says, the Finance Commission has to apportion the funds of the State between the State and the local bodies. That has not been fairly done. What, in fact, has been done is that after we came to the power, after Congress won the majority of the seats—It is not really acquiring power because there is no power worth the name at all—in the Municipal Corporation, Rs. 13 crore—and that is a major amount for

Chandigarh—out of the projected budget has been withdrawn. The Additional Secretary goes there and says: "If you raise resources, we will give you matching grants." That is besides the point. There is no question of that. We have got Rs. 13 crore less than what the last outgoing Municipal Corporation run by the BJP got.

When you have time to bring out this legislation—I welcome this legislation—please also find time to make amendments in those laws. You have a provision regarding district planning. And district planning comes under article 243 ZD(2) and it says that the legislature of a State may, by law, make provision for district planning, etc. What have you done in the case of UT? You have to do it. You do not have to go to the State Legislatures for that. You have to do it from here. What have you done for us? You do not want the elected representatives to participate in the planning process. You only want them to just come and attend a meeting; agenda is given by the officials and you expect us to say either 'yes' or 'no' and then go away.

Madam, last time, it was perhaps in November, 2000, an amendment regarding conferring membership of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation on the Member of Parliament was brought before this House.

15.00 hrs.

I had said then also. That was not a very necessary and very important provision. What was important then was, what the employees of the Corporation had been seeking for the last five or six years ever since the day of their transfer to the Municipal Corporation. They had been asking for a provision to the effect that they be considered to be on deemed deputation to the Municipal Corporation from the Chandigarh Administration. An assurance was held out by this Government to those employees and to my predecessor here also.

When I raised this point here, I got an assurance from the hon. Minister then that the Government would take immediate steps to bring about another amendment. Does this Government need two years to bring about such an amendment? Ad-hocism seems to have become the only standard practice of this Government. That is seen all over. That is perceptible all over and that is what we find in Chandigarh. There is no law for Chandigarh. Tell me what law is applicable to Chandigarh. The beautiful city is being defaced by posters. A law from West Bengal is picked up and it is promulgated there but no action is being taken.

The Punjab Reorganisation Act, under which the Union Territory was carved out, gives Central Government an

authority to extend any law to Chandigarh. But we find that ad-hocism is the only byword for the Government as far as Chandigarh is concerned. You take the case of employees. You take the case of real estate. You take the case of trade. You take anything. There is, in fact, no law. Anything which suits any particular officer of the day becomes the law.

If I were to say, there is legal lawlessness in Chandigarh. That is the position that prevails in Chandigarh. Nobody has ever paid attention to that...(Interruptions)

Madam, I did not want to really speak on this Bill but I was asked to speak. So kindly let me just make one or two submissions.

In this context, I would like to remind him that there is a judicial verdict to the effect that the Union Territory of Chandigarh is a good, just on the same level, as the succeeding States of Punjab and Haryana under the Punjab Reorganisation Act are. If that be so, why do you keep Chandigarh out of all those provisions?

I was just seeing the Constitution. Article 240 of the Constitution says:

"(1) The President may make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Union territory of—

- (a) the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (b) Lakshadweep
- (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (d) Daman and Diu;
- (e) Pondicherry.

Chandigarh does not find mention there. You do not want good governance there. You want only ad-hocism to prevail there. I say so because I have found those things happening. That state of drift is prevailing in Chandigarh over the years.

Since I have that direction of yours to conclude, I would only urge the hon. Minister one thing. You have the Home Minister's Advisory Committee. Have you constituted one for the last four or five years? Have you ever thought of calling the representatives of the Union Territory to come and discuss these matters with you? Does Chandigarh not figure in your scheme of things? Call those people, have meetings with them, get to know what they want and then take steps. It is not just enough

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

to say here, "well the Government is considering the move to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act and fill any lacuna which you find there.

I know that that law was then enacted in haste because it was either then or never because of the circumstances I just referred. There was a strong group of people who wanted that those provisions should not be extended to the Union Territory. So, we thought "let us just have whatever it is, with the passage of time, we will seek certain amendments and we will try to have some improvements in the law". But that is not being done. For the last so many years you have been in the Government. So I would just urge you to kindly have a comprehensive or holistic approach on the governance of Chandigarh. You cannot just overlook Chandigarh. It has its importance. You know the importance that Chandigarh has.

We know what the dispute about Chandigarh had led to. So, kindly take necessary steps to ensure that Chandigarh is provided good governance. When I talk of good governance, I talk of the system. We have been having excellent people coming to manage the affairs of Chandigarh from time to time; I have no problem on that but when I say so, I talk of the system as such. A system is missing. There is no system for Chandigarh. If I would only repeat for the sake of adding emphasis thereto, there is no law applicable to Chandigarh. This is what I call, 'legal lawlessness'. Please do away with a situation like that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil):
Madam Chairperson, this is a repeal Bill but I would have to bring out certain facts.

Now, a law is proposed to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act of 1966; the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act of 1966; and the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989. These are some of the statutes that the Government proposes to get repealed. The reason advanced is that they have outlived the purpose. These statutes were passed with a specific social purpose. Now, according to the Government, that purpose served and there is no necessity of continuing those laws in the statute book. Normally nobody would object to it because it is for the Government to decide which law should prevail and which law should go away.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was talking about Chandigarh and I agree with whatever he said but here I would have to talk about something other than Chandigarh. Here is the question of the Delhi Municipal

Corporation Act, about which I would have to inform the Government of some salient factors now arising in the country. After the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth amendments to the Constitution bringing in the three-tier system into the country, Panchayat Acts and Municipal Corporation Acts have been passed by several States but the spirit of the provision in the Constitution is not at all implemented by them barring one or two States. Karnataka and Kerala are, I think, the only two States where there is real decentralisation of powers. If you look into the question of decentralisation as a whole, you would be convinced that they have not yet implemented the Amendments to the Constitution made by this House regarding establishment of a three-tier system. The real three-tier system has not been implemented in many States.

Apart from the three Schedules attached to the Constitution, there is a Fourth Schedule, which is left to the panchayats or the local bodies. Even those items that are included in the Additional List have not been parted with by many State Governments. They are not prepared to give away the powers that they are bound to transfer to the local bodies. Many of the States have not done it. Even now, panchayats as well as municipalities are functioning more or less like resolution-passing bodies, as they were before.

There was a proposal before the Central Government to pass a uniform law for the guidance of all the States giving effect to the Constitution Amendments and transferring those departments that are now being controlled by Government Departments to the local bodies like primary health and primary education. These are some of the items that have to be transferred to the local bodies. There are many States in India which have not transferred these institutions to the administrative control of local bodies that are duly elected. They have not done it so far. This matter has been discussed in a meeting convened by our hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee recently in Delhi. Many Block Presidents as well as 60 Panchayats Presidents and also Gram Panchayat representatives were present. All of them raised this important issue that powers have not been conferred or powers have not been transferred to the local bodies, as provided in the Constitutional amendment. There is a uniform consensus of opinion that there must be a uniform law with regard to municipalities and other local bodies for which the Central Government should take the initiative and forward a model law to the concerned States. The model law will have to be enunciated and will have to be circulated to the States for their guidance. There must be strict direction from the Central Government for the State Governments also to pass laws so that these

powers which they are controlling now be left to the local bodies. This is an urgent necessity; otherwise the participation of the man in the street in our democratic set up will become meaningless. The man in the street should feel that he has to play a part in the day-to-day administration of the country. The village man is feeling it only through the village *panchayat* or the *gram panchayat*. So, whatever you may say about our administrative set up, but the real question lies how far the participation of the man in the grass-root level is obtained. That is the crux of the issue. But that has not been met so far by the Central Government and by the respective State Governments, barring two or three States. This is the most important thing.

Now, you are doing away or repealing the Delhi Municipal Corporation Bill. This Act has served its purpose or it has outlived the purpose. But new social issues, new legal issues or new Constitutional issues have emerged. I would request the Central Government to meet that situation.

When you are repealing this Bill—of course, I agree with your repealing—and when repealing provision is effected, the most important thing is new issues have come up. We will have to answer those issues, which have come up especially in the 21st Century, making our democracy a meaningful exercise and not a mockery so far as the common man is concerned.

15.13 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Sir, since we are discussing the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act and other Laws (Repeal) Bill, should I speak about the power problems in the capital city of Delhi? In different corners of the city, the power supply is cut off. People are in complete darkness. The business in Delhi is still at a standstill. I think, the Government also is aware of it.

Sir, this Act was passed in 1966 to validate electricity tax. Now, that tax is being collected in another form. However, the poor people, the tax-payer or the consumer is put to hardship or he is not able to get the connection for days together. He is in darkness and the poor man is not able to purchase the electricity for his home. Only a very few people can afford it. The poor man is unable to purchase the genset so that his daily needs are met. It is not possible. So, the power condition in the nation, as a whole, is in crisis, is very precarious.

Sir, in my State the position is very precarious. It is not only in Kerala but in many of the States the power

position is very precarious and the delay of monsoon will create the situation much more worse. In Kerala the monsoon is more or less delayed and even delayed monsoon is more acute when compared to the previous year. In Delhi we are expecting monsoon for a number of days.

We do not know when the monsoon will come in Delhi. So, this is the position.

Sir, the main power producing system is hydro electric. If monsoon, fails and if the rain fails, then these systems will fail. No generator will be working and the entire power supply in the State will be jeopardised. That is the situation that we are facing now. So, when you are repealing this Act, please bear in mind that we are facing a very acute crisis so far as the power generation is concerned.

The NTPC are also not in a position to help us. They cannot meet the requirement of each and every State. They have expressed their difficulty. The State Electricity Boards are in huge arrears and in huge debts. They are not able to pay even the rent or the tax. The people are heavily taxed. Unknown to human history, such taxes are collected from the consumers in many States, including my State, Kerala. When you repeal this Act, please bear in mind this crisis that the people are facing. So, I would request you to consider these two aspects.

With these observations, I have no objection in getting this Act repealed because it is on the basis of a recommendation made by an Expert Committee appointed by the Central Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act the other Laws (Repeal) Bill 2002 introduced by the Government. Chandigarh is a Union Territory. Earlier whole of the Punjab was unified. It was developed as the capital of Punjab. The status of Chandigarh in independent India is the same as enjoyed by New Delhi. Chandigarh was located in such a way that it became a beautiful city. Its beautification inhabitation and naturalization and the environment with all its amenities make it attractive. Due to all these reasons Chandigarh had a unique glory. But when Punjab was divided and Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh came into existence, a controversy cropped up between Haryana and Punjab on the issue of their capital. Even today Chandigarh is the common capital of Haryana and Punjab, and is also a Union Territory. In addition, the Governments and the administration of both the states, Chandigarh's own administration is also here.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Administrative Laws were reviewed by the Union Government. During the review, the Administrative Procedure Commission found no utility of certain laws which are in force in Chandigarh. Be it the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act or Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act or Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act 1989, these were no longer relevant. There were mainly three such Acts. Apart from these 22 Acts which were enforced in Chandigarh were outlived and obsolete. As you know.

[English]

Change is the law of the nature. The old order changeth, yielding place to new.

[Translation]

Old is replaced by the new. I think Laws are framed according to the needs of the society. Laws of Punjab and Delhi were enforced in Chandigarh. Now such laws have lost their utility. Therefore, I support the Bill introduced by the Home Ministry to repeal such laws. But I would like that the status and importance of Chandigarh should be maintained. As has been said just now, it has a permanent body, the Municipal Corporation. Local Bodies should be strengthened.

I had been to Chandigarh sometimes back. Jhuggi-Jhonpris have come up and even encroachments have started there. It is facing problems similar to other cities. Whereas earlier it was considered to be an ideal city, divided into various sectors and its name was respected. I would like to say that old laws relating to electricity or two other matters should be repealed. But Chandigarh has its own glory. We should think over the issues whether they are related to power supply, water supply, related to strengthening and granting more powers to local bodies there. The Member of Parliament belonging to that constituency, Pawan Kumar Bansalji spoke about Chandigarh. I think what he said is right. It is the intention of the Government to develop Chandigarh because the NDA Government believes in democratic values. Certainly, there is a democratic set up in Chandigarh, be it in the form of Panchayat or District Board or Municipal Corporation. Powers should be given for the development of Chandigarh so that administration can be carried out by framing rules according to their needs. Such laws which have lost their utility must be repealed. Otherwise, it adds to the plethora of laws. Useful laws should be framed in place of these obsolete laws for all round development of the area and for their smooth enforcement and stopping the encroachments. Also, in Delhi the tax levied by Municipal Corporation of Delhi is being done away with. We have to think over this.

Through you, I would certainly like to submit that the status, importance and the glory and the purpose for which Chandigarh was created should be fulfilled. Even if it is the capital of two states attention should be paid for its all-round development.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman. Sir, this is just a cleansing Bill. It seeks to remove from the Statute Book certain obsolete laws. Now among the various Acts which are sought to be removed from the Statute Book, one Act is itself a repealing Act. Now, when the principal Act is repealed by another Act and today we repeal the repealing Act, then, perhaps, the principal Act comes into force. If this is the situation, I am happy. I am happy because on 11th May, 1989 I had opposed the repealing of the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989. If this repealing Act today is being removed from the Statute Book and if as a result of this repealing Act being removed from the Statute Book, the principal Act comes back into force, then, of course, I will be very happy.

This Act deals with the principle of pre-emption. The principle of pre-emption is an important principle in the Muslim law. In view of the realisation of the utility and practicality of the principle of pre-emption and in view of the realisation that this principle of pre-emption is based on consideration of natural justice and equity and in view of all these things, this principle of pre-emption of the Muslim law has acquired universal applicability and universal adoption. I do not want to go into details of the law of pre-emption. I did it in 1989 on 11th of May. It is there on record.

However, if there is another view that even by repealing a repealing Act, the Principal Act does not get revived, then, I am sorry. I will only appeal to the Government to consider the reintroduction of the principle of pre-emption which has been universally acclaimed as a principle based on natural justice, equity, considerations of practicality and utility. I will not go into the technical details of the subject since, as I said, I have already done that before this House years ago.

Sir, this Bill also seeks to remove from the Statute Book an obsolete law which goes by the name Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966. It is an obsolete law. Let it go out of the Statute Book. But then, this is on the question of power and electricity. So, I will take this opportunity only to emphasise

upon the Government that the question of power—I do not mean political power—power generation, power distribution and power transmission has not received as much attention from the Government as it should have. Throughout the country, we are having this power problem. In Kerala also, the position is difficult. I will only, at this juncture, emphasise upon the Government the need to give greater attention to this question of power. Today, we are a nuclear power and yet, we are not in a position to give electricity to our homes and houses over here. Such is the contradiction.

If, there, the reference is to Delhi, I may only point out that people of Delhi are also reeling under long spells of inhuman power cuts. I need not be eloquent on their sufferings. Their sufferings can be imagined. There is so much of power shortage here in Delhi. The requirement of Delhi is 3,000 megawatts p.a. From power generation, Delhi has only 900 megawatts. From the northern grid, Delhi gets hardly 1,500 megawatts. Again, from Himachal Pradesh, the supply is hardly 100 megawatts to 150 megawatts. The sum total of all these figures shows that the power shortage is to the extent of nearly 500 megawatts. The problem is that in Delhi, per annum, the requirement of power increases by eight per cent. Therefore, there is a continuous build up of power shortage over here. It is also interesting to note that during the last decade power consumption in Delhi increased by 149 per cent.

However, the number of power consumers increased only by 49 per cent. This also shows the extent of loss in transmission and distribution. In East Delhi, in 1999-2000, the loss in transmission and distribution was as high as 63 per cent; in South Delhi, it was 38 per cent.

Sir, the situation is very grim. It is good that the Government is coming forward and giving attention to obsolete laws with respect to different places and is trying to repeal them. At the same time, I urge upon the Government to get in touch with the State Governments also and to see to it that these problems which are being faced by the people are also attended to adequately.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir the Government have brought a new legislation in which it has been said that an expert group had been constituted and according to their recommendations legislation has been brought. They had unanimously supported it. The laws in all are about 25 thousand, of which, 2,500 are central laws. Apart from it, the States have their own 1100-1200 laws separately.

Jain Commission was set up in 1998. It has said that 1324 laws have become absolute and they should be repealed at once but these are being brought one by one. What is the reason behind it? Law pertaining to Delhi, Goa, Daman & Diu and Chandigarh was sent to the Commission, why the remaining laws have not been sent? Please clarify this thing. I allege the people in Government act with lethargy and negligence. The objectives and reasons given in a Bill form an important part. What is the reasons behind it? In Hindi, it was written that accordingly it is proposed to repeal all the 22 Acts enforced in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. In Hindi, they wrote 22 relating to Chandigarh, what they have written in English:

[English]

"Accordingly, it is proposed to repeal all the 19 Acts which are applicable to the Union Territory of Chandigarh."

[Translation]

In this way there is difference of three numbers in Hindi and English. Please clarify which one is correct. It seems that the officers do not go through it, while we have learned ministers and worthy members here with us. They have written 22 in Hindi and 19 in English taking it quite lightly. Which one is to be considered correct? This is a Bill of two pages. Had there been a bunch of pages, we would have thought that they could not go through it. Nobody even try to read it in a cursory glance while the Government are accountable in this regard. How was there a difference of 3 numbers?

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): The bureaucracy in whole is worthless. His allegations are true.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir when a law is formed, there is a dispute in every single word. Law is brought in the Court. Objective is the fundamental thing. Initially, the law said to be reviewed by Administrative Procedure Review Commission set up by the Union Government for the purpose, then why you have brought your own expert? What is this in two volumes? How many department liable to be repealed? The Commission had said that all should be repealed at once, the Government should clarify why these are being brought one by one.

Shri Banatwalla had also said that you are repealing it twice. Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act was applicable in 1966 and now it is said, it has been repealed. Here, MCD is separate and NDMC is separate. Delhi is the capital of the country and there is a crisis of electricity and water. People are

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

in trouble. As you know, that a number of people from Bihar come to Delhi, they work hard by build a better Delhi. They are living here with scarce electricity and water. Unauthorized colonies are also facing the serious crisis. Where is the Department of Urban Development of Municipal Corporation? Department of Home Affairs is repealing this law. It has been said that more developed area will be counted as urban area. Government may please state how much area forms part of urban development? Patna, the capital of Bihar, recently had elections of municipal corporation. Simultaneously, whole of the State had elections somewhere at a smaller scale and somewhere at a larger scale. It is a enshrined in the 74th amendment of the Constitution that the law has been implemented in regard to municipality. Tenth Finance Commission has recommended this for the local bodies. Local bodies include panchayat and municipality both. If elections is not held here, funds will not be provided. The issue is related to municipality, not to Central Government. When the municipal elections in Bihar are over, why the Government are not providing funds. The Government have withheld the amount recommended by 10th and 11th Finance Commission. Tenth Finance Commission has asked to provide the money, but the Finance Department had issued the circular that the amount would not lapse, while the Central Government say that the amount has been lapsed. My allegation against the Government is that they are misappropriating the share of Bihar as recommended by 10th and 11th Finance Commissions. It is happening because of ill-intention and enmity of the Government towards Bihar. It was said that if the elections of local bodies are not held, the Centre will withhold the money. Now, when the elections are over, the Government are not providing the due share of Bihar. Now, you give us a well considered reply how is urban development is possible in such a condition. How small and medium municipality will be developed? The commission is an arbitration. They have accepted the recommendation of the commission in toto. They have also accepted the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. It has been so recommended that the Parliament may be intimated about the adoption of Action Taken Reports pertaining to local bodies. Now Action Taken Report...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. member's conduct is unparliamentary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, you conclude your speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding now. Sir, this subject pertains to public interest...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking while sitting, you do not give attention towards him...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: You have also read the Rules and I also know that he is speaking in aggressive posture which is unparliamentary conduct...(Interruptions) I am not pointing out the content but the action of your speech...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat, I am not allowing you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is a conspiracy to snatch away the participation of Bihar. It has been said by our local people that when the issue gets hot and Government is about to fall, start talking something. What is the subject. Therefore, I want to say that the recommended amount of the commission, which has been accepted by the Government with respect to municipalities and action taken report has been laid in Parliament, should be provided. Nobody should make breach with Parliament and due to enmity with someone, money should not be withheld. Only then, urban development will take place. You are bringing the law which will not lead to any development where did the development law go? You also bring the law of development so that people may live happily in big cities like Delhi. Delhi is the capital of the country. But you are uprooting the poor people from here. You need not uproot the poor, toiling people living in slums. Therefore, you should think over all this. You answer all the questions raised through this Bill otherwise I will teach you a lesson.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to hon. members. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri G.M. Banatwalla and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for supporting this Bill. At the same time, they were kind enough to give many suggestions.

Shri Bansal highlighted a number of financial and administrative issues relating to Chandigarh. He specifically mentioned the issue of constitution of Home Ministry's Advisory Committee there. Earlier also on the floor of the House he suggested a small amendment and said that something could have happened towards the best administration of Chandigarh. I will take out that assurance.

Shri Bansal also suggested to change the 'legal lawlessness' in Chandigarh. He has used the word. I assure the hon. Member, through you, that all necessary

steps would be taken for improvement of Chandigarh, and that legitimate rights steps would be taken pursuant to the Finance Commission. The question of the Central Government overlooking Chandigarh does not arise. NDA Government is effectively functioning. We take all necessary steps for the betterment of all the Union Territories that are administered by the Home Ministry.

Hon. Member Shri Radhakrishnan was pleased to highlight...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What about constitution of District Planning Committee?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I have taken note of all the suggestions given by the hon. Member. Appropriate action would be taken on them definitely.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Minister, you mentioned various laws, you have not mentioned the Constitution. The District Planning Committee arises out of Part IX-A of the Constitution. There is a Constitutional obligation which you are not fulfilling. Please give us an assurance that they will not only fulfil your legal obligation but that you will also take steps to, at least now after ten years, fulfil your Constitutional obligation with respect to the District Planning Committee.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have taken note of the suggestion given by the hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar because at the time of the carving of Chandigarh, those committees played an important role. I have taken note of this and definitely, this will be examined.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan had highlighted about the Municipal Corporation Act. I have taken note of all his suggestions. He had highlighted about the implications and complications of the Municipal Corporation Act. He also highlighted the electricity problems of the Delhi Administration.

Sir, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh were particular about the powers given by virtue of Constitutional 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Panchayats and the Municipalities. We will look into them.

So far as the suggestion of Shri G.M. Banatwalla regarding Repeal Act's third item is concerned, the principal Act will not come into force by virtue of this Repeal Bill. It already stands repealed. It can be revived only by the legislation.

Sir, therefore, I request this hon. House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act, 1966 the Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966, the Punjab Pre-emption (Chandigarh and Delhi Repeal) Act, 1989 and certain other enactments which are in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.50 hrs.

OFFSHORE AREAS MINERAL (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) BILL, 2001

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

[Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad]

"That the Bill to provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the territorial water, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I seek your kind permission to give a very brief background of this whole Bill. This Bill is futuristic in nature. India has been gifted with a very long coastline of more than 8,040 kilometres, and therefore, a large number of minerals have been found in the ocean belt by the Geological Survey of India over the years.

Now, a need was felt to have a proper statutory mechanism whereby these minerals can be scientifically exploited.

Sir, as you may know, under article 297 of the Constitution, this power vests absolutely in the Government of India, which *inter alia* says:

"All lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters, or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone, of India shall vest in the Union and be held for the purpose of the Union."

There are four concepts which I may indicate here. The first is the territorial waters. This zone is up to 12 nautical miles from the coastal line. Then, there is contiguous zone, which is up to 24 nautical miles. Then, there is the Exclusive Economic Zone, which exceeds beyond 200 nautical miles and lastly, we have the continental shelf, which is close to 350 nautical miles.

Within these various zones, the rights of the Government of India are to be exercised. For instance, in the case of the territorial waters, complete rights are available. In the case of the contiguous zone, various other rights like customs, etc. can be availed.

We have got two legislations, which I may indicate. One is the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, and the second is the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zone Act, which we had in 1976.

A need was felt for this Bill. Before coming out with this Bill, we had very wide consultations. In the year 1993, we set up a working group under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines. In that, we had representatives from Geological Survey of India, Bureau of Mines, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Oceanography Wing, the Naval Wing of

the Ministry of Defence, etc. A whole lot of consultations were there.

After those consultations were completed, this Bill was prepared. Thereafter, it was also referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has approved it. Thereafter, the Bill is now here today which I am moving for consideration.

I will indicate four very essential components of this Bill, before I conclude. The first is that it defines, in a very statutory manner, what is a mine in oceans. That area has been explained by legal interpretation and legal implication. Secondly, the definitions of leases, permits, where permits can be granted, etc. are there. As you are aware, the environmental concerns are very important in oceans. This Bill particularly takes care of the environmental concerns. A very strict environmental monitoring mechanism is there, which can be properly monitored. I would like to mention clauses 7 and 9, particularly for this purpose. If it is found that any licensee is violating the terms and conditions, there is a summary power, which is given, of termination and also of closure. Security considerations are also there. There is a provision of civil liability and there is also a provision of criminal liability. All the mechanisms have been enacted in the rule.

Lastly, I wish to assure that there is a rule-making power. We shall be coming out with very extensive rules, whereby further powers and safeguards shall be there for effective implementation of the rule.

[Translation]

With these introductory words, I put this Bill before the House. I would like to say this much only that aspects of environment and security of India have been well taken care of in it. But this bill is necessary for the future requirement. I am presenting this bill before you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the territorial water, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zone of India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am delighted to welcome this very socialist Bill that has been brought before us.

The philosophy underlying this Bill goes so-completely against the economic philosophy that, over the last four years, has been regrettably pursued by this Government that I am not sure how they reconcile the approach of this Bill with the rest of their economic policy. But if the rest of their economic policy were to be influenced by the approach in this Bill, then, I, as a socialist, would be more than delighted to accept it. For, in this Bill, they have firstly, restricted operations to Indian companies where otherwise they fall shamelessly at the feet of foreign companies. Secondly, they have exempted Government agencies from the stricter provisions of this Bill, whereas for the rest they are engaged in selling off everything that they themselves have done nothing to create.

Thirdly, they have introduced a system of being able, of their own accord whenever they feel there is a validation to act against the party that violates conditions, whereas, normally, their approach is one of completely appeasing any foreign entity or any capitalist entity which rapes and robs this country. Their answer is to make them Members of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry, not to take action against them. So, I entirely welcome the socialist approach that underlines this Bill and I would only hope, as I said, that it influences the rest of this Government's economic policy.

But, Sir, I have remained un-persuaded even after the hon. Minister's opening remarks as to why it has taken them 20 years to bring such an important Bill before this House. It was as long ago as 1982 that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted and all the wealth that the hon. Minister has mentioned just now has been lying un-excavated for the last 20 years. Apparently, it took them, mostly the Governments of Congress Party, close to 11 years before a Working Group was established, but considering the content of the Bill one is amazed that the process of consultation which the Government have indulged in has taken eight years to reach the point where the Bill could be brought before the House. While deploring the delay that has taken place, I welcome the fact that at least now it has come before us.

But it would be useful if the hon. Minister in his reply were to explain to us why he waited for 11 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to set up the Working Group and why the Working Group has taken quite as long as it has done to come to their conclusions, for after all, I see nothing in this Bill that is no controversial as to have justified the delay that seems to have taken place in the functioning of the Working Group. And, therefore, this I think is the

appropriate moment to pull up the bureaucracy which drags its feet instead of congratulating them on the excellent job they have done in producing such a Bill.

Sir, while I welcome greatly the features of this Bill, I must express my deep apprehensions that there will be no sincerity on the part of this Government in actually implementing these provisions, as we have seen with the lackadaisical attitude and even the attitude to harming the national interest which we have seen in other areas of economic activities.

Just for example, very stringent provisions have been made for licence fee. But Sir, stringent provisions existed in the Telecom sector as well. When the companies applied their licences and started operations, they turned around and told this Government that they would not pay the licence fee and compelled this Government which is of course weak in the knees, to change the entire system from the licence fee to something else. Now, I am not sure that Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has it in him to stand up to these companies when they turn around and say that they will not pay any fee or licence since it is the record of this Government that they have lost approximately Rs. 200,000 crore prospectively over the next 20 years in the telecom sector owing to their shift from one system of fees to another system of fees. I am delighted to see that Shri Jagmohan is here because he at least had the courage to stand up against such cowardly behaviour. I hope that you, the hon. Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, will more like Shri Jagmohan and less like the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I want an assurance from the Minister that all the stringent conditions about the period for which licences will be given, the penalties that will be imposed for non-performance, the sums of money that will be realised by way of permit fee or licence fee that he will actually realise them. I want this assurance on the floor of the House because it is the absence of any such assurance which enable this Government to allow the telecom operators to get away with the *loot* amounting to thousands and thousands of crores of rupees of Indian money.

Next, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to assure this House that strict court action will be taken against anyone, Indian or foreign, who is caught violating, in particular, the pollution provision.

16.00 hrs.

We have seen with regard to the Bhopal gas tragedy that Mr. Anderson of Union Carbide was given the

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

courtesy of an aircraft by the State Government for him to be able to return to Delhi and live happily abroad while lakhs upon lakhs of people who have suffered on account of the negligence of Union Carbide are continuing to suffer and have been given what, in American terms, would be extremely minimal compensation and that too has not entirely reached them. So, what we need is an assurance that when you are obliged to take strict action, you will in fact take strict action and not allow extraneously considerations to come in the way of acting against people who violate your pollution regulations, your security regulations or any other kind of regulation which affects the national interest at large in addition to the nation's financial interest.

16.01 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Thirdly, I am a little disturbed at the Government retaining almost all discretionary powers to itself without the benefit of a regulatory authority. The experience of regulatory authorities set up in this unfortunate period of liberalisation has been most unhappy. We in the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Stock Market Scam are currently engaged in investigating the role of regulatory authorities like the Securities and Exchanges Board of India and the Reserve Bank of India. Since I am a member of that Committee, I cannot comment on it at this stage. But, as a citizen of India and not as a member of the Committee, I think our regulatory authorities have done a poor job because they are not professionally managed. They are a parking place for the IAS; especially the less competent IAS. They are not really independent of the Government. In a new area like this, while I am glad that the Government will continue to exercise this responsibility of supervising such an important matter, we need to have an independent and a thoroughly professional regulatory authority which will assist the Government in carrying out the Government's general directives, but be independent of the Government in not allowing a particular very very well endowed industrial or commercial entity to influence the decisions that are taking in this regard. Therefore, I would request the Minister to consider, not immediately, but over a period of time, establishing a regulatory authority that is truly independent and truly professional to complement and supplement the policy directives of the Government in this regard.

I must emphasise at this point what has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, which I think requires underlining. That is, that the area of land that we are considering under this Act is almost equal to the total on-shore surface of India. the total on-shore surface

of India is 3.3 million sq. kms. Under this Act we are going to be looking at the economic wealth of India hidden under 3 million sq. kms. below the ocean surface. It virtually doubles the economic area of India. Therefore, I think we need to recognise that we have effectively doubled the nation's potential wealth. Indeed, we, have probably increased the potential of India's wealth exponentially in the sense that the mineral resources under the sea-bed are also valuable that they could much more than doubly add to the nation's wealth.

In the light of this, there is very very careful overview required of how the Act actually gets implemented. In implementing this Act, we cannot only look at the technical aspects that a technical Ministry like the Ministry would be considering. We would also have to take into account various Defence parameters, most important perhaps various international parameters. Therefore, there is need for a Parliamentary oversight not only through the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Mines, but perhaps by some innovation system which the hon. Speaker might wish to reflect upon, where the inputs of those concerned with External Affairs and those concerned with Defence do get added to the technical concerns of those who are connected with this particular industry. So, that is again an aspect which I would like the hon. Minister to reflect upon and bring into operation while he is implementing these matters.

Finally, I wish to draw attention to India's remarkable achievement as a developing country which is to be one of the few that is operating in Antarctica where the mineral wealth under the Law of the Sea is going to be even greater than what is available by the doubling of land area under India's economic jurisdiction which has come about over here. This Bill does not look into the aspect. We are, of course, still at a fairly distant stage from the actual grant of licences for exploration or exploitation in Antarctica area but the link between the regime that we establish here in India for our exclusive economic zone and the kind of privileges which we will be seeking in Antarctica should be borne in mind by the Government as a whole. It is not only the hon. Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad's responsibility but also that of the Government as a whole because there are many other Ministries and Departments which will be concerned with this. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to straightaway bring this up as a matter of priority consideration and perhaps, through the Government of India, to set up a Group of Ministers or some other expert body drawn from all these different Ministries which would check on the links between our regime for the exclusive economic zone and the regime we will be seeking in Antarctica because we must not find ourselves

in a situation where we lose in Antarctica because of the regime that we have prepared for India.

So, if these objectives are maintained, if the hon. Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad assures us that the socialism offshore will be brought onshore, then my party would be delighted to welcome and support this Bill

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Sir, I stand to support offshore Mineral (Development and Exchange) Bill, 2001. In its introduction, hon. Minister has mentioned about maritime zones and distances. I do not want to repeat it but after hearing him, it seemed to me that his concept of socialism has broken. When a person does not remain in power, he talks about socialism and when in power, he gives other arguments. I would like to remind him that there are various maritime zones in the country i.e., territorial seat upto 12 nautical miles, offshore zone upto 24 nautical miles, continental shelf upto 200 to 300 nautical miles, and exclusive economic zone upto 200 nautical miles. One thing is very important which the earlier speaker also mentioned. In 1982 it was accepted in international convention that collective maritime arrangements should be ensured. Whichever Government remained in power, have made delay in this. The past Member of the House know it and for future members of the House we have data that we accepted the terms of the convention on 16th November, 1994 and we implemented it completely in 1995. But this will not do, we will have to see past data. In 1957, Mineral Exchange Act was before us by which border states were given special powers. After this two amendments were done in it and the Union Government got all powers. When we see both the laws, there is a contradiction in it. If we move forward about which Hon. Minister also mentioned that in 1993 a Committee was formed under the Chairmanship was formed under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary. He has given his recommendations and mentioned that no major change has to be done in it. For years, contradiction continued. This is a surprising fact. If criticism has to be done, this should be done on this point, it is immaterial whether officers have criticised it or not. Those two laws which contradicted each other, continued and nobody gave thought over it.

Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon. Minister that he has brought it in the House keeping in view its importance. The important thing is that changes are coming up all over the world and when we talk about survey of sea, not only a single department of Mines

and Minerals is concerned but the department of coal is also concerned. In the bill, excluding petroleum and petroleum products, everything is given. In it bio-diversity also comes and we will have to consider the various maritime zones. In my knowledge, on shores of Maharashtra and Gujarat from 50 to 2000 meters of deep water areas have high quality of lime. At Andhra coast, hundred to two hundred meters of deep water high grade of lime, silt is also there. South West of Chennai, from hundred to two hundred deep water phosphetized sentiments are there. Mico, Manganese, Nodules are found in deep water of 2800-3400 meters of Lakshadweep island, High quality calcerious sand is found in shallow offshore and lagoons of Lakshadweep. These things did not come up before us today. Whichever four scientists worked for Ocean development whether they worked in the field of research, they come to know that this is our and international convention benefited us that our limits was increased. In this situation, this law is urgent for us. Therefore I would like that when we sit to discuss it, certain good signs of it should also be mentioned. We talked about giving nuclear minerals on lease but there is a restriction in this law that unless permission is taken from the Government of India or Atomic Energy department nobody can extract nuclear minerals. This is a subject of concern, when we talk about nuclear minerals, why do we look into sea. The reason behind it is that our areas are providing less for increasing population and increasing necessities.

As you know 71% of land is sea and the rest is our land area. When our demands would increase certainly we would have to depend on sea for our requirements. But we will have to keep in our mind and I would agree with Aiyar jee that no outsider would rule over us. This law is clear in this regard and clear mention is made in its section 3(1) of the Act of 1956 if, the registered company wants to employ some foreigners, it will have to take permission. We will have to see those possibilities. We may face loss if foreigners or company is included in such research. Naturally, we should think over it. Every hon. Member sitting in the House must keep in mind the aspects which we may be missing here. The House thinks over it. After going through paras one by one it seemed as if those possibilities which may have attacked us from outside, have been well taken care of.

Mr. Chairman Sir, as far as ocean development is concerned, be it ocean technology or ocean science or minerals, I think that is not only one issue. As regards bio-diversity, it has already disappeared from the earth, it is available only in oceans, but on the verge of extinction. We have knowledge about all these things but we cannot explore them. We have less experience in the field of

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

exploration so efforts should be made in this regard. We have not paid attention towards it, we should admit it. If we want to attain it within the shortest possible period then we will have to take help of many such companies. Today we should consider about ocean weather. Undoubtedly we have made progress in many fields but we have not attained that position in many other matters related to ocean. As such, we have to exchange knowledge with one another but we have to remember that they may get maximum benefit of it. Government should think about it. Due to which the government has brought this also and I congratulate the Government for it. There is a provision of punishment in it. I have studied it and I welcome this provision that if a person undertake the activities of mining without lease or licence, there is a provision of punishment of five years rigorous imprisonment. He will have to pay penalty on the profit earned thereby. On the other hand if a licence holder violates the rules, it is clearly stated that he would be fined from Rs. 10 lakhs to 1 crore. Under peculiar circumstances the penalty would not be imposed less than Rs. 1 lakh. It can be increased upto Rs. 10 lakhs. Government has got the rights of it. This penal procedure has been explicitly explained and it is an important thing. Civil procedure has also been visualised in it. Moreover, the government has tried to take a further step. Under such circumstances some concessions have been provided such as central agencies including Geological Survey of India, Directorate of Atomic Mineral Exploration and Research, Office of Naval Survey, National Institute of Ocean Science, and National Institute of Ocean Technology would not come under this provision, if they undertake research. Government can take action in the national interest without the consent of this legislation. Keeping in view the national interest due importance has been given to this legislation. While enacting this legislation the concern of the country has been kept in mind and certain minerals which are not present on the earth at present that is, Illuminite, granite, monazite, aluminium, silicate, silimanite, kainite, licotin have been mentioned in this report. These are found in less quantity on the earth and we are dependent on others in this matter. I assume that under such circumstances this legislation would prove mile stone in the progress of the country. The government should be congratulated for bringing this legislation after removing all shortcomings. I support it and conclude. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister also. Shri Aiyar has said that whether or not Ravi Shankar ji would be able to discharge his responsibility. I would like to tell him that in legacy we have got this government based on disbelief. I know Ravi Shankarji very well. I hope that he would succeed in his aim and dispel all sort of apprehensions. There should not be any misunderstanding about it. Neither I

am socialist nor capitalist, I believe in humanity only. I think that nobody can mislead us. We would protect the interest of the country and this legislation will be a example.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I would like to level allegation against the Government. Hon'ble Minister is till new. Like a maiden speech it is his maiden bill. However, I thank him. It is an important bill. A. U.N. convention was held in 1982. Mines and minerals were not included in its agenda. Without any Legislation 20 years were elapsed. They have not gone through object and reason of the bill. First of all, I would like to read Hindi version. Wherein it is stated that out India's about 33 lakh sq Km territory 8 thousand 41 sq km is coastal area. Sir, this give me impression that coastal area is 8041 sq. km. out of 33 lakh sq. km. territory of the country. In the English version it has been stated that:

[English]

India has approximately 3.3 million square kilometres of land area with a coast line of 8041 kilometres.

[Translation]

There is difference between Hindi and English version. In Hindi version coastal area has been stated 8041 sq. km. How negligence has been shown in the matter of Bill. They do not know that people would read it.

[English]

The area of the exclusive economic zone is 2.02 million square kilometres.

[Translation]

Thereafter, it is written that Exclusive Economic Zone has 22 lakh square kilometres area. It has again carried wrong meaning. It creates doubt that Hindi version is correct or English version. That is why I have also doubt about the area of 20.2 lakh square kilometres.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, it may be because of the fact that the Mathematics Professors have come from the colleges of this Parliament House and their mathematics have lost site of there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister will clarify it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: In Hindi version it has been stated 22 lakh and in English version it is stated 2.02 million km.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, he is raising a very valid point.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is a great difference between both of them. Not only this, it is also stated that in minerals and sand licotin, garnet, jecorn, kinite, monozite, aluminium silicate including Ilamanile Rutile are found in large quantity. Though all those minerals have been explored but in the matter of royalty licotin and kinite have been excluded. I would like to know from the Government as to why those minerals have not been included for the purpose of royalty. Further it has been stated that minerals found from the research would be including for royalty. The Government should look into this matter as gross negligence has been shown in this Bill. All of us know, that minerals are found in the sea in huge quantity and minerals are also found in coastal areas. If exploration is undertaken then the quantity of minerals in the sand would be known. It has Licotin Eliminate. We heard that it contains Aluminium oxide and Bauxite. But we did not hear about Eliminate, Kaynite. But all these minerals have been left, hence hon. Minister should properly look into it. In beginning he said that if those minerals have not been covered for the purpose of royalty, what impact it would have. As such, royalty will not be given for them and here would be bungling. Therefore correction should be made therein. The Government have claimed that the security in those areas has also been kept in mind. I would like to know, what security arrangements have made. After this bill, what special arrangements would be made to maintain security of those areas.

So far as environment issue is concerned, what measures have been adopted, what action has been taken to protect the environment. Otherwise vested interests would activate. At present, vested interests have cut the mountains, and destroyed them in mountainous regions what action the Department of Forests and Environment have taken in this regard. Forests and Soil are on the top of mountains and they have cut mountains from the bottom, as a result of which all soil and forests have destroyed and it has ill effect on the environment. Therefore I would like to know what caution has been

taken for the exploitation, extraction and supply of these minerals. What kind of measures have been adopted in this matter so that we can be assured that Government is vigilant about this matter. It is not sufficient to say only that the Government have made provisions for security and environment in this bill. I want full information in his regard from the Government and what benefit would accrue from it. The convention was held in 1982, the department worked on it for 20 years, made calculations and so delay has been made to bring this bill. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has given all figures and told that mineral reserves are available there abundantly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, consequently upon the diversion of Bihar all the areas having mineral wealth went to Jharkhand. The entire capital has been invested in the industries of Jharkhand Research on granite was conducted in my State, now the Government should tell, that by when that Granite would be used, otherwise except sand no minerals has left in Bihar. But Monghyr the capital of Karma was in forest area, therefore people say that there are ample possibilities of finding gold there. Therefore, exploration should also be conducted in offshore areas. In the ancient time, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata developed as they are in coastal areas. As sea route was available there, therefore these cities continue to develop. But what will happen to the States like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar etc. which do not fall in coastal areas. He has brought the legislation regarding mineral wealth but only for coastal areas. He should also bring a legislation regarding the minerals for non-coastal areas and should tell how they would be and how Granite would be explored. Very good quality of Granite is found in Kamataka. Stones of good quality for business is available there. Jaipur has different types of marbles. After carrying out tests and research, Granite of the best quality has been found in Bihar. Now, it appears to me that some mineral is also available in my State. But the Government should make some arrangement in this regard. Therefore, the hon. Minister should ensure that exploration of minerals also undertaken in non-coastal areas along with the coastal areas so that the people of those areas get benefit. The hon. Minister has been newly appointed and has brought this bill, I thank him.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to say that I welcome healthy criticism but this Government has brought a comprehensive bill. The sea has been called 'Ratnakar'. 'Vashundhara'. 'Ratnakar' means deposits of gems, remaining words are of Sanskrit. He speaks fluent English. I appreciate it but alongwith it the words from our vocabulary like 'Ratnakar', Vasundhara, the reserve of Gems, and different kinds of minerals found on sea-bed

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

has been mentioned. I would like to congratulate the NDA Government for bringing such comprehensive bill within the period of 3-4 years of their governance.

Hon. Singh Saheb and Aiyer Saheb were talking about convention, which was held in 1982. After that, who was ruling the country. U.N. convention was held in 1982. Thereafter the territory of India and other countries in terms of nautical mileage was determined. Consequently we can explore sea, we can extract minerals from it. But why the exploration activities were not undertaken. Who prohibited it?

[English]

Doing and saying or speaking are different things.

[Translation]

'Kathni Thothi Jagat Main, Karni Uttham Saar, Kah Kabir Karni Sabal, utre Bhavjal Par'.

Therefore, I would like to congratulate the Government that at least they brought this Bill. I would like to request Raghuvansh Babu, however saying anything about him is like to light the course of sun, that this bill has been brought regarding the minerals found in sea. The India has been called the treasure of nature, cradle of nature. There are many laws about the minerals found on land and mining is undertaken on the basis of those laws. Bihar gets royalty and each State gets its share. Many laws already exist but this comprehensive bill has been brought regarding the minerals found on sea-bed, their exploration and drawing and benefit from them for the country. I would like to congratulate the Government.

I would like to say one thing more. It has been mentioned in the constitution of India that the Central Government have power to undertake the exploration of minerals in its coastal areas. We have coastal area of 8041 kilometers and there is 3.3 million square kilometre area where the Government can undertake the exploration of mineral as the powers have already been provided to it. The Central Government have taken a revolutionary step in the field of mining by using its powers. A working group was constituted for it. Working group had a wide discussion in this regard.

[English]

"The Government has carefully considered the recommendations of the Working Group and has decided that a law relating to development and regulation of minerals in offshore areas may be enacted."

[Translation]

A programme was chalked out after this discussion. After considering the recommendations of that programme, this bill has been prepared for regulating mining and for its development. In the end it has been stated that:—

[English]

"The proposed legislation would enable streamlining of mineral exploration and development in the offshore areas and ensure systematic and scientific exploration of mineral reserves (except petroleum, natural gas and hydrocarbon resources) for attracting private investment in the mineral sector."

[Translation]

This matter was related to mining but honourable Aiyar Saheb started criticising it and talking of last four-five years. Do take positive view sometimes. As you think, so you will see. Tendency of fault finding would really be fatal for the nation.

Through you Sir, I would like to say that in the matter of overall development of the nation, at least we should work together.

Sang Gachdhavam sang Vadhavam,

Sang Vo Manasi Janatam.

Deva Bhagam Yathapurve,

Sanjananan-Upasate

I think honourable Aiyar Saheb is a very learned person and he will keep this thing in mind. It has been clearly mentioned in the Bill that there are mineral reserves in the situation for systematic and scientific exploitation. We visited Bombay High situated at sea shore, under the auspices of the Ministry of Petroleum. About 150 miles away from seashore there are big installations and machinery which were installed there with the help of Russia. The effort which was made by our Petroleum and Natural Gas Department to meet the demand of oil in the country by extracting oil from sea belt. I think the same effort will be made in future by mining department because it is a separate department and it will concentrate on exploitation of minerals reserves available at sea bed.

Rates of royalty are given in the first schedule. Other private parties also come there for exploitation of minerals and make investments. What will be the rate of royalty,

which minerals would be found there, prone, ilmanite, rutile, lucoxine, zircon, garnet etc. There is a mention of sapphires, diamonds and various other precious stones in our old holy books (Granthas). It has been told in National Geographic and Discovery channels that there could be various types of precious stones and other things at sea bed. We could guess from it. So I want to request the Government that when legislation is being enclosed for it then it should be implemented and mining work should be started as early as possible so that our country could again be called prosperous.

A provision of protection from pollution has also been made in it because various types of creatures like corals are found in sea. We visited Andaman-Nicobar. The corals which are found there could be seen from the mirror which is fixed at the bottom of boat. A provision has been made in the Bill so that no harm is caused to corals and to various types of fishes or no pollution is created from mining. The question of health of the people, safety and security of the country has also been taken care of.

[English]

"The Central Government is being authorised by notification in the official gazette of prescribe norms for the safety and health of persons and safety and security of property in offshore areas."

[Translation]

There is also a mention of offshore and onshore property and safety of creatures which live there. There is also a mention of rules of payment of royalty, the method of taking fixed rate, defence safeguard etc. Shri Patil has told that such a coordination will be established with Atomic Department, Defence Department or Navy so that there is no threat to the security of our country...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am concluding just now...(Interruptions) A provision of operating rights has also been made in the Bill. By elaborating this, I want to prove that it is a comprehensive Bill. An effort has been made in this comprehensive Bill that there is no lacuna but if honourable Members point out any drawback, the government will try to rectify it and exploit mineral resources through mining to make the country prosperous.

There is a mention of inter departmental consultation also. There is also a mention of discussion with defence department and Ministries which have parallel interest in

offshore area. The rules have also been prescribed for giving exploration license, lease. For that work, programme would be demanded from them. It would be discussed as to how the programme will implemented, what will be done in the first stage and second stage and by when its real form will emerge. All these things show that it is a very useful Bill. So with your permission, I conclude by reiterating that NDA Government has brought a very good Bill. Earlier Patwaji has also tried to bring this Bill. I support offshore Area Mineral Development and Regulation Bill, 2001 and express my gratitude.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support this Bill. This Bill, though belated, contains certain provisions, which have to be thoroughly scrutinised. In Kerala State there is already the process of extraction which is going on near Quilon at Chavara. There is an Indian Rare Earths Minerals Limited. That Company is functioning for the last three or four decades. Thousands of workers are engaged in it. Zircon, ilmenite, thorium, etc., are extracted from the source of Chavara near Quilon.

Sir, India was the only State, which could provide these rare minerals...(Interruptions) It is said that even for manufacturing of nuclear weapons, even for production of atom bomb...(Interruptions) We were doing it. We were producing it...(Interruptions) He may not be aware that it was functioning there for decades and thorium was also extracted. Silimanite and zircon were also extracted from the source of Chavara near Quilon.

Sir, if I understand correctly, there were about 3,000 workers engaged by a company—the Indian company—in the sense it was a public undertaking. It was in high profits for a very long time. Now, it is closed because of this policy. The company is closed not because thorium is out of the market, not because ilmenite is not required in the international market, but because of the wrong policy pursued by the Central Government, which has led to the closure of this company. Nearly 3,000 workers are thrown out of employment because of the policy of the Government. There is no production.

Sir, our coastal areas are rich in the rare minerals not only in Kerala but also throughout the coastal areas. Within a radius of three to four miles, these rare minerals are available in plenty. The sea sand is containing thorium and ilmenite deposits. It is a known fact. If you go and see the sea sand there, it will be glittering. Why? It is because it is full of rare minerals. Even now invite the hon. Minister to visit Kerala coast. He can see tonnes of thorium and ilmenite minerals throughout the long

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

seacoast. In the sea sand it will be glittering during the night like a star. You can see even now. However, we could not produce it. Now, the Government is proposing to bring an international company, a multinational company, to extract these minerals. It is said that it is a Defence area. How far will it affect us? This will have to be ascertained. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter as to how to revive the Indian Rare Earths Factory, which was functioning there. The workers are prepared to work. The company is also prepared to function. If the Government is coming with a very firm hand in helping them, I am sure that we will be able to produce as much thorium as is required for Defence production and we will be able to produce ilmenite, a rare mineral from Chavara at the earliest. These are available in plenty and in abundance. You do not have to bother. Of course, your legislation will be of some use. But unfortunately, you have given 30 years duration for a licence and on some or the other ground, it may be extended by ten or twenty years more. That is the provision in the statute. That is not sufficient. We, the Indians, may be more interested in foreign companies. I am sure, in the Bill, there is a provision that only Indian companies will be provided the licence. That is all right. I do not stand in the way of privatisation. But it must be ensured that on no account is a multinational company allowed to function in this company. They should not be allowed because it is a matter involving our Defence security. Do not put in multinational companies into this field by giving them 26 per cent equity. That is a usual slogan raised by the Central Government. In every private company, you are giving 26 per cent. Do not bring in a company for extracting ilmenite or rare minerals from Charara sea coast near Quilon, which is about 60 miles north of Trivandrum. From there, there is an extensive area covering some sixty miles in length and in that are also it is available. So, I would request you to be very careful in framing the rules and see that our national interests are duly protected when it is given effect to.

There is already a law. Now we are going to have a consolidated law for being implemented for this purpose. I fully agree to this. But you should take abundant caution to see that our national interests are duly protected and the workers' interests are also protected. Some of the companies are facing closure. Revive all those companies and make them profitable by giving them Central assistance. I hope, the hon. Minister will give his attention to these matters, especially the functioning of rare earth factories on the coast of Charara near Quilon. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support this Bill. It is no doubt

a very good Bill because it is adding 28 lakh sq kilometres of area to 33 lakh kilometres of our on-shore mineral area. If you look at this 33 lakh kilometres on-shore area, that is, the land area of India, you have to exclude the area which is under Pakistan and which is also under the occupation of China. So, it is equal to the land area of India. The new mineral area has to be exploited. Therefore, it is a very welcome idea and we support it. We wish that it should be done faithfully, scientifically and in a very modernised way.

While supporting this, I have a few suggestions. I hope, the hon. Minister will kindly pay heed to those suggestions and in the course of his reply, he will give answer to those points.

It is not that we are not exploiting the marine products. We are exploiting the marine products like fish and all those things. But this is a mineral under the sea. The House and the country deserves to know which of the developed countries are exploiting off-shore minerals, how much they are getting out of that and which are those minerals.

A clear picture is ought to be given to this House and I hope the hon. Minister will kindly do that. That is my first point.

I will come to the second aspect. I am sorry to say this. This is, no doubt, a Central law made under article 297 unlike the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act now known as the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act is a colourable legislation and it should not have been enacted by the Parliament of India. The Parliament has only the right for regulation and development of the mines and minerals. It should have been passed on to the respective States. But that has not been done. But it is entirely a Central Act. In this Central Act there is no provision for the role of the marine States, the States along the coastline or even for the share of those States. That has also to be looked into because it is adjacent to them and as hon. Member Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has rightly said, it is to only along the coastline of Kerala but it is along the coastline of Orissa also. In Gopalpur we shall see the deposits of minerals like Monazite, Rutile, Thorium and all these things which are there. So, along the coastline we have immense wealth. That has not been properly exploited as yet. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister, through you, to see that the role of the respective marine States, the coastal States and also of their share is looked into properly. That has not been given place in this beautiful Act.

My third point is regarding royalty. The language has been brought from the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act now known as Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. There is a provision in clause 16 in this Act regarding royalty. The proviso to clause 16, sub-clause 2 reads as follows:

"The Central Government shall not enhance rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years."

I request the hon. Minister, through you that let this very specific. This is a very mischievous construction of language and let it be made very specific. Please make it that it will be enhanced or it will be changed every two years. You give a specific time. Otherwise, it will not be enhanced within any three years—and that means it may not be enhanced for 10 or 15 years as it is being done now with other minerals and coal. The hon. Minister of Coal and Mines knows that for the last eight years the royalty on coal has not yet been revised or has not yet been enhanced because such a provision is there and they are taking shelter in this sort of a provision.

The Sarkaria Commission has rightly said that the royalty should be revised every two years. It has not been done. The Eleventh Finance Commission has also said that every three years the royalty should be revised and if the Central Government does not revise the royalty in time then the respective mineral-bearing States are to get compensation. Therefore, I am submitting that though the Government of India will get the royalty, still this should be made very clear that it should be revised every two years. Otherwise the beneficiaries will be the private miners. Therefore, I request that the hon. Minister may kindly take care of this.

Sir, my fourth suggestion is this. I would request him to please look at the First Schedule. There are only nine items. It means only nine minerals have been identified and not more than that. That shows that the total survey of all the explorable sites has not been done so far as offshore minerals are concerned. We want to know, in fact, what is the largest survey done so far as our offshore mineral wealth is concerned. Here, only nine minerals have been pointed out. In First Schedule, there is also a provision that on some minerals, the royalty is on *ad valorem* basis and on some minerals, it is on flat rate. Therefore, my suggestion is to please make it on *ad valorem* basis in respect of all the minerals.

Sir, when Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1957, the House was given, the nation was given an assurance that nearly 20 per cent of the pit mouth value will be paid as royalty.

That has not been adhered to. At that time, the provision was the every fourth year, it would be revised, but that had not been adhered to because of this mischievous construction of the provision. The mischievous construction is—I am reading it again—"shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years." That means, it will not be revised within three years and 'after three years' means, it may be revised after 10 years or it may also be revised after 20 years as it is happening in the case of coal. Therefore, I am requesting him that let it be very clear, emphatic and unambiguous so that there will be no misuse of any provision in future.

Again, I thank the hon. Minister for bringing such a law. I wish it success, but these four things that I have placed before this House ought to be addressed by the hon. Minister.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, if you allow, I would like to raise one thing.

We are very happy that when the House is in Session, Shri Abdul Kalamji has won the presidential election with about 90 per cent votes. We would like to congratulate him because it is a unanimous election. We are proud to say that he is a peace-maker of the new scientific world and is a great hope for the country. Congratulations to him, through you, Sir!

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to broadly support the Bill. In the present scenario of so-called liberalisation and globalisation, I must thank the Government and the Minister that they have brought the Bill which at least restricts the foreigners. It is good, but I have got the apprehension how far they will stick to that. This is the order of the day.

Sir, it is understood that the Union Government feels to enact the legislation to take its control off the regulation of the mines development and minerals in the offshore areas. Also a proposal has come which specifies the parameters of the operating rights, the production lease and so on and so forth. This is good. We have no objection to that. That can be done. But while supporting the Bill, I must ask one question.

17.00 hrs.

This question has already been raised here by one hon. Member that why the respective State Governments have not been involved or why there is no provision to involve the State Governments. The State Governments

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

are also responsible to look after the offshore and the seacoast area. I think there should be some provision. Please think over involving the respective State Government in this.

I am thankful to the Government that they have carefully considered all the recommendations of the Working Groups. This is a good thing, but the point is why you did not ask the State Governments to send their recommendations or opinions on that. I would request you to look into this matter.

I want to say that everything is okay. Lastly, I want to raise one other point, which may not come under the purview of this Bill. Since the Minister is dealing with ocean-related matters, I wish to point out that erosion is increasing day by day and it is a fact. Who will look after that? The State Governments are not looking after that. They have no money, and the subject matter pertaining to seas does not belong to them. This issue may not come under the purview of this Bill, but please take note of that so that this problem can be solved. I do not want to say anything more. Generally, I support this Bill.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairman, Sir, this is a very important Bill, but it has come after a delay of about two years and the fact that we were part of the Convention on the Law of Seas as early as 1982. This Bill only deals with the procedural matters, but it should have a wider perspective and it should conserve the wealth and which is available in the ocean-basin, especially in the seas around our *Bharat*. We have got a lot of living and non-living things and also minerals which can be tapped very easily and which are very useful for the people who are living near the seashore. We should be very careful in dealing with this matter. This wealth should not be taken away by the foreigners under the guise of helping the people who are living nearby. At the same time, you have not enunciated any perspective plan about how you are going to conserve the wealth which is available in our ocean-basin.

The economic zone in the Southern side is having living and non-living things that are precious. After getting the mining licence, people may take away these living and non-living things which are very precious and which are used as food and medicine. The Government should have the vigilance mechanism in place to find out whether this type of wealth is being taken away by people who have got the mining licences. Mining in the sea or ocean is a very difficult and costly thing. It needs a lot of modern machinery and also investment. People may steal this

natural wealth of both living and non-living things that are abundantly available.

Sir, my constituency is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal where corals are found in abundance. But all those are taken away by even very small people. There is no vigilance on the part of the Government. There is no separate Department for development of the oceans. Though we have got a Department, namely, the Department of Ocean Development, yet they are only carrying out small research operations here and there and they also have a very small Budget with very less financial allocation. If some information is sought about fishing, then people are directed to the Ministry of Agriculture. If some information is sought about mining, then people are directed to the Department of Mines. But sea mining is totally different from that of terrestrial mining. Therefore, the Department has to pay much more attention to this aspect. A holistic attitude should be there to find out as to how best these areas could be developed. The data that have been made available at the very beginning of Bill suggests that we have a 3.3 million square kilometers of land area with a coastal line of 8041 kilometers. It is the greatest wealth that nature has bestowed on us. Therefore, the Government should have a separate Department that should look after sea fishing and other living organisms and also for protecting and preserving the environment according to the laid down international norms.

At the same time we should also get harvesting out of it. We should have sea mining by protecting the environment. If all these three aspects would have to be integrated and looked after, then we should have a separate Department for this that can take care of mining, harvesting of living things and also of protecting the environment.

Sir, I would like to suggest that by simple enactment of a law we may not be able to harness the richness of the sea shores that this country has been endowed with. For example, in my State constituency we have started a college of Ocean and Coastal Study at Thondi. Coastal study is only at the initial stage in our Indian educational system. We have got a coastal line that is embedded in richness. But we do not have the knowledge to explore that. So, that aspect has to be looked into. We should have a proper educational system wherein there should be scope for research to find out the magnitude of wealth that we have on the coastal line and how best we can utilise this available wealth on the coastal line and how best the unemployed youth of our country could be used in this field. It should not be done only for commercial reasons. It is a wealth that should be used for the welfare

of the community and the society at large. That is much more important.

Sir, I welcome this Bill. But at the same time I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that we should concentrate on conserving the wealth of the oceans. There should be a proper discussion on this issue and a suitable law should also be enacted to conserve the wealth of our oceans. This aspect has not been taken into consideration in this Offshore Mineral Development Regulation Bill. Normally when there is development as well as regulation, there should be some investment for development also. If the Mining and Minerals Act is giving a developmental focus then when mining is taken up it should be replaced by some environment-friendly provision. In the same way, sea offshore should also be protected. But there is no provision for this in this Act.

Sir, the other thing is that income as royalty and licence fee should also be shared with the States. For example, the coastal States like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh can earn a lot of money by way of royalty from this.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Why are you forgetting the State of Orissa?

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: We cannot forget the State of Orissa. It should also get its share in the royalty. There should be some taxation for the welfare of the States that are protecting the seabeds.

Therefore, there should be proper participation by both the Central Government and the State Governments. Both the Governments should see that the wealth is preserved and utilised properly for the welfare of the community.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2001.

With the modern development process going on in the country and with the count becoming a nuclear power, the necessity for more radioactive minerals is envisaged. Nuclear minerals like zircon, ilmenite, etc., are mainly found in the offshore areas and this Bill would help in mining them. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Basically this Bill legalises offshore mining within the continental shelf in the trial waters which have been earmarked in the Bill. There are provisions in various clauses for ensuring protection of environment. But, I

would like to say that we should go by our past experience. In the case of land-based mining that is taking place today, rehabilitation has not been done for the last 20 years in the way it is supposed to have been. In the case of BALCO at Korba, and at places where thermal power plants are built, the people displaced have not yet been rehabilitated.

When this Bill becomes an Act and comes into force, offshore mining will go on right from Maharashtra coast to Bengal coast. In Mumbai you get duck fish and pomfret. Orissa coast is full of shrimp. Millions of fishermen in the country depend on coastal farming and pisciculture for their livelihood. How do we save them? I would request the hon. Minister to kindly clarify this point in his reply as to how the interests of fishermen will be safeguarded.

Offshore mining is new to India. After 20 years of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea 1982, we have come forward with this Bill. Why did it take so long to bring this Bill? I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for coming forward with this dynamic Bill in this new era of development. I completely support this Bill.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention some points about my State Orissa. My hon. friend Shri Trilochan Kanungo mentioned the royalty part. Our State has always been a neglected State, be it in the case of coal, be it in the case bauxite mining. Orissa has the second largest bauxite mines in Asia. Even then we have been neglected in the case of royalty. We are a State with the longest coastline in the country. We have the Rare Earths Limited plant at Gopalpur. I would request that its running should be improved, it should be expanded, and more activity should be carried out there.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, may I have an opportunity to say something? I will take just five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are very happy that this Bill has been introduced in this House. This Bill refers to the wealth available in the ocean. I had the good fortune of working as the Minister looking after the Department of Ocean Development. I know as to how the Department of Ocean Development came into existence.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi wanted that there should be a Department of Ocean Development. She was told that

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

since we had the Agriculture Ministry looking after Fisheries, the Defence Ministry looking after the navigation problems, etc., a Department of Ocean Development was not necessary.

But she explained, and I know it. She explained that the oceans are richer than the land is. All that you have on the land and under the land is available on the sea belt and under the sea belt; and in the columns of water which are standing on the ocean belt, there are many things are not available either on the land, or under the land.

So, she insisted that the Department of Ocean Development should come into existence and that the responsibility of that Department should be to find out as to what kind of wealth is available in the ocean, and then develop the technology for using that wealth and then making that technology available to the Government as well as to the private sector as that the wealth available in the ocean is utilised.

And, she had to put a lot of pressure not the Administration to see that the Department comes into existence, and it did come into existence. But that Department is moving a little slowly. All the same, this law provides that the mineral wealth which is available in the ocean should be utilised.

About the territorial water, we have sovereignty over territorial water. In the economic zone, we have economic sovereignty. We can use the wealth in the economic zone, and beyond that also we will be allowed to utilise resources in the ocean with the permission of the International Sea Belt Authority which has come into existence and fortunately, this Bill has come into existence.

This Bill will encourage the private sector, the public sector, the Government sector, and for anyone who is intending to utilise the resources in the ocean. It is a welcome provision. May be, there are some defects and shortcomings. But as the time passes and when it is enforced and used, we will be able to do away with those defects and shortcomings.

But there is only one point which I want to make in this respect. It is not only the minerals which are available in the ocean. There are a lot of food materials which are available in the ocean. It is not only the fish which is available but there are so many things on the ocean bed which can be utilised as food. It is a very healthy food. Now, it should be possible for us to utilise the food.

How much is the economic zone we have? It is two-thirds of the land mass of India. It is our economic zone and it remains unutilised. It is the virgin land. We have not touched it at all. So, first, we should utilise these minerals which are available; second, we should utilise the food material which is available; and third, there are chemicals available in the ocean. These chemicals should also be utilised. It is not yet realised that the ocean is the reservoir of energy. Energy come from the Sun. It is stored in the ocean and then gain it becomes available to the people.

There should be technology developed for this purpose also to see that the energy which is available can be utilised. So, the steps which we have to take for utilising the ocean resources are to see that the energy which is available is used.

These days we have been talking drinking water problem. People have been telling us that there is going to be dearth of energy; dearth of drinking water. They are not talking these days about the dearth of food material because now, we have food material in excess. But as far as drinking water and energy are concerned, they are talking about them. We utilise the energy which is in the ocean, it would be possible for us to supply energy to ourselves. But is not going to be available in five years time. So, if we do not start now, we will not be able to utilise it in 20 years time. That much time will be taken. If we start late, more time would be taken.

Here, it is food, energy and drinking water. You may be able to deal with the problem of drinking water; you may be able to supply food but not drinking water. So, what has actually to be done is to develop the technology for turning the ocean water into potable water and that potable water should be available for drinking purposes. That kind of water can be utilised for irrigation purposes also. If the Government of India has to provide of the problems of the country, the Government of India should not be happy only to provide for the problems of the present, but it should be able to provide for the problems of the future also. It has to be done in 10-15 years' time. If we had not started atomic energy development early, we would not have reached here. If we had not started research and development in space early, we would not have reached here.

Now, the time has come when we shall have to develop our capacity to utilise ocean resources so that the fruits of it will be visible to us and available to us after 50 years' time. The same is applicable to the genetics also.

While congratulating the Minister for bringing forward this Bill and while supporting this Bill wholeheartedly, we would request the Minister to keep these things in mind and whenever possible push through these things so that after some time—when we may or may not be there—something which is really futuristic will happen.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Chairmanji, the whole House very instinctively welcome and co-operated on the issue of Bill brought by one to control the future possibilities. I am grateful to all for this. Perhaps it is the necessity of the time.

Hon. Shivraj Patilji told about its historical background. Reverend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar tried to find out the foundation of reconstruction of socialism in it. My friends Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Rasa Singh Rawat, Sudarsanaji, Shri Prabodh Panda, Shri Radha Krishnan and Deo Sahib gave emphasis on its necessity. Shri Raghuvansh Babu put his views. Somebody told about two states. I shall try to answer those also.

[English]

Sir, let us go step by step. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar talked in detail about the delay, which was reiterated by other hon. Members also. I would only like to inform that the Law of the Sea Convention was held in the year 1982. It became effective on the 16th November 1994. It was ratified by India on the 29th June 1995. From 1982 to 2002, it is a period of 20 years. Out of this, we have been in effective work for four years. If in those four years, we have come forward with this Bill, it is for the House to decide whether there is any delay on our part. But yes, I must, at the same time, do say that we ensured that we had the widest consultation possible because of the serious implications of this Bill.

I would only wish to inform the House, through you, Sir, that we had consultations with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Ocean Development, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Legal Affairs, and others. If this was the widest possible nature of consultations, then, I think, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will certainly grant us this indulgence. After coming to power in the year 1998, we initiated the process with greater speed and came forward with this Bill which has found the widest acceptability in four years,

then that is indeed matter of appreciation and not of criticism.

As far as certain other issues which have been raised by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and others are concerned, I would like to take open them one by one. He talked about the environmental concerns, the security concerns about the mechanism to implement this Bill I wish to assure him that as far as the regulatory part is concerned, presently we are contemplating to have the Indian Bureau of Mines as the regulator, which is a proper expert body. I wish to further assure him that with the experience of the working of this Bill—or this act after it comes into effect—if we need further amendments, certainly we would be doing that because this is a new area which we are seeking to explore with our expertise.

Since the Indian Bureau of Mines is there in existence for the last so many years with expertise in mines planning, mines monitoring, mines executing, etc., I am sure presently, IBM would be able to do that. I would again reiterate that if need be—if the need is felt—we would certainly make corrections as regards a further autonomous regulator, as he has suggested.

Many other hon. Members have talked about other concerns. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar talked about the socialist nature of this Bill. I can only tell him this. He informed that socialism as a policy is always welcome so far as development is concerned. But if socialism brings in statusquo-ism and if development is retarded, you would certainly go for new tools. He has talked about the Licence Fee and the telecom sector. Certainly, that is a separate sector and the concerned Minister can reply about that. But I can only assure him that as far as record of my Government is concerned, it is a fact that after we have changed from licence to revenue sharing, today there is a competition in lowering the rates of telephones. Are not the consumers being benefited? Therefore, details will have to be awaited but since the hon. Member has mentioned it, I thought that I must indicate it.

As far as the licence fee and other things in the present Act are concerned, it is absolutely on the same line as the Mineral Development and Regulation Act. We have adopted the same mechanism. Many members have mentioned that there are only nine minerals mentioned in the Schedule. Shri Kanungo has also mentioned it. I would just like to inform him that if he reads the Schedule, serial 10, it is stated, "All other minerals not hereinafter specified". Therefore, these nine have been specified, the rate of royalty indicated and for the rest, we have put a flat rate, a 10 per cent sales price *ad valorem*. Raghuvanshji has asked,

[Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad]

[English]

It is very much included there. All the rest of the minerals are very much included in the Schedule at serial number 10.

[Translation]

Where you have left this?

Raghuvanshji has mentioned about the environment and security.

[Translation]

I would like to tell Shri Raghuvansh Babu that if he sees two provisions—Para 7 and Para 9 of this Bill. There is clear mention of this thing. The Government can cancel the lease in the case of need of protection of environment other special need and if it becomes necessary in the interest of nation the Government reserves the right to cancel it. There is nothing like this in other provision. As the issue sea coast is a national concern therefore, we reserve this right.

[English]

Shri Aiyar talked about discretion with the Government. I think this discretion had to be taken by the Government because of the highly sensitive nature of the operations which are sought to be addressed by this Bill. Therefore, within the prescribed guidelines, rules in detail would come about. I wish to assure him that these discretions also will be exercised in the most objective and fair manner keeping national security, environment concerns and other Defence concerns in mind.

May I just inform the House one thing more, that is, when we will be identifying a particular mining area, we will be taking approval of the Defence and only after approval of the Defence agencies, we shall notify a particular mining area depending upon the longitude and latitude.

Many of my friends mentioned about the concern of fisheries and other things. I wish to assure them that there is no contradiction between the fishery right and mining right. For mining right we have to go deep inside the sea and fishery is done either on the surface or a little below the surface. Therefore, there is no particular contradiction. However, for the execution of the scheme under this Act, we shall always be consulting the Fishery Department also so that there is no problem *per se*.

An issue about the royalty and the share of the State Government was raised by Shri Kanungo. My

friend Shri Bikram Keshari Deo also mentioned about it. I wish to again quote the Constitution. It has been mentioned:

"All lands, minerals and other things of value, underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, shall vest in the Union and be held for the purposes of the Union."

So, in terms of the Constitution itself, all minerals, like petroleum and natural gas as they are also exploited, vest with the Government of India. This is not to say that we do not have a feeling for the State Government. This is not to say that we do not acknowledge the right of the State Government.

I wish to tell you that under the MMDR Act there is a proper division of royalty. Since our Government has come to power, we have delegated most of the powers to the State Governments in award of licence...*(Interruptions)* Royalty revision is there. Royalty is shared by the State. So, royalty is yours and not ours. In the Constitution, mines on the land belong to the State and the mine inside the sea belongs to the Central Government. Therefore, I hope my very esteemed friends would appreciate this Constitutional scheme.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Babu talked of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Shri Raghuvansh Babu has some more influence over you.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He is a senior leader from Bihar. Mr. Suman let me speak this.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What about the Rare Earth India Ltd?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You are right, Shri Radhakrishnan and I am just coming to that point. This Rare Earth India Ltd. is a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy. It is running well. Before framing this Bill we also had consultation with the Department of Atomic Energy and they had given their approval and consent for this Bill. Therefore, the objective that this Bill seeks to sub serve would under no circumstances mitigate against the objective of the Rare Earth India Ltd. This is the assurance I want to give. The total activity of that very significant public sector undertaking will continue to be there. It shall be getting our fullest cooperation. There shall be no contradiction and if any problem would arise we shall have further consultations as I have told you.

[Translation]

Raghuvansh Babu! The granite found in Bihar is owing to our efforts. Granite worth rupees four thousand crore

has been found out in 19 prospects in seven district of Bihar.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Let it be known that how much royalty will go to Bihar.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I told that it is worth rupees four thousand crores. But according to rule the right to give on lease is yours and not ours. Therefore, you may got this lease with your own influence. We will give full support on behalf of geological survey of India but in rule power to give lease is not ours. We have told you about the location of granite after discovering it.

[English]

I can only assure you that this Bill is a significant milestone development in India as pointed out by Shri Shivraj Patil. I would appreciate if the whole House extends its cooperation in passing this Bill. With these words, I thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for development and regulation and mineral resources in the territorial water, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 12 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13

Grant of Production Lease.

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 32,—

for "land" substitute "offshore area". (3)

Page 7, line 35,—

for "land" substitute "offshore area". (4)

(Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I beg to move:

"Page 7, line 42,—

for "thirty years" substitute "twenty years". (7)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 7 moved by Shri Prabodh Panda to vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 13 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 and 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16

Royalty

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I beg to move:

"Page 8, lines 27 and 28,—

for "shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years".

substitute "shall enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral every two years". (16)

Sir, the Minister has not answered my question. If he gives an answer, I will not press my amendment.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Royalty is already fixed for three years.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I have asked for a definite time.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: By law itself three-year period is already there.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Then you say that after three years it would be reviewed.

SHRI CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 16 moved by Shri Trilochan Kanungo to vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There is a technical mistake, Sir, to which I would like to draw your attention. Clause 16 is related to the First Scheduled and in Entry No. 1 of the First Schedule, there is a comma put after the word 'brown'. It should not be there. It should be read as 'brown ilmenite' and not 'brown, ilmenite'.

I also draw your attention to Entry No. 8, to the way sillimanite is being spelt. You have spelt it differently than the way in which you have spelt it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. As this is a legal document, please take care of it.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I will look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 to 22 we added to the Bill.

Clause 23

Offences

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I beg to move:

Page 11, line 29—

for "five year"

substitute "ten years" (8)

Page 11, line 29—

for "five thousand"

substitute "one lakh" (9)

Page 11, line 32—

for "three year"

substitute "five years" (10)

Page 11, line 33—

for "twenty-five thousand"

substitute "fifty thousand" (11)

Page 11, line 40—

for "three year"

substitute "five years" (12)

Page 11, line 40—

for "fifty lakh"

substitute "seventy-five lakh" (13)

Page 12, line 6—

for "five year"

substitute "eight years" (14)

Page 12, line 17—

for "fifty-thousand"

substitute "one lakh" (15)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 moved by Shri Prabodh Panda to vote of the House.

The amendment were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 23 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 to 38 were added to the Bill.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title And commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 6,—

for "2001",

substitute "2002" (2)

(Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line,—

for "Fifty-second"

substitute "Fifty-third"

(1)

(Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 be taken into consideration."...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister comes with lesser important Bill in the House. There was a discussion over comprehensive Bill and Bill on SC and ST has not been introduced so far...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, the Constitution Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2001 was sent to Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare by Speaker of the Lok Sabha for perusal and report. The committee, after detailed study and discussion, found the Bill according to procedures and it was found correct and on 17.5.2002 presented in the Lok Sabha and was also laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day.

According to clause of the Article 341, Scheduled Castes can be notified for a particular State/Union Territory only. This Bill includes 81 proposals from 18 states regarding inclusion and exclusion of various castes into list of Scheduled Castes and other amendments (change). Out of these 8 proposals are for inclusion of new castes 24 for exclusion and 49 proposals are regarding other amendments. Committee on Labour and Welfare accepted this Bill along with making recommendations for including some other castes in the list of Scheduled Castes. The Government is taking actions in this regard according to the established procedures. At present a proposal for 81 castes only have been laid in the House for recommendation.

I feel happy in saying that two other proposals Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2002 regarding amendment of list of Scheduled Castes in Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal regarding 8 castes of these states and Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) order (Amendment) Bill, 2002 regarding those Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra who have been displaced owing to Sardar Sarover Project to Gujarat and it is regarding amendment in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Gujarat which has been passed by Parliament in May, 2002.

It is pertinent to say that 361 proposals are pending with State Governments for inclusion in lists of Scheduled Castes. Besides this 5 proposals have been sent according to procedures of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. The Government is taking necessary actions in this regard according to procedures.

17.40 hrs.

CONSTITUTION SCHEDULED CASTES ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Hon.
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order 1951, The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962; and the Constitution (Pondicherry)

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

On passing the Bill the Scheduled Castes mentioned in the Bill will be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and the other amendments which have been recommended by the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission may be included into concerned Constitution Scheduled Castes orders.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, and the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964, be taken into consideration."

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kollar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Constitution Scheduled Castes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Eighteen States have sent the names of the castes, which have been already mentioned, to be added in to list of Scheduled Castes. People who are backward socially, educationally and economically have to be taken care of. This is a constitutional duty under the democracy. We are not objecting to the inclusion of these castes in to the list of Scheduled Castes. But I want a clarification from the hon. Minister. As per the census of 2001, what is the total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this country? I would like to know whether the Government is thinking about providing facilities on the basis of ratio of population. Have you identified that?

Based on the past census, may be that of the 1961 census or the 1971 census, the Government of India has recognised that the population of the Scheduled Castes is 15 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes population is 7.5 per cent if that is the case, the total comes to 22.5 per cent. As per my knowledge, today the Scheduled Castes population is 20 per cent and that of the Scheduled Tribes population is 10 per cent. The total population of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes today is 30 per cent. But the facilities are available only to 22.5 per cent people of this country. What steps has the Government of India taken to increase the facilities to these people? It is an old thing to say that their population is only to the extent of 22.5 per cent. I cannot blame only one Government because the other Governments were also there.

What is the budget provision made in this regard? I want to know from the hon. Minister about this. He is a very dynamic Minister. He is a less-talking and more-working Minister. I think so. But Mr. Minister, what are you doing? What is the total budget allocated to this section of the people of this country? How much amount is spent for the welfare of the 30 per cent population of this country?

There is another important thing which I would like to mention here. Mahatma Gandhi said in one AICC session before Independence that freedom is not to rule this country but is meant to save the poor people of this country, the last person who is citizen of India; it is meant to give him shelter, food and also all the facilities. That is the main aim. We have to live in the society with respect and dignity. We have to give all the facilities to these people. That is our motto. That is why we wanted freedom. After achieving Independence, when the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was there, he indicated that the last person should get justice. Of course, the Congress Government was there for a long time. After getting instructions from Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appointed a Drafting Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He submitted the draft Constitution to the President of India. But after a lapse of fifty years, we have not made any proper plan to solve the problem when compared to China.

I would like to mention one thing here. In 1965, we fought against China and, in a way, we won the war. But what happened? They had taken a decision to have one child in a family. Today, their position is well economically, industrially at the international level. In all the fields, they are ahead of us. They are competing with the veto-power-countries like Japan, Germany, France, Britain, America and Russia. What is the situation in this country? We are increasing the population of this country which has exceeded one hundred crore. So, the plans are not properly implemented. We could not achieve the desired results without any proper plan in respect of family planning etc. in this country. The fact is that all the political parties are not ready for it.

The BJP was very much eager to solve this problem in the early days. But even the BJP is now giving up its plans and programmes. It is also trying to survive and rule this country. Its thinking is for how many years it can be in power. But history will remind the people of this country what the political parties are doing to meet out justice to the innocent people of this country; what injustices are done to such people. We should never forget about that aspect. There may be different political

parties like the Congress and the BJP. But we have all to unite on this particular issue. We have to solve this problem. Then only India can come first in the world. The important point is that we have got very good scientists and skilled persons.

India is advancing in many fields. We have developed the capacity to launch satellites indigenously. In the field of information technology also, India is leading in the world and we have information technology giants like Infosys in our country. Even in respect of population also, we are leading and we are next only to China in the world. But population explosion is the biggest problem in our country. So, we have to control the growth of population. Mahatma Gandhiji once said that until and unless we are to provide all the facilities to the poorest of the poor, the poor farmers, agricultural labourers etc., India will not become *Ram Rajya*. We, all the political parties, are promising so many things to the people in our manifestos at the time of elections, but we do not implement our promises; whichever party may be ruling the country, we are not fulfilling the promises made to the people in our manifestos. I have mentioned this point while speaking during the Special Session of Parliament which was convened to celebrate 50 years of our Independence. So, unless we implement our manifestos properly, our country will not become strong.

Sir, Pakistan is a small country, but they are threatening us. We are not able to solve the problem of cross-border terrorism. We are not able to stop terrorist activities in our country. What is our image at the international level today? The Americans are playing their games just to have shelter for their Army in Pakistan. This is unfortunate. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of our country, she was very brave and she fought a successful war with Pakistan. What was the dignity and image of our country at the international level during the regime of Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi and what is our image today? I am not commenting on any political party. The point is, we must regain our dignity and image at the international level.

As far as this Bill is concerned, it is not enough if we add some communities in the List of Scheduled Castes. We have to think as to how we can improve their standard of life and make our country strong. What is the BPL population of our country? It is more than 50 per cent. We are making Five-Year Plans, but we are not able to achieve progress, whereas some small countries, which have got Independence after India achieved freedom, are ahead of us. For example, China which has more population than us, is very strong all

the fields and is ahead of us at the international level. A small country like Pakistan is threatening us now.

With regard to providing education facilities to the Scheduled Castes, I have suggested in the Consultative Committee also that *Navodaya Vidyalayas* should be started in every district of the country. It is worth spending money in opening such schools all over the country. I would plead with the hon. Minister to give importance to the education of the Scheduled Castes so that they come up in the society. The Scheduled Castes parents are illiterate and they are earning their livelihood by doing manual labour. They are unable to send their children to schools and they are taking them to do manual labour in the farms. So, the Government should provide educational facilities to such children. We have passed many Constitution Amendments, but they are not enough. We have to go deep into the villages to see their living conditions, understand their problems and launch appropriate schemes for their upliftment. The children of teachers who are teaching in rural schools are sent to schools in towns. Why are the children of agricultural labourers and agriculturists staying there? It is because there are no proper facilities available in the rural areas. Shri Rajiv Gandhi stated Blackboard Schools. Like that, we have to make a provision for houses for the teachers at places where they are teaching. There must be a provision for the houses for them. All facilities should be given to them. Both in the morning and in the evening, the buses should start from the remotest village to the district headquarters and the taluka headquarters. Then, there would be no need for them to send their children to the towns where better facilities are available. There is migration of well-to-do people, the teachers and the educated people to the towns. The poor farmers and agricultural labour stay in the villages. This problem has to be sorted out. The gap between the rich and the poor has to be bridged.

Now, I would like to mention about the North-Eastern States. A Tribal Development Committee was formed. That Committee has submitted its Report about the tribal development and the problems being faced in the North-Eastern Region. The action on the Report has not yet been completed.

Finally, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that immediate relief should be made available as per the ratio of population. The facilities should reach the people irrespective of their castes. There are weaker sections backward classes and other categories. The hon. Minister should take the ratio as per the Census of 2001. This has to be corrected.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thanking the Hon. Minister I rise to extend my support to this Bill in his leadership. One after another revolutionary steps have been taken for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time also when such a Bill was introduced in the House. Some castes were included in the list through this Bill but there were some castes whose inclusion was withheld for some reasons; as there was lack of pronounciation in some cases and as a result of this they could not avail of the benefit. I request that the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes should get their rightful dues.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there arose a unique situation last year in Punjab in respect of a female Minister. A female Minister Smt. Sandhu belonged to Ramdasia community but under section 341 and 342 the term was 'Ravidasi' and therefore the High Court declared her election null and void. Thus it was an anomaly which has been set right by the Government of India. I would like to thank the Minister for this. Similarly in my Lok Sabha constituency there was a brilliant boy Balbir Singh Ramdasia. He wanted to continue his studies further. He approached the Additional Collector for a caste certificate but he was told that he can not get a certificate of belonging to Ramdasia community as the term mentioned in sections 341 and 342 of the Constitution is 'Ravidasi'. Actually it is 'Ravidasi' which can be pronounced Ramdasia using a dialect.

18.00 hrs.

Thus, all the anomalies have been removed by the Government. Not only this, the Government of India brought three constitutional amendments Bills during their tenure of four years. But the Congress party was giving support to the Government of Devegowda, and during that period one after another O.M. was issued to harm the interests of Dalits. As a result of this Dalits were deprived of their services during that regime. The systems of carrying forward vacancies in respect of Dalits was done away with. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai that during his tenure...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Why did they not allow Shri K.R. Narayanan the second-term?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister called a three day conference of M.Ps. of all political parties to consider what are the difficulties the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are facing? A draft resolution was prepared and all these difficulties are being removed one by one in pursuance of that draft resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is six o'clock now and there are several hon. Members to speak on this Bill. If the House agrees, time may be extended or should it continue tomorrow.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, please take it up tomorrow.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It should not be concluded here, more time should be given to it. Tomorrow is Friday. It should not be completed hastily...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is of the opinion that it should continue tomorrow or be carried forward further as per decision to be taken now. I would like to request the hon. Member Kataria ji that he could continue his speech tomorrow.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I would like to know as to what time would be taken up tomorrow?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whenever it is included in the list of business or if it is not included tomorrow or on Monday then; whenever it comes up in list of business, you will speak on it.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Friday, July 19, 2002/Asadha 28, 1924 (Saka).

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