

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 14, 2002/Phalgun 23, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, call the Prime Minister and ask him to make a Statement. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us have the question Hour. According to today's Revised List of Business, the Prime Minister will make a Statement at 12 o'clock. The Prime Minister is held up in the other House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, approximately 50 boys who had gone at recruitment center for recruitment in the Army at Lucknow, have been killed due to the collapse of sewer line. . . .(Interruptions)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHAUDHARY (Barmer) : Mulayam Singh ji, please give us also an opportunity to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am also speaking. . . .(Interruptions) You sit down. . . .(Interruptions) How can you ask me to sit down. . . .(Interruptions) who are you to ask me to sit. . . .(Interruptions) You resume your seat. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, my only appeal to you is that, as a special case, if Members want to seek any clarification they should be allowed to do so after the Prime Minister makes the Statement. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We have got an information right now that 50 boys have been killed in Lucknow due to the collapse of sewer line. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Your keep on supporting Congress. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, if you don't listen to me even for two minutes, how will it do?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We were told that during the army recruitment drive in Lucknow, 10 boys were killed at the spot and many more have died after having been admitted in the hospital. The boys have resorted to agitation resulting in damage to property and set the roads of Lucknow on fire. Sewer line has collapsed. Kindly name the agency which was responsible for it. A probe should be held into it and action should be taken against the person held responsible for the tragedy whether it is Minister of Urban Development or some engineer or a contractor or any Minister of the State.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Valko, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, you can take it up during Zero Hour. Please let the Question Hour go on.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, I will hear you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : What objection does he has over the Question Hour. . . .(Interruptions) *

[English]

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

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, I am telling you please let the Question Hour function. The Prime Minister is coming.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, hon. Prime Minister is in Rajya Sabha, he cannot come here now. He is coming at 12 o'clock to make a Statement Mulayam Singhji, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister is coming and making a Statement. In the List of Business, you can see it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister is coming and making a Statement at Twelve of the Clock, Please help me to conduct the Business of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, if you seat we will have to sit. You please remain in the Chair. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is coming after the question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This is a serious matter. Let them say something.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We can take it up during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 50 young persons lost their lives in the constituency of the hon Prime Minister. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister will come for making a Statement at Twelve of the Clock. He is in the Upper House. How can he be present here as well as in the Upper House at the same time ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Q.No.161 – Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhadana, you just mention your Question number.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless the hon. Minister of Defence comes clear of the accusation levelled against him, no one will ask question from him. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The hon. Members of your party has asked the Question in Rajasthan. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It will not be so in Lok Sabha. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Why should they deny the right of the hon. Member to put Question ? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is saying a wrong thing. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, you are a Minister now.

SHRI VAIKO : The hon. Prime Minister is in Rajya Sabha. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a submission to make before you. Since yesterday the tempers are running high over that Question. If the hon. Prime Minister makes a Statement earlier, nothing introward will happen. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I know it, let me regulate the House. I am conducting the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This way the entire Question Hour will get disturbed. It can be finished within 15 minutes to half an Hour. If you want to adjourn the Question Hour for full and also adjourn the House then it is right. If it behaves as the parliamentarians then let it be so. . . .(Interruptions) Now nothing will happen by your speaking on it. If you can make noise and create disturbances then they can be more noisy than you and you are free to do so and it will further disturb the House. If you want then let a competition be there in this regard. Secondly, Shri Mulayam Singh raised the Question that 50 boys were killed due to sewer collapse. . . .(Interruptions) Young boys had arrived to participate in the recruitment drive of the army. Now the boys have resorted to agitation and arson. If it continues further whether this will be raised in the House or not. It is upto you to decide and pass this message to the Government that they should not make it a prestige issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Chandra Shekharji, I have already said that the hon. Prime Minister is in Rajya Sabha. He is to make a statement after the Question Hour.

He will come, I told him. Besides, the second matter raised by him will be taken up during the Zero Hour after the Question Hour. There is no doubt that it is a very important Question. You let the Question Hour to proceed, you can raise it afterwards.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why are you getting angry ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why should not I be angry ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the hon. Minister of Defence who is present here, should provide all the information after the Question Hour but the Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, 50 persons who had come for recruitment in army in Lucknow have been killed. The hon. Prime Minister should come and give a Statement. . . .(Interruptions) what more serious thing can be than the death of 50 persons who had gathered with a view to serve the country. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you do not allow even me to complete the sentence. That is the trouble.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I start the Question Hour.

Q. 161 – Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not want to ask the Question ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut) : No. . . . (Interruptions)

(Question No. 161 was withdrawn by the hon. Member)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Q.162.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

11.12 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members stood on the floor near the table of the House

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. Do not disturb like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Switch off the cameras.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, ask your supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I tell you that this is too much. Please do not disturb like this. I would take serious view of this matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I am asking you to help me. You ask your Members to go back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am asking Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to help me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister should be called here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call you after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

11.15 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood near the Table

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

11.16 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh went back to his seat

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Girdhari Lalji, you ask your supplementary question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please help me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask them to go back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I had called him on your request, he has called him again. . . .*(Interruptions)*

11.18 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Are you calling the hon'ble Prime Minister. Please call the hon'ble Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At present, the hon'ble Prime Minister is in the upper House. I told you that the hon'ble Prime Minister will come after the Question hour as he has to make a statement in the House. You can hear his statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yesterday also he was to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, Sir. It is in today's list that he has to make a statement. You go through the list.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Law Minister was asked to get up to make a statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Law Minister had given a notice for making the statement yesterday. But due to such an atmosphere in the House, he could not make the statement. As per today's list, the hon'ble Prime Minister is to make a statement. You can see the list. Bhargavaji, now you speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Let the Defence Minister speak. . . .*(Interruptions)* He has been allowed to speak in Rajya Sabha, will he not be allowed to speak here. What is this ? He has been allowed to speak in the Rajya Sabha but he will not be allowed to speak here*. We want the Defence Minister to give some assurance in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already told you that the Prime Minister would come and make a statement on this issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Either the Defence Minister or some one else should make a statement. The Defence Minister has been allowed to speak in the Rajya Sabha, now will he not be allowed to speak here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will speak here also. Now Bhargavaji, you ask your supplementary Question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not now, he will speak after the Question hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incident of Uttar Pradesh which Shri Mulayam Singhji has cited. . . .(Interruptions) I cannot do anything as I do not have any information. Since I am a Maharashtrian, I am not well-versed in Hindi. If there is any truth in whatever he has said then it is a very serious issue but at present neither the Defence Minister nor the Government have any information about this. Before the House rises for the day, the Defence Minister will give information about this and after that we can discuss anything about this. How can we give reply when we don't have any information. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one point should go on record that whenever Shri Mulayam Singh desires he asks his partymen to enter the well and whenever he desires he asks them to go back. What is this going on in the House. . . .(Interruptions) whenever he desires he signals them to come to the well and again gives hints to them to come back.* This is not the way. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the issue has been settled. But you want to provoke him again.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have obeyed your order. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Malhotra, this is the result of your provocation. It was settled once. Shri Mahajan has given the reply. But you stood up again.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why it is there.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have only obeyed your order. When members of my party entered the well, you asked me to call them back so I called them back. For future also, you tell this thing to Mr. Malhotra. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhargava, now ask the supplementary Question.

11.21 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Closure of PIB Offices

*
*162. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL :

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

(a) the number of Press Information Bureau offices being run by the Government all over the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for reorganization of PIB offices on the recommendations of Geetakrishnan Committee Report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number and names of PIB offices, which were proposed to be closed by the Government, State-wise; and

(e) the details of criteria fixed for opening/closing or reorganizing of PIB offices ?

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

Statement

(a) Besides PIB Headquarters at New Delhi, there are 42 PIB Offices all over the country. The details are given in the Annexure.

(b) to (e) Reorganization of PIB offices has been a continuous process involving rationalization of staff

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

deployment, closing down some offices and opening new ones in newly created States. The presence of PIB offices is decided so as to enable the organization to effectively disseminate information on Government policies, programmes, initiatives etc.

Annexure

Number of Press Information Bureau Offices, State-wise

Name of States and Union Territories

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR (U.T.) | 17. Kozhikode |
| 1. Port Blair | MADHYA PRADESH |
| ANDHRA PRADESH | 18. Bhopal |
| 2. Hyderabad | 19. Indore |
| 3. Vijayawada | MAHARASHTRA |
| ASSAM | 20. Mumbai |
| 4. Guwahati | 21. Nagpur |
| BIHAR | 22. Nanded |
| 5. Patna | 23. Pune |
| CHANDIGARH (U.T.) | MANIPUR |
| 6. Chandigarh | 24. Imphal |
| CHATTISGARH | MEGHALAYA |
| 7. Raipur | 25. Shillong |
| GOA | MIZORAM |
| 8. Panaji | 26. Aizawl |
| GUJARAT | NAGALAND |
| 9. Ahmedabad | 27. Kohima |
| 10. Rajkot | ORISSA |
| HIMACHAL PRADESH | 28. Bhubaneswar |
| 11. Shimla | 29. Cuttack |
| JAMMU AND KASHMIR | PUNJAB |
| 12. Jammu | 30. Jalandhar |
| 13. Srinagar | RAJASTHAN |
| KARNATAKA | 31. Jaipur |
| 14. Bangalore | 32. Kota |
| KERALA | 33. Jodhpur |
| 15. Thiruvananthapuram | SIKKIM |
| 16. Kochi | 34. Gangtok |

TAMIL NADU

35. Chennai

36. Madurai

TRIPURA

37. Agartala

UTTAR PRADESH

38. Lucknow

39. Varanasi

40. Kanpur

UTTARANCHAL

41. Dehradun

WEST BENGAL

42. Kolkata

Apart from above, PIB (HQs) and an Information Centre are located in Delhi.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister as to what are the recommendations of Geeta Krishnan Committee and which of them have been implemented and the consequences thereof. My second question is – which of the offices have been closed and the reasons therefor ?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in connection with PIB, Geeta Krishnan Committee had recommended for closure of all the offices except the office in State capitals. We reviewed the recommendations and we found that in addition to the offices in State Capitals, 16 offices were functioning elsewhere. But it would not have been justified to close down all the 16 offices. But we were bound to accept their recommendations. Hence accepting their recommendations, we reviewed the State-wise position and decided to close down five offices, namely at Cuttak, Kota, Nanded, Madurai and Kozikhode. The Government are not in a position to accept all the recommendations but it has been proposed to close there five offices.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please start TV telecast.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : My colleagues are complaining that in absence of telecast, they are not being viewed by the public, so please switch on the telecast.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Government propose to reopen these offices or not ? Secondly, whether the Government propose to open new offices, and if so, where these offices are proposed to be opened ?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since I told that the Government propose to close five offices, there is no question of reopening them, because these five office have been identified after a comprehensive review. So far as the question of opening of new offices is concerned, as I have said, Geeta Krishnan Committee have recommended for opening of offices in State Capitals. We have three newly created States and offices have already been opened in Dehradun and Raipur. Offices are

yet to be opened at Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, and there is no office at Itanagar also. Therefore, there was a need for opening of 4 new offices. Out of them, two have already been opened and offices at Ranchi and Itanagar will be opened.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the cryptic answer to this question is a classic example of the Government evading to answer question, even on the most innocuous matters. This question is specifically related to the recommendations of the Geeta Krishnan Committee. That is, Expenditure Reforms Committee, whereas the answer just does not mention about it.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether this is a fact that the entire emphasis of the Government is only to close certain offices under her Ministry, where as there is a lot of wasteful expenditure being incurred elsewhere. Is this what the Committee has recommended and is this what the Government is following ? I would like to know from her what is she doing on the matters where the Government is insisting on closing certain units of her Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to tell hon'ble Member that the written answer may not have contained so much information but whatever he asked I have explained orally. He asked what the recommendations were, how far these recommendations were accepted and the reason therefor, and I explained everything clearly so I donot think hon'ble Member may yet have any doubt in this matter.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The reasons for acceptance of recommendations have not been explained.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He did not ask so.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Now, I would ask.
... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of hon'ble Member that why all the units of my Ministry have been recommended on the pretext of cutting wasteful expenditure – I would not like to make any comment on reforms commission. But hon'ble Member may be knowing that though the Committee had recommended for closure of all the units which we did not accept. I know what are useful media units under my Ministry so underlining the importance of each unit we have submitted a reply to ARC and I understand that our

viewpoint has been accepted. Therefore, we are not going to close any of the media units. But, as far as right sizing or rationalisation of staff is concerned, we have done what ever was possible. If hon. Member wishes to share this information, I would lay it in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal.

SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : No.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Sir, he does not want to ask, I want to ask on his behalf. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri P.S. Gadhave.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Madam, the office at Kota should not be closed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am ready to reply, let hon'ble Member ask. Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushalji is not even asking.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that there are only two PIB offices in Gujarat, one is at Ahmedabad and the other one at Rajkot, though Gujarat has a vast area upto Kutch border lines. In case any information is to be collected from Kutch, PIB Staff travels from Rajkot and Ahmedabad which involves huge Government expenditure. Therefore, there has been a demand for opening office at Kutch from several quarters. My submission is that would the Government consider opening of an office at Kutch ?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to first question, I have already stated that as per the recommendations of Geeta Krishnan Committee, offices can be opened in State Capitals and nowhere else. And if I accept entire recommendations of said Committee, even Rajkot based office too would have to be closed down whereas we have not closed it. As hon'ble Member himself has said that there are already two offices in Gujarat, one at Ahmedabad and other one at Rajkot, so keeping Committee's recommendations in view, it is not possible to open any more office in Gujarat.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the PIB offices are based on the vastness of the States and it is also on the importance of the places that these offices are distributed. In some of the smaller States, there are four to five offices. So, keeping in view the vastness of some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, there was a demand for a long time keeping in view the importance of Visakhapatnam that there should be an office there. A

representative was functioning earlier but he was removed and later it was promised that an office would be opened. I would like to know whether it is found feasible to open an office in Visakhapatnam and also keeping in view the importance, a PIB office has to be established at the earliest because of the vastness of the State.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I have to repeat my answer time and again. The criteria like vastness of the area, importance of the centre and circulation of paper were considered earlier, but now the Committee have recommended that offices of PIB should remain only in State capitals and nowhere else. In view of it, the Government are forced to close these 5 offices out of existing 16 offices. Under such circumstances, there is no question of feasibility and in accordance with these new recommendations, it is not possible for us to open any offices other than the State Capitals. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an office is required there. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, the issue relating to closure of 5 offices out of existing 16 has been finalised. Expenditure Reforms Commission has asked the Government to cut wasteful expenditure and has further asked not to retain offices except in State Capitals. After all, funds are required for opening new office. When the Committee have recommended so, would the Ministry of Finance provide us funds ?

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Already 42 offices are existing. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is only the case for now. Of those 16, we are closing down only five. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, the hon. Minister has told us that Madurai office is going to be closed. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that it is the longest distance from Delhi and my learned friends from the DMK and MDMK will not demand anything like this.

Sir, when an office is closed in Madurai how can the publicity of the Central Government go there ? Now, they have got the publicity about Temples and other things. What about the programmes and how they are going to propagate things to the extreme South ? They are closing it but the DMK and MDMK Members are keeping quiet.

. . . (Interruptions) Because of them we are not getting anything. . . . (Interruptions) Why are they in the Government ? . . . (Interruptions) They are not asking for it and they are allowing it to be closed. . . . (Interruptions) It has been there for the past 30 years. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the Congress people have polluted the South of India totally. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, we have to go to the next question, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You see, this is the trouble.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, what way this is related to the question ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : They have to sit on the shoulders of either DMK or MDMK. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is my problem. If you start something from here they will also start from there and if they start something from there, you will start something from here.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to plead with the hon. Member not to use the Question Hour as a forum for provocation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are helping me Madam.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Remaining offices are not being closed on anyone's demand. As I have said in the beginning that under compulsion we are taking this decision. We are taking this decision when the Geeta Krishnan Committee has recommended that except the offices in the State capital, remaining offices should be closed. As such, there is no question of opening new office. After lot of deliberations we have identified five offices out of 16, but it is not correct to say as to how we would disseminate the information or how would the publicity be done because publicity is being done in those places too where we do not have such offices. It is not necessary that dissemination of information takes place only in those

areas where there are P.B.I., offices, but information is being disseminated in all other places also. It is a misconception that now a days publicity is only possible due to man to man contact because of Video conferencing computer facilities. I wish that machine based publicity should be expanded.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, kindly expunge that observation made by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that he has not attached the Committee Report in her reply and what is the opinion of the hon. Minister regarding Kota ? Whether it is going to be closed ? I wish that it should not be closed. I wish to listen to the views of the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already told that there was no point of attaching the Committee Report in the reply but the office in Kota is included in five offices proposed to be closed, in Jaipur and Jodhpur cities of Rajasthan two offices are already functioning and one out of the three offices is proposed to be closed, the office in Kota would be closed. . . .
(Interruptions)

Route for Oil Pipeline from Iran

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*163. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether Iran has sought closer cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, particularly in developing the use of CNG as an automotive fuel in his country;

(b) if so, whether the proposed Indo-Iran gas pipeline project received a new lease of life and Tehran also promised to consider favourably India's proposal seeking equity for its state-owned oil firms in Iran; and

(c) if so, the details of agreements arrived at between India and Iran during the visit of Iranian Minister recently?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The India-Iran Gas Pipeline Project is an on-going activity for which feasibility studies are in progress. The Government of India has requested the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran through diplomatic channel for participation of Indian oil Companies in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) chain and exploration and production of oil and gas in Iran. The response of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran is awaited.

(c) During the recent visit of Iranian delegation to India, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) have signed a fresh Memorandum of Cooperation on January 17, 2002 covering gas and related sectors for mutual cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, despite our efforts for becoming self-reliant in the matter of Petroleum Products and fuel through sources and resources available in our country during the last many years, still even today we are spending a huge amount on the import of petroleum resources and fuel from other countries. Possibly, in this background, India and Iran have to set up a project under which they were proposed to lay a pipeline from Iran to India for bringing liquified gas also process of petroleum products in India and undertake the developmental works in Iran by co-operation between Iranian Companies and Indian companies in Iran. Sir, through you, I wish to ask from the hon. Minister regarding his reply in this regard that two options were discussed under the said proposal – the first was that the liquified gas may be brought to India from Iran through a pipe line passing underground through the borders of Pakistan and second option was that due to geographical conditions, the pipeline be laid to India in the form of submerged pipe line passing through the waters of Arabian sea. I wish to ask which of the two options has been found appropriate keeping in mind the risk factor, cost and utility and the reasons therefor ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both of the said options are being studied collectively by the National Company of Iran and Gas Authority of India limited. Under this study so far as money is concerned, pipeline on the land would be more inexpensive, but certain other factors are also associated with this option because we want that the gas should be brought safely to our country. The discussion is taking place in this background and studies are going on with regard to the expenditure

involved in each of the two options. Consultants have been entrusted with the work of conducting this study.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the hon. Minister has not mentioned about the reasons behind considering either of the two options more appropriate, but the hon. Minister has said that study in this regard, is in progress and he has not received the conclusion drawn in this connection. I have also received an information that there are disagreement on certain points between India and Iran in principle on the implementation of the said project. I wish to know about those points of dissent. Secondly an Iranian Delegation had come to India on 17th of January and possibly the Government of India had held a detailed discussion with that delegation in connection with the said project and what are the measures discussed with the delegation to remove differences between India and Iran.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to tell one thing very clearly that there is no such disagreement. The Iranian Minister came here on 15th January, 2002 and held talks with me and we discussed over both the options. Thereafter, as I have told in the beginning that the Memorandum of Co-operation was signed between the Gas Authority of India and the National Iranian oil Company on 17th January. We had an elaborate discussion on the points like how India and Iran can help each other on various issues, what should be the common points etc. and then signatures were made. Major issues involved in this are-how can we bring gas through the pipeline, how can we extend help to the Iranians in their country because, if compared, India is technologically more advanced than Iran. India can provide them with information regarding the C.N.G. and also the use of C.N.G. in automobiles. Moreover, we can work on five or six explorations and licensing of such type. I wish to tell that next week a delegation from Iran is coming to India for having more information regarding the use of C.N.G. in vehicles in Delhi and Mumbai and so far as co-operation is concerned, it is going on very well. In short I have told that there are some hurdles in bringing the gas through pipeline on the land, reason behind is that the gas would be brought to the borders of India and if somehow the gas is not brought to India, then it would cause problem for those who have set up factories at the infrastructural level for the supply of gas, as they would not get the supply of gas. So it can be called technical risk, moreover there is institutional risk as well viz, how would they give guarantee, how would it be insured and how would the long term security of Uninterrupted supply be given these are all very important issues, which are being discussed upon.

I assure the House that the process is successfully going on and we would definitely get success in it.
... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, this is your third question.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a very important point. Besides Iran, India have signed many agreements with other countries regarding the petroleum products and petroleum technology. It is known and is widely reported in newspapers that Iran has raised objections in principles on certain points and has said that India is ignoring the agreement that were signed with Russia and Iraq for extending cooperation in the field of petroleum and fuel development. So, I request you to give clarification in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is no such difference in principle. It seems that hon'ble Member has newspaper based information hence it is not correct.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether all those long wounded possibilities and probabilities are accountable. We have to understand who is going to finance this whole project.

We are all aware of what is happening in Iran and the kind of sanctions that Iran is faced with. Iran is not going to come forward with the money. So, am I to understand that the Government of India is going to put forth the money for this project? If there was a feasibility study done already, what is the time bar for executing this? You have been studying this for long and since then the cows have come home.

We are not looking at alternatives. Are we sure that this is a cheaper alternative than CNG? Why is it that we do not look at Saudi Arabia and Qatar? The Government has to remain accountable why we are opening several CNG outlets all over the country if we do not have clarity over this issue.

I want to know whether the Government of India has the money, in the first place, to put up this kind of a project.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the exact amount which we would need to be invested, would be worked out only when the technical feasibility report comes and the estimates are

worked out. For that only, the consultants have been appointed jointly by the Iranian company and the Gas Authority of India Ltd. So, the amount would be known at that time.

About the second issue that why we are not trying from the other countries, I would like to say that not only we are trying but we have successfully tried. We have entered into 25 years supply contract with Qatar. In India, we have formed Petronet India Ltd., through which 7.5 million metric tonne equivalent gas would come to India. In Dahej, we are building a terminal and practically 25 per cent of the work has been completed. That terminal will become functional by the end of 2003. Another 2.5 million metric tonne equivalent gas would be available from Kochi, Kerala. So, these things are being done. This gas from Dahej will certainly come by December, 2003 and it will be available to the country as a whole.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, the Minister has not answered what is the time frame for him to get a hand on, how much it is going to cost us, since when has the feasibility report been initiated and when it is going to be concluded.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the hon. Member has said that this discussion has been going on for many years. That everyone knows. After the Memorandum of Understanding, the next step is Memorandum of Co-operation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you have any indication by what time it is going to be completed ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is what I am saying, Sir. Now the consultants have been appointed. It will certainly take time but no time frame can be given for that. It will be our endeavour to do it as early as possible.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, this is a question relating to route for oil pipeline from Iran. What I am interested to know is that route for gas pipeline from Bangladesh, which is a long pending project. You are decreasing the prices of oil and diesel on one side but increasing the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 40 per cylinder. So, my question is, what is the latest development and what is the position ? There is a proposal for route for gas delivery pipeline from Bangladesh, which may be very much advantageous for our country. Secondly, whether your department has made any appeal to the Finance Ministry for reduction of the price of LPG domestic gas to give relief to the common people.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, both the issues are definitely not directly connected, but since you have allowed the

question, I shall try to reply. So far as Bangladesh is concerned, we want gas to be imported from them, but so far Bangladesh has not taken a decision to export gas from their country. But our efforts are going on as to how that can be done early. So, we are persuading the Bangladesh Government.

So far as the second question is concerned, it does not flow from the original question.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that in December, 1996, Shri Jaswant Singh presented to the Foreign Secretary the report of a Joint India-Pakistan Study Group dealing with the security implications of an overland India-Iran pipeline through Pakistan and recommended that this overland route be adopted in preference to the subterranean route ? How does the Government propose to evaluate the feasibility of the overland route without involving Pakistan, or is Pakistan being involved ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, personally I have not read the report because it is of 1996. But, on the basis of the supplementary question I can say that the security environment has drastically changed after the Kargil War. That is why different options are being studied and this is one aspect. How can we avoid that and how can we ensure that gas is received safe at our border – this is the prime consideration and on that basis only the survey would be conducted.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply it is mentioned that NIOC has signed a fresh Memorandum. I would like to know about the fresh Memorandum and I would also like to know as to when the first Memorandum was signed and what was its contents and also what is the difference between the present memorandum and the earlier one. I would also like to know whether heavy investment without private participation is required in GAIL, post Kargil scenario and the situation arisen out of the opening of oil sector by the Government on account of the Policy of liberalisation have been taken into account, while signing the fresh Memorandum of Understanding.

SHRI RAM NAIK : GAIL will invest as the country require gas, however the gas import for commercial and industrial production will not come through GAIL so the decision in this regard will be taken once the estimate about the expenditure likely to incur on it is made. First thing that the hon'ble Member has asked is about the present and earlier Memorandums. Earlier it was memorandum of

understanding that means this should be done, while the present one is memorandum of cooperation. Once the condition of MoU is fulfilled, Memorandum of Cooperation is signed for the direct supply of the gas.

[English]

Now we are starting executing of what has been said in the Memorandum of Understanding.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that on one issue an understanding was already arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Oman for such a pipeline scheme. I do not know at what stage that agreement now stands. I want to know whether it is still underway or is it that the Government have shelved it. If the Government have not shelved it what is the constraint for the Government to implement it? Is it the financial constraint or the technical feasibility not being approved of? I would like to know details on this. Many things have been said about this project between Oman and India. But still nothing is being done. I would like to know the details from the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, as the hon. Member has said, this particular project has been in discussion for a long time. Finally, both of us have come to the conclusion that this particular project is not technically possible and commercially viable. So, it has been decided to shelve that particular project.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my concern is about the route of the pipeline that is to be laid from Iran to India as the pipeline will pass through the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The hon'ble Minister in his reply has said that the said agreement will be implemented by 2003. I would like to know as to how the said project will be completed if the pipelines are to pass through those countries?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I did not say that the work will be completed. The project report that is being prepared and it is focusing on the method of laying of gas pipeline under 3 to 4 k.m. deep sea water and its technological feasibility. It is also focusing on the expected expenditure involved in it if it is technically feasible. Information in this matter will be made available by 2003. In reply to the second question I had told that there is a project for the supply of LNG gas from Qatar to India by petronet LNG. Regarding this I have said that the project is getting completed. The gas will be imported in liquified form through the pipeline.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, how much amount will be required to complete the project of laying pipeline between India and Iran? I would like to know as to when the steps will be taken to complete the project. Whether the said project will be completed by the present Government or it will be completed after the formation of our Government at the centre?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, whatever will be done will be done by our Government. He has asked about the expenditure expected to incur on the project. I think that it is very much like asking as to who was Sita after hearing the entire Ramayana. The question asked by the hon'ble Member is very much like that. Keeping in view the urgency we are trying our best to bring gas as soon as possible.

[English]

Power Theft

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*164. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Bank has drawn the attention of the Government towards power theft in the country;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether much of the theft of power takes place only in the agriculture sector in our country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) if not, the details of power theft, sector-wise?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The World Bank among other multilateral agencies, has drawn attention of the Government towards losses caused by power theft in the country. Losses due to power theft take place in all categories of consumers including agricultural sector. The percentage transmission and distribution losses including losses due to thefts and unaccounted losses assessed by SEBs/Electricity Departments from the year 1992-93 to 1998-99 are at Annex.

Power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removal of illegal connections etc.

have to be undertaken by the power utilities. Reduction of losses due to technical and commercial reasons has been given top priority by the Government of India. The Central Electricity Authority has issued guidelines for reduction of transmission and distribution losses and for conducting Energy Audits in power systems. These guidelines have been circulated to all the power utilities for taking suitable measures for reduction of transmission and distribution losses including power theft.

Some of the steps being taken by various utilities to prevent the theft of energy are as under :

- a. Mass checking drive is carried out periodically by vigilance squads as well as field staff. Inspections are being carried out by district units of engineers and prosecutions of erring consumers are launched by Police Officers manning the anti Power theft Squads.
- b. Installations are being made pilfer proof.
- c. A scheme for incentive to informants is in operation. A scheme to recognize the performance of individuals to curb theft of energy by providing incentive to deserving officers/employees has also been introduced.

- d. Load inspection study for major load centers are being conducted.
- e. Penalty of imprisonment is also being imposed on those resorting to theft.
- f. With the help of computerization of billing process, abnormal consumption of consumers is being detected. If consumption is less than 15% of the average, cases are immediately inspected for detecting tampering of meter/theft of energy.

Funds are being provided to the power utilities under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for renovation and modernization and uprating of existing old power plants and upgradation of sub Transmission and Distribution network including energy audit activities and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been sanctioned during the year 2000-2001. An outlay of Rs. 1500 crores (BE) is available in the year 2001-02 for these activities under APDP. In the first phase 63 distribution circles have been identified for improvement and upgradation of sub transmission and distribution system and reduction of transmission and distribution losses and power theft.

Annexure

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

| Region/SEB/ED | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Northern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Haryana | 26.78 | 25.00 | 30.80 | 32.39 | 32.77 | 34.04 | 35.33 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 19.51 | 18.31 | 18.21 | 16.09 | 18.02 | 20.13 | 26.11 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 48.28 | 45.69 | 48.74 | 47.52 | 48.27 | 49.95 | 47.64 |
| Punjab | 19.24 | 19.37 | 16.70 | 18.49 | 19.10 | 18.94 | 18.11 |
| Rajasthan | 22.74 | 25.00 | 24.78 | 29.27 | 26.28 | 26.41 | 29.53 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 24.43 | 24.08 | 21.69 | 21.84 | 24.84 | 26.18 | 30.23 |
| Chandigarh | 26.21 | 27.27 | 28.44 | 33.72 | 21.88 | 22.38 | 22.48 |
| DVB (Delhi) | 23.56 | 31.79 | 34.56 | 48.57 | 49.08 | 47.91 | 43.71 |
| Western Region : | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | 22.03 | 20.34 | 20.02 | 20.08 | 17.14 | 21.57 | 20.83 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 21.35 | 20.26 | 19.61 | 17.84 | 19.24 | 19.58 | 19.87 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Maharashtra | 17.83 | 16.22 | 16.33 | 16.95 | 16.55 | 18.75 | 18.41 |
| D and N Haveli | 17.98 | 12.64 | 11.35 | 09.31 | 08.80 | 12.90 | 15.37 |
| Goa | 21.85 | 24.50 | 26.87 | 26.06 | 23.50 | 31.02 | 30.40 |
| Daman and Diu | 15.67 | 22.34 | 16.30 | 12.80 | 08.15 | 14.69 | 21.83 |
| Southern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 19.88 | 19.91 | 17.95 | 19.34 | 33.19 | 32.14 | 34.09 |
| Karnataka | 19.55 | 19.55 | 19.41 | 19.06 | 18.73 | 19.31 | 30.45 |
| Kerala | 21.95 | 20.00 | 20.05 | 21.12 | 20.59 | 18.73 | 17.18 |
| Tamil Nadu | 17.50 | 17.18 | 17.11 | 16.19 | 17.65 | 17.29 | 17.22 |
| Lakshadweep | 18.72 | 16.99 | 17.84 | 17.23 | 15.11 | 15.70 | 12.78 |
| Pondicherry | 15.31 | 15.80 | 15.00 | 16.54 | 17.38 | 13.56 | 10.44 |
| Eastern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Bihar | 22.00 | 20.35 | 19.76 | 15.91 | 25.31 | 16.26 | 24.80 |
| Orissa (GRIDCO) | 25.25 | 22.43 | 23.03 | 24.17 | 50.15 | 50.10 | 36.72 |
| Sikkim | 22.55 | 22.60 | 21.22 | 16.47 | 29.24 | 22.87 | 12.44 |
| West Bengal | 24.87 | 20.82 | 21.51 | 19.26 | 18.01 | 19.67 | 23.73 |
| A and N Island | 23.62 | 23.71 | 22.38 | 19.25 | 19.15 | 20.59 | 20.03 |
| North Eastern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Assam | 21.41 | 22.44 | 24.18 | 26.91 | 25.97 | 27.32 | 38.72 |
| Manipur | 22.35 | 23.92 | 25.30 | 24.85 | 22.95 | 21.09 | 59.55 |
| Meghalaya | 11.79 | 18.03 | 18.47 | 12.55 | 19.75 | 12.28 | 19.66 |
| Nagaland | 27.26 | 33.45 | 36.12 | 35.17 | 26.81 | 29.79 | 26.52 |
| Tripura | 30.64 | 30.53 | 31.96 | 30.86 | 30.11 | 31.11 | 26.82 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 32.32 | 42.04 | 45.30 | 37.12 | 32.62 | 34.10 | 30.60 |
| Mizoram | 29.04 | 31.89 | 29.76 | 25.18 | 34.35 | 46.84 | 44.79 |
| All India (Utilities) | 21.80 | 21.41 | 21.13 | 22.27 | 24.53 | 24.79 | 26.45 |

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, so many measures are being taken as per the reply. In Annexure I, even though the measures are taken, why do we find in every region that during most of the years the percentage of transmission and distribution losses is increasing in spite of measures being taken ?

Secondly, I would like to know specifically why it is not asked to every State Electricity Board to give a separate account of rural area and urban area so that theft is not accounted in the name of farmers and agriculturists only

because especially in my State, Maharashtra, what we find is that agricultural sector does not have as much theft of power as is done by the industrialists in the urban areas. May I ask the hon. Minister to kindly reply this ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, it is absolutely right that we did not have a system to correctly evaluate the transmission and distribution losses as per different regions. That is the reason for which the Government of India has launched this very important programme, Accelerated Power Development Programme. This is a part

of bringing about a total change in the distribution sector of the power sector. This programme has just been launched. We are now targeting all the States in the manner that each of the power circle in India would be converted into a business unit as well as each and every distribution feeder in India would be converted as a profit centre head. We want to fix accountability for each and every profit centre so that the transmission and distribution losses, which are suffered at that particular feeder, would be known correctly. As a result of that, we will be able to assign specific responsibility on a person who is responsible for that distribution feeder. This programme has just been launched.

As part of this programme, in the first phase, 63 circles in India have been selected wherein the Government of India is using their own resources to bring about change in transmission and particularly, sub-transmission and distribution. The hon. Member will appreciate that sub-transmission and distribution is entirely the responsibility of the State Electricity Boards and the State Electricity Boards are controlled by the respective State Governments. Despite that, the Central Government has taken these measures considering the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards and the State Governments. Sir, it is true that we must take these measures, which we are taking, so that it will be possible to get it done.

The second part the hon. Member has asked is also true that unfortunately, we blame the poor farmers for power theft that takes place in the country. I do not think that we can really blame them because agricultural sector cannot be held responsible for power thefts alone.

12.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when is the hon. Minister going to introduce the system that the heads under which the theft is registered in the State Electricity Boards will be separated and information accordingly will be given to the hon. House ?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : As I mentioned, we are already introducing a system of this type and this system, hopefully, will bring out the type of details that we seek.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, please allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I agree, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has agreed for a Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Ban on Obscene Programmes on Cable T.V.

*165. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
SHRI NAGMANI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 297 on March 16, 2001 and state :

(a) whether Fashion T.V. Channel (FTV) is still operating on cable T.V.;

(b) whether obscene programmes are continuously being telecast on this channel violating the programme code under Cable Television Networks (Reg.) Act, 1955;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the channel and the impact on the children and adolescents;

(d) the number of such channels approved by the Union Government; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to have a check on such channels keeping in view our culture and tradition ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The programmes telecast on satellite channels when distributed through cable network are required to subscribe to the Programme Code laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. In case of violation of the provisions of the Act and Rules, action is required to be taken by the authorised officers viz. the District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police and such other officers as are notified by the Central/ State Governments.

(d) Satellite channels are received directly by Multi Service Operators (MSOs) and Cable Operators and distributed through the cable networks. No approval from the Government is required for down-linking of such channels.

(e) The Government has constituted a Committee of Officers from the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence and Law to render advice, where the Central Government considers such advice to be essential and/or desirable, on action to be

taken in case of a specific complaint regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code.

[English]

**Private Passenger Trains on
Inter-City Route**

*166. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways propose to start private passenger trains on inter-city route;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Committee has been set up by Railways to examine utility of such trains service;
- (d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee; and
- (e) the measures to be taken for overall improvement in the speed of freight and passenger trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Improvement in the speed of freight and passenger trains is a continuing process. Wagons having speed potential of 100 kmph, have been recently introduced to increase the speed of freight trains.

FDI In Power Sector

*167. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government are introducing an Incentive based system to attract Foreign Direct Investments in the power sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) The policy to attract and encourage greater investment in the power sector through private

sector participation, including foreign Direct investment, was announced in 1991 in the background of inability of Government alone to mobilize adequate financial resources given the highly capital intensive nature of the sector and the large incremental capacity addition requirements. The two part tariff notification issued by Government of India (GOI) on 30.3.1992 in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 43A of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 allows a return of upto 16% on equity (paid up and subscribed) at normative levels of operation i.e. 68.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF) to generating companies in the private sector for power projects set up by them. For generation beyond this level, incentive at negotiated rates subject to a ceiling of 0.7% of equity (paid up and subscribed), for each percentage increase in PLF is allowed. 100% foreign equity participation is permitted in generation, transmission and distribution on automatic approval basis, without any upper limit. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission at the Centre as well as State Electricity Regulatory Commissions in nineteen States have been set up. The Regulatory Commissions will look into all aspects of tariff fixation and provide a level playing field for investors.

In regard to transmission sector, in order to provide comfort to investors, the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., proposes to obtain all the initial clearances such as right-of-way, forest clearances etc. for the projects to be offered initially to the private sector. Government has already made the enabling legal amendments for facilitating private investment in transmission. The regulatory framework is also in position to provide a level playing field to all participants. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued draft guidelines for competitive bidding as well as the terms and conditions for issue of licenses to private investors.

Power distribution is proposed to be privatized on the basis for an area approach where under licenses would be issued for different areas. GOI has initiated distribution reforms and has signed Memoranda of Understanding with 20 States, under which States have committed for reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, 100% metering, energy auditing etc. In turn, GOI have offered to assist the States under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). In the first phase, 63 distribution circles in various States have been taken up for intensive upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution systems. Remaining distribution circles in the country would also be taken up for coverage in a phased manner. The programme to reduce Transmission and Distribution losses and improvement in distribution system would provide considerable opportunities for investment as the process

of reform and restructuring of State Electricity Boards gains momentum.

Dues to Oil Companies

*168. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to securities 80 percent of the outstanding dues worth Rs. 12,000 crore to oil companies through a seven year bond issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said proposal got the approval of the Finance Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of his Ministry thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) As a result of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism with effect from 1st April 2002, the cumulative outstandings of the oil companies against the oil pool account will be liquidated as follows :

- (i) The Government will issue bonds, with a seven year tenure, to the extent of 80% of amount equivalent to the provisional amount of the pool deficit based on the settled claims upto 31st March 2002.
- (ii) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India will be requested to do a special audit of the oil pool account once all the due claims, except those which may subsequently arise on crystallization of contingent liabilities later, from the pool account are finalized.
- (iii) The balance amount due to the oil companies will be liquidated by issuing bonds, with a seven year tenure, for the balance amount after obtaining the audited accounts.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The details have been given under para (a) and (b) above.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Regulatory Authority for Petroleum Sector

*169. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory authority for the downstream petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the functions of this authority;

(c) the time by which the regulatory authority is likely to be set up;

(d) whether all the recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee have been fully implemented; and

(e) if not, the details of recommendations still under consideration ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee, the Government Resolution of 21st November, 1997 was notified which inter-alia provides for establishing a regulatory mechanism for petroleum sector. The Regulatory Board for the downstream petroleum sector is yet to be set up.

Power Generation by NHPC

*170. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has prepared any plan to generate 16,810 MW additional power by 2010;

(b) if so, the investment proposed for the generation of additional power;

(c) the investment proposed and target fixed by NHPC during the Tenth Five Year Plan for the purpose;

(d) the additional power is likely to be generated thereby; and

(e) the details of the participation of the Union Government and the private sector in the said schemes separately ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (e) National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) has prepared a tentative capacity addition plan of 5310 MW for 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) and 10341

MW for 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12). The details of these projects are enclosed as Statement. These plans include on-going schemes of 1480 MW and projects of 2420 MW proposed under Joint Venture with the State Governments. The Government of India is yet to finalise the outlays of 10th Five Year Plan. NHPC has projected a tentative outlay of Rs. 37780 crores and Rs. 54947 crores for 10th and 11th Plan respectively.

Statement

Details of Projects under Execution and Proposed to be taken up by NHPC during 10th and 11th Plan

| S.No. | Name of Project | Capacity (MW) |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN X PLAN

A. On going schemes

| | | |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Dulhasti | 390 |
| 2. | Chamera-II | 300 |
| 3. | Dhauliganga-I | 280 |
| 4. | Tessta-V | 510 |

B. New projects

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| 5. | Farakka Barrage | 125 |
| 6. | Teesta Low Dam St.III | 132 |
| 7. | Teesta Low Dam St.IV | 168 |
| 8. | Sewa-II | 120 |
| 9. | Bav-I | 18 |
| 10. | Bav-II | 37 |
| 11. | Upper Krishna Project | 810 |

C. Joint Venture Project

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|------|
| 12. | Indira Sagar | 1000 |
| 13. | Purulia Pumped Storage | 900 |
| 14. | Omkareshwar | 520 |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Total in X Plan | 5310 |
|-----------------|------|

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN XI PLAN

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. | Loktak Downstream | 90 |
| 2. | Parbati-II | 800 |
| 3. | Parbati-III | 520 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 4. | Pakal Dul | 1000 |
| 5. | Bursar | 1020 |
| 6. | Chamera-III | 231 |
| 7. | Siang Lower Site | 1700 |
| 8. | Siang Middle Site | 700 |
| 9. | Subansiri Middle Site | 2000 |
| 10. | Subansiri Lower Site | 2000 |
| 11. | Uri-II | 280 |
| Total in XI Plan | | 10341 |

Amendment in Representation of People's Act

*171. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward legislation to amend Representation of the People Act to provide for proxy voting for armed forces personnel serving in far-flung areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide an additional facility of voting through the system of proxy at elections to the members of the Armed Forces, etc. was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.12.1999. The bill was examined by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs and its report was presented to the House on 19.4.2001. The Bill is now pending for consideration and passing by the Houses of Parliament.

Rails Supplied by BSP

*172. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) are not upto the mark/standard as a result of which the loss of Rs. 68.67 crores is not recoverable as there being no warranty clause in the terms and conditions of the sale order;

(b) whether the Railway Board had asked DGS and D in May 1998 to fix responsibility on the inspecting authority for passing quality rails;

(c) whether rail accidents, like the one of the goods train derailling on December 16, 2001, have taken place on account of rail fracturing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to expedite fixing responsibility on the inspecting authority of DGS and D in passing poor quality rails and to survey all rail fracturings ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The rails being supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) are upto the mark/standard. However, In January' 1997, some quantity of defective rails was dispatched by BSP. The mechanism, being followed for dealing with supply of sub-standard rails, is in terms of guidelines that were issued by a Joint Plant Committee in the year 1991-92 which laid down that supply of such rails can be settled either by free replacement by BSP or by giving refund by BSP (in case payment has been made) after taking back the material. In this case, no payment had been made to BSP for the rails suspected to be having defects. Joint Inspection of these suspect rails was arranged between representatives of Railway, Research Design and Standards Organisation, Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS and D) and BSP. Payment, of only those rails which were found as per standard, was released. Cost of handling etc. of defective rail was also ordered to be deducted. Thus, the Railway did not suffer any loss. Small quantities of defective rails also got supplied after January' 1997 and have been dealt with similarly.

The inspecting authority, DGS and D, was asked to take action against concerned officials who had passed defective rails. DGS and D was also reminded : number of times for fixing responsibility. The Railway has also transferred the inspection of rails to M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) with effect from 1.4.2001.

Generally, about 9% of consequential derailments/accidents are attributed to rail fracture. In the current year the figures show a decline. No consequential derailment/accident to a goods train was caused by a rail fracture on 16.12.2001.

To control rail fractures, rails are checked and tested both visually and ultrasonically for flaws and fractures regularly. Rails found to have developed defects are replaced.

Workshop on Money and Democratic Politics

*173. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether any workshop on "Money and Democratic Politics" organized by the Election Commission recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of discussion held and outcome thereof;

(d) whether issue of money and muscle power in election was also discussed in the workshop; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government with the further action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir. The Election Commission of India provided only local assistance and support.

(b) to (e) Do not arise since the Government has not received any recommendations from the said workshop.

Power Reform

*174. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the indicators of power reforms;

(b) whether these reforms have improved or worsen the situation of the power in the country in terms of growth rate of energy consumption, to increase in availability of energy, projected energy consumption growth per capita consumption technical losses from generation to transmission and distribution, average length of distribution lines per Mega Watt of demand, pilferage of electricity, power tariff plant load factors of Thermal Power Stations, Energy conservation of the pumping sets and electrification of villages and gross peak demand against installed capacity; and

(c) the manner in which these above indicators varied during the last three years and expected to be during the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) The average Plant Load Factor (PLF) increased from 55.3% in 1991-92 to 69% in 2000-01. The plant availability has improved from 72.8% in 1991-92 to 80.3% in 1999-00. The per capita consumption of electricity in India increased from 178 Kwh in 1985-86 to 360 Kwh in 1998-99 registering an annual growth rate of 6.5%.

However, in this period the financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) has deteriorated sharply. The gap

between average cost of supply and average tariff has increased from the level of 28 paise per Kwh in 1991-92 to 92 paise in 2000-01. Besides technical losses, T and D losses also include commercial and unaccounted losses caused by theft of energy. In the absence of metering of all consumers and effective energy audit the reported figures of T and D losses were not accurate in most States. With transparency required by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, the T and D losses have now been more accurately assessed.

The Ministry of Power, after wide ranging consultations with all stake holders namely State Governments, State Electricity Boards, utilities, experts, trade unions, private investors and political leaders, has evolved a comprehensive and detailed Action Plan for turning around the power sector. The broad strategy for this purpose was formulated in a Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers taken by the Prime Minister on 3rd March, 2001. Based on this strategy which recognizes that the real problem of management and challenge in the power sector reforms lies in distribution, a concrete action plan has been finalized.

Based on the resolution of the Chief Ministers Conference, an Expert Group to recommend a one time settlement of past dues of SEBs, has submitted its report and this has been accepted by the High Level Empowered Group which includes Chief Ministers of some States. With the implementation of this report, the SEBs/Utilities would have a clean balance sheet free from the burden of past dues to CPSUs. They should be able to move towards attaining financial health and fulfil the resolution of the Chief Ministers Conference of achieving commercial viability in distribution in two to three years.

To tackle the technical problems of distribution, the Government of India has stepped in to assist the States under the new Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). In the first phase of this programme, 63 distribution circles in the States have been taken up for intensive upgradation. Under this programme, the Government of India had released Rs. 1000 crores during 2000-01. The budget proposal for the year 2002-03 provides for an enhanced plan allocation of Rs. 3,500 crores for the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) where funds would be provided for both investment as well as transition financing needs, linked to satisfactory performance with respect to agreed reform milestones.

To support the reform efforts of all the States, the Centre is entering into MOUs with the States. In the MOUs which have been signed with 20 States so far, the concerned States

have committed to achieve milestone for reforming the power sector. The milestones include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, timely payment of subsidies, metering of all 11 KV feeders, 100% metering of consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations, assistance for development of transmission system and financial assistance.

For the Tenth Plan period the Working Group on Power has worked out a capacity addition program of approximately 47,000 MW. Chief Ministers of States have been requested to make suitable plan provisions for these. With the provision of adequate Plan funds and close monitoring, performance in capacity addition in the Tenth Plan is expected to show considerable improvement. Renovation and Modernization of existing plants is being given priority. With the other measures for reducing technical losses in distribution and demand side management through energy efficiency and energy conservation it should be possible to make the country free of power shortages in a definite time frame.

Rural electrification has now been included under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02 as a Basic Minimum Service, under which an allocation of Rs. 41859.90 lakhs has been made by the States. Considering the fact that SEBs find it difficult to service debt, the budget proposal for the year 2002-03 provides for introduction of a new interest subsidy scheme called the Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme. An outlay of Rs. 164 crore has been provided for this scheme in 2002-03.

The forward-looking, reform-oriented Electricity Bill 2001 has been introduced in the last session of Parliament. The Bill, inter-alia, contains stringent provisions for penalty in case of power thefts. The Bill also includes provision for reduction of cross subsidies, and for payment of subsidies up front by the State Governments to the State Power Utilities where such subsidies unavoidable.

It is expected that the action plan outlined in the previous paragraphs would lead to improvement in the operational and financial performance of the State Electricity Boards.

CBI Investigation against Officers

*175. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Unstarred Question No. 5396 on December 22, 2000 regarding irregularities in Doordarshan and state :

(a) whether the CBI has since completed its investigation and conveyed the result to the Government and/or the Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government and/or the Prasar Bharati thereon;

(d) whether the CBI has further conducted investigations into the charges of corruption and other irregularities levelled against several higher officials during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to bring transparency and accountability in the I and B to check accumulation of wealth by officers disproportionate to their known sources of income ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Out of five cases registered by the CBI in this connection, investigation reports in respect of four cases have been received. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the CBI in these cases and the same shall be forwarded to the Central Vigilance

Commission. Investigation report in respect of the fifth case is awaited.

(d) and (e) In addition to the above, CBI has conducted investigations into the charges of corruption and other irregularities in 23 other cases, against Group 'A' officers of Prasar Bharati. Details of cases are enclosed as Statement.

(f) The following steps have been taken :

(i) Vigilance set-up of Prasar Bharati is being strengthened and a separate CVO has been appointed.

(ii) System of procurement of programmes and purchases have been streamlined and publicized.

(iii) Programmes are procured through open/transparent procedures.

(iv) "List of officers of Doubtful integrity" and "Agreed List" have been prepared in consultation with CBI.

(v) The appointment of Vigilance Officers in the Media Units, is being processed.

(vi) The Vigilance work in the Media Units is regularly reviewed by the Chief Vigilance Officer of Ministry of I and B.

Statement

| S.No. Case No. and Date of Registration | | Number of officers |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | RC.9/1999-Cochin dt. 1.5.99 | One |
| 2. | PE.19(A)/99-Delhi dt. 11.8.1999 | One |
| 3. | RC.9(A)/1999-Jodhpur dt. 12.8.1999 | One identified officer plus others |
| 4. | PE.7(A)/99-Delhi dated 13.3.99 | One |
| 5. | RC.38(A)/99-Delhi dated 10.8.99 | One identified officer plus others |
| 6. | RC.12/1999-Dhanbad dt. 7.12.1999 | Two identified officer plus others |
| 7. | PE.9/1999-Shillong dt. 26.10.99 | One |
| 8. | RC.5(A)/2000-JPR dt. 5.5.00 | Three |
| 9. | RC.6/2000-Jodhpur dt. 29.4.2000 | One identified officer plus others |
| 10. | RC.10(A)/2000-BLR dt. 12.5.00 | Five |
| 11. | RC.68(A)/2000-Delhi dt. 4.12.2000 | One identified officer plus others |
| 12. | RC.69(A)/2000-Delhi dt. 4.12.2000 | One identified officer plus others |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 13. | RC.71(A)/2000-Delhi dt. 14.12.2000 | One identified officer plus others |
| 14. | PE.12/2000-Shillong dt. 1.8.2000 | One |
| 15. | PE.1/20001-/ACU.IV/Delhi dt. 12.2.2001 | Four |
| 16. | RC.34(A)/2001-Bangalore dt. 21.12.2001 | One identified officer plus others |
| 17. | PE.5/2001-Cochin dt. 20.8.2001 | One |
| 18. | PE.3(A)/2001-Jaipur dt. 16.1.2001 | Five |
| 19. | RC.19(A)/2001-Kolkata dt. 8.1.2001 | Three |
| 20. | RC.23(A)/2001-Kolkata dt. 20.1.2001 | One |
| 21. | RC.10(A)/2001-Patna dt. 10.8.2001 | One |
| 22. | RC.1/2002-SIC.III/Delhi dt. 4.1.2002 | Two |
| 23. | RC.1/2002-Silchar dt. 21.1.2002 | Two identified officers plus others |

Tariff Policy of CPSPU

*176. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring tariff policy for Central Public Sector Power Utilities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether a group has been constituted to prepare a concept note on the tariff policy as required under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the group ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Group has been constituted to prepare a concept paper on Tariff Policy.

The Group is yet to submit its recommendation.

Financing Mechanisms to Sustain Power Sector Reform

*177. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether N.K. Singh Committee report on "Financing Mechanisms to Sustain Power Sector Reforms" has since submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatize the non-performing SEBs on the recommendations of the Singh Committee Report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The salient features of the recommendations of the report of N.K. Singh Expert Group are :

(1) While it is possible to raise investment finance through market borrowings and private sector participation, the adjustment costs of the transition may have to be funded out of budgetary support.

(2) There is a need to restructure the present Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) from an investment window to a mechanism for supporting power sector reforms linked to fulfilment of certain performance criteria by way of benchmarks. The plan assistance to the States may be provided under modified APDP to be renamed as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) on the basis of the formula adopted for the allocation of normal central assistance. Access to State specific allocation would, however, not be automatic but linked to concrete and measurable steps in the direction of power sector reforms.

(3) The Government of India could explore the possibility of accessing funds direct from multi-

lateral financing agencies to support power sector reforms.

- (4) Various identified reforms milestones should result in reduction of cash losses by 1/3rd or more each year over the level of 2000-2001 so as to produce a clean balance sheet at the end of three years. This would facilitate private investment without reliance on payment security mechanism such as Government guarantee or counter guarantee.
- (5) State specific power reforms be devised by the Ministry of Power in consultation with State Governments incorporating the performance milestones.
- (6) In order to incentives performance, the unallocated portion of the share of non-performing or poorly performing States in a particular financial year could be allocated in favour of the performing States.
- (7) The Empowered Group of Chief Ministers may monitor the power sector reforms and the achievements of milestones thereof from time to time.
- (8) A High Level Committee comprising Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman, Finance Minister, Minister of Power and Member (Energy), Planning Commission as members and Secretary (Power) as Member-Secretary may over view and monitor the progress of implementation of the APDRP.

(c) and (d) SEBs are under the administrative control of the State Governments. The decision to privatize the Boards or otherwise, therefore, lies with the State Governments. The Government of India has been encouraging States to undertake reforms so as to improve the financial health of the power sector in general and of the SEBs in particular. In an effort to bring in more focused approach to reforms, the Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 20 States. The States have broadly agreed on the reform milestones of 100% metering, energy audit, constitution/operation/salisation of SERCs, unbundling/corporatisation of SEBs etc. In reciprocation, the Government of India has also committed assistance of various sorts. The States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan have passed their Reform Laws and unbundled their SEBs. Delhi and M.P. have passed their reform laws, which inter alia provide for unbundling of SEBs. Orissa has

privatized distribution. Delhi, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have plans for privatisation of distribution.

Review of DTH Policy

*178. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) whether the working group on the Tenth Five Year Plan for information and broadcasting has suggested the review of DTH policy to make it viable so that it may attract private investment;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestion made by the said working group; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to review the present DTH policy ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Planning Commission had set up a Working Group on I and B Sector to make recommendations on various policy matters relevant to the formulation of 10th Five Year Plan for the Sector. This Working Group has, inter alia, recommended review of the DTH Policy. Recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Pilot Project for DTT Broadcasting

*179. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

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

(a) whether the Government are planning to launch digital terrestrial television broadcasting services in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its salient features thereof;

(c) whether a huge expenditure will be involved to implement the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the justification therefor; and

(e) the details of advantages of DTTB as compared to analogue transmission ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) Doordarshan is setting up digital terrestrial transmitters at

Delhi, Kolkatta, Chennai and Mumbai, at a capital cost of Rs. 26.19 crores for starting experimental service.

The main advantages of Digital Terrestrial Transmission as compared to analogue transmission, lie in its superior quality of audio and video signals; multi-channel operation; mobile reception and less transmission power requirement.

World Bank Assistance to T and D System

*180. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is helping the transmission and distribution systems in the country;

(b) if so, the details of help given by the World Bank in this regard;

(c) whether the World Bank and his Ministry have formulated a joint strategy for the restructuring of distribution circles in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the joint strategy has proved successful in revamping the T and D network in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank is helping in the transmission and distribution system in the country. The details of the projects and assistance being provided by the World Bank in the Transmission and Distribution system is given below :—

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Executing Agency/ State | Funding Agency | Loan Amount (US\$ in mln.) |
|---------|--|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | 4603-IN Power Sector Development Project-II | POWERGRID/ Multistates | IBRD | 450.00 |
| 2. | 4441-IN-AP Power Sector Restr. Project | APTRANSCO/ A.P. | IBRD | 210.00 |
| 3. | 4014-IN Orissa Power Sector Restr. | Orissa | IBRD | 350.00 |
| 4. | 4545-IN UP Power Sector Restr. Project. | UPPCL/U.P. | IBRD | 150.00 |
| 5. | 4594-IN Rajasthan Power Sector Restr. Project. | Rajasthan | IBRD | 180.00 |

(c) and (d) Recognizing the critical need for distribution reforms, the Government of India has launched a new programme in 2000-2001 by the name of Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) where distribution circles are identified and concentrated efforts on metering, energy audit and reduction of technical losses as well as control of theft is being undertaken. The objective is to create models of success with international standards so that this can be replicated in other circles. This would also generate public support and confidence in the reform programme both from the point of view of the common public as well as potential investors in distribution privatization.

In the States where World Bank is providing assistance for power sector reforms and is financing investment in transmission and distribution, the adoption of the APDP strategy of choosing distribution circles and making them models of excellence has been recommended.

**Cement Company in the Complex of
Mejia Thermal Power Project**

1696. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the Lafarge India Limited, Cement Company is being allowed to manufacture cement within the complex of Mejia Thermal Power Project;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed on 19.10.2001 between DVC and M/s. Lafarge India Limited for setting up of a fly-ash based cement grinding unit of 1.0 Million Tonne per year capacity within the premises of Mejia Thermal Power Station.

**Non-Utilisation of Buildings by
BRO at Chandigarh**

1697. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the buildings with allied services were created at a cost of Rs. 4.80 crore during 1994-95 for Border Roads Task Force at Chandigarh;

(b) whether the Task Force has been moved out during June 1996 to meet its strategic function vacating these buildings;

(c) if so, the reasons for keeping this building vacant incurring a huge loss to the exchequer;

(d) the amount spent by the Border Roads Organisation on security and upkeep of these buildings since June 1996 till date including salary paid to the staff deployed for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the said building and avoid unnecessary expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The building for 38 Border Roads Task Force was constructed at Chandigarh in 1994-95 at a cost of Rs. 4.80 Crores. Due to strategic reasons, this Task Force had moved temporarily to Manali to oversee the work on Manali-Leh road. The building is occupied by the affiliated units of the Task Force, which continue to remain at Chandigarh to provide logistic support to Task Force, as well as, to Chief Engineer Project Deepak with its Head Quarters at Shimla. An amount of Rs. 19.56 Lakhs has been spent from June 1996 till February 2002 on security and upkeep of these buildings.

Failure of Vendors

1698. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naval Headquarters agreed to waive off all penalties on account of failure of the vendors in fulfilling the contractual commitments though not competent to do that and also agreed to by the Defence Secretary during oral evidence and they did not follow the prescribed financial and administrative regime;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether any action has been taken to ensure the accountability of the officials to Parliament through his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Contract for procurement of

equipments for the Indian Navy is signed between the vendors and the Department of Defence for the NHQ or its subordinate formations depending upon the powers delegated to each formation. The penalty clauses like imposition of liquidated Damage or encashment of various warranty bonds and guarantees are as per the individual contracts. These are invoked after due deliberation, consultation with Internal Finance and with the approval of competent authority. In the absence of details of the specific contracts, no details can be given by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Hydel Power Project

1699. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up hydel power project in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targeted period for completing these projects and the steps taken by the Government for speedy completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Chandil (2x4 MW) and North Koel (2x12 MW) hydro-electric projects under construction in the State Sector in Jharkhand are likely to be commissioned in 2002-03 and 2004-05 respectively.

Koel Karo HE Project (710 MW) originally approved in June, 1981 is an identified project to be executed by NHPC. A fresh survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) to identify the beneficiaries for implementing the R and R plan is to be conducted by the State Government to enable NHPC to formulate the Environment Management Plan (EMP). Jharkhand State is yet to sign Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the purchase of power.

Detailed Project Reports of the following hydro electric projects proposed to be set up in Jharkhand have been returned to the Project Authorities for re-submission after compliance with comments of CEA and CWC :

1. Sankh HEP Stage-II (2x90+2x3 = 186 MW)
2. Kadhwan HEP (5x90 = 450 MW)
3. Kanhar PSS (3x100 = 300 MW)

*[English]***Surplus Staff in Prasar Bharati**

1700. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether her Ministry has rejected the downsizing plans of staff by ignoring the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the justifications put forward by her Ministry for keeping the surplus staff ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to rationalize staff structure without in any way impinging on the functioning of the various units, for which 1334 posts have been identified which can be abolished.

*[Translation]***Projects in Rajasthan**

1701. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going/pending railway projects and surveys in Rajasthan at present, project-wise;

(b) the amount allocated for each of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The details of all on-going Railway projects in Rajasthan, including outlay proposed for 2002-03, for each project, is given in the Statement-I. Target Date of Completion of projects, wherever fixed, is given in the status of the project.

The details of ongoing surveys in Rajasthan is in the Statement-II.

Statement-I*On-going Railway Projects in Rajasthan*

| Sl. Name of Project No. | Rly. | Latest Anticipated cost (Rupees in Crores) | Outlay Proposed for 2002-03 | Status | |
|----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| New Lines | | | | | |
| 1. | Kolayat-Phalodi | NR | 171.00 | 0.10 | New Work included in Budget 2002-03. |
| 2. | Dausa-Gangapur | WR | 214.26 | 15.00 | Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for first block section Banas-Baniyana and second block section between Baniyana-Nangal Rajawat submitted to State Government. Work will be taken up once land becomes available. |
| 3. | Ajmer-Pushker | WR | 67.00 | 10.00 | Final location survey is in progress. |
| 4. | Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal | WR | 425.00 | 20.00 | Final location survey is under progress. |
| Gauge Conversion | | | | | |
| 5. | Viramgam-Jodhpur BG rail route, Bhildi-Samdri GC of Samdari-Luni | NR | 244.74 | 15.00 | This work was sanctioned in 1990-91 as a part of Kandla-Bhatinda rail link. The work have been recently defroze. Funds have been allotted. Preliminary arrangement are being made to take up the work. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---|----|--------|-------|--|
| 6. | Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara | NR | 21.46 | 5.00 | The work from Phulera-Jodhpur has been completed and commissioned. The section from Pipar Road to Bilara has been sanctioned as a Material Modification. Due to low operational priority and very light traffic on Pipar Road-Bilara section, work is being regulated as per availability of resources. |
| 7. | Luni-Marwar | NR | 61.25 | 0.75 | The work has been completed. The residual work of block proving with axle counters is in progress and will be completed in 2001-02. |
| 8. | Luni-Barmer-Munabao | NR | 283.94 | 0.10 | Earthwork between Luni-Samdari (50 km) has been completed and is in progress between Samdhari and Barmer. Minor and major bridges are also in progress. It is proposed to take up work in phases from Luni to Samdari, Samdari to Jasai and then Jasai onward. Luni-Samdari-Jasai is targeted for completion during 2002-03. |
| 9. | Rewari-Sadulpur | NR | 282.76 | 10.86 | Necessary clearances have been obtained. Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work. |
| 10. | Sriganganagar-Sarupsar | NR | 68.72 | 0.01 | Work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. |
| 11. | Jodhpur-Luni | NR | 52.96 | 0.60 | Section open to traffic and handed over. Residual works and financial adjustments are in progress. |
| 12. | Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad | WR | 632.35 | 9.00 | Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress. |
| 13. | Agra Fort-Bandikui | WR | 178.03 | 26.00 | Earthwork and bridges are in progress. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. |
| 14. | Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh including material modification for extension from Udaipur to Amra | WR | 294.69 | 30.00 | In Phase-I, earthwork and bridge works are in progress between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh. |

Statement-II*On-going Surveys in Rajasthan*

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Railways | Kms. | Status |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| New Lines | | | | |
| 1. | Jhunjhunu-Pilani | NR | 20 | In progress. Target date of completion 30.11.02 |
| 2. | Anupgarh to Bikaner | NR | 155 | In progress. Target date of completion 31.3.2003 |
| 3. | Dungarpur to Ratlam via-Banswara | WR | 200 | In progress. Target date of completion 30.6.02 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|------------------------------------|----|-----|---|
| 4. | Jaisalmer to Kandla | WR | 600 | In progress. Target date of completion 31.10.02 |
| | Gauge Conversion | | | |
| 5. | Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad | WR | 346 | In progress. Target date of completion 30.6.02 |
| | Doubling | | | |
| 6. | Jaipur to Merta Rd | NR | 219 | Yet to be taken up. Target date of completion 31.3.2003 |
| 7. | Delhi-Ahmedabad | WR | 934 | In progress Target date of completion 31.12.02 |

LPG Connections in Gujarat

1702.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the new LPG connections release for Gujarat State from January 1, 2001 to till date;

(b) the target fixed for giving new LPG connections during 2002 and 2003; and

(c) the number of registrants on the waiting list for LPG connections in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released about 2.50 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Gujarat during the period 1st January, 2001 to 1st February, 2002.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no pending waiting list with the LPG distributors of OMCs in the State of Gujarat and new LPG connections are released on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country including the State of Gujarat. As the LPG connections are available on demand, there is no need to fix any specific target for same.

[English]

Civil-Military Conference

1703.SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level civil-military conference was held under the aegis of the Army's Southern Command Headquarters in Bangalore during November-December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the swapping of defence for civilian land and vice-versa encroachment of defence land, power and water supply to defence establishments were discussed in the meeting;

(c) if so, whether any decision was taken therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(c) and (d) In the Civil-Military Liaison Conference co-chaired by Chief of Staff, Headquarters Southern Command, and Chief Secretary, Karnataka held in Bangalore on 29.11.2001 the following decisions were taken jointly :-

- (i) State Government authorities agreed in principle to return to the Army 2.02 acres of defence land under encroachment in Bangalore after relocation of the slum;
- (ii) the question of transfer of land may be addressed in a holistic manner keeping in view the principle of equal value land assets;
- (iii) State Government authorities indicated that 60% of assured water supply will be made available to defence establishments by March 2002 and thereafter increased uniformly by 5% every year till 100% assured quantity is met; and
- (iv) Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore may formally approach State Government authorities for charging of water supply in the ratio of 80:20 (domestic/non-domestic rates) as being charged for all other defence establishments.

Disposal of Obsolete Components

1704.SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rifle Factory, Ishapore, is holding finished components worth Rs. 4.24 crores as on March, 1999 as per the CAG Report No. 7 of 2001 out of which four items of weapons have already become obsolete of the value of Rs. 133.66 lakhs and a committee was being constituted for the disposal of obsolete components;

(b) if so, whether the committee has been constituted;

(c) if so, the terms and reference thereof;

(d) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report;

(e) the reasons for the Rifle Factory, Ishapore being unable to dispose off finished components; and

(f) the measures taken to tone up the working of the Rifle Factory and the Ordnance Factory Board ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Rifle Factory, Ishapore (RFI) is holding inventory of finished components worth Rs. 4.24 crore out of which value of the obsolete components is Rs. 1.33 crore. The accumulation has occurred over the years due to change in ordering pattern, changed priorities of indentors and short closure of some of the indents. Compared to the outturn of approx. Rs. 250 crore, the accumulation of obsolete items is negligible. A committee was set up in December 2000 to find out ways of effective utilisation of the available finished components and to suggest the process for disposal of these components, if use of these components is not found feasible. The committee recommended that RFI may approach all the Ordnance Factories and the Ordnance Depots for gainful utilisation of the components followed by initiation of action for disposal of the components that are not required by other Ordnance Factories/Depots. The Rifle Factory, Ishapore and the Ordnance Factory Board are working as per expectations.

Upgradation of Jaguar

1705. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry sanctioned Rs. 158 crore for retromodification of 35 Jaguars in November 1996 but not a single Jaguar has been upgraded till the end of May, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of Jaguars that have been upgraded by now; and

(c) the measures, the Government have taken to get the Jaguar upgraded immediately and to make it fully operational under all circumstances for day and night ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government sanctioned the upgrade of Jaguar aircraft in November 1996. Actual upgrade has not taken place due to a change in the Standard of Preparation (SOP). Necessary arrangements have been made to speed up the programme.

Prices Paid by ONGC/OIL on Gas Production

1706. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector oil companies viz., ONGC and OIL are paid comparatively lower prices than the gas produced and supplied by them vis-a-vis the price paid for the gas produced by the company in the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons for disparity in prices;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the price structure so as to bring parity therein;

(d) the prevailing global price of natural gas and the existing price of domestic gas;

(e) whether the Government have also examined the impact of the revised price structure on the bulk consumers of the natural gas like NTPC etc.; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the prices for natural gas produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are determined on a net back of the prevailing consumer prices, which are indexed to a basket of international fuel oil prices, the prices for gas produced by the private sector companies are governed by the respective Production Sharing Contracts.

(c) As per the Government decision of September 1997, the natural gas prices for consumers are to be revised so as to achieve 100% parity with the international fuel oil prices by the year 2001-02.

(d) While the global prices of natural gas vary from country to country, the consumer price of domestic natural gas is Rs. 2,850 per thousand cubic meter (MCM) at 10,000 kilo calories. However, the gas price for North East consumers is Rs. 1,700/MCM at 10,000 kilo calories.

(e) and (f) The contemplated revision in the consumers prices of natural gas will have a uniform effect on all the consumers including NTPC etc.

[Translation]

**Conversion of LPT into HPT in
Jharkhand and West Bengal**

1707. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to convert any TV relay centres of Jharkhand and West Bengal from LPT to HPT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) LPTs at Balurghat and Kharagpur in West Bengal are being upgraded to HPTs

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Complaints against Private LPG
Companies**

1708. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private companies engaged in supply of LPG against whom the complaints of malpractices have been received; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government against them ?

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) State Governments are empowered to take necessary action against the parallel marketeers in case of any malpractices committed by them, in terms of LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000. The private companies do not come under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**Proposal for NEEPCO for Hydro
Power Project**

1709. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any hydro-power projects from the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and other such proposals for augmentation for regularization of power supply in the North East have been pending with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when these proposals have been pending and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No hydro-power projects from the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and other such proposals for augmentation for regularization of power supply in the North East have been pending with the Central Government.

Wasteful Expenditure

1710. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that Ministry of Finance has taken steps to minimise wasteful expenditures in Government Departments and has already identified some sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in the Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors of his Ministry/ Departments under him, which have been identified by that Ministry for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years as on December 31, 2001; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry of curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways is aware of the emphasis laid by Ministry of Finance on economy and austerity. All instructions on the subject are being scrupulously followed in the Railways. The Railways have been endeavouring to control expenditure and keep it strictly need-based.

As a result of the various economy and austerity measures being taken, it has become possible to effect savings in the Ordinary Working Expenses of the Railways

even after absorbing impact of the post budgetary factors. The details of savings achieved in the previous three years are indicated below :—

| | (Rs. in cr.) | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------|
| | BE | Actuals | Savings |
| 1998-99 | 23720 | 23255 | 465 |
| 1999-00 | 25740 | 25645 | 95 |
| 2000-01 | 28115 | 27534 | 581 |

Railways, inter alia, have been taking the following steps to ensure control of expenditure :

- (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.

Foreign Exchange Earnings and Outgo of ONGC

1711. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange earnings and foreign exchange outgo of ONGC during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to minimise foreign exchange outgo; and

(c) the foreign exchange debit of ONGC at present and the amount spent on payment of interest every 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) The total foreign exchange earnings and foreign exchange outgo of ONGC during the last three years were as follows :—

| Year | Foreign Exchange Earnings | Equivalent Rupees in Crores FE outgo |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 151.90 | 5,369.87 |
| 1999-00 | 52.72 | 3,918.34 |
| 1998-99 | 35.81 | 5,172.09 |

(b) The steps taken for reduction of foreign exchange out-go, as far as debt-servicing payments are concerned, are as follows :—

- (i) The foreign loan portfolio of ONGC has been consistently brought down over the years through scheduled repayments as well as early repayment of loans, in accordance with the regulatory guidelines of Government of India in this regard. By its sustained efforts, ONGC has been able to prepay foreign loans aggregating Rs. 1360.74 crore during the last three years. As a result, foreign loan portfolio of ONGC has come down from a level of about USD 2,192.9 million equivalent as on 31.3.1998 to USD 868.8 million equivalent as on 31.3.2001. Efforts are being made by ONGC to further bring down the loan portfolio by early repayment of existing loans with the approval of Government of India.
- (ii) As a part of prudent and pro-active debt-management strategy, ONGC monitors the developments in international markets and dynamically reviews its loan portfolio to take advantage of any favourable movements in the market situation. As a result of such efforts, ONGC has been able to replace the loans availed earlier with fresh loans at lower financing costs and thereby reducing the Foreign Exchange outgo in the form of interest.

(c) The foreign exchange debt of ONGC as on 31.3.2001 aggregated to Rs. 4049.63 crore.

The amount of interest paid annually during the last three years is given below :—

| | (Rs/Crore) |
|---------|------------|
| 2000-01 | 335.06 |
| 1999-00 | 425.44 |
| 1998-99 | 503.33 |

Railway Over Bridge at Purigata

1712. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Railway Over Bridge at Purigate in front of IIT, Kharagpur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the funds allocated therefor; and

(c) the time by which the ROB is likely to be completed

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) The level crossing in front of IIT Kharagpur qualifies for replacement by R.O.B. on cost sharing basis. Work can be considered for inclusion in Railway's Works Programme provided State Government makes such a proposal fulfilling the necessary pre-requisites. State Govt. has been requested to make such a proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of FM Channel

1713. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of performance of FM Stations;

(b) the steps taken to ensure good quality of programmes put across by these stations; and

(c) whether the Government have realised the financial assistance visualised in this venture ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) At present, 133 FM transmitters including 4 stations setup by Private Agencies are operational in the country.

The performance of AIR FM stations have been excellent both in terms of content and quality. The programme pattern of the Prasar Bharati Stations is discussed at various levels and carefully planned. It has been the endeavor of All India Radio to put out the best of programmes which are popular among the listeners, and generate commercial revenue. The content of Private FM stations also have to conform to Programme and Advertisement Codes applicable to AIR. In so far as the private FM channels are concerned, no financial assistance by the Government was visualised.

Policy for Promotion of Tourism

1714. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have formulated a comprehensive policy for promotion of tourism in a big way;

(b) if so, the tourist circuits/regions identified/selected under the scheme;

(c) whether Railways have identified any sector in Andhra Pradesh for promotion of tourism;

(d) if so, any special package proposed to be launched in the Andhra Pradesh sector; and

(e) whether Railways have any proposal to introduce Palace-on-Wheels type of train in the Andhra Pradesh for development of tourism in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Railways have taken steps for promoting tourism by running special trains/coaches as per demand, luxury trains like Palace on Wheels, Royal Orient Express, providing Indrail Passes, reservation quota, facilitation centres for the foreign tourists etc. A new company, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), has also been set up by the Railways in 1999 for providing value added tourism packages.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Proposals for running Pilgrim Special trains and Palace on Wheels type train in Andhra Pradesh so far have not been found viable.

Programmes for Farmers

1715. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to educate the farmers about various welfare schemes launched by the Government for the benefit of the farmers, her Ministry has decided to sponsor a weekly radio programme entitled "Chalo Khet Ki Ore".

(b) if so, whether it was also decided to get this programme broadcast in Hindi and other State languages from various stations of AIR throughout the country;

(c) whether an official announcement to this effect was also made by her Ministry in a National Seminar of Farmers held in New Delhi a few months ago;

(d) if so, whether the broadcast of the aforesaid weekly radio programme has since been started;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) AIR has informed that no programme entitled "Chalo Khet Ki Ore" is proposed for broadcast over All India Radio. A 10-minute programme entitled "Chalo Gaon Ki Ore", used to be broadcast as a sponsored programme over 30 Stations of Vividh Bharati, during the period 1996 to 1999, in 12 languages. All the Stations of All India Radio are at present broadcasting farm and home programmes directed at rural audiences which include segments of programmes on Rural Development Schemes and Agriculture.

Prasar Bharati enjoys autonomy in the selection of programmes. Government does not give directions on such matters.

[Translation]

Encroachment on Railway Land

1716.DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether encroachments have been made on the railway land by land mafias and have built up industries and jhuggies in connivance with railway officials;

(b) if so, the area of land encroached upon in the country particularly in metropolitan cities;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to identify the officers involved therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officers and to remove the encroachment on railway land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) Approximately 2162 Hectares of railway land is under encroachments by various persons in the country, out of which approximately 400 Hectares of railway land in Delhi, 37 hectares in Mumbai, 17 hectares in Kolkata, and 40 hectares in Chennai, are under encroachments. However, connivance of Railway officials in this has not

been noticed. Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

[English]

Permission to Private Refiners to Set Up Petrol/Diesel Pumps

1717.SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are not permitting the eligible private refiners to built up their own petrol pumps for selling petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether the Government intend to force the Oil PSUs to purchase their products even after the dismantling of APM;

(c) if so, whether these private refiners shall be given undue advantage on the cost of PSUs;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct enquiry to find out the involvement of officers for the delay in giving permission of retail marketing to such eligible private refiners; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Government vide its resolution dated 8th March, 2002 have laid down the guidelines for granting authorization to market transportation fuels to the new entrants. The application of a new entrant would be processed as per these guidelines and a suitable decision would be taken on the merits of each case.

Sale of Diesel in NCR Area

1718.SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the actual areas adjoining to NCT has been initially marked as the area of NCR;

(b) whether the Oil PSUs are earning higher profit on the sales of diesel of 0.05% sulphur contents;

(c) if so, whether it is permitted in the scene of APM;

(d) whether the agriculturists of the NCR are being compelled to pay more comparatively for catering their needs of Diesel;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to give some relief to such agriculturists; 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) NCR comprises of NCT and portions of surrounding areas of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

(b) and (c) Under the APM, the marketing margin allowed to the oil companies on diesel is same for all grades of diesel.

(d) to (f) As the 0.05% sulphur diesel carries a premium over the 0.25% sulphur diesel in the international market, its selling price is relatively higher as compared to the diesel with higher sulphur content.

Road Over-Bridge at Palam Colony

1719.SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for construction of an over-bridge on the railway crossings near Palam colony in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Delhi has also requested the railway administration in this regard; and

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

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

(c) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge at Km. 18.02 near Palam Railway station of Delhi – Rewari section is being taken up as a deposit work to be carried out on behalf of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for which Rs. 6.75 crore has been deposited recently by them.

The detailed estimate and preparation of drawings has been taken in hand.

Solar Energy Project

1720.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the locations where solar energy projects are functioning at present, State-wise;

(b) whether these projects are being utilized for providing electricity to each State and Union Territory; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with special reference to Maharashtra and if not, the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Solar Energy can be utilized for generating electricity through the photovoltaic conversion route. The Government is implementing a Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) programme in all States, including the State of Maharashtra. Under the programme, different types of SPV systems such as solar lanterns, solar home lighting systems, street lighting systems, water pumping systems and stand alone and grid connected power plants are being installed. In addition, some States and NGOs are also implementing their own programmes. So far, 4,36,822 solar lanterns, 1,89,761 solar home lighting systems, 42,972 street lighting systems, 4,370 solar water pumping systems and 3,537 kWp SPV power plants and other systems have been installed all over the country. State-wise details of these systems and power plants are given in the Statement enclosed.

Solar power systems are also used in sectors such as railways, telecommunications, broadcasting, oil, gas and defence. It has been estimated that SPV systems and power plants of about 53 MWp aggregate capacity have been deployed all over the country in different sectors for lighting, water pumping, telecommunication, and other industrial and commercial applications.

In the State of Maharashtra, 7,183 solar lanterns, 541 solar home lighting system, 3,288 street lighting systems, 160 solar water pumping systems and SPV power plants of about 190 kWp aggregate capacity have been installed as on 28.02.2002.

Statement***State-wise achievements of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems and Power Plants
(As on 28th February 2002)***

| S. No. | State/Union Territory/ Others | Solar Lanterns (Nos.) | Home Lighting Systems (Nos.) | Street Lighting Systems (Nos.) | Water Pumping Systems (Nos.) | Power Plants and other Systems (kWp) |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 26,884 | 1,030 | 3,454 | 583 | 296.6 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4,437 | 650 | 738 | 0 | 7.9 |
| 3. | Assam | 541 | 2,337 | 98 | 45 | 3 |
| 4. | Bihar and Jharkhand | 42,149 | 556 | 673 | 130 | 0 |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 577 | 1,055 | 297 | 5 | 0 |
| 6. | Goa | 280 | 51 | 40 | 15 | 1.7 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 36,458 | 3,292 | 2,044 | 25 | 39.7 |
| 8. | Haryana | 29,160 | 7,538 | 1,214 | 85 | 24.2 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 20,137 | 10,818 | 1,319 | 6 | 0 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5,972 | 11,607 | 389 | 17 | 40 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 5,464 | 2,437 | 712 | 307 | 33 |
| 12. | Kerala | 68,540 | 9,043 | 827 | 713 | 69.7 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 7,873 | 156 | 5,569 | 73 | 362.4 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 7,183 | 541 | 3,288 | 160 | 191.44 |
| 15. | Manipur | 3,883 | 650 | 370 | 12 | 11 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 4,275 | 440 | 593 | 5 | 42 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 4,812 | 1,645 | 315 | 32 | 0 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 95 | 143 | 271 | 0 | 6 |
| 19. | Orissa | 7,472 | 2,378 | 5,666 | 3 | 36.5 |
| 20. | Punjab | 14,496 | 2,520 | 1,670 | 785 | 151 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 4,716 | 29,372 | 7,152 | 238 | 90.4 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 618 | 307 | 127 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Tamilnadu | 11,203 | 446 | 2,302 | 750 | 242 |
| 24. | Tripura | 14,605 | 1,638 | 460 | 0 | 24.57 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 51,533 | 45,625 | 150 | 209 | 424 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 22,527 | 30,204 | 250 | 3 | 80 |
| 27. | West Bengal | 3,639 | 20,980 | 1,432 | 47 | 453.7 |
| 28. | A and N Islands | 777 | 405 | 358 | 5 | 167 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----------|---|---------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| 29. | Chandigarh | 1,375 | 225 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 30. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 31. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| 32. | Delhi | 4,753 | 0 | 301 | 84 | 15 |
| 33. | Lakshadweep | 6,460 | 0 | 771 | 0 | 385 |
| 34. | Pondicherry | 637 | 13 | 62 | 18 | 0 |
| NGOs/PSUs | | | | | | |
| 35. | All India Women's Conference, New Delhi | 1,939 | 375 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36. | Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan | 1,250 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 38.7 |
| 37. | World Renewal and Spiritual Trust, Mount Abu, Rajasthan | 3,285 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 300 |
| 38. | Central PSUs | 16,818 | 234 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 436,822 | 189,761 | 42,972 | 4,370 | 3,537 |

[Translation]

Closure of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

1721. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies lying closed in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to restart the said petrol pumps and LPG agencies in the State; 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) While no LPG distributorships are lying closed in the State of Rajasthan, there are 5 retail outlets (petrol pumps) lying closed in the State at present.

(b) and (c) The dealerships are lying closed on account of various reasons, such as dispute among the partners, conversion of land usage by the local authority, termination due to malpractices, etc. Resumption of operation of each of these dealerships will depend on the merit of each case.

Doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad Rail Line

1722. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work of doubling of Railway line between Delhi-Ahmedabad via Jaipur, Ajmer, Mount Abu has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the time schedule fixed for the completion of survey and the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This survey is expected to be completed by 31.12.2002.

Ban on Pak TV

1723. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA PADDY :

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on the viewing of Pakistani television channels in India;

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

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not considered necessary to impose a ban at this juncture.

[English]

Dismantling of APM in Petroleum Sector

1724. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact on common man of the dismantling of APM on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor before arriving at the decision to dismantle APM; and

(d) the extent to which subsidy on LPG and kerosene is proposed to be withdrawn?

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 decision to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) for petroleum products with effect from 1st April 2002 is as per the Government resolution of November 1997. With the dismantling of APM the pricing of petrol and diesel will become market-determined, but the Government will continue to provide subsidy on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG. The price of domestic LPG has been raised by about Rs. 40 per cylinder and of PDS Kerosene by about Rs. 1.50 per litre with effect from 1st March 2002.

[Translation]

Bilaspur Railway Zone

1725. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the works like part estimate, naming and jurisdiction relating to Bilaspur Railway Zone are pending with the Railway Board for mere administrative approval; and

(b) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The detailed territorial jurisdiction together with the naming of Bilaspur Zone has not been finalised due to the various complexities involved. There has been slow progress on setting up of all the announced new Zones including one at Bilaspur due to a severe resource crunch currently faced by the railways. No specific time frame can be indicated at this juncture.

[English]

Dismantling of APM

1726. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerosene and LPG is proposed to be kept out of the dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism decision; and

(b) if so, the time by which the new policy decision is likely to be implemented?

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) Although, the Administered Pricing Mechanism is being dismantled with effect from 1st April 2002, the Government will continue to provide subsidy on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG.

Capacity of Production on NINL at Duburi

1727. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd.'s Steel Plant at Duburi in Orissa is likely to be commissioned for commercial production and the capacity of production of the plant with target of the PLF to be achieved;

(b) whether the target date for commercial production has been delayed for years and the escalation cost of the commercial viability of the plant has been affected thereby;

(c) whether the cost of production per tonne has been increased; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to expedite the commissioning of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Blast Furnace Complex of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) has been commissioned in February 2002 and production of Pig Iron and stabilisation of system has commenced. The optimum production capacity is around 1.10 million tonnes of Hot Metal per year. The Plant is expected to achieve this targeted level of the rated capacity during 3rd year of operation.

(b) and (c) The estimated capital outlay was Rs. 1510 crore in 1996. IDBI carried out Mid-Term appraisal of the project in 2001 and revised cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 1524 crore excluding Wire Rod Mill. Delay in plant commissioning has been mainly on account of unduly long time taken to provide physical possession of the entire land and set back caused by Super Cyclone. The project is commercially viable as per Mid Term Appraisal carried out by IDBI.

(d) Blast Furnace Complex for production of Pig Iron is already commissioned.

[Translation]

Enhancement of Kerosene Quota for Jharkhand

1728. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the Kerosene quota for Jharkhand State keeping in view the increasing population and the dependence of rural people on Kerosene;

(b) if so, the total kilo litres of Kerosene being made available to Jharkhand State at present per month; and

(c) the extent to which the Government propose to increase it?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Fare Reduction on "Palace on Wheels"

1729. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fare of the "Palace on Wheels" luxury train has been reduced recently;

(b) if so, the percentage of reduction in fare;

(c) the time by when this reduced fare became effective;

(d) whether the reduction in fare has attracted more tourists; and

(e) if so, the occupancy before reduction and after reduction of fare?

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

(b) A discount of 25% of peak season tariff for the foreign tourists and a special tariff of Rs. 10,000/- per night per persons for the Indian tourists have been given for the current season.

(c) The reduced fare has become effective from 2nd January 2002.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The occupancy has gone up from 21% to 45% during the period.

Development of SCs/STs

1730. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the State to promote the weaker section of the people, and in particular of the SCs and STs so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the interest of SCs and STs in non-conventional energy sector with a view to generate employment opportunities for these under-privileged sections; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not implementing this directive of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is providing support under various non-conventional energy programmes/projects through State Government Departments, State Nodal Agencies etc. throughout the country, which in turn generate employment opportunities for people including those belonging to the under privileged sections of the society. In addition, the Ministry is also providing higher levels of subsidy for special categories of beneficiaries e.g. Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the society under its biogas and biomass gasifier programmes.

Petition against Sunair Hotels Limited

1731.DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs after investigations decided to file petition against M/s Sunair Hotels Limited in June 2000 for violations of Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details of such violations;

(c) whether any action has been taken against this Hotel for perjury; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, this Department has taken necessary legal action against M/s Sunair Hotels Ltd., on the basis of findings in the Inspection Report and have launched prosecutions against the company and/or its officers in default for violation of Sections 77, 211 and 212 of the Act. The offences u/s 211 and 212 have, however, been compounded by the Company Law Board, New Delhi on application of the company. Prosecutions for violation of Section 77 are still pending in the court of Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and the same is fixed for hearing on 15th April 2002. Further, for violation of the provisions of Section 299 of the Act, the directors of the company have moved an application u/s 621A of the Act for compounding of the offence and the same has since been compounded by Company Law Board, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Scam in Arunachal Pradesh

1732.SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether multi crore power scam in Arunachal Pradesh has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those involved in the scam ?

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

Door to Door Survey in Delhi for Electoral Rolls

1733.SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that while conducting door to door survey in Delhi in 1994, the electoral rolls went up from 62.14 lakhs to 66.80 lakhs i.e. approximately seven percent high;

(b) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fall of seven lakh votes in electoral rolls in Delhi in 2002; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A Statement showing the total number of electors in Delhi during 1993, 1994, 1995, 2001 and 2002 is enclosed.

(c) According to the Election Commission of India, the decrease in the number of electors in 2002 is due to deletion of names of dead persons, persons who have shifted residence, ineligible voters and double entries etc.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Qualifying date | Total electors |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | 01.01.1993 | 57,56,052 |
| 2. | 01.01.1994 | 58,57,513 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----|------------|-----------|
| 3. | 01.01.1995 | 77,45,234 |
| 4. | 01.01.2001 | 88,88,886 |
| 5. | 01.01.2002 | 81,22,685 |

[Translation]

Release of LPG Connections in Rural Areas

1734.YOGI ADITYA NATH :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

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

(a) the number of LPG connections proposed to be issued in the rural areas during 2002;

(b) the target set for issuing LPG connections during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the break-up of LPG connections proposed to be issued in urban and rural areas separately ?

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, LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country. As the LPG connections are available on demand to the customers, there is no specific target for same.

[English]

Pending Projects in Tamilnadu

1735.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going/pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the estimated cost and allocations made so far to each of the project; and

(c) the target date fixed for completion of the project, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The details of all on-going Railway projects in Tamilnadu, including their costs, expected expenditure upto March, 2002 and outlay proposed for 2002-03, for each project, is given in the Statement enclosed. Target Date of Completion of projects, wherever fixed, is given in the status of the project.

Statement

On-going Railway Projects in Tamilnadu

| S. No. | Name of Project | Rly. | Latest Anticipated Cost | Outlay expected to end of 2001-02 | Outlay Proposed for 2002-03 | Status |
|--------------------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| (Rupees in Crores) | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| New Lines | | | | | | |
| 1. | Karur-Salem | SR | 229.88 | 43.29 | 15.00 | 30% of land has been taken over and work is in progress over 69 km. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. Bridge over Kaveri river is also in progress. Work of station buildings at Kalangani and Mallur have been taken up. In Ph-I, work is being done from Karur to Namakkal (51 km). |
| 2. | Bangalore-Satyamanglam | SR | 225.00 | 0.28 | 0.25 | Final Location Survey has been completed from Bangalore to Chamrajanagar and is in progress in balance portion. Land acquisition plans will |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------|---|----|--------|--------|-------|---|
| | | | | | | be prepared once the Final Location Survey is over and alignment has been firmed up. |
| Gauge Conversion | | | | | | |
| 3. | Chennai Beach-Tiruchchirappali and Arakonnam-Chengalpattu | SR | 699.26 | 601.43 | 1.00 | Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress. |
| 4. | Dindigul-Trichy | SR | 133.93 | 131.94 | 0.01 | The work has been completed and commissioned. |
| 5. | Tiruchchirappali-Nagore-Karaikal | SR | 211.36 | 81.30 | 13.00 | The section from Trichy to Thanjavur (50 km) has been completed and commissioned. Work on rest of the section is in progress. Nagapattinam - Vallankani has been sanctioned as a material modification to this work but alignment is under modification in consultation with State Government. |
| 6. | Yashwantpur-Salem | SR | 176.29 | 175.80 | .0.01 | Work has been completed. Section from Banyapannahalli to Salem has been commissioned. However Banyapannahalli-Yeshwantpur is not getting commissioned due to public agitation to get ROB at Hebbal and Lingrapuram. State Government. has been approached for its early commissioning. One more work Yeshwantpur bypass is in progress as a part of this work. However, this involves transfer of a portion of military land for which action has been initiated. |
| 7. | Madurai-Rameswaram | SR | 243.00 | 4.33 | 5.00 | Necessary clearances have been obtained. Earthwork and bridges have been taken up between Madurai and Manamadurai. |
| 8. | Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur and Tenkasi-Virudhnagar | SR | 462.61 | 26.12 | 25.00 | In Virudhnagar - Tenkasi and Tirunelveli - Tiruchendur, bridge work and earthwork has been taken up. Final location survey in the ghat section to ease gradient and curves to suit BG have been recently completed. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. |
| 9. | Villupuram-Pondicherry | SR | 43.83 | 1.01 | 1.00 | Earthwork and bridge work has been taken up. |
| 10. | Thanjavur-Villupuram main line | SR | 231.00 | 0.03 | 5.00 | Necessary clearances have been obtained Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work. |
| 11. | Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam | SR | 99.34 | 19.75 | 15.00 | In Phase-I, the gauge conversion of Vridhachalam-Vaddalor has been taken up when earthwork and bridge works are in |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|--|----|--------|--------|-------|--|
| | | | | | | progress. This section is targeted for completion during 2002-03. |
| 12. | Trichy-Manmadurai | SR | 175.00 | 0.05 | 2.00 | New work included in the Budget 2000-01. Detailed planning has been taken up. |
| 13. | Villupuram-Katpadi | SR | 175.00 | 0.08 | 1.00 | Final Location Survey is in progress. Detailed planning has been taken up. |
| Doubling | | | | | | |
| 14. | Irugur-Coimbatore | SR | 38.67 | 0.44 | 7.28 | Land acquisition for the project has been taken up. The detailed planning of the facilities to be provided is also in hand. The work as required would be taken up and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. |
| 15. | Attipattu-Korukkupettai | SR | 77.10 | 8.18 | 15.00 | Construction of an important bridge across Ennore Creek is in progress. |
| Metropolitan Transport Projects | | | | | | |
| 16. | Chennai Beach-Luz (now Thirumalli) Phase-I : Rapid Transit System | SR | 268.87 | 267.82 | 1.00 | Line opened for traffic on 19.10.97. Work on additional station is in progress. |
| 17. | MRTS Phase-II from Thirumali to Velacherry | SR | 228.11 | 178.65 | 16.00 | The amounts given in the preceding columns refer to Railways' share. 2/3rd cost of the project is being shared by State Government of Tamil Nadu. The substructure works for the entire elevated section from Tirumalai to Taramani has been completed. Construction of station buildings at 4 locations affected due to non-removal of encroachments. State Government has been requested for assistance. |
| 18. | Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu Gauge Conversion | SR | 227.62 | 175.80 | 30.00 | The amounts given in the preceding columns refer to Railways' share. The work is in progress. MG terminal has already been shifted to Tambaram and MG main line conversion work completed. Work of providing additional high level platforms on main line is in progress. |
| Railway Electrification | | | | | | |
| 19. | Erode-Palghat-Ernakulam | SR | 220.10 | 220.09 | 0.01 | The work has been completed. Residual jobs in hand. |
| 20. | Tambaram-Chengalpattu-Villupuram and Chengalpattu-Arakkonam | SR | 38.44 | 24.47 | 11.00 | 29 RKM energised till March, 2001. Work is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2003. |

Rail Projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra

1736. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
 SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
 SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
 SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going/pending rail projects and surveys made in Maharashtra and Gujarat till date along with the progress made thereof, project-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred on each of the project so far;

(c) the target fixed for completion of each of the project;

(d) whether some projects are lagging behind from their schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
 (a) to (f) The details of all on-going Railway projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat, including outlay proposed for 2002-03 and expected expenditure upto March, 2002 for each project, is given in Statements-I and II respectively. Target date of completion of projects, wherever fixed, is given in the status of the project. Projects are being progressed as per their relative priority and availability of resources. The steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects are also given in the Appendices.

The details of surveys in Gujarat and Maharashtra is in the Statements-III and IV respectively.

Statement-I*On-going Railway Projects in Maharashtra*

| S. No. | Name of Project | Rly. | Latest Anticipated Cost | Outlay expected to end of 2001-02 | Outlay Proposed for 2002-03 | Status |
|------------------------------|---|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| (Amount in Crores of Rupees) | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| New Lines | | | | | | |
| 1. | Amravati-Narkher | CR | 175.30 | 58.30 | 10.00 | Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork and work minor and major bridges are in progress. Building work of Amrawati station building is nearing completion. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources. |
| 2. | Ahmednagar-Beed-Parti Vajjnath | CR | 353.08 | 3.45 | 15.00 | Final location survey has been completed for 15 km from Ahmednagar end. Tender for final location survey in the remaining stretch has been processed. Land acquisition plans and papers have been submitted to the State Government for 15 Kms. stretch. The work would be progressed once the land becomes available. Station building at Beed is also in progress. |
| 3. | Panvel-Karjat Electrified BG Line (Phase-I) | CR | 106.90 | 59.41 | 20.00 | All land has been acquired. Earthwork and work on bridges are in progress. Work on the tunnel is also in progress. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------|--|-----|--------|--------|-------|---|
| 4. | Baramati-Lonad | CR | 75.00 | 0.43 | 5.00 | Final location survey completed. Preparation of land acquisition plans and papers is in progress. |
| 5. | Puntamba-Shirdi | CR | 48.78 | 3.02 | 10.00 | Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition is being taken up Joint survey for land acquisition is in progress from Puntamba end. |
| Gauge Conversion | | | | | | |
| 6. | Miraj-Latur | CR | 329.02 | 141.37 | 30.00 | The work is being progressed in phases. In the phase-I, Gauge conversion work from Kurduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) has been completed. In phase-II, from Latur Road to Latur (42 km) earthwork and major and minor bridges have been completed. Track work has been taken up and section is expected to be completed during 2002-03. Work on Phase-III, from Kurduwadi to Latur (143 km) has also been taken up. Miraj-Pandharpur (137 km) Phase-IV work will be taken up as last phase of the project. |
| 7. | Mudkhed-Adilabad | SCR | 142.22 | 7.98 | 30.00 | The work was taken up under BOLT scheme. Now it has been decided to take up the work through Railway funding. Arrangements are being made to take up the work. |
| 8. | Solapur-Gadag | SCR | 262.05 | 136.61 | 20.00 | The work is being done in phases. The work Solapur-Hotgi and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag which will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Funding through KRIDES is being tried with a view to expedite early completion of this work. |
| 9. | Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankhampet-Bodhan | SCR | 287.83 | 88.20 | 30.00 | The work has been taken up in first phase from Mudkhed-Nizamabad (96 Km). On Mudkhed-Nizamabad section, conversion block has been taken up and Mudkhed-Dharmabad is expected to be completed by 31.03.2002 and the rest by 30.06.2002. Work on the remaining section is also in progress. |
| 10. | Akola-Purna | SCR | 228.00 | 0.44 | 10.00 | Final Location Survey is in progress. Arrangements are being made to take up earthwork and bridges in first section from Purna to Hingoli (81.5 km). |
| 11. | Gondia-Chandafort | SER | 242.09 | 241.89 | 0.01 | The work has been completed. Financial adjustments are being made. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|---|----|--------|--------|-------|--|
| Doubling | | | | | | |
| 12. | Daund-Bigwan | CR | 46.90 | 44.61 | 0.50 | Work completed and section commissioned during 2001-02. |
| 13. | Diva-Vasai | CR | 160.00 | 152.04 | 0.50 | Work completed and section commissioned. |
| 14. | Panvel-Roha-Land acquisition | CR | 4.10 | 2.60 | 0.50 | FLS completed. Land acquisition is in progress and is likely to be acquired shortly. |
| 15. | Deva-Kaylan doubling of 5 and 6 line | CR | 48.06 | 9.98 | 25.00 | Earthwork and Bridges in Diva-Kalyan are being taken up. Plans are under approval. Tenders for earthwork and bridges have been processed. |
| 16. | Panvel-Jasai-Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) | CR | 53.25 | 0.001 | 3.12 | Final location survey has been completed. Detailed planning has been taken up. |
| 17. | Pakni-Solapur | CR | 33.33 | 0.00 | 5.00 | New work included in the Budget 2002-03. |
| Metropolitan Transport Projects | | | | | | |
| 18. | Kurla-Thane 5th and 6th line (Phase-I) | CR | 95.00 | 69.76 | 10.00 | Work of earthwork, supply of Ballast, Track linking, Major Bridges, Foundation and erection of OHE structures and other works are in progress in stretches which are free from encroachments. |
| 19. | Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi part of corridor No.2 in Navi Mumbai | CR | 131.47 | 93.14 | 1.00 | Civil works for second line are nearing completion. Electrification and signalling works are in progress. Delay in acquisition of land is affecting the progress of work. |
| 20. | Belapur-Panvel Doubling | CR | 92.50 | 84.38 | 0.50 | Double line has been commissioned and opened for commuter traffic on 14.4.2000. Balance works to be executed by CIDCO are in progress. |
| 21. | Belapur-Seawood-Uran : Electrified line | CR | 163.49 | 42.39 | 1.00 | Work of important bridge on Panvel creek, construction of minor bridges, sub way at Seawood and work at Sanpada carshed are in progress. Due to financial crunch being faced by CIDCO, execution of the project has been divided in two phases. Under first phase single line will be laid in the section. |
| 22. | Kurla-thane 5th and 6th line (Bhandup to Thane) Phase-II | CR | 56.79 | 30.24 | 10.00 | Earthwork, supply of Ballast, Bridges and 22 KV aerial feeder obstructing 5th and 6th line by underground cable between Bhandup-Mulund and Mulund-Thane section is in progress. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------------|---|----|--------|--------|--------|--|
| 23. | Thane-Mumbra 5th and 6th line | CR | 49.34 | 1.09 | 0.10 | Detailed survey report is under process for submission to Planning Commission for appraisal. |
| 24. | Borivali-Virar : Quadrupling | WR | 401.66 | 94.59 | 118.00 | Work for earth work, major and minor bridges yard remodelling and quarters is in progress. |
| 25. | Santacruz-Borivali : 5th line | WR | 89.30 | 88.59 | 0.40 | Work on all minor and major bridges have been completed. Work which was held up at certain locations due to delay in removal of encroachment, has been restarted. Borivali-Andheri section has already been commissioned. Balance section is expected to be completed by March, 2002 |
| 26. | Virar-Dahanu Road : Autoblock Signalling | WR | 29.09 | 26.57 | 1.00 | Work is expected to be completed shortly. |
| 27. | Virar Dahanu Road - Development of facilities for introduction of EMUs and terminal facilities at Dahanu Road | WR | 17.09 | 14.57 | 1.00 | Project has recently been cleared from Planning Commission. Execution of work is in progress |
| Railway Electrification | | | | | | |
| 28. | Udhna-Jalgaon | WR | 140.99 | 108.90 | 300.00 | 93 RKM has been energised till Mar' 2001. The work is progressing as per schedule. Target is March 2003. |

Statement-II*On-going Railway Projects in Gujarat*

| S. No. | Name of Project | Rly. | Latest Anticipated Cost | Outlay expected to end of 2001-02 | Outlay Proposed for 2002-03 | Status |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| (Amount in Crores of Rupees) | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| New Lines | | | | | | |
| 1. | Kapadvani-Modasa | WR | 61.67 | 59.36 | 0.01 | Work has been completed. |
| 2. | Godhra-Indore Dewas-Maksi | WR | 597.00 | 48.73 | 22.10 | This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas and Maksi is now in progress. Maksi - Dewas section is targeted for completion during 2001-02. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---|----|--------|--------|-------|--|
| 3. | Gandhinagar-Adrej Moti – Kalol | WR | 52.00 | 0.02 | 10.00 | Final location survey has been completed. Further arrangements are being made to take up the work. |
| | Gauge Conversion | | | | | |
| 4. | Viramgam-Jodhpur BG rail route, Bhildi-Sadri GC of Samdari-Luni | NR | 244.74 | 1.25 | 15.00 | This work was sanctioned in 1990-91 as a part of Kandla-Bhatinda rail link. The work have been recently defroze. Preliminary arrangement are being made to take up the work. |
| 5. | Bhildi (Mehsana- Patan)-Viramgam | WR | 134.80 | 15.89 | 1.00 | In Phase-I, work has been taken up on Viramgam-Mehsana section. Earthwork, minor and major bridges are in progress. Substructure of all major and minor bridges have been completed. Permanent Way and signalling of this section is proposed to be taken up under BOT for which tenders are being processed. |
| 6. | Phulera-Marwar- Ahmedabad | WR | 632.35 | 623.35 | 9.00 | Work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works are in progress. |
| 7. | Rajkot-Veraval incl. Material modification for extrn. From Wansjaliya – Jetalsar | WR | 291.61 | 37.32 | 35.00 | Earthwork, minor and major bridges are in progress. Rajkot-Jatalsar is targetted for completion during 2002-03. |
| 8. | Gandhidam-Bhuj | WR | 50.75 | 44.40 | 0.01 | The work has been completed. |
| 9. | Wankaner-Malia Miyana | WR | 100.85 | 100.35 | 0.01 | The work has been completed and commissioned. |
| 10. | Surendernagar- Bhavnagar, Dhola- Dhasa-Mahuwa with the extension to Pipavav | WR | 227.63 | 73.99 | 25.90 | The work of conversion of main line from Surendranagar to Rajula with connectivity to Pipavav is to be done through SPV consisting of Ministry of Railways and GPPL for which MOU has been signed. Earthwork, bridge work, ballast supply, etc. are in progress. The conversion of Surendranagar to Rajula with extension to Pipavav is targetted for completion during 2002-03. |
| 11. | Dharangadhara- Kuda siding | WR | 3.39 | 3.38 | 0.01 | This work is being done on 1/3rd cost sharing basis with Co-sharers are Ministry of Railways, Gujarat Government and the Ministry of Industry. Formation work completed and linking is in progress. Work is expected to be completed during 2001-02. |
| 12. | Gandhidham- Palanpur | WR | 370.74 | 14.36 | 10.00 | Preliminary arrangements have been made to take up the work. Govt. of Gujarat has shown willingness to share part cost of the project along with other beneficiaries. This is being processed. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------------|---|----|--------|--------|-------|--|
| Doubling | | | | | | |
| 13. | Surat-Kosamba PH-I of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar | WR | 49.00 | 0.30 | 16.38 | Preparation of plans and detailed estimate has been taken up. |
| Railway Electrification | | | | | | |
| 14. | Udhna-Jalgaon | WR | 140.99 | 108.90 | 30.00 | 93 RKM has been energised till Mar' 2001. The work is progressing as per schedule. Target is March 2003. |

Statement-III*On-going Surveys in Maharashtra*

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Rly. | Kms. |
|-------------------------|--|------|------|
| New Lines | | | |
| 1. | Chinchwad and Roha | CR | 95 |
| 2. | Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad | CR | 60 |
| 3. | Umrer to Nagpur via Khaperkheda and Koradi | CR | 45 |
| 4. | Rotegaon-Punthamba | CR | 40 |
| 5. | Kurla-Mahul | CR | |
| 6. | Shirpur-Mhow | CR | 185 |
| 7. | Khandwa to Nardana via Khargone, Sendhwa | CR | 225 |
| 8. | Latur Road-Mudkhed | SCR | 120 |
| 9. | Ramtake to Gotegaon via Khawasa, Seoni and Dhuma | SER | 240 |
| 10. | Goregaon-Borivali | WR | 7 |
| Gauge Conversion | | | |
| 11. | Pulgaon-Arvi GC with extension to Amla | CR | 154 |
| 12. | Nagbhir to Nagpur | SER | 126 |
| 13. | Umrer to Nagbhir | SER | 90 |
| 14. | Chhindwara - Nainpur | SER | 140 |
| 15. | Chhindwara - Nagpur | SER | 150 |
| Doubling | | | |
| 16. | Daund - Manmad with electrification | CR | 238 |
| 17. | Kalyan-Kasara 3rd line | CR | 67 |
| 18. | Daund-Bigwan-Gulbarga | CR | 272 |
| 19. | Mumbai Central-Boravali 5th and 6th line | WR | 30 |

Completed Surveys in Maharashtra in last 5 years where works have not been taken up

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Rly. | Kms. | Status |
|-------------------------|--|------|------|---|
| New Lines | | | | |
| 1. | Warora and Umrer | CR | 106 | Completed and project shelved |
| 2. | Kopargaon to Shirdi | CR | 17 | Completed and project shelved |
| 3. | Dhule—Nardana—Shirpur | CR | 62 | Completed and project shelved |
| 4. | Pune—Nasik | CR | 265 | Completed and project shelved |
| 5. | Kalyan to Ahmednagar via Murbad | CR | 240 | Completed and project shelved |
| 6. | Wardha—Pusad—Nanded | CR | 260 | Completed and under examination |
| 7. | Jalna—Khamgaon | CR | 155 | Completed and project shelved |
| 8. | Manmad—Dhule via Malegaon | CR | 98 | Completed and project shelved |
| 9. | Nasik—Kopargaon via Shirdi | CR | 92 | Completed and project shelved |
| 10. | Diversion of Bhusawal—Nagpur including Amravati | CR | 20 | Completed and project shelved |
| 11. | Baiharshah—Ashti—Surajgarh | CR | 20 | Completed and project shelved |
| 12. | Bandra—Kurla | CR | 5 | Completed and project shelved |
| 13. | Beed—Jalna | SCR | 111 | Completed and project shelved |
| 14. | Ghatnandur—Ambajogai | SCR | 21 | Completed and project shelved |
| 15. | Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Rly via Talwade | SCR | 211 | Completed and project shelved |
| 16. | Parli Vajjnath—Ghatnadur | SCR | 25 | Survey dropped |
| 17. | Wadsa—Godchhiroli | SER | 50 | Completed and project shelved |
| 18. | Nagpur—Bhairamgarh | SER | 247 | Completed and project shelved |
| 19. | Dahanu Road – Nashik Road | WR | 168 | Completed and project shelved |
| Gauge Conversion | | | | |
| 20. | Pachora—Jamner GC with extension upto Ajanta caves | CR | 104 | Completed and project shelved |
| 21. | Purna—Akola—Khandwa—Ratlam—Mhow | WR | 625 | Completed and project sanctioned from Purna—Akola in 2000-01. |
| Doubling | | | | |
| 22. | Pune—Lonavia Quadrupling | CR | 64 | Completed and project shelved |
| 23. | Panvel—Pen—Roha | CR | 76 | Completed, Report under examination |
| 24. | Kolhapur—Pune | SCR | 326 | Completed and project shelved |
| 25. | Nardana—Amalner | WR | 28 | Completed and project shelved |

Statement-IV*On-going Surveys in Gujarat*

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Rly. | Kms. |
|-------------------------|---|------|------|
| New Lines | | | |
| 1. | Bhavnagar-Tarapur | WR | 150 |
| 2. | Kharaghoda-Santalpur | WR | 100 |
| 3. | Connecting Nadiad-Kapadwanj-Modasa with Udaipur | WR | 22 |
| 4. | Jaisalmer to Kandla | WR | 600 |
| Gauge Conversion | | | |
| 5. | Mehasana-Taranga Hill | WR | 57 |
| 6. | Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad | WR | 346 |
| Doubling | | | |
| 7. | Delhi-Ahmedabad | WR | 934 |
| 8. | Udhna-Jalgaon | WR | 295 |

Completed Surveys in Gujarat in last 5 years where works have not been taken up

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Rly. | Kms. | Status |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------|------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| New Lines | | | | |
| 1. | Ranu-Pipri-Bhadran | WR | 29 | Completed and project included in the 3rd line for Virar-Ahmedabad. |
| 2. | Veraval to Kodinar | WR | 36 | Completed and project shelved |
| 3. | Kodinar to Pipavav coastal line. | WR | 99 | Completed and project shelved |
| 4. | Dahanu Road - Nashik Road | WR | 168 | Completed and project shelved |
| 5. | Porbander to Porbander port | WR | 5 | Completed and project shelved |
| 6. | Mobha Road - Bhadran | WR | 29 | Completed and project shelved |
| Gauge Conversion | | | | |
| 7. | Bharuch-Samni-Jambusar-Veshwamitri | WR | 96 | Completed and project shelved |
| 8. | Bharuch-Samni-Dahej | WR | 62 | Completed and project shelved |
| 9. | Jambusar-Kavi | WR | 26 | Completed and project shelved |
| 10. | Bhadran-Bochasan-Ptelad-Nadiad | WR | 59 | Completed and project shelved |
| 11. | Miyagam-Karjan-Daboi-Samlaya | WR | 80 | Completed, included in the 3rd line for Virar Ahmedabad. |
| 12. | Bhuji-Neliya | WR | 101 | Completed and project shelved |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------|--|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 13. | Kotal-Kotasan | WR | 37 | Completed. Report under examination. |
| 14. | Pratapnagar to Chhota Udaipur Gauge conversion and new BG line from Chhota Udaipur to Dhar | WR | 250 | Completed. Report under examination. |
| Doubling | | | | |
| 15. | Virar and Ahemdabad. 3rd line | WR | 549 | Completed and project shelved |

IOCL to Buy Equity of HPCL

1737. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has expressed desire to buy the equity of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL);

(b) if so, whether it has encountered some difficulty in doing so;

(c) if so, the nature thereof including the objections by the Government thereto, if any;

(d) whether the absence of IOCL from this process will help some private interested parties; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. The manner and modalities of disinvestment of equity in HPCL by the Government have not been firmed up. Therefore, the question of any problem or issue arising now relating to bidding for HPCL does not arise.

[Translation]

**Appointment of Mobile Lab by
Oil Corporations**

1738. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Oil Corporations have appointed officers on Mobile Lab who do not possess the educational qualifications in Chemistry required for this job; and

(b) 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) and (b) According to the information received from Oil Marketing Companies, officers possessing qualification in chemistry are working in Mobile Labs.

[English]

Rail Lines in Himachal Pradesh

1739. COL. (Retd.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to conduct a survey for the shortest route via Nangal, Una for Jammu;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, work of construction of new line from Nangal Dam-Talwara is in progress. This on completion would provide shorter route between Nangal Dam and Jammu Tawi.

[Translation]

Killing of Soldiers by Pakistani Firing

1740. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
 SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a massive Pakistan army built up of menacing proportions all along the border and LoC was noticed during the month of December, 2001 and January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether Pakistani forces have conducted unprovoked firing along the LoC during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of soldiers killed by the Pakistani firing on border and LoC during the said period;

(g) the loss of life and property suffered due to Pak firing;

(h) the compensation paid to the dependants of deceased soldiers; and

(i) the total damage caused to the Pakistani side ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Movement of Pakistan Army troops and armour to Indo-Pakistan border was observed shortly after the terrorist attack on the Parliament House on 13th December, 2001. The entire Pakistan Army including the troops which were earlier guarding Pakistan-Afghanistan border have moved close to the Indo-Pakistan border and taken up positions. Indian Army has taken up suitable defensive posture to ensure security of our borders. Pakistan Army activities are constantly being monitored and a high state of vigil is being maintained.

(d) and (e) Firing along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) of Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir) is a regular feature. However, it is more pronounced in the areas where Pakistan is abetting infiltration. Indian troops deployed along the LoC and IB portion of Jammu and Kashmir, essentially fire in an effort to prevent infiltration as also in response to firing by Pakistan.

(f) and (g) As per records available, a total of 18 Army personnel have died during the month of December, 2001

and January, 2002 due to Pakistani firing. 16 bunkers were destroyed and 14 bunkers damaged in Jammu and Kashmir during exchange of fire between December, 2001 and February, 2002.

(h) A comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for next of kin of deceased battle casualties killed in terrorist action, as applicable, after necessary documentation and after fulfilling legal requirements.

(i) During the exchange of fire in December, 2001 and January, 2002, a total of 134 Pakistani bunkers were destroyed and 64 were damaged.

[English]

Shifting of DVC Headquarter

1741. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
 SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sought the views of constituent States to shift the DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) Head Office from Kolkata to Ranchi in the Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be shifted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Jharkhand have requested that the Headquarters of DVC be shifted to Ranchi, as most of the area of operation of DVC falls in the State of Jharkhand. The views of Government of West Bengal, being a constituent State, have been sought in this matter.

[Translation]

Maksi-Dahod Rail Lines

1742. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have got conducted any survey for laying Maksi-Dahod rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of laying the said rail line on Godhara-Indore and Devas-Maksi rail route is being done in a phased manner;

(d) if so, the progress achieved in this regard;

(e) the amount allocated for the said work in the budget for 2001-02;

(f) whether the amount allocated is adequate for the completion of work pertaining to rail line;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government are aware that no work is being done for laying rail line at the middle portion of this route i.e. Indore-Dhar-Jhabua line; and

(i) if so, the programme formulated by the Government for laying rail line in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (i) Construction of new rail line from Godhra to Indore via Dahod, Jhabua, Dhar and new line from Dewas-Maksi is a sanctioned work. Presently, work on Dewas-Maksi new line is in progress as Phase-I work of this project. This work is targeted for completion by 31.3.2002. An amount of Rs. 15 crore was provided for this work in the budget 2001-02. Additional funds to the tune of Rs. 10 crore has been provided during the year to expedite completion of Phase-I.

Work on remaining portion will be taken up in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Pay Rules for Casual Workers in Doordarshan and AIR

1743. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers and workers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are working as casual workers in Doordarshan and Akashwani, Delhi for the last one decade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to regulate them ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SC/ST/OBC Selection on Merit

1744. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt. (res.) dated July 2, 1997 that persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies reserved for their communities;

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the reserve quota of vacancies reserved for their communities during the last three years under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies reserved for their communities with reasons ?

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

(b) No person belonging to SC/ST and OBC community had been selected/recruited/promotion on merit in the Ministry of Power in the last 3 years (i.e. from 1999 to 2001).

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

[Translation]

Consumer Courts

1745. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of cases in which the consumer courts have directed the Railways to return the money to the customers during the last two years;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Railways in paying the compensation;

(c) whether the railways are taking any concrete measures to reduce this loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

[English]

Security Threat at Sea

1746. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard has conveyed to the Government that its force levels are grossly inadequate to protect national interest in India's maritime zones especially with the increasing security threats at sea and India's growing sea frontiers;

(b) if so, the details of other demands made by D.G. Coast Guard; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government on the request made by Coast Guard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government have reviewed the existing resources and equipment available to the Coast Guard to effectively meet the needs of its maritime operations and new challenges. Appropriate equipment and funds will be made available to the Coast Guard to meet its operational commitments.

SC, ST, OBC for Foreign Training

1747. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government selects/sponsors/nominates/deputes officers for training to the reputed foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines where in some cases cost of such training are borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bilateral/international agreements;

(b) if so, the number of persons from this Ministry who underwent such short/long term training courses during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs among them and their percentage;

(d) the special provisions made for ensuring adequate representation to SCs, STs and OBCs for availing such opportunities; and

(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring the said communities against Constitutional Directive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry deputes its officers for training to reputed foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in the field of non-conventional energy sources. The details of officers of this Ministry who attended such training programmes during last three years, year-wise indicating number of officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories are given in Statement enclosed.

(d) The Ministry selects/sponsors/nominates/deputes officers for training to the reputed foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in the field of non-conventional energy sources. Such deputation of officers also includes SC/ST/OBC categories.

(e) The question does not arise.

Statement

Details of Officers of MNES deputed for training in foreign institutions during last three years, year-wise (1999-2000 to 2001-2002)

| S. No. | Year | Number of officers who were deputed for training to foreign institutions | | Total | % of SC/ST/OBC |
|--------|-----------|--|-----------|-------|----------------|
| | | General category | SC/ST/OBC | | |
| 1. | 1999-2000 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 30% |
| 2. | 2000-2001 | 11 | 4 | 15 | 26.66% |
| 3. | 2001-2002 | 21 | 3 | 24 | 12.5% |

Private Sector Participation

1748. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways are all set to make a new beginning with private sector participation for building its infrastructure with a Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) scheme, along the lines of the national highways; and

(b) if so, the projects under consideration and the time frame of their completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the scheme being followed by railway

is different from the one being followed by the NHAI as it provides for Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) arrangement instead of Build-Operate-Transfer as is the case with NHAI scheme. In railway's scheme, operations and maintenance of the asset will be by the railways due to integrated nature of the railway traffic.

(b) The following five projects have been taken up under new scheme i.e. BOT :-

- (i) Track and Signalling works of Doubling of Utraithi—Chandauli and Sultanpur—Bandhua Kalan (Northern Railway).
- (ii) Track and Signalling works of Viramgam—Mehesana Gauge Conversion.
- (iii) Amroha—Kankather doubling full work.
- (iv) Talcher—Cuttack—Paradeep doubling – only 2nd bridge on Mahanadi.
- (v) Bilaspur—Urkura 3rd line – Bhatapara to Silyari section.

Process of contract finalisation is in progress. It being a new scheme with many legal and tax issues likely to be raised by the interested parties during tender process, it would not be feasible to provide a specific completion schedule at this stage.

[Translation]

Nomination of SC/ST in DSB

1749. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision of nomination of any member belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Dealer's Selection Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no member belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Dealer's Selection Board in several States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The existing guidelines for selection of retail outlet dealers, SKO-LDO dealers and LPG distributors do not specifically provide for nomination of any member, belonging to

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes categories, in the Dealer Selection Board.

[English] .

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Orissa

1750. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for allotment of LPG, Petrol, Kerosene and diesel outlets as on date in Orissa;

(b) the time by which these applications are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to dispose of the pending applications ?

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, 43 LPG distributorships, 26 Retail Outlets and 11 SKO dealerships are pending for allotment under various Marketing Plans of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) The allotment of dealerships/distributorships are made by OMCs on the recommendations of Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs). The Government have constituted two DSBs for the State of Orissa to make the selection of all the pending locations on priority.

DD/AIR in Karnataka

1751. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to set up DD/AIR stations in various districts in Karnataka; and

(b) the places identified for setting up of new DD/AIR stations in the State during the Tenth Five year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Radio Stations/TV transmitters are set up on the basis of felt need for expansion of the coverage area and/or improvement in the quality of signals. At present, 55 Doordarshan Transmitters and 13 AIR Stations are operational in the State of Karnataka. In addition, 3 AIR projects and 16 TV Transmitter projects are under implementation in the State.

(b) 10th Five Year Plan proposals of AIR and Doordarshan are yet to be approved.

Rail Infrastructure Development Company

1752. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State Governments which have signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Government to form and Rail Infrastructure Development Company in its State;

(b) the rail projects which are likely to be undertaken by these companies;

(c) the funds sanctioned by the Union Government to these companies; and

(d) the time by which these companies are likely to be made operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have entered into MOUs with three State Governments, namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The rail projects which are likely to be undertaken in the above four States are as under :

Karnataka

Four projects have been identified for execution through joint venture K-RIDE, namely, Hubli-Ankola New Line, Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion, Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion, Guntkal-Hospet Doubling.

Andhra Pradesh

The MOU envisages strengthening the sub-urban rail infrastructure and its services in the city of Hyderabad-Secunderabad as a part of a comprehensive multi-modal suburban commuter transportation system.

Maharashtra

A joint venture company, namely, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC) has been formed under Ministry of Railways for developing coordinated plans and expeditious implementation of rail infrastructure projects for the Mumbai Railway suburban transport system.

The paid up capital of Rs. 25 crores of MRVC is shared 51% by Government of India and 49% by Government of Maharashtra. For Karnataka, Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), the equity participation of Railways and Government of Karnataka initially will be 50% each. As far as the joint venture company for Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the details of the proposed company will be worked out after the study.

Whereas joint venture company in Maharashtra, namely, MRVC, has become operational, the JVCs for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh will be operational after completion of necessary formalities.

[Translation]

Outstanding dues of Bihar SEB towards Coal India and Railway

1753. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Electricity Boards (SEBs) especially of Bihar are suffering a huge loss every year due to mismanagement;

(b) whether it has to pay an outstanding amount worth crores of rupees to Coal India Limited and Railway Department; and

(c) if so, the steps being proposed to reform and revive the management of SEBs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that most State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are incurring huge losses and have large outstanding dues on account of supply/transportation of coal.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject and SEBs are under the administrative control of the State Governments. The onus of reforms and revival of the management of SEBs lies with the State Governments. The Government of India has been encouraging States to undertake reforms so as to improve the financial health of the power in general and of the SEBs in particular. A Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers was organized in March, 2001 which recognized that the real problem of management and challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector. It was resolved inter-alia to undertake full metering of all consumers, energy audit at all 11 KV feeders, develop an effective Management Information System (MIS), launch an effective programme for identifying and eliminating theft, achieve commercial viability in distribution in 2-3 years through measures like creation of profit centres, handing over of local distribution to panchayats/local bodies/

franchisees/users associations, Privatisation of distribution etc. A copy of the resolution adopted in the Conference is in the Statement enclosed.

The Government of India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with twenty States. The MOUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Governments' commitment in these MOUs include constitution/operationalisation of State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance through Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of thermal and hydel power plants.

Statement

Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference on 3rd March, 2001

I. The Chief Ministers/Power Ministers took note of the challenges confronting the Power Sector. It was agreed that there is urgent need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation. For this purpose, an all-party consensus needs to be created. The Prime Minister is requested to convene all-party meetings including leaders of opposition in State Assemblies.

II. The following Resolutions were adopted :

A. Completing Electrification of all Villages and Households

- (i) Rural Electrification may be treated as a Basic Minimum Service under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana;
- (ii) Rural Electrification may be completed by the end of the 10th Plan i.e. by year 2007;
- (iii) Full coverage of all households may be targeted for the end of the 11th Plan i.e. by year 2002;
- (iv) For the attainment of full electrification, States may be given flexibility for using funds under Rural Development Programs with the consent of the Village/Block Panchayats for undertaking the task of electrification where it is required;

- (v) It was agreed that electrification of remote villages in the States would need a special mode of financing including an element of grant.

B. Distribution Reforms

The real problem of management and the challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector :

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

- (viii) Current operations on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

C. Tariff Determination by Regulatory Commissions and Subsidies

- (i) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions may be made functional in the next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions need to be

implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by Court order. It is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power.

- (ii) Subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.
- (iii) The past decision of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately(*).

D. Generation

- (i) Special efforts need to be made to increase the PLF of existing plants through Renovation and Modernisation.
- (ii) In the short run, there is no alternative to increase in public sector investment in generation, as large-scale private investment in generation would flow only after reforms succeed in restoring financial viability. The Centre and the States need to take suitable decisions regarding increase in outlays for the 10th Plan. Priority should be given for investments at those locations which produce the cheapest power specially for hydro projects and pit head thermal generation. CEA has estimated the requirement for an additional 100,000 MW of generating capacity by 2012.
- (iii) Where the States and Financial Institutions are in agreement about the need for development of IPPs, they need to work together to achieve financial closure at the earliest. The Centre would facilitate the finalisation of reforms based multi-partite agreements.
- (iv) The evolution of a National Grid for inter-regional transfer of power needs to be taken up on priority.
- (v) Some provisions of the Forest Conservation Act may require to be revised for expeditious completion of power and other projects.

E. Energy Conservation and Demand Side Management

An effective program in the field of demand side management through – energy efficient bulbs, tube lights and agricultural pumpsets :

- time of the day metering and differential tariff for peak and off peak hours needs to be

implemented with suitable mass awareness and extension efforts.

F. Support from Government of India

- (i) The Government of India would support the States in their reform efforts. This support would be linked to time bound power reform initiatives in the States and achievement of definite milestones towards restoration of financial viability.
- (ii) Interest rates of PFC and REC should be brought down to reflect market conditions.
- (iii) An Expert Group would be set up to recommend one time settlement of all power sector past dues to CPSUs and dues from CPSUs to State Power Utilities. This would be linked to implementation of reforms with time bound milestones. The Group will give its report within three weeks of its constitution.

G. Supply from Central Generating Stations

Continued supply of power from Central Generating Stations would have to be linked to demonstration of capacity to make payments for current purchases and securitisation of past dues.

H. High Level Empowered Group

A High Level Empowered Group comprising of Minister of Power and Chief Ministers of some States may be set up to coordinate, monitor and review the implementation of Reforms.

Induction of Missiles

1754. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has recently test fired a new missile of Agni series;
- (b) if so, the striking range of Agni series missiles;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the strike range of Agni missiles;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which these missiles are likely to be inducted in the Army ?

(*)Punjab and Tamil Nadu did not agree.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. India has tested Agni-I missile system on 25th January, 2002.

(b) to (d) Agni-I has a range of 800 km and Agni-II has a range of 2000 km. The Defence Research and Development organisation (DRDO) is working on design and developmeng, leading to production of 'Agni' ballistic missile system based on strategic requirement of Indian Armed Forces. It has always been an endeavour of DRDO scientists to improve capability of the missile systems keeping in view security requirements of the nation.

(e) Agni-II missile has entered production phase and is under induction.

[English]

Closure of Retail Petrol/Diesel Outlets

1755. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of retail petrol/diesel pumps and kerosene depots have been closed in the State of Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to allot these petrol pumps and kerosene depots to some other eligible persons through appropriate channels ?

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) While there had been no case of termination of SKO-LDO dealership by the oil companies in the State of Gujarat during the last two years, i.e., 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 21 retail outlet dealerships were terminated by oil companies in the State during the said period.

(c) As per procedure, oil companies can develop new Retail Outlets (ROs) in lieu of the decommissioned ones, including the 21 ROs terminated in State of Gujarat in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, either at the old location or at alternate location anywhere in the country, depending on the trade potential of the location. These new ROs are operated by new dealers, who are appointed after following prescribed procedure. And, in the interim period, the companies can also operate such ROs on 'Company Owned Company Operated' basis.

CAG Report on Defence Services

1756. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the reply of the Director General Supplies and Transport in respect of para No. 28 of CAG Report No. 7 of 2001 Union Government (Defence Services);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is any proposal to fix responsibility on erring officials for causing loss to the tune of Rs. 85 lakhs to the State; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Ministry of Defence has received the reply of the Directorate General Supplies and Transport, in respect of para No. 28 of the Report No. 7 of 2001, of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government (Defence Services).

2. The comments of Army Headquarters, Directorate General Supplies and Transport, on the Audit Para No. 28 of the Report No.7 of 2001, of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government (Defence Services), regarding "Non-availing of an advantageous offer" are given below :-

"It may be relevant that the conclusion arrived at by the audit stating that the Directorate General Supplies and Transport put Government to avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 85 lakhs is wrong and misconceived in view of the fact that the Tender Purchase Committee, headed by the then Joint Secretary (Ordnance) of Ministry of Defence, had decided to place the contracts by taking overall view of the circumstances before it. It is reiterated that the offer of M/s Bayer (India) limited was clearly a conditional tender, and was rightly not considered. Moreover, a new source of supply was being developed to enable a healthy competition. Hence the observation of the Audit authorities are based on assumptions and presumptions. It is clarified that the total quantity to be procured against the re-tender was 40,000 litres only. Therefore, the offer of the firm could not be availed for 44,500 litres. Further, by re-tendering the demand, the policy of the Government for developing new source of supply has also been achieved. The order for 5000 litres was placed on M/s Trans- Electra on specific recommendation by Directorate General of Quality Assurance; and the same was successfully completed by them."

"The decision was taken by the Tender Purchase Committee in its wisdom strictly as per purchase procedure and accordingly the free supply offer of

M/s Bayer Limited was rightly rejected, being a conditional offer and not a quantitative discount offer as wrongly assumed by the audit. Since there is no departure from the purchase procedure adopted by the Tender Purchase Committee, the question of taking remedial action by Directorate General Supplies and Transport on the issue does not arise."

3. The Audit Report and the reply of Directorate General Supplies and Transport is being examined in the Ministry of Defence. After detailed examination and consultation/vetting by the Finance Division of this Ministry and with the Director General of Audit (Defence Services), a suitable Action Taken Report will be finalised and sent to the Ministry of Finance/Monitoring Cell for onward submission to the Public Accounts Committee for examination.

Reforms in Power Sector by World Bank Assistance

1757. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States and Union Territories which have undertaken reforms in power sector with assistance from the foreign assistance and World Bank as on October 31, 2001; and

(b) the amount of assistance to be provided to Maharashtra for such reforms activities during the current and next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Power Sector reforms are being undertaken in Orissa, Andhra

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan with the assistance from the World Bank and in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

(b) Maharashtra has not received any assistance from World Bank for power sector reforms during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Irrelevant Laws Reported by the Committee

1758. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3884 on December, 13, 2001 regarding Irrelevant laws reported by the Committee and state :

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard;
- (d) whether any officer has been held responsible for the delay; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Assurance given on USQ No. 3884 dt. 13.12.2001 has been fulfilled by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) on 11.3.2002 since that Ministry is administratively concerned with the subject (A copy of the same is enclosed).

8th Session, 2001 of the 13th Lok Sabha

*Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pensions Department of Administrative Reforms and
Public Grievances Date of fulfillment : 11.3.2002*

| Q. No., Date and Name of M.P.(s) | Subject | Promise Made | How Fulfilled | Reasons for delay |
|--|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| USQ No. 3884 dt. 13.12.2001 by Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen, MP and Shri Mansinh Patel, MP | IRRELEVANT LAWS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE Asking :- a) whether a Committee con- stituted by the Government has found some laws irrelevant and reported the same to the Government; | (a) to (e) : The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. | (a) to (e) : A statement is en- closed. | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| | b) if so, the total number of irrelevant laws reported by the Committee; | | | |
| | c) whether the Government have also decided to repeal these irrelevant laws; | | | |
| | d) if so, the details thereof; and | | | |
| | e) the steps taken to implement the decision ? | | | |

Statement

The Commission on Review of Administrative Laws, which was set up by the Government in May, 1998 and which submitted its report in September, 1998 has recommended repeal of 1382 Central Laws of different categories on the ground that these Acts etc. have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional, as follows :

| Sl.No. | Types of Legislation | Number |
|--------|---|--------|
| 1. | Amendment Acts | 315 |
| 2. | Appropriation Acts (approximately) | 700 |
| 3. | Central Acts relating to State subjects | 114 |
| 4. | Central Acts (including 11 Pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts) | 166 |
| 5. | British Statutes still in force | 11 |
| 6. | War-time Permanent Ordinances | 17 |
| 7. | Reorganisation Acts | 35 |
| 8. | Laws applicable to High Courts | 12 |
| 9. | Personal Laws. | 12 |
| Total | | 1382 |

315 Amendment Acts specified at (i) above have been repealed by enactment of the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001 (Act 30 of 2001). The issue pertaining to 700 Appropriation Acts specified at (ii) above was referred to the Attorney General of India for advice which has been received and the matter has now been referred to the Public Accounts Committee Secretariat for their views. In so far as, 114 Central Acts relating to State List specified at (iii) above are concerned, 5 Central Acts relating to State List (List II) have *interalia* been repealed by enactment of the Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Act, 2001. The State

Governments have been apprised of the position in the matter and further action in respect of the balance Acts is required to be initiated by the respective State Governments. Of the remaining 253 Acts specified at (iv) to (ix) above, 65 Acts, including four Ordinances, have been repealed as on date. 41 Acts are at various stages of repeal. 20 Acts are under examination to take a decision regarding their repeal or otherwise. Six Acts pertain to the State List on which action is to be taken by the State Governments. Four Acts have been repealed in the list of 166 Central Acts recommended for repeal by the Commission. In respect of the balance 117 Acts, the concerned Ministries/Departments have taken a decision not to repeal them.

A Standing Committee has been constituted on 16 November, 1998 to monitor the implementation of the follow-up action on the report of the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws.

[English]

Security Co-operation between India and USA

1759. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
 SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
 SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
 SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :
 SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to the US a significant progress in expansion of security co-operation between India and US was made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof; and

(d) the extent to which country is likely to be benefited by the said co-operations ?

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

(b) to (d) India and the U.S. have moved closer in their common objective to combat terrorism. India's concerns on cross-border terrorism are now better appreciated by the U.S. Administration. On bilateral issues also, the stance of U.S. Administration is more supportive in meeting India's security concerns. The two countries have also signed a General Agreement which is intended to ensure adequate security of such classified military information, as may be decided to be shared by each country.

India and U.S. agree that a strengthened Bilateral relationship will assist both the countries to combat threats such as the spread of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, narcotics trafficking and piracy.

Fiscal Implication of on-going Operation Alert

1760. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the fiscal implications of the on-going operational alert on border with Pakistan including the LoC;

(b) whether the on-going operational alert has adversely affected agricultural activities along the border; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The assessment of fiscal implications of the on-going mobilization of the Armed Forces on the International Border and Line of Control can be made only after the mobilization is over.

(b) and (c) The Local Army authorities have been instructed to carry out survey along with local Revenue Authorities to assess the loss of standing crop due to mobilization of troops in border areas. The Government of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir have

also been requested to issue necessary instructions to local Revenue Authorities to cooperate with local Army authorities. The farmers will be compensated on the basis of assessed loss to their crops.

Manufacturing of Sukhoi 30 Fighter

1761. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has finalised plans and blue prints for manufacture of 140 Sukhoi MK 1 fighter aircraft with Russian Collaboration;

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration; and

(c) the steps so far taken in pursuance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. General Contract has been signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with Russian agency – Rosoboronexport on 28th December, 2000 for licence manufacture of 140 SU 30 MK 1 aircraft.

Collaboration is for the licensed production of 140 SU 30 MK 1 aircraft along with additional engines and sets of aggregates to cater for the life time exploitation of the aircraft. The Russian side will provide for supply of licence technical documents, specific non-standardised equipment and toolings based on the request of Indian side, technical assistance for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), deputation of Russian Specialists to the project site, training of Indian engineers in Russia etc., and supply of technical kits in different stages of production.

The DPR has been received and is being studied. Once the DPR has been approved, the production of SU 30 MK 1 aircraft in India is planned to commence within the next three years or so.

FDI in Print Media

1762. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision on foreign direct investment in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its implications;

(c) the reaction of the representative organisations of print media in the country; and

(d) the present status regarding implementation of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet decision of 1955 which inter-alia prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST in REC

1763. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of officers and employees working in the Rural Electricity Corporation along with the total number of officers and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed under the reservation quota;

(b) whether some reserved posts are lying vacant in the Corporation; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government for the selection of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes against these posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The information relating to the number of employees in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) along with employees belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as on 31.12.2001 is as under :-

| Class | Total | SC out of Total | ST out of Total |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A | 237 | 18 | 6 |
| B | 226 | 26 | 7 |
| C | 270 | 52 | 5 |
| D | 174 | 49 | 10 |
| Total | 907 | 145 | 28 |

(b) and (c) as per directives of Government of India, REC has been maintaining post based rosters and as per their rosters there is no post lying vacant in respect of SCs/STs in REC.

[English]

National Commission to Review Working of Constitution

1764. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by when the National Commission to review the working of the Constitution was set up;

(b) the number of times its term has been extended; and

(c) the time by when the Commission will give its final report ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution was set up on 22nd February, 2000.

(b) the term of the Commission has been extended thrice.

(c) The Commission is expected to complete its work and make its recommendation by 31st March, 2002.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Ticket Reservation by Unlicensed Travel Agents

1765. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted various groups in each zone to check unauthorised ticket reservation by unlicensed travel agents and agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the zone-wise number of raids conducted during the last six months;

(d) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them;

(e) whether it is a fact that this unauthorised ticket reservation work is done with the nexus of the Railway employees; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

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

(a) and (b) In order to curb the menace of sale of tickets by unauthorised travel agents, touts and other unscrupulous elements, regular and surprise checks are conducted by nominated staff of Commercial and Vigilance departments and police is also associated from time to time.

(c) and (d) The zone-wise number of checks conducted against touts and the number of persons apprehended during the last six months i.e. July to December, 2001 are as under :-

| Railway | Number of checks conducted | Number of persons apprehended |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Central | 1907 | 8 |
| Eastern | 1405 | 152 |
| Northern | 1194 | 98 |
| North Eastern | 2054 | 26 |
| Northeast Frontier | 1094 | 3 |
| Southern | 5156 | 665 |
| South Central | 1432 | 31 |
| South Eastern | 702 | 158 |
| Western | 3280 | 24 |
| Total | 18224 | 1165 |

(e) and (f) A few cases of connivance of railway staff have come to notice and disciplinary action is taken against the staff found conniving in malpractices. Strict watch is kept on the working of the railway staff by the way of various checks.

[English]

Blast in Basanpalli Railway Station

1766.DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a newly constructed railway station was blasted by Naxalities of the banned People's War Group at Basanpalli in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of railway property damaged in the blast; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the night of 26.12.2001, some activists of PWG blasted one room of a building which was under construction for the Railway Station at Basanpalli causing damage to signaling equipment, etc. In this connection, a case has been registered by the local Police/Chinnakothapalli in their station Cr. No. 87/2001 u/s 427, 436 and 448 IPC, r/w 3 and 5 of Explosive Substance Act, Section 3 and 4 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act and section 8(1) of Andhra Pradesh Public Security Act. The case is under investigation.

(c) Rs. 8 lakhs approximately.

(d) Maintenance of Law and Order is a State Subject and hence the responsibility to prevent such incidents lies with the State Governments. However, the Railways on their part, have deployed armed pickets at vulnerable stations to supplement the efforts of the State Government.

[Translation]

Survey for New Rail Lines

1767.SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of Railpur-Kharaira-Palari - Balaidabazar-Kusdol-Bhatgaon-Sarshiva-Sarangarh-Baramkela to Jharsuguda railway route was sanctioned in the railway budget 2001;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) and (b) A survey for a new line from Raipur to Jharsuguda via Kharatapalan, Baloda Bazar, Bhatgaon and Sarangarh (310 Km) has been taken up and is in progress.

(c) The anticipated cost of this survey is Rs. 20.92 lakh. Expenditure incurred upto March, 2001 was nil. An outlay of Rs. 7 lakh has been provided for 2001-02.

(d) Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Power to Army Headquarter

1768. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to delegate financial and other powers to the Defence Services to meet their immediate requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Defence Services would be able to take decisions on expenditure of about Rs. 3,000 crore without prior approval of the Ministry of Defence;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which this would be helpful to meet the emergency requirement of defence;

(f) the other recommendations made by the Secretary, Defence Accounts; and

(g) the steps taken to implement these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Government have decided to substantially enhance the financial and administrative powers delegated to the Services Headquarters and lower formations commensurate with operational and administrative requirements at various levels. Accordingly, Services Headquarters and lower formations will be able to take decision on the cases, including those of urgent and emergent requirements, falling within the enhanced delegated powers without prior approval of the Ministry of Defence. The quantum of expenditure which can be

sanctioned under such delegated financial powers cannot be assessed at this stage.

(f) and (g) A Committee set up under Secretary (Defence Finance) while recommending enhancement of delegated financial powers, had also, inter-alia, recommended standardisation of Operating Procedures for exercising the enhanced financial powers and re-inforcing the financial advice system thereof. Necessary steps to give effect to these recommendations have been initiated.

[English]

Survey for New Rail Lines in Orissa

1769. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI :
 SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for new rail line between Talcher-Gopalpur, Khurda Road-Bolangir and Talcher-Bimlagarh has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon till date, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which the construction of said lines is likely to be started and completed along with the estimated cost thereof, project-wise ?

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

(b) to (d) The details of surveys conducted, estimated cost with expenditure incurred is as under :

| | Year of survey | Length (in km) | Cost (Rs. in crs.) | Expenditure likely to be incurred on the project upto 3/2002 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Khurda Road-Bolangir new line | 1993-94 | 288.73 | 700 | 14.16 cr. |
| Talcher-Gopalpur new line | 2001-02 | 293 | 863.21 | Nil |
| Talcher-Bimlagarh new line | 2001-02 | 154 | 606.60 | 7 lacs |

Khurda-Bolangir is a sanctioned new line project which is in progress. Expenditure expected to be incurred on the project till March 02 is Rs. 14.16 cr. out of a total of Rs. 700 cr. No target date has yet been fixed. Surveys

for new lines from Talcher to Gopalpur and Talcher to Bimlagarh have been completed. These new lines have not yet been taken up and hence time frame for start and completion are not relevant.

*[Translation]***CNG to Maruti Udyog**

1770. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the quantum of CNG being supplied to Maruti Udyog Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of CNG in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The fall back gas allocation of Maruti Udyog Limited from the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline system has been withdrawn to meet the additional demand of natural gas for use as compressed natural gas (CNG) for public transport in Delhi, in compliance to the directives of the Supreme Court and keeping in view the commissioning of Pragati Power Project of Delhi Vidyut Board.

(c) The fall back gas allocations to consumers in and around Delhi from HBJ pipeline system will be reviewed in a phased manner to meet the additional demand of Indraprastha Gas Limited of natural gas for use as CNG in Delhi. Apart from this, efforts are made to increase natural gas availability by indigenous exploration/exploitation and import of natural gas/liquefied natural gas.

*[English]***Petrol Blending Technology**

1771. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have devised any mechanism to provide the latest technology for petrol blending process Knowhow for anhydrous ethanol (fuel ethanol) to the petrol producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

Oil companies being separate commercial entities are free to evolve a suitable technology for blending of anhydrous ethanol with petrol.

Losses suffered by ONGC

1772. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has incurred a huge loss due to payment dispute with Enron;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to take any legal or disciplinary action against this company; 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) No, Sir.

(b) An unincorporated Joint Venture Consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Enron Oil and Gas India Limited (EOGIL), comprise the Contractor under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the two Medium sized Discovered Fields of Panna Mukta and Mid and South Tapti. Certain disputes relating to cash calls and expenditure have arisen amongst the three parties. The matter is under Arbitration in terms of provisions of the Joint Operating Agreement signed between the parties.

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

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Widows of Defence Personnel

1773. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of allotment of petrol pumps to widows of Defence Personnel is being implemented properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for its proper implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) In addition to the other channels available in the existing guidelines, enabling the widows of the Defence personnel apply for retail outlets (petrol pumps), the Government has introduced a special scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the Defence personnel killed in action in 'OP Vijay' (Kargil). Under the scheme, allotments are made by the Government on the basis of recommendations received from the Directorate-General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence and the feasibility of the locations is verified by the Oil Industry.

The Government, in consultation with the oil companies and the State Governments, monitors for proper implementation of the special scheme.

Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh

1774.DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any federation with the name as Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh (along with Unions) is also functioning on Indian Railways;

(b) whether BRMS submitted documents seeking recognition to its affiliated unions;

(c) whether the said Federation based on membership of its affiliated unions fulfils the requisite condition of 30% membership of workforce for recognition by the Government;

(d) whether the Government are considering the issue of recognition of Bharatiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh; and

(e) if so, the present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

GAIL's Lakwa LPG Recovery Project

1775.SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which GAIL's Lakwa LPG Recovery Project approved and completed;

(b) the projected gas availability from ONGC, Lakwa region at the time of approving LPG Project;

(c) the actual availability of gas for the plant as on date;

(d) the reasons for the shortfall of gas; and

(e) the financial impact on the plant due to shortfall of gas availability ?

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 LPG processing project of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) at Lakwa, approved on 01.10.1992, was actually completed on 19.10.1998.

(b) The design capacity of the project envisaged in the project report was 2.0 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD).

(c) Currently around 0.67 MMSCMD rich gas and 0.15 MMSCMD re-cycled (lean) gas is available for the plant.

(d) The availability of natural gas from the ageing fields of ONGC in the region is depleting.

(e) The short availability of gas for the Lakwa Project has resulted in the loss of around Rs. 5 crore during 2000-01 and Rs. 6 crore upto December 2001 during 2001-02.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Sophisticated Submarines

1776.SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has an edge over India with regard to sophisticated submarines due to which India is under pressure to acquire sophisticated submarines so as to meet this eventuality;

(b) if so, whether Indian Navy has been demanding for expansion and modernization of its fleet for a long time; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to procure sophisticated submarines from France;

(d) if so, the time by which the said submarines are likely to be procured; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of Indian Navy ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Requisite assistance in high technology areas from foreign sources is envisaged to achieve the desired objective. France is one of the likely sources from whom such assistance can become available. A final decision has, however, not yet been taken in this regard. In addition, some of the existing submarines are also in the process of being upgraded.

[English]

Hydel Electricity Generation by NTPC

1777. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC has tied up with French Hydel consultancy to enter into Hydel Electricity Generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed plan chalked out by NTPC to enter into Hydel Electricity Generation; and

(d) the total plan outlay earmarked by NTPC for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) took over 4x200 MW Koldam Hydroelectric Power project located in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh, as per tripartite agreement between Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB), Government of Himachal Pradesh and NTPC for implementation and operation. NTPC has appointed M/s. EDF (Electricite De France), as Prime Consultant in January, 2001. The Consultant would render services for total planning, investigation and data collection, design, engineering, advising NTPC engineers during construction, quality control during manufacturing, erection and commissioning and train and associate owner's engineers during all these activities.

(c) NTPC is also exploring the possibility of further hydro projects.

(d) The total project cost of Koldam works out to Rs. 4971 crores of which a sum of Rs. 163.47 crores would be spent till March, 2002. The X Plan outlay for the project is estimated to be Rs. 4548.07 crores.

Investment by ONGC

1778. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) propose to double its investments to Rs. 8,000 crore per annum in the Tenth Plan period to boost crude oil production by 1.5-2 million tonnes;

(b) if so, whether it will invest about Rs. 46,000 crore during the Tenth Plan out of which about Rs. 13,000 crore investment is planned in oil equity abroad;

(c) if so, whether any action plan has been worked out in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it will reduce India's dependency on crude oil imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) envisages an outlay of Rs. 46,969 crore in the 10th Plan (2002-2007) for their oil exploration and production activities which includes Rs. 13,550 crore for oil equity abroad.

The indigenous crude oil production of ONGC during the 10th Plan period is envisaged to be 130.02 million metric tonne (MMT) against the current rate of around 25 MMT/annum.

(c) and (d) The action plan worked out by ONGC in this regard is as follows :-

- i. Drilling of 594 exploratory wells, including 35 deepwater wells;
- ii. Establishment of 147 to 155 MMT of recoverable reserves;
- iii. Production of 130.02 MMT of crude oil, production of 112.10 billion cubic metre (BCM) of natural gas from domestic fields.
- iv. Production of equity gas from Vietnam expected to start in 2002-03, production of equity oil from Sakhalin project (Russia) expected to start by 2005-06. During the Tenth Plan, ONGC envisages

5.2 MMT of oil and 4.94 BCM of gas from these two overseas projects.

(e) The increased production of crude oil as envisaged in the 10th Plan period is expected to reduce the import to that extent.

Functioning of Advocates Welfare Fund

1779. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision regarding the functioning of Advocates Welfare Fund in different States and at the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 has already been brought into force with effect from 01.11.2001 in the whole of India except the States in which the enactments specified in Schedule II are applicable. Under section 3(1) of the Act, the appropriate Government has been empowered to constitute the Advocates' Welfare Fund. The expression "appropriate Government" means the State Government in the case of advocates admitted on the roll of a Bar Council of a State, and the Central Government in the case of advocates admitted on the roll of a Bar Council of a Union territory. The power to constitute the Advocates' Welfare Fund in the Union territories has been delegated to their Administrators under article 239 (1) of the Constitution. The Governments of the States concerned and the Union territories have already been addressed to take necessary action under the Act.

Automatic Signalling System between Virar and Dahanu Road

1780. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of automatic signalling system between Virar and Dahanu Road on Western Railway is being undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount is likely to be spent thereon; and

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

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

(b) The work of automatic signalling system between Virar and Dahanu Road on Western Railway is planned in 3 phases :

Phase 1 – 31 Kms of automatic signalling on Virar – Palghar section : Work has been commissioned and in operation.

Phase 2 – 33 Kms of automatic signalling on Palghar – Dahanu Road section : This work is in advanced stage and is targeted to be commissioned by 31.03.2002.

Phase 3 – Virar yard remodelling on the north side. This work is in advanced stage and is targeted to be completed by 31.03.2002.

Total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 27.19 Crore.

(c) The work is targeted for completion by 31.03.2002.

New Passenger Train from Adilabad to Nagpur

1781. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the section between Adilabad and Nagpur in Central Railway is at present not open for passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a new passenger train from Adilabad to Nagpur is likely to be introduced ?

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

(b) Due to track related problems, absence of crossing stations between Wani and Pimpalkuti and lack of signalling arrangements on the section.

(c) Considering the traffic requirements of the area, the introduction of passenger trains between Adilabad-Nagpur is not considered necessary at present.

Reform and Restructuring in Power Sector

1782. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have signed memorandum of Agreement with State Governments particularly with Government of Karnataka regarding reform and restructuring on power sector reforms;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision on the allocation of balance 100 MWs of additional power to the State of Karnataka in view of acute shortage of power;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government of Karnataka has entered into an agreement with Orissa for purchasing of power; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Ministry of Power, Government of India and Government of Karnataka have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on 12.2.2000 for reforms and restructuring of the power sector in Karnataka State. In the MOA, Government of Karnataka committed to unbundling of the transmission and distribution functions, privatisation of distribution by December, 2001, undertaking energy audit and providing full support to State Electricity Regulatory Commission while Ministry of Power assured to Government of Karnataka to provide following support which, inter alia includes to allocate an additional 180 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC/NLC, strengthen and improve the transmission network and enable supply of additional power to Karnataka, provide technical and financial assistance for reduction in T and D losses, provide financial assistance through REC for 100% electrification of villages and hamlets.

Besides Karnataka, the Government of India has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with 19 States. The MOUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Governments commitment in these MOUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance through Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for

strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of thermal and hydel power plants. 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff orders which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalisation.

(c) to (e) Allocation of 80 MW from unallocated quota of Neyveli TS-II has already been made to Karnataka. Transfer of 100 MW power from Eastern Region to Karnataka was not found feasible due to system constraint.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. GRIDCO (Orissa) has entered into a bilateral agreement with Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) for sale of 100 MW out of its own sources at the rate of 235 paise per unit all inclusive, at ex-Jeypore/Budhipadar bus of GRIDCO w.e.f. 10.1.2002. However, due to transmission constraints, the transfer of additional power to Karnataka could be possible only after reactive drawal is reduced by Karnataka and certain critical transmission lines in Andhra Pradesh systems are commissioned.

[Translation]

Foundation Stones Laid Down for New Rail Lines

1783.SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of railway projects for which the Hon'ble Minister of Railways laid the foundation stone along with the number of services inaugurated by him during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects and services out of them which have become functional and the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Manufacturing Products by Bokaro Steel Plant

1784.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of goods produced by the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) the type/category of the goods produced by the Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years;

(c) the quantity of goods sold each year out of the produced goods and the cost price and selling price thereof;

(d) the quantity of goods out of the produced goods which have not been sold off and its price thereof; and

(e) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to increase the sale of the produced goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Manufacturing of Sophisticated Helicopter

1785.DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture sophisticated helicopter indigenously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated production cost of the said helicopter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) At present, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is manufacturing Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) indigenously. The helicopter features extensive use of composites and integrated dynamic system. It has been designed to cater for the diverse operational requirements of Army, Air Force and the Navy.

Tow numbers of the Limited Series Production of the utility version of ALH have been handed over to the Army. The approximate cost of the LSP version of an ALH is Rs. 25 crores for the skid version and Rs. 29 crores for the wheeled version.

[English]

Gap between Demand and Supply of Power

1786.SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects contemplated completed and pending completion in Tamil Nadu both in Government and private sector;

(b) whether the Government are going to guide the State Governments to cooperate for more production and supply;

(c) if so, whether the gas-oriented power plants in Tamil Nadu which were sanctioned are on the job on-time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of projects contemplated, completed and pending completion in Tamil Nadu both in Government and private sector is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The Working Group on Power for the 10th Plan has assessed a feasible capacity addition programme of about 47000 MW during the 10th Plan. Of this a capacity of 685 MW is likely to be added in the State of Tamil Nadu comprising of 240 MW hydro and 445 MW thermal projects. In addition to the above, the State of Tamil Nadu will get the share from Central Power projects of 2740 MW which are likely to be added in the Southern Region during 10th Five Year Plan and also from Talcher STPS (2000 MW) which is located in the Eastern Region and dedicated to Southern Region. The Government is providing additional plan assistance under APDP in the form of grant and loan to States for R and M of power stations to improve their performance and thereby increase their generation and also for strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution system, including metering.

(c) and (d) Two gas based thermal power projects, namely, Kovilkalappal (107 MW) and PPN CCGT project (330.5 MW) which were approved by the CEA for implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu have already been commissioned. However, the construction of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) based power project, namely Vembar CCPP (1873 MW) which is to be implemented in the Private Sector, is yet to commence.

Statement

| Name of the Project | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Power Projects completed during 9th Plan in Tamil Nadu | |
| Government Sector | |
| Hydro | |
| Lower Bhavani Dam RBC U-1 and 2 | 2×4 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|-------|
| Sathanur Dam | 7.5 |
| Parson's Valley | 30 |
| Thermal | |
| Kovilkalappal CCGT | 107 |
| Private Sector | |
| Hydro | Nil |
| Thermal | |
| Basin Bridge Diesel Power Project | 200 |
| PPN CCGT | 330.5 |
| Samalpatti Diesel Power Project | 105.6 |
| Samayanallur Diesel Project | 106 |
| Power Projects under construction in Tamil Nadu Government Sector | |
| Hydro | |
| Pykara Ultimate | 3x50 |
| Bhawani Kattalai | 2x15 |
| Thermal | |
| Neyveli - I TPS Extn. | 2x210 |
| Valuthur CCGT | 94 |
| Private Sector | |
| Hydro | Nil |
| Thermal | |
| Neyveli Zero TPP | 250 |
| Power Projects cleared by CEA but construction yet to Commence Government Sector | |
| Hydro | |
| Nelliithorai Project | 1x50 |
| Paralayar Project | 1x25 |
| Thermal | Nil |
| Private Sector | |
| Hydro | Nil |
| Thermal | |
| Tuticorin TPP | 525 |
| North Madras TPP St.II | 1050 |
| North Madras TPP St.III | 525 |
| Cuddalore TPP | 1320 |
| Vembar CCGT | 1873 |

Need to Increase Frequency of Bhubaneswar Doordarshan

1787. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor presentation of various programmes at Bhubaneswar Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) whether there is a need to increase the frequency of telecasting news from that Kendra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the presentation of programmes at Bhubaneswar Doorashan is not poor. It has improved through introduction of new programmes and presenters.

(b) to (d) There is a need to increase the frequency of regional news bulletins. Presently, only one regional bulletin is being telecast from DDK, Bhubaneswar daily between 7.00 and 7.15 P.M.

Foreign Training to Officers

1788. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government selects/sponsors/nominate/deputes Officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, technical and administrative capabilities in various fields and disciplines where in some cases cost of such training are borne by the sponsoring countries/agencies under bi-lateral/international agreements;

(b) if so, the number of persons underwent such short/long term training courses during the last three years;

(c) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs among them and their percentage;

(d) the 'special provisions' made for ensuring adequate representation of SCs, STs and OBCs for availing such opportunities as provided under Article 46 of the Constitution in the absence of which historical educational handicaps suffered by them as well as deep rooted social prejudices prevailing against them may deprive them their due share in such opportunities; and

(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring the said Constitutional Directive ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Screening of Film "Asoka"

1789. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been protest against the screening of the film "Asoka", for distorting historical facts and obscenity;

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

(c) the reasons for distorting historical facts/overlooking those portions by Censor Board while clearing the film for screening ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) There had been reports in the press about some incidents of protests, in some parts of Orissa against alleged distortion of the socio-cultural image of Orissa in the Hindi film "Asoka" The Central Board of Film Certification has informed that it did not find anything objectionable in the

film especially as the film contains the caption that "the film is a history mixed with fiction".

Progress of Launching Accelerated Power Development Programme

1790. SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress of launching Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) throughout the country;

(b) the details of areas identified for distribution circles;

(c) the steps taken to manage badly run State Electricity Boards (SEBs); and

(d) the names of States where SEBs have succeeded to achieve target of electrification of 100% ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The details of progress of Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) schemes in the 63 identified distribution circles and steps taken to improve commercial viability of State Electricity Boards are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have achieved 100% village electrification.

Statement-I

Status of progress of the Schemes for Year 2000-01 under APDP scheme

Circlewise Summary

| State | Circle | Scheme for the year 2000-01 | | | | | Status |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|--|
| | | Cost of project | APDP Fund | | Loan | | |
| | | | Sanctioned | Released | Sanctioned | Released | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| ACC : POWERGRID | | | | | | | Award placed. Delivery commenced from Dec. 2001 and Comm. by March, 2002 |
| UP | Moradabad(U) | 14.41 | 7.21 | 7.21 | 6.05 | PFC | |
| | Gorakpur(U) | 11.64 | 5.82 | 5.82 | 4.89 | PFC | |
| | Bareilly(U) | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | | 26.05 | 13.03 | 13.03 | 10.94 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|---|
| Bihar | PESU (East) | 8.93 | 4.46 | 4.46 | PFC | | Funds not diverted from Government of Bihar to BSEB. Re-conducting work in progress. For meters and capacitors, Bids under evaluation |
| | Patna | 5.58 | 2.79 | 2.79 | PFC | | |
| | Muzzaffarpur | 7.82 | 3.91 | 3.91 | PFC | | |
| | Sub-Total | 22.33 | 11.16 | 11.16 | | | |
| Goa | North Goa | 8.85 | 4.4 | | 4.45 | 1.67 | Work in progress. To be completed by Mar. 2002 |
| Maharashtra | Ratnagiri | 24.15 | 12.08 | | 12.08 REC | 12.08 | Scheme revised and resubmitted in 2001-02 |
| | Sindhudurg | | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 24.15 | 12.08 | 0 | 12.08 | 12.08 | |
| ACC : POWERGRID AND ERDA | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | Jamnagar | 22.78 | 11.39 | 11.39 | 11.39 | 11.39 | Work in progress. To be completed by Mar. 2002 |
| | Himatnagar | | | | | | |
| | Sabarmati | | | | | | |
| | Bhuj | 192 | 96 | 96 | | | Yet to be started |
| | Sub-Total | 214.78 | 107.39 | 107.39 | 11.39 | 11.39 | |
| ACC : NPC | | | | | | | |
| H.P. | Shimla | 25.32 | 22.79 | 22.79 | 2.53 | 2.53 | Procurement completed. Work in progress. To be completed by Apr. 2002 |
| | Solan | | | | | | |
| | Nahan | | | | | | |
| | Hamirpur | | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 25.32 | 22.79 | 22.79 | 2.53 | 2.53 | |
| West Bengal | Howrah | 37.2 | 18.6 | 16.75 | 27.8 | | Work in progress. Procurement of meters under progress |
| | 24 Pargana(S) | | | | PFC | | |
| | Bidhannagar | | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 37.2 | 18.6 | 16.75 | 27.8 | | |
| Assam | Dibrugarh | 14.99 | 13.473* | 13.473 | 1.497* | 1.497 | For meters, orders placed for procurement. For other proposals, work not yet started. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------|-------------|-------|--------|---------|----------|-------|------------------|
| | Guwahati-II | 21.85 | | | | | |
| | Jorhat | 33.05 | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 69.89 | 0 | 13.473 | 0 | 1.497 | |
| ACC : WAPCOS | | | | | | | |
| Punjab | Patiala | 18.19 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 9.1 REC | 9.1 | Work in Progress |
| | Mohali | 25.21 | 6.25 | 6.25 | 6.25 PFC | 6.25 | -do- |
| | Khanna | 20.23 | 10.12 | 10.12 | 8.07 | 8.07 | -do- |
| | Sub-Total | 63.63 | 25.47 | 25.47 | 23.42 | 23.42 | |
| | Total | 492.2 | 214.92 | 210.063 | 92.61 | 52.58 | |

*Money sanctioned and released for Silcher circle. Approval from MOP for shifting funds to identified circles not yet obtained.

Summary of Proposal for the Year 2000-01 under APDP scheme

Circlewise Summary

| State | Circle | Scheme for the year 2000-01 | | | | Status | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|------------|--------|--|
| | | Cost of project | APDP Fund | | Loan | | |
| | | | Sanctioned | Released | Sanctioned | | Released |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| ACC : NTPC | | | | | | | Line bifurcation works started. Bids under invitation for others |
| Haryana | Karnal | 75.56 | 8.28 | | | | |
| | Sonepat | | 5.38 | | | | |
| | Hissar | | 7.48 | | | | |
| | Faridabad | | 16.64 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 75.6 | 37.78 | | | | |
| Maharashtra | Jalgaon | 156.28 | 38.14 | | | | Material Deliveries Commenced and works started |
| | Sholapur | | 20 | | | | |
| | Osmanabad | | 20 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 156 | 78.14 | | | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | Indore | 76.76 | 20.43 | | | | Awards placed for DTs and meters Bids opened for Capacitors |
| | Gwalior | | 6.42 | | | | |
| | Ujjain | | 11.53 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 76.8 | 38.38 | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------|----------------|--------|--------|---|---|---|--|
| Chattisgarh | Raipur | 20.52 | 3.7 | | | | Meters Available Bids for capacitors to be invited |
| | Bilaspur | | 3.2 | | | | |
| | Rajnandgaon | | 3.36 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 20.5 | 10.26 | | | | |
| ACC : CPRI | | | | | | | |
| Andhra | Eluru | 99.6 | 18.32 | | | | 9.9 crores utilised |
| Pradesh | Warangal | | 14.85 | | | | 16.54 crores utilised |
| | Tirupati | | 16.63 | | | | 14.04 crores utilised |
| | Sub-Total | 99.6 | 49.8 | | | | |
| Kerala | Kasargod | 44.84 | | | | | MOU not signed |
| | Manjeri | | 15.16 | | | | |
| | Pathanamthitta | | 7.26 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 44.8 | 22.42 | | | | |
| Karnataka | Belgaum | 114.52 | 10.66 | | | | 7.67 crores utilised |
| | Bijapur | | 22.87 | | | | 7.67 crores utilised |
| | Mysore | | 23.73 | | | | 13.13 crores utilised |
| | Sub-Total | 115 | 57.26 | | | | |
| ACC : MECON | | | | | | | |
| Rajasthan | Alwar | 90.02 | 9.66 | | | | 2.13 crores spent till Sept. 2001 |
| | Jhunjunu | | 5.93 | | | | |
| | Jodhpur | | 29.42 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 90 | 45.01 | | | | |
| Tamilnadu | Pudikkottai | 24.2 | 12.1 | | | | Funds not drawn |
| | Villupuram | | | | | | |
| | Coiambattore | | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 24.2 | 12.1 | | | | |
| Jharkhand | Ranchi | 43.96 | 14.95 | | | | No schemes proposed |
| | Dumka | | | | | | |
| | Hazaribagh | | | | | | |
| | Loyabad | | 7.03 | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | 44 | 21.98 | | | | |
| | Total | 746 | 373.13 | | | | |

Statement-II**REFORMS IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

Distribution is a most vital link of the power system and also the weakest link and should be the key area of the focus in power sector reform process given that 75-80% of total T and D losses and almost entire commercial loss take place at the Distribution stage only. The objectives of the distribution reform, therefore, is to bring T and D losses to around 10% from existing over 50% and supply quality and reliable power to the consumers at reasonable cost. Theft alone account for over Rs. 20,000 crores annually. Distribution system is also characterized by inefficiency, frequent interruptions and poor voltage. It is possible to bring down T and D losses from existing over 50% to nearly 10% through various technical and commercial measures. It is estimated that 15% reduction in T and D loss at the national level is equivalent to additional generation of about 700 MW. An additional capacity of 10,000 – 12,000 MW could be created with much lower investment.

MEASURES FOR REDUCING T AND D LOSSES

Measures need to be taken for reducing T and D losses would be both on the technical front as well as the administrative front. The technical losses can be reduced by adopting high voltage distribution system where LT lines are replaced with HT line through reconfiguration of the existing system, installation of low capacity energy efficient, distribution transformers for feeding a small number of consumers, installation of capacities for power factor correction, reconductoring of LT lines where line losses are high etc. This requires detailed study of network and load data followed by their analysis through computer aided tools and to prepare a comprehensive system improvement design.

On the other hand commercial losses can be brought down significantly by installing tamper proof meters on all consumers followed by detailed energy accounting. Considering the importance of metering and reduction of T and D losses in the Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000, it was resolved to have :

- (i) Energy Audit at all levels.
- (ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on a priority basis.

In pursuance of the decision of the Power Minister's Conference 100% metering programme has been taken up in two phases :

- (i) Phase-I Metering upto 11 kv Feeders and HT consumers upto March, 2001.
- (ii) Phase-II Metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

ACCELERATED POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In order to progressively implement, inter alia, upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network with the objective of accomplishing reduction of T and D technical and commercial losses, improvement of revenue realization and supply of reliable and interruption free power, the Government of India approved during 2000-01 a scheme called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to provide systematic finance to enable SEBs/Utilities to take up distribution sector reform. During the year 2000-01 and 2001-02, the Government have provided Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1500 crores respectively to the State Governments as an additional central plan assistance. The funds are released under APDP with the funding modalities as under :-

| Sl. No. | Category of States | % of projects/ scheme Cost from APDP as | | % of projects Scheme cost from PFC/ REC/own/ other sources |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|------|--|
| | | Grant | Loan | |
| 1. | Special Category States | 90 | 10 | |
| 2. | Non Special Category States | 25 | 25 | 50 |

APDP is used as an instrument to leverage reforms in the State power sector. Thus funds under APDP is released only to those States which have executed with the Ministry of Power an MOU committing to a time-bound reforms and restructuring process in the State power sector so that the SEBs/State Utilities attain commercial viability. APDP is to continue till 2012 as per the Cabinet decision.

PILOT DEMONSTRATION – 63 DISTRIBUTION CIRCLES UNDER APDP

With the objective of achieving contemplated benefits in term of reduction of T and D losses through investments

made in upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network, the Ministry of Power decided to focus the attention to few areas and in consultation with the State Governments have identified 63 distribution circles in different States in the first phase, to be developed into Centre of Excellence/Pilot demonstration under APDP.

FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES BY STEERING COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

A Technical Manual/Guidelines for Project formulation, Specification of Distribution equipment, Project implementation and Monitoring, Energy audit and accounting system has been prepared by the Ministry of Power through a Committee of Experts. It provides different task required for project implementation, steps that need to be followed and milestone and deliverables for each task. This technical manual will (i) enable the SEBs to formulate and implement projects aimed at upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network and (ii) enable SEBs and Ministry of Power to effectively undertake the proper management both at local and apex levels.

Non – Utilisation of Funds by South Central Railways

1791. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether South Central Railways has not spent even half of the funds earmarked for the zone on various projects during 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details of the funds earmarked for various projects like gauge conversion, doubling new lines, flyovers and electrification;

(c) the details of financial, physical progress achieved so far, project-wise;

(d) the reasons for the slow progress in completing the projects; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for completion of the projects ?

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

(a) The Budget allotment, Revised allotment and Expenditure till Jan. 2002 of South Central Railway under the Plan heads New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Road Safety Works – Road over/under bridges and Electrification is as under :-

(Rs. in cr)

| Plan Heads | Budget Grant 2001-02 | Revised Grant 2001-02 | Actual Jan 2002 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| New Lines etc | 65.10 | 33.05 | 9.66 |
| Gauge Conversion | 56.52 | 134.39 | 59.35 |
| Doubling | 46.00 | 96.83 | 40.31 |
| Road Safety ROB/RUB | 44.55 | 16.94 | 1.96 |
| Electrification Projects | – | – | – |

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

LNG Terminal at Gopalpur, Orissa

1792. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Techno-economic project report has been prepared for LNG Terminal at Gopalpur by private company of Oman after the final discussion was taken at various level including with the Government of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details on which the discussion was held between the Government of Orissa and the concerned company of Oman for this project; and

(c) the progress of work of this project 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) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation to Railway Zones

1793. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of allocation made to zonal railways during 2001-2002 – zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Government for more funds for South Central Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) There are Nine Zones on Indian Railways. The Zone-wise Budget Grant and Revised Grant during 2001-02 is as under :

Rs. in cr.

*Zone wise distribution of Plan Outlay – Gross
(Excluding Market Borrowing)*

| Railway Zones | Budget Estimate 2001-02 | Revised Estimate 2001-02 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Central Railway | 2175.65 | 2145.18 |
| Eastern Railway | 1834.61 | 1726.56 |
| Northern Railway | 2684.83 | 3238.90 |
| North Eastern Railway | 698.85 | 722.83 |
| Northeast Frontier Railway | 733.64 | 862.02 |
| Southern Railway | 1470.98 | 1484.02 |
| South Central Railway | 1360.40 | 1448.17 |
| South Eastern Railway | 2189.43 | 2206.99 |
| Western Railway | 1547.33 | 1581.18 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Additional funds have been provided to South Central Railway from the additional budgetary support made available for expediting progress of certain identified

projects, taking its allotment of Rs. 1360.40 cr. in the Budget Estimate to Rs. 1448.17 cr. in the Revised Estimate.

Use of Defence Aircraft for Non-Official Purposes

1794. SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the use of defence aircraft for non-official purposes by many political persons/organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount lying outstanding against them at present; and

(c) the steps taken to recover such amount ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per the existing guidelines of the Government, only Prime Minister is entitled to use Defence Aircraft for non-official purposes on payment basis.

(b) The details of dues more than Rs. 10 lakhs, pending are contained in the statement attached.

(c) The Government has filed suits in February, 2001, in the High Court of Delhi, for effecting recovery of the amount from the three former Prime Ministers. The suits will come up for hearing on 23rd April, 2002. Further action for realisation of dues will be taken as per directions of the Court.

Statement

Dues Outstanding

| Name | Principal | Interest | Total |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Shri Chandrasekhar | 5,91,31,476 | 6,56,35,938 | 12,47,67,414 |
| Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao | 5,72,13,700 | 3,21,20,398 | 8,92,34,098 |
| Shri H.D. Deve Gowda | 54,61,497 | 22,93,828 | 77,55,325 |

Financial Assistance to Film Production

1795. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial assistance extended to the film production by individuals/companies from NFDC during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the status of the production execution and the results thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any projects/schemes to promote young and innovative film directors/producers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Details of year-wise financial assistance extended to individuals/companies for film production by NFDC during the last three years and the status thereof is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) NFDC extends financial assistance to young and talented film makers based on the quality of the scripts submitted and the Board's approval. The

Government also encourages young filmmakers by recognizing their talent under the National Film Awards scheme.

Statement

| Year | Name of Film and Language | Name of the individual/ company | Amount financed (Rs. in lakhs) | Status |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1999-2000 | Laado (Haryanvi) | M/s. Pratibimb Communications | 20.00 | Film completed |
| | IPC – 215 (Tamil) | Charuhasan | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Gabhara (Marathi) | Rajeev Khandagale | 36.54 | Film completed |
| | Amrita (Hindi) | Kakoli Biswas | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Karvaan (Hindi) | Pankaj Bhutalia | 35.00 | Film completed |
| 2000-2001 | Bas Yaari Rakho (Hindi) | Gopi Desai | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Mansur Mian – R Ghora (Bengali) | Nabyendu Chatterjee | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Saki Mazi (Marathi) | Ravindra Surve | 06.00 | Film completed |
| | Kali Salwar (Hindi) | Farida Mehta | 45.00 | Film completed |
| 2001-2002 | Atatayee (Bengali) | Satrupa Sanyal M/s. Scud | 10.00 | Under production |
| | Maguni Ra Shagada (Oriya) | Prafulla Mohanty | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Tiladaanam (Telugu) | K.N.T. Shastry | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Bub (Kashmiri) | Jyoti Sarup | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Jameela (Tamil) | Ponnvannan | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Hemanter Pakhi (Bengali) | Urmi Chakraborty | 40.00 | Film completed |
| | Ekti Nadir Naam (Bengali) | Anup Singh | 35.00 | Film completed |
| | Tok Jhaal Misti (Bengali) | Basu Chatterjee | 40.00 | Film completed |
| | Vastupurush (Marathi) | Sumitra Bhawe and Sunil Sukhtankar | 40.00 | Post Production |

Declaration of Film Production as an Industry

1796.DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of the declaration of Film Production as an industry;

(b) whether the said step has enabled availability of finance for these endeavours and achieved other desired results;

(c) whether the film industry has been released from the clutches of the mafia finance;

(d) if so, the extent of which the industry has been cleansed; and

(e) if not, the further steps, the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) The declaration of 'Entertainment industry including films' as an industry under the industrial Development Bank of India Act has enabled availability of institutional finance for film production. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to enable commercial banks to finance film production. These steps have eased the flow of institutional finance into film production.

Power Generated from Doyang Project

1797. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether approximately 88% of the power generated from Doyang Project in Nagaland is taken away by NEEPCO for supply to adjoining States at a very low rate;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the State of Nagaland is already facing acute power problems and people have to face load-shedding from 8-10 hours a day;

(d) if so, whether the Government plan to instruct NEEPCO to direct the entire power for the State of Nagaland; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The Doyang Hydro-electric Project in Nagaland is a Central Sector project and all the States of North-Eastern Region including Nagaland have a share in the electricity generated by the Project. In accordance with the sharing formula, Nagaland's share includes 12% power from the project free of cost. The tariff for the power generated by the project has been worked out as Rs. 6.10 paise/unit and the States of the N.E. Region have expressed their inability to purchase power at this rate. Efforts are being made to restructure the financing pattern of the project for bringing about reduction in this tariff. The power supply position of Nagaland for the current year (April 2001 to February, 2002) indicates that against the energy requirement of 238.7 MU, the availability was 237.8 MU and against the peak demand of 61 MW, 58 MW was met. NEEPCO has been experiencing underutilization of the power generated by some of its power stations and some surplus power is available for supply outside North-Eastern Region since May, 2000. The constituent States of the North Eastern Region are at liberty to increase their indent of power from NEEPCO stations.

Separating LNG facility from Dabhol Power Project

1798. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for separating

LNG facility from Dabhol Power Project and taking over of the same by Gas Authority of India (GAIL); and

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

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

(b) Gas Authority of India Limited has been permitted to carry out 'due diligence' with respect to LNG terminal of Dabhol Power Company at Dabhol and to sign the Confidentiality Agreement with the interested parties including Tata Power Company.

Identification of 12 Projects by NHPC

1799. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro Power Corporation has identified 12 projects with a combined capacity of around 23,000 megawatt power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target being fixed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) has prepared a tentative capacity addition plan of 5310 MW for 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) and 10341 MW for 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12). The details of these projects are enclosed as Statement. These plans include on-going schemes of 1480 MW and projects of 2420 MW proposed under Joint Venture with the State Governments.

Statement

Details of Projects under Execution and Proposed to be taken up by NHPC during 10th and 11th Plan

| S.No. | Name of Project | Capacity (MW) |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE COMPLETED IN X PLAN**A. On-going schemes**

| | | |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Dulhasti | 390 |
| 2. | Chamera-II | 300 |
| 3. | Dhauliganga-I | 280 |
| 4. | Teesta-V | 510 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|

B. New projects

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 5. Farakka Barrage | 125 |
| 6. Teesta Low Dam St-III | 132 |
| 7. Teesta Low Dam St-IV | 168 |
| 8. Sewa-II | 120 |
| 9. Bav-I | 18 |
| 10. Bav-II | 37 |
| 11. Upper Krishna Project | 810 |

C. Joint Venture Project

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 12. Indira Sagar | 1000 |
| 13. Purulia Pumped Storage | 900 |
| 14. Omkareshwar | 520 |
| Total in X Plan | 5310 |

PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN XI PLAN

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Loktak Downstream | 90 |
| 2. Parbati-II | 800 |
| 3. Parbati-III | 520 |
| 4. Pakal Dul | 1000 |
| 5. Bursar | 1020 |
| 6. Chamera-III | 231 |
| 7. Siang Lower Site | 1700 |
| 8. Siang Middle Site | 700 |
| 9. Subansiri Middle Site | 2000 |
| 10. Subansiri Lower Site | 2000 |
| 11. Uri-II | 280 |
| Total in XI Plan | 10341 |

Prevention of Cross Voting and Large Scale use of Money Power

1800.SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to amend Section 59 and 128 of the Representation of the People's Act (RPA), 1951 to 'Prevent cross-voting and large

scale use of money power' in the Rajya Sabha Elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2001 seeks, *inter alia*, to substitute the existing secret ballot system by the system of voting through open ballot for elections to the Council of States. The said provision when enacted is expected to prevent large scale use of money power and unauthorised cross-voting in elections to the Council of States.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Kerosene and LPG

1801.SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times, the prices of Kerosene, Petrol, Diesel and LPG were increased during the last three years indicating the increase made on each occasion; and

(b) the reasons for such price hike ?

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 changes in the ex-storage point prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG during the last three years are given in Statement enclosed.

(b) The revision in prices is *inter alia* dependent upon the international prices of crude oil/petroleum products, variations in exchange rate, duties and taxes, etc.

Statement

Changes in the Ex-Storage Point Prices of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during the last three years

| Petrol Rs./Litre | Diesel Rs./Litre | PDS Kerosene Rs./Litre | Domestic LPG Rs./ Cylinder |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

As On :

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|------|------|--------|
| 01.01.99 | 15.50 | 7.54 | 2.00 | 113.01 |
|----------|-------|------|------|--------|

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| Revised On | | | | |
| 9.01.99 | | 6.72 | | |
| 1.2.99 | | | | 127.01 |
| 28.02.99 | 15.40 | 6.62 | | 124.01 |
| 23.3.2000 | | | 4.50 | 154.01 |
| 20.4.99 | | 6.88 | | |
| 6.10.99 | | 9.63 | | |
| 30.09.2000 | 19.00 | 11.93 | 7.00 | 185.01 |
| 22.11.2000 | | | 6.11 | 176.46 |
| 12.01.2002 | 10.82 | 11.04 | | |
| 01.03.2002 | * | * | 6.86 | 185.01 |

* – The changes were effected so as to bring down the retail selling prices of Petrol and Diesel by Re. 1 per litre and 50 paise per litre respectively.

Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee

1802. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tenure of Divisional Rail Users Consultative Committees (D.R.U.C.Cs.) has expired on December 31, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconstitute new D.R.U.C.Cs.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these committees are likely to be constituted ?

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

(b) to (d) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs) have already been reconstituted for a two years term with effect with 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2003.

[English]

Production and Distribution of Gasohol

1803. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand production and distribution of Gasohol in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy proposed to be implemented;

(c) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered under this strategy; and

(d) the details of pilot projects to be undertaken to achieve the target of production and distribution of Gasohol ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to supply 5% ethanol-doped-petrol (gasohol) in the country in two phases.

During the first phase the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh would be covered. During the second phase the rest of the country would be covered.

(c) The modalities and economics are being worked out.

(d) It has also been decided to launch six more pilot projects three in Uttar Pradesh, two in Punjab and one in Andhra Pradesh.

Setting Up of Regional News Units of AIR

1804. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the name of places in the country where regional news units and play division units of All India Radio have been set up so far, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to set up more number of such regional news and play division units in 2002-2003.

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these units are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) AIR has informed that there are a number of Regional News Units of AIR spread all over the country, but AIR has no divisions such as play division. However, AIR Stations have Drama Sections which originate and broadcast drama in their

regional languages. State-wise and location wise details of Regional News Units as well as Drama Sections of AIR are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) There is no proposal to set up any new Regional News Unit or Play Division during 2002-2003.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

List of Regional News Units and Drama Units of All India Radio

| S. N. | State(s)/ Union Territory (being served by the RNU) | Regional News Unit (location) | Drama Sections |
|-------|---|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | (a) Hyderabad (b) Vijayawada | (a) Hyderabad (b) Vijayawada (c) Vishakhapatnam (d) Cuddapah |
| 2. | Assam | (a) Guwahati (b) Dibrugarh (c) Silchar | (a) Guwahati (b) Silchar (c) Dibrugarh |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | (a) Itanagar | (a) Itanagar |
| 4. | Bihar Jharkhand | Patna | (a) Patna (b) Ranchi (c) Bhagalpur (d) Darbhanga |
| 5. | Goa | Panaji | (a) Panaji |
| 6. | Gujarat | (a) Ahmedabad (b) Bhuj | (a) Ahmedabad (b) Vodaodra (c) Bhuj (d) Rajkot |
| 7. | Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh | Chandigarh | (a) Rohtak (b) Jalandhar |
| 8. | Himachal | Shimla | (a) Shimla |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | (a) Srinagar (b) Jammu (c) Leh | (a) Srinagar (b) Jammu (c) Leh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 10. | Karnataka | (a) Bangalore (b) Dharwad | (a) Bangalore (b) Bhadrawati (c) Dharwad (d) Gulbarga (e) Mangalore/Udipi (f) Mysore (g) Hassan |
| 11. | Kerala | (a) Thiruvantha-puram (b) Kozhikode | (a) Thiruvantha-puram (b) Calicut (c) Trichur |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh | (a) Bhopal (b) Indore (c) Raipur | (a) Ambikapur (b) Bhopal (c) Chattarpur (d) Gwalior (e) Indore (f) Jabalpur (g) Jagdalpur (h) Raipur (i) Rewa |
| 13. | Maharashtra | (a) Mumbai (b) Aurangabad (c) Nagpur (d) Pune | (a) Aurangabad (b) Mumbai (c) Jalgaon (d) Nagpur (e) Pune (f) Ratnagiri (g) Sangli |
| 14. | Manipur | Imphal | (a) Imphal |
| 15. | Meghalaya | Shilong | (a) Shilong |
| 16. | Mizoram | Aizwal | (a) Aizwal |
| 17. | Nagaland | Kohima | (a) Kohima |
| 18. | Orissa | Cuttack | (a) Cuttack (b) Jeypore (c) Sambalpur |
| 19. | Pondicherry | Pondicherry | (a) Pondicherry |
| 20. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Port Blair | Port Blair |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| 21. Rajasthan | Jaipur | (a) Jaipur (b) Bikaner (c) Udaipur (d) Jodhpur (e) Suratgarh | |
| 22. Sikkim | Gangtok | | |
| 23. Tripura | Agartala | (a) Agartala | |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | (a) Lucknow (b) Gorakhpur (c) Dehradun | (a) Lucknow (b) Almora (c) Allahabad (d) Rampur (e) Mathura (f) Gorakhpur (g) Nazibabad (h) Agra | |
| 25. West Bengal | (a) Calcutta (b) Kurseong | (a) Calcutta (b) Kurseong (c) Siliguri | |
| 26. Tamil Nadu | (a) Chennai (b) Tiruchirapalli | (a) Coimbatore (b) Chennai (c) Madurai (d) Tiruchirapalli (e) Tirunelveli | |
| 27. Delhi | New Delhi | Delhi | |

[Translation]

**Railway Wagon to Private Sector
by Jabalpur Division**

1805. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jabalpur Railway Division provides wagons to private sector;

(b) if so, the total number of wagons provided during 2001-02 upto January, 2002;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding financial irregularities in providing wagons; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of wagons provided for loading during the year 2001-02 (April to January) by Jabalpur division were 360310 (in terms of 4 wheeler units).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

CAG Report on Electrification

1806. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2851 dated March 15, 2001 regarding CAG report on electrification and state :

(a) whether the observations have since been examined and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether any avoidable expenditure of Rs. 2.14 crores has been caused to the Railway administration during April 1996 to February 1999 as has been brought out in CAG report No. 9 of 2000 on page 311;

(c) if so, the reaction of his Ministry thereon and steps taken to check the wasteful expenditure in the Railway administration.

(d) whether the Eastern Railway did not install capacitor banks at all traction sub-stations causing loss of revenue to the State; and

(e) if so, has the matter been enquired into and responsibility fixed giving details thereof ?

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

(a) The documents which formed the basis for arriving at various conclusions have been received from Audit. The observations are under examination by the Ministry of Railways.

(b) No, Sir. the expenditure was unavoidable.

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

(d) Provision of Capacitor Banks is need based. As far as Eastern Railway is concerned, Capacitor Banks have since been provided wherever required.

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

Dividend Declared by ONGC

1807. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked ONGC to declare a 700 per cent dividend;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effect of this demand on ONGC;

(c) the amount in financial terms if a 700 per cent dividend would be declared; and

(d) the reasons for asking such a huge demand ?

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

(c) The paid up equity capital of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is approximately Rs. 1426 crore and 700 per cent dividend thereupon would amount to Rs. 9982 crore.

Development of Renewable Energy

1808. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "renewable energy holds key to development" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 9, 2002;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the sustainable development summit at Delhi; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop renewable energy sources to meet country's requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) organized the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2002 (DSDS) during 8-11 February 2002. The recommendations made in the Summit are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has identified thrust areas for developing renewable energy sources to meet the country's energy requirements. These

include (i) meeting minimum rural energy needs (ii) electrification of remote villages, through decentralized energy supply and (iii) grid quality power generation. The strategy adopted includes budgetary support for renewable energy, accelerating and promoting private investments through fiscal and promotional policy support, and internal and external resource mobilization.

Statement*Recommendations made in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2002*

- (i) Recognize the pivotal role of business and industry in achieving sustainable development and accord to it the priority it deserves.
- (ii) Foster an enlightened, transparent, and participatory mode of governance.
- (iii) Secure definitive commitments towards increased official development assistance.
- (iv) Liberalize trade and facilitate movement of labour to achieve true globalization.
- (v) Promote innovation in socially responsible technology and encourage its spread worldwide so that its benefits are reaped by all.
- (vi) Ensure universal but appropriate education designed to serve as the true foundation of a sustainable, equitable, and progressive society.
- (vii) Guide the overall course of development away from the vision dominated by material prosperity, competition, and short-term concerns to a path that leads to well-being, cooperation, and long-term prosperity for all.
- (viii) Support a holistic approach to natural resource management based on an understanding of the dynamic interactions between people – especially the poor – and the environment and an explicit delineation of rights and responsibilities that encourages the involvement of local communities.

Report sought from Railways Over Sexual Harassment

1809. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sought report from Railways over sexual harassment of women passengers; and

(b) if so, the details of the report sent by the Railways and the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission has made some suggestion for improving the lot of women passengers and has asked for an action taken report. The report is yet to be submitted.

Though maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway Stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railways co-ordinate with the State Governments for ensuring better security to the passengers. The Railway administration has taken the following steps :

1. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains.
2. Coach Attendants/TTEs keep proper watch on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches.
3. The coaches are locked during night hours.
4. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Stations Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
5. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is done at all levels.
6. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.
7. RPF Assistance posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.
8. Periodic High Level co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are conducted to analyze the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.
9. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.
10. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by lady constables of GRP and RPF.
11. Special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have

been formed in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers.

Task Force for Conditional Access System

1810. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 896 dated November 22, 2001 regarding C.A.S. for TV viewers and state :

(a) whether the said task force has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations made by the task force;

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the implementation of the said recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the task force is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The Task Force has not finalised its recommendations so far.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Procurement of Defective Container Boxes

1811. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ordnance Factory Chanda sustained and extra expenditure of Rs. 42.85 lakh in the rectification of defective container boxes procured from trade and cleared its inspection by the Areas Inspector of Senior Quality Assurance Estt. (Armament)/Senior Quality Assurance Officer between May and December 1994;

(b) if so, whether the matter was enquired into;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken in the matter;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for causing loss of Rs. 42.85 lakh to the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Ordnance Factory Chanda procured container box C-40A from trade duly inspected and accepted by Area Inspector of DGQA. Accepted 130mm ammunitions were packed in these boxes and dispatched to Central Ammunition Depot Phulgaon. The

boxes were again inspected by the Resident Inspector of DGQA at the time of packing. Subsequently Central Ammunition Depot, Phulgaon complained about ingress of water in the ammunition packed in these container boxes.

A Board of Officers from Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA) and Ordnance Factory Chanda made on the spot investigation to find out the reasons for the defect. On investigation, the joint team attributed the ingress of water into the boxes either during transit or at the time of storage under open condition as the cause of the defect. Ordnance Factory Chanda repaired the affected boxes to avoid damage to the ammunitions at a cost of Rs. 42.85 lakh as per the suggestions made by the Board.

The Board also recommended certain design changes in the boxes and strict control over production. The recommendations of the Board have been implemented to avoid recurrence.

Procurement of Communication Sets

1812. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Force Headquarter procured communication sets with deficiencies and without following the laid down norms, from a foreign firm costing about Rs. 7 crore during 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against those found responsible in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) The procurement was carried out in 1996 in accordance with the laid down norms. The communication sets procured did not meet certain parameters outlined in Operational Requirements. However, since these parameters were not significant for operating the sets, waiver was granted in this regard. Detailed flight evaluation trials were conducted by IAF before induction of these sets. No investigation has been ordered/conducted by the Government.

Replacement of Agave Radar

1813. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry finalised a proposal in February, 1999 for the replacement of Agave Radar in the maritime Jaguar with a modern maritime radar with better operational features at a cost of about Rs. 54 crore to be completed by December, 2000;

(b) whether the upgradation work has since been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A contract was signed in February 1999 for replacement of Agave Radar. There have been some delays in the upgrade programme in the design and development stage.

Bye-Pass Work of Talcher-Sambalpur Line

1814. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some bye-pass work of the main Talcher-Sambalpur line in Orissa are under construction;

(b) if so, the progress of these bye-pass work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The work of bypass line at Sambalpur end of Talcher-Sambalpur new line has since been completed. Pre-Non-Interlocked work is in progress and the bypass is expected to be commissioned by 31.03.2002.

Deep Water Drilling Capability of ONGC

1815. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the deep water drilling capability of ONGC;

(b) whether the present capability is sufficient to undertake jobs obtained under NELP; and

(c) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken by ONGC to enhance their capability in deep water drilling ?

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) Drillship, Sagar Vijay, of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is at present capable of drilling in water depths

upto 900 metre. The following steps have been taken by ONGC to drill in water depths beyond 900 metre :-

- (i) Upgradation of Sagar Vijay to drill in water depth upto 1000 metre.
- (ii) Hiring suitable deep water rigs from the market for undertaking drilling in deep waters beyond 1000 metre water depth, depending upon the work programme of ONGC.
- (iii) Initiation of the action for identifying and short-listing of companies to assist ONGC in ultra-deep water drilling beyond 1000 metre water depth.

[Translation]

Guna-Itawa Rail Line

1816. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the work for construction of rail line between Guna-Itawa has been completed;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) to (c) The work is being progressed in phases and line from Guna to Soni has already been completed and commissioned. Soni-Bhind is likely to be completed during 2001-02. Bhind-Etawah section is expected to be completed in next 2-3 years depending upon availability of resources.

[English]

GAIL's Entry into Re-Gasification Sector

1817. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether GAIL proposes to enter into the re-gasification sector through purchases of already existing business;
- (b) if so, the details of such proposals pending with GAIL;
- (c) the manner in which re-gasification projects fit into GAIL's future business expansion plans; and
- (d) the financial outlays for GAIL entering such business ?

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) Currently, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), being one of the oil PSUs promoting Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) to set up liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals with re-gasification facilities at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala, has already entered the LNG re-gasification Sector. On the request of the State Government of Maharashtra, GAIL has also been permitted to undertake 'due diligence' with respect to LNG terminal of Dabhol Power Company at Dabhol and to sign the Confidentiality Agreement with the interested parties.

(c) This would assist GAIL to meet the growing demand of natural gas to some extent.

(d) Presently, GAIL holds 12.5% equity in PLL and proposal for acquiring Dabhol LNG Terminal by GAIL is at preliminary stage.

[Translation]

Touts in Railway Reservation Centres

1818. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the various Railway Reservation Centres of Delhi and Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaunpur and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and various other cities are full with the touts;

(b) whether the reservation employees work openly for the touts;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take proper steps to prevent this nexus between the touts and the reservation employees to control the blackmarketing of the railway tickets; and

(d) if so, the time by when the check is likely to put down; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) and (b) Some cases have come to notice where touts were found operating at some of the reservation centres and on a few occasions, the reservation staff were detected conniving with them.

(c) to (e) Frequent checks are conducted in reservation offices by Vigilance and Commercial departments and the

Police against touts and other anti-social elements at all major stations including Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaunpur and Azamgarh stations. Touts are prosecuted under relevant provisions of law and disciplinary action is taken against railway staff found conniving with them.

[English]

Subletting of Petrol Pumps by BPCL

1819. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BPCL has started subletting the part of petrol pumps area in the capital to other parties for providing other facilities like ATM and Fast Food etc. without taking permission from DDA;

(b) whether the DDA Bye-laws do permit such subletting;

(c) whether the BPCL in the capital has not paid all dues of DDA regarding such sites;

(d) if so, the justification for spending a huge amount on the construction on such sites; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers of corporation for violating the Bye-laws ?

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, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Payment of dues after settlement is an on going process. The expenditure incurred on remodelling of some Retail Outlets is towards providing convenience to customers and to reduce traffic congestion in the retail outlet premises.

(e) Does not arise.

Grade of Fuels Developed by Private Refiners

1820. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private refiners are manufacturing such grades of fuels which are not specifically defined in the list of central excise and causing heavy loss to the Government exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has restrained the Oil PSUs to sell their products like LDO, Furance, Solvents etc. through dealers;

(d) if so, the manner in which the small scale consumers having demand of small quantity shall obtain supplies of these products;

(e) whether the restriction shall be helping to the private refiners; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to improve the 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Reimbursement of Stamping Fees

1821. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited is not reimbursing the stamping fees to its dealers whereas the other oil corporations are reimbursing the same;

(b) if so, whether the said practice is permitted by the Government in the scene of APM and different norms laid down for IOCL;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to direct the IOCL to reimburse the stamping fees to the dealers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

Construction of Over Bridge in Chanchari

1822. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sent a project proposal for construction of an over-bridge in Chanchari across the national highway;

(b) if so, the details and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received for ROB at Chanchari. A proposal for ROB on National Highway at Changsari received from State Government was sanctioned on cost sharing basis in Railway Budget i.e. 1996-97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.01 crores (Railway share Rs. 3.01 crore). This work is now included in East West Corridor Programme of National Highway Development Project.

[Translation]

Electrification and Doubling of Surat-Bhusawal Rail Line

1823. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work for electrification of Surat-Bhusawal railway line is in progress; and

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

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

(b) Electrification work between Surat(Udhna) – Bhusawal(Jalgaon) are scheduled for completion by March, 2003.

[English]

CBI Raid against Officials of Kashir Channel

1824. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI officials arrested programme controller of Doordarshan's Kashir channel for allegedly accepting bribes to clear programmes;

(b) whether the CBI has conducted its investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against those officials who were found guilty of accepting bribe ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Investigation by the CBI is under progress.

(d) The Controller and Assistant Controller of Programme of Kashir Channel have been placed under suspension consequent upon their arrest by the CBI.

Scam in MTPP

1825. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a private agency is supplying coal to Mejia Thermal Power Project since long;

(b) if so, whether some coal loaded trucks were seized by Gangail Ghati P.S. in West Bengal due to black stone load in lieu of coal;

(c) if so, whether the truck owner is the executive member of Durgapur truck owner's association;

(d) the time by which the nexus among the agency truck-owner and the management of M.T.P.S. are going on; and

(e) the steps already taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Coal is purchased by DVC from Coal India Ltd. However, transportation of coal to Mejia Thermal Power Station is being done mainly by Railways and only a small percentage is transported by four road transporters.

(b) to (d) On 2.2.2002, a truck deployed by one of the transporters – M/s. United Coal Carrier – was detected carrying coal of inferior quality by CISF and the matter has since been referred to the Gangajalghanti Police Station. On the basis of the preliminary report, M/s. United Coal Carriers have been suspended since 15.2.2002. The District Administration have been asked to expedite the police investigation, DVC has also commissioned a separate enquiry in the matter.

(e) The DVC management will take appropriate remedial measures based on findings in the enquiry report.

[Translation]

**Railway Projects with the Help of
M/o Defence**

1826. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway projects being taken up in Rajasthan with the assistance of M/o Defence;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be started and completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend Phalodi Kolayat rail line upto Pokran, Barmer, Sanchor and Kandla;

(d) if so, whether the survey has been conducted for the said rail line;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the construction work on the said line is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) and (b) The details of railway projects taken up on strategic consideration to be funded from the funds of Ministry of Defence are given as under :

(i) **Gauge conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao section** : The work is already in progress and is targetted for completion in phases by 31.12.2003.

(ii) **Construction of new railway line from Kolayat to Phalodi** : The work has been included in the Railway Budget 2002-03 and is targetted for completion in 2004-05.

(c) to (f) The rail link between Phalodi and Pokran already exists and the survey for new broad gauge line from Pokran to Barmer has been completed recently. A survey for rail line between Jaisalmer and Kandla is in progress. Further consideration would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(a) whether the Japanese Government has agreed to finance power projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the power projects on which the Government of Japan has agreed to finance;

(c) whether the Government are also seeking finance in the form of aid from other foreign countries to carry on the ongoing power projects in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Japan is financing the Indian Power sector for construction of power projects through Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Power projects under execution having Japanese assistance are as under :

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Simadhri Thermal Power Project | (NTPC) |
| 2. Northern Indian Transmission System | (POWERGRID) |
| 3. Dhauli Ganga Hydro Electric Project | (NHPC) |
| 4. Power System Improvement Project | (REC) |
| 5. Turial Hydro Electric Project | (NEEPCO) |
| 6. Srisaïlam Left Bank Hydro Electric Project | (APGENCO) |
| 7. Srisaïlam Power Transmission | (APGENCO) |
| 8. Simhadri and Vizag Transmission | (APTRANSCO) |
| 9. R and M – Kothagudam "A" Thermal Project | (APGENCO) |
| 10. R and M Umiam Hydro Electric Project | (Meghalaya) |
| 11. Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project | (Maharashtra) |
| 12. Anpara "B" Thermal Power Project Stage-II | (UPRVUNL) |
| 13. Bakreshwar Thermal Power Unit | (WBPDCL) |
| 14. Purulia Pumped Storage Project | (WBSEB) |
| 15. West Bengal Transmission System | (WBSEB) |

(c) and (d) The Indian Power Sector receives concessional credit (loans as well as grant) through a number of multi-lateral and bilateral funding agencies. Whereas the World Bank (IBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are multi-lateral donors, bilateral assistance is received primarily from Japan (JBIC)/earlier OECF, U.K., Germany (KfW) and France.

[English]

Japanese Assistance in Power Projects

1827. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

Target Set for Doordarshan in Tenth Five Year Plan

1828. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group on the 10th Five Year Plan for the Information and Broadcasting in its report has set ambitious targets for Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Union Government have accepted its suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Working Group on Information and Broadcasting Sector for 10th Five Year Plan, constituted by the Planning Commission, has, inter-alia, made the following recommendations for Doordarshan :

- digitalization of production facilities;
- automation of studios and transmitters;
- expansion of the reach to the remaining potential TV population;
- investment in Digital Terrestrial Transmission after its commercial viability is established;
- starting of IT-enabled multimedia services on pilot basis.

(c) The Tenth Five Year Plan relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not been finalised by the Planning Commission so far.

Norms for Voting

1829. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission have overruled the decision of court regarding voting right to those name figured in the voters list in the absence of proof of record laid down by the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to simplify the norms for voting in the light of court judgements ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The requisite

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

Diversification of the Activities of Konkan Railways

1830. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to diversify the activities of Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, whether Konkan Railway is trying to get project outside India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details about the Sky-bus proposal for Mumbai bound Konkan Railway Corporation and the name of the authority supplying it;

(d) whether Railway Ministry is going to contribute financially;

(e) whether the precautions will be taken to see that it does not become burden to Konkan Railway and Railway Ministry;

(f) whether Konkan Railway Management has consulted Railway Ministry in this regard;

(g) whether the State Government and contractor are taking full financial responsibilities; and

(h) if so, the details about the plan, directions, actions and guidelines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) All the activities of the Konkan Railway are as per authority given to them by their Memorandum and Articles of Association.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Government of Iraq covering various aspects of cooperation in railway sector, such as new railway projects, Sky-bus Metro, Sleeper Factory, Exchange of expertise and training, Supply of services, materials and equipments, etc. through Konkan Railway Corporation. In addition, KRCL is also pursuing the Sky-bus Metro projects with various other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Syria etc. KRCL is also pursuing Sky-bus Metro projects with various State Governments i.e. Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Konkan Railway Management is competent to undertake such activities within the purview of their Memorandum and Articles of Association. However, they inform the Ministry of such activities from time to time.

(g) No such agreement has been entered into with State Governments by KRCL so far, nor have any contractors been appointed.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

[Translation]

FM Channel Jaipur

1831. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the AIR Jaipur has started programmes on FM Channel;

(b) if so, the time slots fixed for local broadcasting;

(c) the names of the programmes and subjects covered under the said channel;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to run this channel round the clock like in the other States of the country; and

(e) the details of duration of broadcasting of the FM channels of AIR in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The time slots fixed for local broadcasting on FM channel at Jaipur are as under :

(i) Morning transmission-9.15 am to 10.00 am (Monday to Saturday)

(ii) Evening transmission-6.15 pm to 7 pm (Monday to Saturday)

(c) Details of programmes and subjects covered on each day of the week, during morning and evening transmission, are given in Statement-I.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The details are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of programmes and subjects covered by FM Channel at Jaipur

| Sl. No. | Days of Week | Details of Programmes |
|---|--------------|---|
| (I) Morning FM – “MERA RADIO TIME” | | |
| 1. | Monday | Hindi presentation. Interaction with listeners on telephone, information regarding road, rail and air transport, city news, local information and Hindi Pop Music/latest hits. Discussion with experts on Various topics. |
| 2. | Tuesday | -do- |
| 3. | Wednesday | Same programme with Bi-lingual presentation. |
| 4. | Thursday | -do- |
| 5. | Friday | Same programme with Hindi presentation. |
| 6. | Saturday | -do- |
| (II) Evening “FM MUSIC MOVE” | | |
| 1. | Monday | FM Dhamaka, Bilingual presentation, mix melodies rail, road and air transport information. |
| 2. | Tuesday | -do- |
| 3. | Wednesday | -do- |
| 4. | Thursday | -do- |
| 5. | Friday | Health Antenna (Phone-in) Bi-lingual presentation mix melodies, rail, road and air transport information. |
| 6. | Saturday | Dharti Dhoorari Rajasthani Culture presented in Hindi and Rajasthani (Music Rajasthani and Hindi both film and non-film). |
| 7. | Sunday | FM Magazine bi-lingual presentation including literary cultural gardening and other tips. |

Statement-II*FM Channel Transmission Hours*

| S.No. | State | AIR Station | Transmission Hours |
|--------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| (i) | Karnatak | FM, Bangalore | 0600 hrs. to 0005 hrs. |
| (ii) | Punjab | FM Jalandhar | 0700 hrs. to 1200 hrs. and 1600 hrs. to 2300 hrs. |
| (iii) | Maharashtra | Mumbai FM-I FM-II | Round the Clock. 0600 hrs. to 1210 hrs. |
| (iv) | Goa | FM Panaji | 0700 hrs. to 1000 hrs. and 1700 hrs. to 2300 hrs. |
| (v) | Orissa | FM Cuttack | 1800 hrs. to 2200 hrs. |
| (vi) | Uttar Pradesh | FM Lucknow | 0600 hrs. to 0000 hrs. |
| (vii) | Delhi | Delhi FM-I FM-II | Round the clock 0600 hrs. to 1210 hrs. |
| (viii) | Tamil Nadu | Chennai FM-I FM-II | Round the clock 0600 hrs. to 1210 hrs. |
| (ix) | West Bengal | Kolkata FM-I FM-II | Round the clock 0600 hrs. to 1210 hrs. |

Purchase of Diesel Engine Parts

1832. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase diesel engine parts from American Company M/s General Electric.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the items purchased from the said company had been rejected earlier by the railways;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing parts again from M/s General Electric;

(e) whether the Government have purchased diesel engines recently from the American company M/s General Motors and the company has also agreed to transfer the technology; and

(f) if so, the name of the company from which diesel engines were purchased earlier and the reasons for not purchasing spare parts from the same company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) and (d) No, Sir, there is no such specific decision to procure diesel engine spares from American Company M/s General Electric. Earlier Diesel Engines (Locomotives) had been purchased around 1956 from M/s American Locomotive Company (ALCO), which has been subsequently taken over by M/s General Electric, USA. Most of the components of this type of locomotives have been indigenised. However, certain components which have not yet been indigenised are generally procured through Global Tenders in which General Electric, USA and General Electric Transportation Systems (India) Ltd., also secure orders for some items as mentioned in reply to para (b) below.

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

(e) Yes, Sir. 21 Nos. 4000 H.P. Diesel Electric Freight Locomotives and 10 Nos. Diesel Electric Passenger Locomotives have been imported from M/s General Motors/USA during the year 1999 and 2001 respectively. The company has agreed to Transfer of Technology, which is under progress.

(f) As mentioned in reply to (a) above, Diesel Engines were earlier purchased from ALCO. As a result of indigenisation, most of the parts are made in DLW or purchased from different sources through competitive tendering.

Statement

Details of orders placed on M/s General Electric, USA and GETS (India) Ltd., New Delhi are as under :

A. Diesel Engine Parts being procured from General Electric Co., USA.

| Purchase Order No. | Item | Qty. | Value (FOB) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (i) GT/97-98/115/P8/10863 dt. 19.6.99 | Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P. | 10 | US\$ 228,390 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---------------------------------|----|--------------|
| (ii) GT/99-2000/183/P8/Dev/10053 dt. 1.3.99 | Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P. | 10 | US\$ 247,000 |
| (iii) 050170000/0110060 dt. 21.2.2001 | Spares for above Turbo Chargers | 34 | US\$ 105,103 |

No rejections in the supplies made against above contracts.

B. Diesel Engine Parts being procured from GETS (India) Ltd. (General Electric Transportation Systems (India) Ltd.), New Delhi.

| Purchase Order No. | Item | Qty. | Value (In Rs. Crore) |
|--|---|------|-------------------------|
| (i) 08950050/10097/15287 dt. 19.4.2000 @ | Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P. | 74 | Rs. 8.93 |
| (ii) 08007090/01115385 dt. 22.11.2001 | Turbo Super Charger 3100 H.P. | 88 | Rs. 12.41 |
| (iii) GT/99-00/505/P8/015192 dt. 16.1.1999 | Super Bowl Piston GE/ALCO | 800 | Rs. 2.38 |
| (iv) 088700100/01115371 dt. 29.10.2001 | Super Bowl Piston GE/ALCO | 760 | Rs. 2.66 |
| (v) GT/98-99/116/10016/015160 dt. 3.6.98 @ | Plus Cylinder Head Casting Non Machined | 2600 | Rs. 3.38 |

There were some rejections out of the supplies made against the contracts marked @ above and the firm is replacing the rejected items.

Ban on Smoking at Railway Stations

1833. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether blanket ban has been imposed on smoking at the railway platforms;

(b) whether some snacks stalls at the railway platforms at some railway stations are still selling gutkha, cigarettes, tobacco etc.

(c) whether any inquiry is being conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of persons and stall-owners against whom action has been taken for selling gutkha, cigarettes, tobacco etc. during the last two years; and

(e) the number of persons who were found smoking were arrested since July, 1999 ?

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

(b) There is ban on sale of bidi/cigarette, gutka and tobacco products on Railways.

(c) and (d) Since imposition of ban, 43 cases of selling such projects have been reported and punitive action has been taken.

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

[English]

Pending Applications for Title Registration in Gujarat

1834. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of applications received by RNI from weeklies, fortnightlies, Monthlies etc. for title registration during the last three years so far State-wise;

(b) the time-frame for completion of formalities and accord of title registration;

(c) whether a large number of such applications from Gujarat are pending;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The State-wise details of applications received by the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) for registration of weeklies, fortnightlies, monthlies and publications of other periodicities during the calendar years 1999, 2000

and 2001 are given in the Statements-I, II and III respectively.

(b) The office of the RNI normally issues Certificate of Registration within one month of receipt of complete documents. If the documents submitted by the publisher are incomplete, the office of the RNI sends discrepancy letter to that effect to the publisher, for rectification.

(c) to (e) Though the office of the RNI endeavours to dispose off the applications as soon as possible, some applications for registration of newspapers from various States, including Gujarat, are pending. The pendency is due to non-completion of various formalities and non-submission of correct and complete documents by the publishers. Appropriate advisory letters have been issued by the RNI to the publishers in such cases.

Statement-I

The State-wise details of the applications received by the Office of the RNI during the Calendar year 1999 for Registration of Newspapers

| S. No. | Name of the State/Union Territory | Dailies | Weeklies | Fortnightlies | Monthlies | Others |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 48 | 42 | 81 | 139 | 36 |
| 2. | Assam | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| 3. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| 4. | Bihar | 16 | 33 | 14 | 26 | 8 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 0 | 8 | 3 | 24 | 8 |
| 6. | Delhi | 47 | 108 | 65 | 188 | 106 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 66 | 467 | 76 | 118 | 27 |
| 8. | Goa | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 9. | Haryana | 15 | 67 | 22 | 53 | 9 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 16 | 33 | 14 | 25 | 9 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 94 | 143 | 113 | 83 | 34 |
| 13. | Kerala | 10 | 21 | 15 | 143 | 82 |
| 14. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 64 | 234 | 43 | 93 | 26 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 145 | 748 | 84 | 313 | 139 |
| 17. | Manipur | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Orissa | 14 | 20 | 5 | 18 | 23 |
| 22. | Punjab | 8 | 56 | 19 | 45 | 2 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 24. | Rajasthan | 25 | 54 | 98 | 53 | 21 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 37 | 23 | 23 | 206 | 17 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 184 | 568 | 143 | 201 | 104 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 31 | 74 | 66 | 103 | 73 |

Statement-II

The State-wise details of the applications received by the Office of the RNI during the Calendar year 2000 for Registration of Newspapers

| S. No. | Name of the State/Union Territory | Dailies | Weeklies | Fortnightlies | Monthlies | Others |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 37 | 59 | 63 | 166 | 32 |
| 2. | Assam | 10 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 5 |
| 3. | Andaman and Nicobar | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. | Bihar | 16 | 16 | 12 | 22 | 7 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 5 | 17 | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| 6. | Delhi | 48 | 157 | 95 | 278 | 132 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 37 | 239 | 49 | 100 | 16 |
| 8. | Goa | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 9. | Haryana | 12 | 27 | 23 | 29 | 4 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 7 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 84 | 156 | 68 | 97 | 16 |
| 13. | Kerala | 23 | 15 | 19 | 101 | 60 |
| 14. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 54 | 168 | 41 | 85 | 23 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 103 | 630 | 104 | 275 | 97 |
| 17. | Manipur | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 7 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| 20. | Daman and Diu | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Orissa | 15 | 34 | 8 | 40 | 24 |
| 22. | Punjab | 8 | 33 | 15 | 47 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-------------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 23. | Pondicherry | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 28 | 55 | 94 | 60 | 16 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 8 | 22 | 23 | 211 | 15 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 93 | 293 | 91 | 173 | 48 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 22 | 96 | 69 | 100 | 71 |
| 29. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Tripura | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Statement-III

The State-wise details of the applications received by the Office of the RNI during the Calendar year 2001 for Registration of Newspapers

| S. No. | Name of the State/Union Territory | Dailies | Weeklies | Fortnightlies | Monthlies | Others |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 44 | 44 | 42 | 189 | 21 |
| 2. | Assam | 11 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 4 |
| 3. | Andaman and Nicobar | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Bihar | 21 | 7 | 11 | 52 | 10 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 4 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 9 |
| 6. | Delhi | 46 | 175 | 136 | 267 | 85 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 41 | 215 | 33 | 88 | 19 |
| 8. | Goa | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| 9. | Haryana | 19 | 26 | 3 | 44 | 8 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 21 | 8 | 11 | 53 | 10 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 91 | 173 | 65 | 117 | 15 |
| 13. | Kerala | 28 | 19 | 12 | 123 | 75 |
| 14. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 47 | 186 | 19 | 135 | 32 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 93 | 392 | 72 | 260 | 77 |
| 17. | Manipur | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 4 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-------------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 20. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21. | Orissa | 13 | 38 | 14 | 41 | 36 |
| 22. | Punjab | 9 | 24 | 16 | 36 | 4 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 5 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 21 | 23 | 59 | 54 | 9 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 23 | 32 | 17 | 184 | 16 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 80 | 348 | 80 | 148 | 61 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 15 | 38 | 55 | 68 | 41 |
| 29. | Tripura | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 30. | Uttaranchal | 15 | 29 | 13 | 21 | 5 |
| 31. | Jharkhand | 6 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 0 |
| 32. | Chattisgarh | 17 | 24 | 11 | 16 | 4 |

**Rail-Cum-Road Over Bridge Over
Ganga in Monghyr**

1835. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of rail-cum-road over bridge over Ganga in Monghyr district in Bihar has been completed;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No target date for completion has yet been fixed.

**Development and Promotion of
Renewable Energy Technology**

1836. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA :
SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM :

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

(a) the details of important centres of development and promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies (RET);

(b) the details of physical and financial dimensions of these centres;

(c) the details of perspective plan of Non-Conventional Energy;

(d) the salient features thereof; and

(e) the details of proposed ratio of involvement of Public and Private sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Center for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) at Chennai in Tamilnadu and the Solar Energy Center (SEC) at Gwalpahari in Haryana have been setup as National Centers for promoting research and development and providing technical support to the wind and solar energy programmes in the country. In addition, the Ministry is establishing a National Institute of Renewable Energy (NIRE) near Jalandhar in Punjab to promote R and D in other areas of non-conventional energy. The Ministry has made a total provision of Rs. 19.55 crores and Rs. 37.70 crores for C-WET and NIRE respectively. A provision of Rs. 20.93 crores has been made for SEC during 9th Plan period.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has formulated a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement for accelerated development of renewable sources of energy in the country.

The policy aims at enhancing the contribution of renewable energy for meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralized/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural areas; and grid-quality power generation and supply. The policy envisages an addition of 10,000 MW of generation capacity through renewables by 2012. The draft Renewable Energy Policy envisages a judicious mix of public and private sector investment in the field of renewable energy.

[Translation]

Corruption in Judiciary Officials

1837.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether the CJT has recently admitted that 20 percent of the judiciary officials are corrupt;

(b) if so, whether due to cumbersome procedure such corrupt judges cannot be dismissed;

(c) if so, the facts with reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to check corruption from judiciary; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to amend the various laws and to simplify the procedure for taking action against the corrupt judges ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 23rd December, 2001 at a joint conference organized by the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Council of Kerala, *inter alia*, stated :-

"... I have said it before and I will say it again : in my opinion, more than 80% of the Judges in this country, across the board, are honest and incorruptible. It is that smaller percentage that brings the entire judiciary into disrepute. To make it known that the judiciary does not tolerate corruption in its ranks, it is requisite that corrupt Judges should be investigated and dismissed from Service. This is very much possible in the case of subordinate judiciary because disciplinary control lies with the High Court. It is difficult

where the higher judiciary is concerned because the only recourse in law is impeachment, which is a cumbersome process and which, as a recent instance showed, may not achieve the desired result for reasons that are political. The Supreme Court and the High Courts have attempted to evolve an informal procedure to meet the situation, but it is yet to be tested."

(e) Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. In exercise of powers conferred under Proviso to Article 309 read with Article 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State. The members of the State Judicial Service are governed by these rules and regulations.

[English]

Upgradation of ISRO Satellite

1838.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ISRO Satellite used by the Defence to track enemies during infiltration to avoid Kargil type of infiltration ineffective;

(b) if so, whether these ISRO Satellites needs further upgradation to track the infiltrators effectively in the border areas;

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to upgrade ISRO Satellite in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The usage of ISRO Satellite to track enemy during infiltration has not been found practicable.

(c) and (d) The technological upgradation is an ongoing process in the Indian Satellite Programme. The remote sensing satellites are being continuously upgraded in terms of providing higher spatial, spectral and temporal resolutions, commensurate with the user requirements and technological developments.

[Translation]

Transfer of Officers

1839.SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the headquarters of the raw material division of the SAIL from Kolkata to Ranchi; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Recommendations of Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee

1840. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has recommended some restructuring and partial privatisation of the Railways.

(b) if so, the salient features of the report in this regard; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The major recommendations of the Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan are as under :

1. Institutional separation of roles into policy, regulatory and management functions. This will mean :
 - i. Policy makers are limited for setting policy (and paying for what they ask for). The Government of India will be in charge of setting policy direction.
 - ii. Provide operational autonomy and insulate Indian Railways by corporatising it into "Indian Railways Corporation" (IRC). It would be governed by a reconstituted Indian Railways Executive Board.
 - iii. Set up an Indian Rail Regulatory Authority to regulate IRC's activities as a monopoly

supplier of rail services particularly related to tariff setting.

2. Ex ante acceptance and commitment by the Government and Indian Railways that Indian Railways will operate on commercial lines are the necessary conditions for the reorganisation to be successful exercise. Non-commercial activities mandated by the Government will be clearly demonstrated and Indian Railways appropriately compensated for such activities.
3. In view of financial crisis, Indian Railways to pursue the strategic High Growth pattern for financial recovery.
4. Exemption from taxation – excise, sales tax etc. for the period of transition, say 5-7 years.
5. Set up a Social Safety net to take care of surplus labour.
6. Restructuring of financial accounts of Indian Railways in accordance with the Company's Act, 1956.
7. Spinning off non-core activities.
8. Rebalancing of tariffs to eliminate cross subsidisation.

A Committee of senior officers of Railway Board has been constituted to study various recommendations made in the Report. The Committee is expected to submit its Report soon. Further action will be initiated on receipt of the report of this Committee.

Impact of Pak TV in Jammu and Kashmir

1841. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment recently of the performance of the AIR and Doordarshan in Jammu and Kashmir for countering the negative publicity and propaganda by Pakistan on the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to remove the deficiencies identified to make AIR and Doordarshan an effective media for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has made an analysis of viewership and usefulness of the programmes telecast to counter the Pak propaganda and the negative publicity on Kashmir. The survey has found that the programmes reflect the true conditions in Kashmir and expose the false propaganda of Pakistan.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Special Package, extension and upgradation of AIR and Doordarshan infrastructure have been undertaken in order to increase the electronic media coverage in border areas. Suitable programmes are aired by All India Radio and Doordarshan to counter hostile propaganda and to maintain communal harmony.

Share of Power from Parbati Hydro Project

1842.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Government of Rajasthan to maintain State's share of power as per MOU dated October 20, 1992 round the year;

(b) whether sharing of power from Parbati H.E. Project by Himachal Pradesh is 12% plus 15% unallocated power, Haryana 25%, Rajasthan 40% and Delhi 8% as enshrined in the MOU;

(c) if so, whether during discussion on this project at Chandigarh on September 16, 1998 it was decided that execution of this project is likely to be handed over to NHPC and share of States has to be kept as enshrined in the MOU;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken note of unilateral signing of fresh MOU by Himachal Pradesh with NHPC on November 20, 1998 for execution of this project but it did not include share of power of the four States enshrined in the MOU;

(e) if so, whether the Government have directed the Government of Himachal Pradesh to incorporate percentage of share of power amongst for States as enshrined in the said MOU; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) drawn amongst States of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat

and National Capital Territory of Delhi on 20.10.1992 for investigation and execution of Parbati hydro-electric Project (2051 MW) located in Himachal Pradesh envisaged the equity contribution as under :

| | | |
|-------|------------------|-----|
| (i) | Rajasthan | 40% |
| (ii) | Haryana | 25% |
| (iii) | Gujarat | 15% |
| (iv) | Delhi | 15% |
| (v) | Himachal Pradesh | 5% |

The MOU also provided that 12 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be given to Himachal Pradesh free of cost and the remaining 88 per cent of energy generated from the project shall be apportioned amongst the States, including Himachal Pradesh in the ratio of their equity participation. The MOU could not be effected as Himachal Pradesh desired its contribution vis-a-vis benefits be raised from 5% to 25% by effecting reduction in the share of other partner States.

Subsequently, Himachal Pradesh decided to execute Parbati HE Project as a Central Sector Project through NHPC. Accordingly a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Himachal Pradesh and NHPC on 20.11.1998 for execution of the project.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh had clarified to other States including Rajasthan that the MOU of 1992 stood automatically abrogated consequent upon a fresh MOU having been signed.

The sharing of allocated benefits from the project amongst the States/Union Territory in the Northern Region would be in keeping with the sharing formula applicable for Central Sector hydro stations.

[Translation]

Representation of SCs/STs/OBCs

1843.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
PROF. I.G. SANADI :
SHRI AMARSINH VASANTRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in Public Sector Undertakings/autonomous bodies/Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineering Posts/Indian Railway Stores Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of "sanctioned posts" of all categories in the said railway services/organisations;

(d) the number of persons belonging to reserved categories and general category who have availed reservation under the instructions contained in para 5 of DoPT Office Memorandum No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 and the percentage of such persons in comparison to the total posts; and

(e) the number of vacancies created in these services/organisations during the last three years along with the number of vacancies filled in by the persons belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs, and general category, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Inquiry Report of Khanna Committee on Rail Accident

1844. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3749 on March 22, 2001 regarding Enquiry Report of Khanna Committee on rail accident and state :

(a) whether the Committee has since completed its work;

(b) if so, the details of findings and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether cracks in rails has been found to be responsible for derailments;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing rails with cracks or appearing of cracks subsequently;

(e) the amount in rupees recommended by the Enquiry Committee to be spent on the passengers' security in the coming three years; and

(f) the areas from which these funds are to be mobilised in the railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (f) No, Sir. The Report of Garg Commission appointed

under Chairmanship of Justice G.C. Garg to inquire into the cause of the accident is still awaited.

[English]

Development of HAL

1845. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HAL is developing a low cost Advance Light Helicopter;

(b) if so, whether three such helicopters have already been delivered to Air Force; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing an Advanced Light Helicopter. It has also designed and developed a low cost attack helicopter, named "Lancer" for counter insurgency, riot handling, security and reconnaissance roles. Three such attack helicopters have been delivered to the Indian Army against their order.

Licences to Law Graduates

1846. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bar Councils across the country issue licences to law graduates for starting practice in courts without verifying their certificates;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that many people without proper certificates get registered; and

(c) the steps being proposed to be taken to prevent this ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) The Bar Council of India has informed that it is not aware of any instance of issuing licences by the State Bar Councils to the law graduates for starting practice in courts without verifying their certificates. If the enrolling authority, i.e., the State Bar Council has any doubt about the genuineness of the certificate produced by an applicant, the State Bar Council writes to the University concerned to enquire about the genuineness of the certificate. In case any instance of issuance of licence to a person without proper certificate is brought to the notice of the Bar Council of India, it will take steps for removal of the name of such a person from the roll of advocates.

*[Translation]***Stolen Scrap from Bokaro Steel Plant**

1847. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Iron Scrap and other items stolen from the Bokaro Steel Plant during 2000-2001 and till date;

(b) the total loss suffered by the plant as a result thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken to check such theft by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has informed that the details of the quantity of Iron Scrap and value of other items stolen from Bokaro Steel Plant during 2000-2001 and till date (up to 10/3/2002) is given below :

| Year | Iron Scrap | | Other items (Brass, Electrical Items copper wires etc.) |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| | Quantity | Value (Rs. in lakh) | |
| 2000 | 71.8 MT | 2.96 | 10.79 |
| 2001 | 61.7 MT | 2.67 | 16.61 |
| 2002 (up to 10.3.02) | 250 Kg | 0.01 | 5.86 |

(b) Since the stolen property has been fully recovered, no losses have been suffered by the Plant.

(c) The Central Industrial Security Force, has been assigned the responsibility of exercising adequate measures to check theft of the company's property.

*[English]***Oil and Gas Blocks Under NELP**

1848. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

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

(a) whether the Government is putting up 25 new oil and gas blocks under the third round of New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) in the very near future;

(b) if so, the details of the 25 new blocks which will be put for bidding;

(c) the details of profit sharing formula of crude oil, petrol, kerosene etc. of the Union Government;

(d) whether any blocks on the East Coast will be offered; and

(e) if so, the details of the areas off the East Coast which will be offered for bidding ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) The bids for exploration of oil and gas under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) are expected to be invited by the Government shortly.

(c) The "profit petroleum" from production of crude oil and gas under any Production Sharing Contract is shared by the contractor and the Government in accordance with its provisions.

*[Translation]***Land Acquired by Local to Set Up Petrol Pump at Highway in Maharashtra**

1849. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited has invited proposals for acquisition of land for setting up of petrol pumps along the Kolhar-Ghoti, State highway No. 44 of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of proposals received and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In response to the advertisement released by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) in the Times of India, dated 6.9.2001, for procurement of land at Akole, District-Ahmednagar for development of a new retail outlet, 12 applications were received, which are under process.

Allowing of Ticketless Passengers by TTE

1850. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the TTE allow the passengers travelling without ticket to continue travel after accepting money from them;

(b) if so, the method devised to caught such officials and the action taken against such guilty TTE's;

(c) the number of such incidents which have come to light during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

[English]

Domestic Consumption of Steel

1851. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per capita consumption of steel in India is very low at 27 kg. against a world average of 116 kg.;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to promote domestic consumption of steel;

(c) whether India is suffering from low productivity in steel industry against a much higher average world-wide; and

(d) the plans on the anvil to put back the steel industry on the rails ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by Government to raise consumption level of steel in the country, include (i) constitution of a National Campaign Committee to promote steel consumption through development of markets especially in the rural areas, (ii) encouraging usage of steel in new application areas such as grain storage systems, crash barriers in highways and expressways, (iii) providing financial support to R and D ventures in iron and steel sector to reduce production cost, (iv) constitution of a committee to augment use of domestic steel in the automobile sector, (v) organising seminars for dissemination of knowledge on the use of steel and (vi) setting up of service centers to supply steel products as per the specific needs of the consumers.

(c) Productivity in certain segments of production facilities, like blast furnaces, labour etc. of some of the integrated steel plants is of a level comparable to the best in the world. However, there is a scope for improvement in productivity in many technoeconomic parameters of different plants.

(d) Most of the older steel plants have modernised their production facilities and adopted the latest state-of-the-art technologies. Steel plants set up in the latter part of the nineties have adopted advanced technologies on their own. The Government has also been encouraging research and development activities with financial assistance from the Steel Development Fund (SDF).

Plan to Phase Out MIG Fleet

1852. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has drawn out a plan to phase out the MIG fleet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present fleet of MIG with the Indian Air Force; and

(d) the reasons for phasing out the MIG fleet ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) undertakes only the manufacture, upgrade, repair and overhaul of aircraft. The Indian Air Force and the Ministry of Defence decides on the phasing out of any aircraft.

While the production of MIG-21 aircraft and its variants and MIG-27 M aircraft which are the only type of MIG aircraft manufactured by HAL, continued upto 1987 and 1997 respectively, the upgrade programmes still continue at HAL.

IAF MIG fleet consists of MIG-21 variants, MIG-23, MIG-25, MIG-27 and MIG-29. On the basis of authorised total technical life of the aircraft, the MIG fleet with IAF is expected to be in service with the IAF for quite sometime.

Requirement of Petroleum Products

1853. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present requirement of major fuels like Naphtha, motor spirit, Kerosene, ATF, High speed diesel and Sulphur in the country; and

(b) the estimated requirement for the next five years for these petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The present/estimated requirements in respect of Naphtha, Motor Spirit (MS), Kerosene (SKO), Aviation Turbine Fuel

(ATF) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) is given in the Statement enclosed. There is no separate industry estimates available for Sulphur.

Statement

Consumption of Petroleum Products (Estimated)

(Figures in TMT)

| Product | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| MS | 7049 | 7567 | 8202 | 8813 | 9419 | 10067 |
| Naphtha | 12271 | 12542 | 10723 | 8668 | 9128 | 9228 |
| ATF | 2217 | 2217 | 2445 | 2523 | 2605 | 2691 |
| SKO | 10462 | 10484 | 11000 | 11000 | 11000 | 11000 |
| HSD | 37100 | 37600 | 44508 | 46966 | 49555 | 52324 |

[Translation]

TV Tower in Bhuj

1854. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noted news reports that the TV tower in Bhuj, Gujarat is posing a serious hazard since it does not have warning lights;

(b) whether this TV tower exceeds 1000 feet heights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to safeguard the areas from air accidents.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) There have been some reports in the press about defecting warning lights on 300 M TV tower at Bhuj. The defective warning lights have since been replaced and all the lights have been functioning since 15/12/2001.

[English]

Amendment in Railways Protection Act

1855. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Railways Protection Act and Indian Railways Act to facilitate deployment of Railway Protection Force personnel for security of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more personnel are likely to be recruited by Railways for this;

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

(e) the extent to which railway property is likely to be protected by amended laws/acts ?

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

(b) to (e) The proposals are still under process to incorporate certain amendments in RPF Act 1957 and the Railway Act 1989. Hence, it is not possible to furnish the information at the present juncture.

[Translation]

Outdoor Railway Booking Agency

1856. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria and guidelines prescribed for opening of an outdoor railway agency for booking of parcel and goods/rail tickets under the liberalised schemes;

(b) the number of such agencies/agents appointed by the Railways Division-wise;

(c) the component of commission and service charge which is given to the agents;

(d) whether the Government propose to appoint more booking agencies/agents in various railway stations; and

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

[English]

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

(a) As per extant policy open tenders are invited for awarding a contract of a City Booking Agency/Out Agency. The agency is allotted to the applicant found most suitable in all respects.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The agent is paid cartage for transporting parcels and goods from the agency premises to the serving railway station based on the rate quoted by the party in the tender application. The agent is given Re. 1 and Rs. 5 as service charges on unreserved and reserved tickets respectively.

(d) Requests received on the Zonal Railways from the interested parties are considered from time to time and decided on merits.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Over Bridges in Kerala

1857. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of present status of on-going Rail Over bridge/Rail Under Bridge projects in Kerala, project-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of these ROB/RUBs so far; and

(c) the time by which these ROB/RUBs are likely to be completed ?

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

(a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Railway will completed its parts of the work i.e. the bridge proper over rail track before, or alongwith, completion of work on approaches by State Government.

Statement

Status of ROB/RUBs works on cost sharing basis

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of Work | Railways share | State Government's share | Expenditure incurred by Railways up to 31.1.02 | Present status |
|-------|---|----------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Cheravattur ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 269 at Km. 805/5-6 In Shoranur – Mangalore section between Cheravattur and Nileshwar stations | 511 | 499 | 9 | Estimate under preparation. |
| 2. | Padanakkad ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 272 at Km. 810/1-2 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Kanhangadi and Nileshwar stations | 511 | 499 | 10 | Estimate under preparation. |
| 3. | Cherrode ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 215 @ Km. 713/10-11 in Shoranur – Calicut Section on NH 17 at Km 196/425 | 311 | 389 | 72 | Work in progress. |
| 4. | Chalakudi ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 48 at Km. 62/9-10 in Shoranur – Emakulam section | 753 | 746 | 10 | Work in progress. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---|-----|-----|----|--|
| 5. | Vengalam ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 196 at Km. 675/1-2 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Elattur and Quilandi stations on NH 17 at KM. 231/625 | 499 | 499 | 12 | Work in progress. |
| 6. | Vengali ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 192 @ KM. 673/8-9 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between West Hill and Elattur stations on NH 17 at Km 237/600 | 581 | 581 | 11 | Work in progress. |
| 7. | Velayyil ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 186 at Km. 666/11-12 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Calicut and West Hills stations on NH 17 Beach Road | 850 | 844 | 2 | Work in progress. |
| 8. | Nadal ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 239 at Km. 749/2-3 between in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Ettakot and Cannanore stations on NH 17 at Km 166/400 | 511 | 499 | 10 | Estimate under preparation. |
| 9. | Chova ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 238 at Km. 695/12-13 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Ettakot and Cannanore stations on NH 17 at Km 160/550 | 511 | 499 | 12 | Estimate under preparation. |
| 10. | Nandi ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 206 at Km. 695/12-13 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Ettakot and Cannanore stations on NH 17 at Km 214/525 | 610 | 610 | 10 | Work in progress. |
| 11. | Chengottukavu ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 199 at Km. 686/1-2 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Elathur and Quilandi stations in NH 17 at Km 224/170 | 606 | 606 | 11 | Work in progress. |
| 12. | Muzhuppilangadi ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 232 at Km. 738/7-8 in Shoranur–Mangalore section between Dharmadam and Ettakot stations in NH 17 at Km. 171/450 | 626 | 626 | 9 | Work in progress. |
| 13. | Irinjalakuda ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 43 @ Km. 56/9-10 in Shoranur–Ernakulam section | 629 | 622 | 1 | Work in progress. |
| 14. | Iddappalli ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 71 @ Km. 102/13-14 between Iddappali and ERS stations | 742 | 736 | 0 | Details such as longitudinal section and cross section in awaited from State Government. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|--|-----|-----|---|---|
| 15. | Angamali ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 64 @ Km. 80/12-13 in Shoranur – Ernakulam section | 538 | 534 | 0 | Site plan, LS is awaited from State Government. |
| 16. | Payyanur ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 271 @ Km. 807/6-7 in Shoranur – Mangalore section | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 17. | Ferok – Kallayi ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 177 @ Km. 600/4-5 on NH 17 Beypore State Road | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 18. | Tirunetur ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 76T @ Km. 1/9-10 between Ernakulam and Tirunettur stations | 524 | 518 | 0 | GAD and site plan awaited from State/Government. |
| 19. | Ernakulam ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 2 @ Km. 3/19-20 between Ernakulam and Quilon stations | 524 | 518 | 0 | GAD and site plan awaited from State/Government. |
| 20. | Tirur ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 174 @ Km. 639/14-15 in Shoranur – Mangalore section on NH 17 (Tirur Calicut State Highway) | 571 | 560 | 0 | Site plan and LS awaited from State Government. |
| 21. | Kuttiapuram ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 171 @ Km. 626/10-11 in Shoranur – Mangalore section on NH 17 (Tirur Calicut State Highway) | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 22. | Korattiyangadi ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 54 @ Km. 67/13-14 in Shoranur – Ernakulam section | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 23. | Mundoor Road ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 17 @ Km. 28/10-11 in Shoranur – Ernakulam section | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 24. | Ollur ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 26 @ Km. 39/13-14 in Shoranur – Ernakulam section | 571 | 559 | 0 | Site plan and LS awaited from State Government. |
| 25. | Kalamasserry – Iddappalli ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 67 @ Km. 95/7-8 in Shoranur – Ernakulam section | 538 | 534 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 26. | Badagara ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 229 @ Km. 732/9-10 in Shoranur – Mangalore section between Kolassery – Thalassery Road stations | 538 | 534 | 0 | Kerala Government has requested for deletion of this work from the works programme. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---|--------|-------|---|--|
| 27. | Irumpanam ROB in lieu of L.C. @ Km. 8/15-16 in Ernakulam – Quilon section | 571 | 559 | 0 | Work is being done by RBDCK. Work is in progress. |
| 28. | Pullapady ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 73 @ Km. 105/5-6 | 560 | 942 | 0 | Work is in planning stage. Details awaited from State Government. |
| 29. | Palghat Town ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 50 @ Km. 54/12-13 between Palghat Town and Pollachi stations | 524 | 518 | 0 | Estimate under preparation. |
| 30. | Idapally – Ernakulam ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 69A @ 101/10-11 | 590.1 | 571.6 | 0 | Taken up in combination with LC 71 at Pachalam. |
| 31. | Wadakancheri ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 13 @ Km. 21/5-6 between Wadakancheri and Mulagunathukavu sections | 590.10 | 571.6 | 0 | Estimate under preparation. Detailed road approach cost awaited from State Government. |
| 32. | Kanjikode ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 159 @ Km. 531/8-10 between Kanjikode – Palghat stations | 590.10 | 571.6 | 0 | Estimate under preparation. Detailed road approach cost awaited from State Government. |
| 33. | Wasthill ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 201 @ Km. 688/2-3 between Elathur and Quilandi stations on Thamarassery – Quilandi State Highway | 587.60 | 576.1 | 0 | Estimate under preparation. Detailed road approach cost awaited from State Government |
| 34. | Pallikera – Kotttikulam ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 276 @ Km. 825/15-826/1 | 587.60 | 576.1 | 0 | Estimate under Detailed road approach cost awaited from State Government. |
| 35. | Pollachi Pudunagaram – Palghat Town ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 49 @ Km. 53/10-11 | 525.82 | 519.8 | 0 | Estimate under preparation with State Govt. Detailed road approach cost awaited from State Government. |
| 36. | Palghat – Palghat Town ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 52 @ Km. 56/4-5 | 555.30 | 547.6 | 0 | This ROB is very dose to existing weak Bridge. Further investigation is being done. |
| 37. | Quilon – Mayyanad ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 541 @ Km. 156/8-9 | 587.60 | 576.1 | 0 | Instead of LC 543 originally sanctioned. Detailed Road approach cost awaited from State Government. |

[Translation]

Privatisation of Some Power Projects

1858. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to hand over some power projects to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of private sector companies which have entered into power sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Power projects are generally awarded to private sector companies by the State Governments/State owned utilities. Only those projects, whose capital cost exceeds the ceiling limits prescribed by the Government of India in the notification issued under Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, are required to obtain the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority. A list of the private sector power projects accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority indicating the names of the private companies involved is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

| S.N. | Name of the Project | Capacity (MW) |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

Himachal Pradesh

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Baspa Stage – II HEP (M/s JHPL) | 300 |
| 2. | Malana HEP (M/s Malana Power Company Ltd.) | 86 |
| 3. | Dhamwari Sunda (Dhamwari Power Co. Ltd.) | 70 |

Uttar Pradesh

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 4. | Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s JPVL) | 400 |
| 5. | Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.) | 567 |
| 6. | Srinagar HEP (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.) | 330 |

Rajasthan

| | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 7. | Dholpur CCGT (M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co.Ltd.) | 702.7 |
| 8@ | Barsingar TPP (M/s Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.) | 500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|

Madhya Pradesh

| | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| 9. | Maheshwar HEP (M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corp. Ltd.) | 400 |
| 10. | Korba (East) TPP (M/s Daewoo Power India Ltd.) | 1070 |
| 11. | Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.) | 578 |
| 12. | Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s GBL Power) | 166 |
| 13. | Korba (West) Extn. (M/s ITPL) | 420 |
| 14. | Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.) | 330 |
| 15. | Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.) | 500 |
| 16. | Bhilai TPP (M/s Bhilai Power Supply Comp.) | 574 |
| 17. | Raigarh TPP (M/s Jindal Power Ltd.) | 550 |
| 18. | Bhander CCGT (M/s Bhander Power Ltd.) | 342 |
| 19. | Pithampur DGPP (M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.) | 119.7 |
| 20. | Ratlam DGPP (M/s GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.) | 118.63 |
| 21. | Khandwa CCGT (M/s Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.) | 171.17 |

Gujarat

| | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| 22. | Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat Powergen Energy Corp Ltd.) | 654.7 |
| 23. | Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.) | 515.0 |
| 24. | Baroda CCGT (M/s. GIPCL) | 167.0 |
| 25. | Surat Lignite TPP (M/s GIPCL) | 250.0 |
| 26. | Jamnagar TPP (M/s Reliance Power Ltd.) | 500.00 |

Maharashtra

| | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| 27. | Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.) | 2184 |
| 28. | Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power) | 1072 |
| 29. | Patalganga CCGT (M/s Reliance Patalganga Power) | 447.1 |

Andhra Pradesh

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 30. | Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries) | 216 |
| 31. | Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectram Power Generation Ltd.) | 208 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|--------|
| 32. Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL) | | 1040 |
| 33. Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group) | | 520 |
| 34. Kondapally CCGT (Kondapally Power Ltd.) | | 350 |
| 35. Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.) | | 520 |
| 36. Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited) | | 492 |
| Karnataka | | |
| 37. Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Co.) | | 260 |
| 38. Mangalore TPS (M/s. Mangalore Power Co.) | | 1013.2 |
| 39. Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.) | | 1015 |
| 40. Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power) | | 107.6 |
| Tamil Nadu | | |
| 41. Neyveli TPS – Zero Unit (M/s. ST – CMS Electric Co.) | | 250 |
| 42. Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power Generating Co.) | | 330.5 |
| 43. North Madras TPS-II (M/s. Videocon Power) | | 1050 |
| 44. Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corporation) | | 200 |
| 45. Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corporation) | | 525 |
| 46. Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.) | | 106 |
| 47. Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.) | | 106 |
| 48. North Chennai TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited) | | 525 |
| 49. Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company) | | 1320 |
| 50. Vembar CCGT (Ms. India Power Projects Limited) | | 1873 |
| Kerala | | |
| 51. Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Ltd.) | | 679.2 |
| 52. Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.) | | 513 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---|---------|
| Orissa | | |
| 53. Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 and 6) (AES IB Valley Corp.) | | 500 |
| 54. Duburi TPP Units 1 and 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation) | | 500 |
| West Bengal | | |
| 55. Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Com.) | | 500 |
| 56.* Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.) | | 420 |
| 57.* Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Company) | | 150 |
| Bihar | | |
| 58. Jojobera TPP (M/s Jamshedpur Power Co.) | | 240 |
| Total | | 29614.5 |
| Total 58 projects (Hydro+Thermal) : 29614.5 MW | | |

* No longer pursued in the private sector. Transferred to State Sector.

@Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd., have informed that the PPA as well as Implementation agreement have been closed by the State Government.

[English]

Privatisation of DVC

1859. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maintenance work of all the thermal Power Stations of the Damodar Valley Corporation is being handed over to private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of workers are likely to be rendered surplus because of it; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of those surplus workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The maintenance works in Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) and Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) of Damodar Valley Corporation have been given to the private contractors, the details of which are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No employees of DVC has been declared surplus till date.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Station | Work Details | Contract Awarded to Agency | Date of Award of Contract |
|---------|---------|--|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | MTPS | C and I System (U-1) | M/s. KELTRON, Aroor, Kerala | 6.8.2001 |
| 2. | MTPS | C and I System (U-2) | M/s. SIEMENS, New Delhi. | 22.10.2001 |
| 3. | MTPS | Milling Plant | M/s. BHEL, Kolkata | 6.7.2001 |
| 4. | MTPS | Round the clock manning for operation of cabins/lock gates | Indian Railway Construction Co. New Delhi (Maintenance of Tracks and Control System) | 12.10.2001 |
| 5. | MTPS | Ash Handling Plant | M/s. DC Industrial Plants and Services Ltd. Kolkata | 29.5.2001 |
| 6. | MTPS | Coal Handling Plant | M/s. ESSAR ENGINEERS, KOLKATA. | 22.5.2001 |
| 7. | CTPS | Ash Handling Plant (O and M) | The INDURE PVT. LTD., New Delhi. | 5.5.2001 |

**Transportation of Coal from WCL
to UKAI TPS**

1860. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Railways for transportation of 50,000 Mt. of coal from WCL to UKAI TPS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Request was received from Gujarat Electricity Board for transportation of 50,000 tonnes of coal from Western Coalfield Ltd. (WCL). This was not accepted by Railways due to adverse financial implications and wastage of infrastructure created by Railways for transportation of coal from the traditional source of coal supply i.e. South Eastern Coalfield Limited to the Power Stations of Gujarat Electricity Board including Ukai. Railways have no problem in moving coal from Korea-Rewa or Korba field of South Eastern Coalfield Limited to Ukai TPS.

T and D Losses in SEBs

1861. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards have not provided the accurate figure about the reduction in transmission and distribution losses;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ensure that such stations are based on the authentic data;

(c) the details of the latest position of T and D losses of different States, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the T and D losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) In the absence of 100% metering, it has been found that the transmission and distribution loss figures reported by the States are, at best, estimates. The details of latest figures of transmission and distribution losses are given in Statement enclosed. Central Electricity Authority have issued Guidelines for reduction of transmission and distribution losses in February, 2001. The steps taken to reduce the transmission and distribution losses include energy auditing, 100% metering, elimination of power theft and strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system. The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) has been initiated in 63 distribution circles, which will be developed as centres of excellence. Guidelines have also been formulated by a Steering Committee of Experts to streamline the sub-transmission and distribution systems and ensure more reliable figures of energy generated and applied.

Statement

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

| Region/SEB/ED | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Northern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Haryana | 26.78 | 25.00 | 30.80 | 32.39 | 32.77 | 34.04 | 35.33 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 19.51 | 18.31 | 18.21 | 16.09 | 18.02 | 20.13 | 26.11 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 48.28 | 45.69 | 48.74 | 47.52 | 48.27 | 49.95 | 47.64 |
| Punjab | 19.24 | 19.37 | 16.70 | 18.49 | 19.10 | 18.94 | 18.11 |
| Rajasthan | 22.74 | 25.00 | 24.78 | 29.27 | 26.28 | 26.41 | 29.53 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 24.43 | 24.08 | 21.69 | 21.84 | 24.84 | 26.18 | 30.23 |
| Chandigarh | 26.21 | 27.27 | 28.44 | 33.72 | 21.88 | 22.38 | 22.48 |
| DVB (Delhi) | 23.56 | 31.79 | 34.56 | 48.57 | 49.08 | 47.91 | 43.71 |
| Western Region : | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | 22.03 | 20.34 | 20.02 | 20.08 | 17.14 | 21.57 | 20.83 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 21.35 | 20.26 | 19.61 | 17.84 | 19.24 | 19.58 | 19.87 |
| Maharashtra | 17.83 | 16.22 | 16.33 | 16.95 | 16.55 | 18.75 | 18.41 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 17.98 | 12.64 | 11.35 | 09.31 | 08.80 | 12.90 | 15.37 |
| Goa | 21.85 | 24.50 | 26.87 | 26.06 | 23.05 | 31.02 | 30.40 |
| Daman and Diu | 15.67 | 22.34 | 16.30 | 12.80 | 08.15 | 14.69 | 21.83 |
| Southern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 19.88 | 19.91 | 17.95 | 19.34 | 33.19 | 32.14 | 34.09 |
| Karnataka | 19.55 | 19.55 | 19.41 | 19.06 | 18.73 | 19.31 | 30.45 |
| Kerala | 21.95 | 20.00 | 20.05 | 21.12 | 20.59 | 18.73 | 17.18 |
| Tamil Nadu | 17.50 | 17.18 | 17.11 | 16.19 | 17.65 | 17.29 | 17.22 |
| Lakshadweep | 18.72 | 16.99 | 17.84 | 17.23 | 15.11 | 15.70 | 12.78 |
| Pondicherry | 15.31 | 15.80 | 15.00 | 16.54 | 17.38 | 13.56 | 10.44 |
| Eastern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Bihar | 22.00 | 20.35 | 19.76 | 15.91 | 25.31 | 16.26 | 24.80 |
| Orissa (GRIDCO) | 25.25 | 22.43 | 23.03 | 24.17 | 50.15 | 50.10 | 36.72 |
| Sikkim | 22.55 | 22.60 | 21.22 | 16.47 | 29.24 | 22.87 | 12.44 |
| West Bengal | 24.87 | 20.82 | 21.51 | 19.26 | 18.01 | 19.67 | 23.73 |
| A and N Island | 23.62 | 23.71 | 22.38 | 19.25 | 19.15 | 20.59 | 20.03 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| North Eastern Region : | | | | | | | |
| Assam | 21.41 | 22.44 | 24.18 | 26.91 | 25.97 | 27.32 | 38.72 |
| Manipur | 22.35 | 23.92 | 25.30 | 24.85 | 22.95 | 21.09 | 59.55 |
| Meghalaya | 11.79 | 18.03 | 18.47 | 12.55 | 19.75 | 12.28 | 19.66 |
| Nagaland | 27.26 | 33.45 | 36.12 | 35.17 | 26.81 | 29.79 | 26.52 |
| Tripura | 30.64 | 30.53 | 31.96 | 30.86 | 30.11 | 31.11 | 26.82 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 32.32 | 42.04 | 45.30 | 37.12 | 32.62 | 34.10 | 30.60 |
| Mizoram | 29.04 | 31.89 | 29.76 | 25.18 | 34.35 | 46.84 | 44.79 |
| All India (Utilities) | 21.80 | 21.41 | 21.13 | 22.27 | 24.53 | 24.79 | 26.45 |

Dues to Railways from Power Plants

1862. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bankrupt State Electricity Boards make a kill out of Railway Kitty" appearing in the "Times of India" dated February 1, 2002;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken the matter with the different SEBs in regard to special rate of SEB for supply of power to Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total loss suffered by Railways in regard to difference in the rate of electricity to Railways and other commercial organisations in the respective States, state-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make the losses good ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of the action taken by this Ministry in regard to purchase of power for electric traction are as under :-

(i) Power supply authorities are being constantly persuaded to reduce tariff to make it reasonable.

(ii) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have been set up in 13 States. In 11 States, the zonal Railways have approached SERCs. During current financial year after successful presentations, reduction of 1 to 4% in tariff has been achieved in UP, Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh there has been no increase in tariff. It has also been possible to limit the increase in two States i.e. Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) Taking recourse to legal action wherever considered inescapable.

(d) Details of the differential payment made to States due to higher traction tariff being charged by SEBs in comparison to the industrial and commercial organization are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) In addition to the steps taken as mentioned in part (c) of the reply following actions are also being taken to reduce the electric traction fuel bill of Railways :-

(i) Availing of direct power supply from Central Generating Agencies such as National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

(ii) Exploring possibility of setting up of captive power plants through joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).

Statement

*Differential Payment made to States due to Higher Traction Tariffs being charged by
State Electricity Boards in the Year 2000-2001*

| S. No. | State | Average cost per unit for Industrial tariff (in Rs.) @ | Average cost per unit for commercial tariff (in Rs.) @ | Average cost per unit for Railway traction (in Rs.) | Difference in the average unit cost for railway traction and industrial tariff | Difference in the average unit cost for railway traction and commercial tariff | Energy consumed in Million units | Differential payment made to States by Railways due to higher traction tariffs than Industrial tariff (In crores of Rs.) | Differential payment made to States by Railways due to higher traction tariffs than commercial tariff (In crores of Rs.) |
|--------|--|--|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3.99 | 4.26 | 4.54 | 0.55 | 0.28 | 928.78 | 51.08 | 26.01 |
| 2. | Bihar including State of Jharkhand | 2.75 | 2.23 | 4.6 | 1.85 | 2.37 | 487.62 | 90.21 | 115.57 |
| 3. | Delhi | 3.67 | 4.01 | 4.44 | 0.77 | 0.43 | 106.1 | 8.17 | 4.56 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 4.34 | 4.3 | 4.95 | 0.61 | 0.65 | 382.2 | 23.31 | 24.84 |
| 5. | Haryana | 4.45 | 4.3 | 4.19 | -0.26 | -0.11 | 167.7 | -4.36 | -1.84 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 4.38 | 6.8 | 4.16 | -0.22 | -2.64 | 31.1 | -0.68 | -8.21 |
| 7. | Kerala | 2.78 | 4.58 | 1.9 | -0.88 | -2.68 | 42.16 | -3.71 | -11.30 |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 2.02 | 4.17 | 4.22 | 2.2 | 0.05 | 815.78 | 179.47 | 4.08 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh including State of Chhattisgarh | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.74 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 1504.75 | 96.30 | 96.30 |
| 10. | Orissa | NA | NA | 3.74 | 0 | 0 | 201.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 11. | Punjab | 2.83 | 3.38 | 4.1 | 1.27 | 0.72 | 50.87 | 6.46 | 3.66 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 3.21 | 3.1 | 4.14 | 0.93 | 1.04 | 225.67 | 20.99 | 23.47 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 3.85 | 3.97 | 4.12 | 0.27 | 0.15 | 462.13 | 12.48 | 6.93 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 4.23 | 3.13 | 4.38 | 0.15 | 1.25 | 847.86 | 12.72 | 105.98 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 3.46 | 2.45 | 3.69 | 0.23 | 1.24 | 513.42 | 11.81 | 63.66 |
| Total | | | | | | | | 504.25 | 453.72 |

Purchasing of Power from Bhutan

1863. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhutan is keen on Indian participation in two major hydroelectric power projects with a potential of generating 1,000 MW;

(b) whether Bhutan's largest hydroelectric power plant, the 360 MW Chhukha project on the Wangchu river was built by India on a turnkey basis at a cost of Rs. 2.47 billion;

(c) if so, whether the Government are funding the existing projects in Bhutan;

(d) if so, whether Bhutan is selling its surplus power to India;

(e) if so, whether any agreement have been reached between the two countries regarding India's funding to Bhutan and India's power purchase from Bhutan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which power purchase from Bhutan is helpful to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (g) Chukha hydro electric Project (4×84 = 336 MW) in Bhutan was set up in 1986-88 with technical and financial assistance of the Government of India at a cost of Rs. 246 crores. Tala hydro electric project (6×170 = 1020 MW) and Kurichu hydro electric Project (4×15 = 60 MW) are presently under execution in Bhutan with Indian assistance. Three units of 15 MW each of Kurichu hydro electric Project have since been commissioned. The surplus power from the commissioned hydro projects is being supplied to India at mutually agreed rates in the Eastern Region to meet its peaking demand.

Proposal for Setting Up of Power Project in Kannur

1864. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority (CEA) received a proposal for setting up a power project in Kannur by power company headed by Mr. KPP Nambiar;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the status of the project ?

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

(b) The details of the project are as follows :

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Name of the Project | Kannur Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Project. |
| Name of the Generating Company | M/s. Kannur Power Projects Pvt. Ltd., promoted by M/s KPP Nambiar and Associates. |
| Capacity | 513 MW |
| Location | Kalliasseri and Pappinissery Panchyats in Kannur District in the State of Kerala |
| Type of Fuel | Naptha/LNG |
| Estimated completed cost | US\$ 210.010 Million + Rs. 587.971 crores at a foreign exchange rate of Rs. 42.00/US\$ |

(c) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in February 2000 accorded Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) to the project. Land has been acquired. The project can be implemented only after all the pending inputs are tied up and financial closure is achieved by the project.

Encroachment of Land

1865. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether approximately 30,000 acres of land belonging to the Army has been encroached upon by land mafia;

(b) if so, the area of the land encroached upon by the land mafia, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to remove such encroachments from the Army land;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has issued any guidelines to the Government in this regards and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) An area of approximately 3369.12 acres of Defence land under the management of Army has been encroached upon by various individuals/private

parties etc. at different points of time. The State-wise details of these encroachments are not available.

Directions have been issued to the concerned authorities to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants), Act, 1971. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and their removal is subject to court orders.

(e) and (f) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide their order dated 6.2.2002 in CWP No. 3761/2000 relating to encroachment of Defence land has directed the Government and Defence Estates to ensure that all efforts are made as and when encroachments are noticed and to see that appropriate action in accordance with Law is initiated in time and continued and completed expeditiously.

Setting Up of Solar Power Plants

1866. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals for setting up of Solar Power Plants received by the Union Government from various States during the last three years and the estimated cost of each project, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the details of proposals approved by the Union Government during the said period with the estimated cost of each project, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency of some proposals for Solar Power Plants for a long period; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to clear the pending proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) Each year, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources receives proposals for setting up solar power plants from the State renewable energy agencies and departments. The proposals are examined and sanctioned if they fit into the Ministry's guidelines for setting up such projects. Financial assistance is provided to the extent permitted under the relevant schemes and subject to the availability of budgetary resources. Some proposals are not sanctioned or remain pending due to lack of State share of funds, lack of technical details, etc. Year-wise and State-wise details of the proposal received from various State agencies during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 including the estimated cost of each project and the status of sanction and implementation are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of Solar Power Plant Proposals received from State Agencies during last three years and their Status

1998-99

| S. No. | State/UT | Location | Nos. and capacity kWp | | Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs) | Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs) | Status |
|--------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | | | Nos. | kWp | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Assam | Laisong Village, Impoi Area, NC Hills District | 1 | 1.5 | 6.94 | 3.10 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | Himurja Office, Shimla | 1 | 1.5 | 9.00 | 3.10 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 3. | Jammu and Kashmir | Primary Health Centres in four Districts | 4 | 4x8.40 | not indicated | 67.60 | Sanctioned but not Installed |
| 4. | Kerala | Kanjalkoda-Palakkad | 1 | 100 | 256 | — | Not sanctioned |
| 5. | Punjab | Gurudwaras at Keshgarh Sahib, Keeratpur Sahib, and Anandgarh Sahib | 3 | 3x5.00 | 57.00 | 28.80 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| | | Village Bajak, Bhatinda | 1 | 50 | 180 | 100 | Sanctioned and Installed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----|-------------|---|---|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| 6. | West Bengal | 3 Villages i.e. Natendrapur, Uttarhardhanpur and Mandir Tala in Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas | 3 | 3×28.5 | 209.75 | 105.17 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| | | Bikalpa Shakti Bhawan Kolkata | 1 | 25 | 83 | 50 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 7. | Chandigarh | Punjab Mini-Secretariat, Chandigarh | 1 | 50 | 178 | 100 | Sanctioned and Installed |

1999-2000

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|---|--------|---------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Himachal Pradesh | KEE Monastory District – Lahaul and Spiti | 2 | 2×5.00 | Not indicated | 20.20 | Sanctioned, but not Installed |
| 2. | Karnataka | Nagasandra Bangalore | 3 | 3×3.00 | | 18.30 | Sanctioned and under Installation |
| 3. | Maharashtra | Chalkewadi District – Satara | 1 | 25 | 82.00 | – | Not sanctioned |
| | | Kondalwadi, Biloli District – Nanded | 1 | 100 | 335 | – | Not sanctioned |
| 4. | Orissa | Interim Test Range Balasore | 2 | 2×1.50 | 9.14 | 4.77 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 5. | West Bengal | Mousani Island, Sunderan region South 24 Parganas | 1 | 55.00 | 178.00 | 70.39 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | Shakti Bhawan Lucknow | 1 | 25.00 | 80 | – | Not sanctioned |

2000-01

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|---|----------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Secretariat Annexe – Hyderabad | 1 | 50 | 150 | – | Not sanctioned |
| | | CM's residence Hyderabad | 1 | 50 | 150 | – | Not sanctioned |
| | | Raj Bhawan Hyderabad | 1 | 25 | 85 | – | Not sanctioned |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | Kambang Village West Siang District, New Elope Village Bulang Valley District, New Aloni Village Dulang Valley District | 3 | 4.50, 2.50, and 2.20 | 36.05 | 32.50 | Sanctioned and under Installation |
| 3. | Assam | Umananda Island Guwahati; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Hostel Sonitpur District | 3 | 3×1.50 | 14.87 | 7.28 | Sanctioned installed at Umananda, others under installation |
| 4. | Haryana | TCP/TERI Gwalpahari Gurgaon | 1 | 50 | 150 | – | Not Sanctioned |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|-------------------|---|----|-------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | Lalok Residential School, Durbuk Block, Leh | 1 | 4.9 | 20.84 | — | Clarifications sought |
| 6. | Karnataka | Poorna Prajna Schools at 5 locations in Karnataka | 5 | 5×1.184 | 24.75 | 11.84 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 7. | Kerala | 11 remote SC/ST Colonies in Idukki, MPM, Palakkad, TCR, Thiruvananthapuram Districts | 11 | 40.04 total | 174.33 | 81.18 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| | | Legislature Secretariat | 1 | 100 | 299 | 199 | Sanctioned and Under Installation |
| 8. | Meghalaya | 14 tribal and remote villages in South Garo hills, East Garo hills, West Garo hills, Ri-Bhoi, Jaintia hills, West Khasi hills, East Khasi hills Districts | 14 | 35.5 total | 216.00 | 71.00 | Sanctioned, yet to be installed |
| 9. | Mizoram | Civil Hospital, Aizwal; De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre, Siloam Centre; TNT Kalvari Hospital, Zuangtui; Maternity Centre, Kulikawan | 4 | 4×25 | 290.68 | 261.12 | Sanctioned, yet to be installed |
| 10. | Orissa | Tourist Complex, Atri, District Mayurbhanj | 1 | 25 | — | — | Revised proposal awaited |
| 11. | Punjab | Village — Khatkarkalan, District — Nawashahar | 1 | 200 | 600 | 383 | Sanctioned and Under Installation |
| 12. | Rajasthan | RICO Building, Jaipur | 1 | 25 | 74 | — | Not sanctioned |
| | | State Secretariat Building, Jaipur | 1 | 25 | 74 | 46 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| | | New Rajasthan Vidhan Bhawan Jaipur | 1 | 25 | 85.00 | 46 | Sanctioned and Installed |
| 13. | Tamilnadu | SISI Building, Chennai | 1 | 52 | 295.00 | — | Not yet sanctioned |
| | | CECRI, Karakikudi | 2 | 2×1.00 | 9.00 | — | Not yet sanctioned |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | Secretariat Annexe Building, Lucknow | 1 | 25 | 80 | 47 | Sanctioned, not yet installed |
| | | IREP Training Centre Lucknow | 1 | 25 | 89 | — | Not yet sanctioned |
| 15. | West Bengal | Gosaba Island | 1 | 50 | 129 | — | Not yet sanctioned |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------|---------|---|
| 16. | Lakshadweep Islands | Bitra Island | — | 25 Capacity Addition | 219.80 | 50.00 | Sanctioned and Under Installation |
| | | Bangaram Island | — | 40 Capacity Addition | 180.20 | 80.00 | Sanctioned and Under Installation |
| | | Agatti Island | 1 | 100 | 1841.00 | 1227.00 | Sanctioned, Installed at Agatti and under installation at other islands |
| | | Amini Island | 1 | 100 | | | |
| | | Andrott Island | 1 | 100 | | | |
| | | Chetlat Island | 1 | 100 | | | |
| | | Kadmat Island | 1 | 150 | | | |
| | | Kalpeni Island | 1 | 100 | | | |
| | | Kavaratti Island | 1 | 100 | | | |
| 17. | Chandigarh | PEDA Office Building, Chandigarh | 1 | 25 | 80 | 47 | Sanctioned and Under Installation. |

[Translation]

Target for Earning Profit in Railway Units

1867. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for earning profit in the units under the railways; and

(b) if so, the total profit earned or loss suffered during the last three years, year-wise/unit-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) The profitability of the units under Railways viz., zonal railways is judged by the operating ratio which is the ratio of the Total Working Expenses of the Railway to the Gross Traffic Receipts. The operating ratio achieved by the zonal railways during the last three years vis-a-vis the budgeted target is as under :

| Railways | 1998-99 | | 1999-2000 | | 2000-01 | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| | BE | Act. | BE | Act. | BE | Act. |
| Central | 89.6% | 89.2% | 87.4% | 89.3% | 94.4% | 92.6% |
| Eastern | 101.9% | 111.1% | 104.0% | 112.8% | 119.1% | 121.4% |
| Northern | 89.5% | 88.8% | 88.6% | 83.2% | 88.3% | 90.1% |
| North Eastern | 176.4% | 148.9% | 157.7% | 152.7% | 159.8% | 156.6% |
| Northeast Frontier | 241.6% | 203.2% | 223.0% | 202.1% | 234.5% | 208.2% |
| Southern | 109.7% | 114.3% | 110.8% | 114.7% | 123.5% | 120.8% |
| South Central | 85.4% | 83.4% | 83.4% | 85.6% | 90.6% | 86.4% |
| South Eastern | 71.7% | 76.6% | 77.7% | 76.5% | 82.4% | 78.5% |
| Western | 74.7% | 78.7% | 74.4% | 81.5% | 82.1% | 88.7% |
| All Railways | 91.2% | 93.3% | 91.6% | 93.3% | 98.8% | 98.3% |

Expansion of Stations

1868.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations in view of the heavy traffic on those stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (c) Expansion of facilities at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin are sanctioned works. Additional terminal facilities are being constructed at these stations. The latest anticipated costs of the important works, outlays expected to end of 2001-02 and outlay proposed for 2002-03 are given below :—

| S. No. | Name of the Work | Latest Anticipated Cost | Outlay Expected to the end of 2001-02 | Outlay Proposed for 2002-03 | Status |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| (Rupees in Crores) | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | New Delhi : Development of Station – Phase-III | 16.09 | 15.09 | 1.00 | The work is in advanced state of progress |
| 2. | New Delhi : Development of Station – Phase-IV | 26.08 | 11.55 | 7.36 | The work is in progress |
| 3. | Hazrat Nizamuddin : Additions and alternations in Coaching Yard | 15.69 | 2.76 | 2.50 | The work is in progress |
| 4. | New Delhi – Station building | 50.00 | 0.77 | 1.00 | The work is in progress |
| 5. | Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin – Upgradation of passenger amenities in connection with model station | 1.04 | 0.01 | 0.40 | The work is in progress |

Any additional facility needed will be considered as and when required.

Uttaranchal Khabarsar Programme

1869.SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether her Ministry is contemplating to telecast Uttaranchal Khabarsar Programme on daily basis in place of every Sunday;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be telecast; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Doordarshan is not contemplating to telecast a programme under the title 'Uttaranchal Khabarsar'.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointment on Martial Community

1870.SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the process of recruitment of officers and soldiers in all the three wings of the Defence forces, a misconception over the martial community has been existing since the British period itself as people belonging to some particular castes in each cadre, have made their stronghold at all levels of the defence forces;

(b) whether due to caste based prejudices, the majority of officers who make recruitment and are having a perverted attitude towards this misconception of a "martial community".

(c) whether the Government propose to provide sufficient jobs to brave, fearless and hardworking people

belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes and those of the deprived castes in the defence forces through a Special Recruitment Drive without consideration of castes; and

(d) if so, the time by which the recruitment drive is likely to be taken place ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the country including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Class candidates without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. The basic objective of the Recruitment Policy of the Armed Forces is to obtain the best manpower from the youth of the country while at the same time giving equal opportunity to all citizens of India to join the Armed Forces.

No Special Recruitment Drive based on caste/tribes is intended.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Poor Contract Management

1871. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to poor contract management loss of crores of rupees have been incurred to the Railways;

(b) if so, whether such losses were enquired into and the action taken against the persons responsible for it and to bring in the concept of fixing responsibility and accountability in the discharge of duties by the Government officials and officials of the cooperative societies charged with the responsibility of selling stationery etc. to the Government offices;

(c) whether the CAG had taken up with the Railway Board a case of loss of Rs. 1.03 crores in October, 1998 as reported in CAG report No. 9 of 1999 on pages 105-107; and

(d) if so, the details of reply sent to the CAG in response to audit observations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) The contracts are managed within the frame work

of laid down procedure and rules. In C&AG Report of 9 of 1999 a case for loss of Rs. 1.03 crore in Oct. '98 due to inefficient contract management was reported. However, there is no failure of any individual. Northeast Frontier Railway has advised all field units about procedure to be followed for issuing railway materials to the contractors. Proper monitoring is being done at zonal railway level to recover amount from outstanding dues of the contractors wherever recovery is due.

Apart from the above, there are 32 paras included in Chapter-3 of C and AG's Report No. 9 of 1999 (Railways). As per laid down procedure, Action Taken Notes on para included in C and AG's Report, duly vetted by Audit, are submitted to the Public Account Committee.

Schools in the Campus of Ramagundam TPP

1872. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some schools in the campus of the NTPC – Ramagundam;

(b) if so, under whose financial control these schools are in operation;

(c) whether there is any possibility of bringing all of them under one administrative control; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are five schools in the campus of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Ramagundam. The details of the schools and their financial control are given below :

1. **Kendriya Vidyalaya** – The school is run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, under the Ministry of Human Resources Development. The School is funded by NTPC, Ramagundam. The school runs classes from 1st to 12th in the CBSE stream/pattern.
2. **St. Claire Convent** – The school is run by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary comprising classes from LKG to Class X in the State stream/pattern. The St. Claire Convent is a State Government recognize unaided self-financing institute with no NTPC financial involvement on account of recurring/revenue expenditure.

3. **Chinmaya Vidyalaya** – Chinmaya Vidyalaya is run by the Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai, has classes from KG to Intermediate. The school is in the State stream/pattern and is self-financing with no NTPC financial involvement on account of recurring/revenue expenditure.
4. **The Zilla Parishad School** – The school which has classes from 6th to 10th in Telugu Medium is run by the Zilla Parishad with no NTPC financial involvement.
5. **Central Primary School** – The School is having classes from Class I to V in Telugu Medium and is run by the Mandal Praja Parishad of Ramagundam (State Government). The school does not charge fees.

However, the school buildings and other infrastructure is provided by NTPC and no recurring expenditure is met by NTPC except in the case of Kendriya Vidyalaya.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Taking into account the media of instructions in these schools, the language preferences of students and preferences for State syllabus and CBSE syllabus it may not be practical to bring them under one administrative control.

Income Generated from Disposal of Scrap Materials

1873. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the income generated through the disposal of scrap materials by Railways during the last three years, division-wise;

(b) whether a huge stock of scrap material is lying with the Railways at the moment and the tenders have not been finalised so far in various Divisions/Zones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) :
(a) A statement is attached.

(b) No huge stocks of scrap are lying on Railways awaiting finalisation of tenders. Scrap is generally disposed off by conducting auctions.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The disposal of scrap is arranged by Railways at convenient locations and not division-wise. The income generated through the disposal of scrap materials during the last three years by Zonal Railways are given below :-

| (Value in crores of Rs.) | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Railways | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 (upto Feb. 02) |
| Central | 183.12 | 187.65 | 137.21 |
| Eastern | 93.60 | 102.65 | 92.63 |
| Northern | 140.06 | 159.51 | 119.55 |
| North Eastern | 40.12 | 43.44 | 36.98 |
| Northeast Frontier | 16.60 | 12.90 | 8.54 |
| Southern | 70.00 | 77.11 | 75.57 |
| South Central | 76.27 | 65.50 | 69.12 |
| South Eastern | 158.17 | 168.66 | 148.20 |
| Western | 90.50 | 101.16 | 70.15 |
| All Production Units | 29.98 | 30.69 | 27.69 |
| Total | 898.12 | 949.27 | 775.64 |

Placing of Orders for Cylinders by Oil Marketing Companies

1874. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Government have received the representations from some cylinder manufacturers who have qualified in the present tender for upliftment of such type of cylinders having little change in the design of cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in placing orders to them ?

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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received the representations from 11 manufacturers who have qualified in the present tender and had manufactured some

cylinders as per old design before the tender was floated. The OMCs have taken 'in-principle' decision to accept such cylinders from the concerned manufacturers after recovering appropriate differential amount in costs. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has already placed the orders on such manufacturers.

Impact of Liberalization Trade Policy on Iron and Steel

1875. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalization of India's trade policy the import and export of iron and steel materials have undergone sweeping change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact observed in the country's economy following change in the policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Liberalization has substantially enhanced international competitiveness of Indian steel in the global export markets and exports from India have increased from 0.310 million tons to 3 million tons between 1992 and 2001. Further, the composition of the export basket has also undergone a change with the emphasis shifting to more value added products. Imports, have remained more or less in the vicinity of the pre-reforms level ranging between 1 to 2 million tons per annum.

(c) The change in policy has had an overall positive impact on the economy. Large scale fresh investments in the private sector have resulted in creation of capacities based on State of the art technologies. Liberalization induced competitiveness in the sector has also led to investments for modernization and capacity additions in the existing steel plants.

Solar Power for Taj Mahal's Protection

1876. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to provide solar power within four months to four air quality monitoring stations in Agra to protect the historic Taj Mahal from environmental pollution;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has been asked to supply both the technology as well as fund for setting up solar power centres;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has agreed to implement the directive of the Supreme Court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) There are two air quality monitoring laboratories in the Taj Mahal Complex. One laboratory is being run by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and the other by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); the latter was until recently run by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB).

The Supreme Court, in the course of hearing a petition relating to the impact of air pollution on the Taj Mahal, has directed the ASI, CPCB and UPPCB, vide its order dated 27th November, 2001, to install solar energy systems to power the essential equipment at the air quality monitoring stations. The Court has also directed that of the time being the Central Government should meet the cost of using this technology.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is coordinating the efforts for setting up the solar photovoltaic power plants for meeting the essential loads at both of these laboratories. Meetings were organized with all concerned organizations and project reports were got prepared for installing solar systems at the two laboratories. The estimates were also sanctioned and appropriate advice has been given to ASI and CPCB. The Ministry has also offered to meet a part of the cost of the solar power plants out of its resources and rest of cost to come from ASI and CPCB. The work is likely to be completed within 10 weeks of the placement of order and providing a clear site for the installation.

Aluminium Caskets

1877. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI E. AHAMED :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister has written a letter to all Members of Parliament along with a booklet written by R.V. Pandit regarding aluminium caskets bought by the Defence Ministry in 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government's sending an individual opinion against the CAG to all MPs flouts all norms, decorums and practices followed by parliamentary democracy, Defence in particular;

(c) whether there is any precedent for forwarding the findings of an individual who castigated the CAG – the Government's own organisation; and

(d) if not, what prompted the Minister to do so?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Raksha Mantri has written a letter to all the Members of Parliament, forwarding therewith a book titled 'THE WHOLE TRUTH WITH ALL THE DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE ALUMINIUM CASKET BOUGHT BY THE DEFENCE MINISTRY IN 1999-2000' written by Shri R.V. Pandit. This book was a journalistic endeavour of Shri Pandit and the views expressed in the book are of Shri Pandit himself.

2. Shri Pandit in this book castigates the Army and the Ministry of Defence for making minor mistakes in writing the contract for the purchase of the caskets.

3. In his letter, the Raksha Mantri has mentioned that Shri Pandit may appear to be harsh to the CAG and the Press but as one reads the booklet, it becomes obvious that he is deeply concerned about the Press (with which he is involved for more than 50 years and how it conducts itself presently) and about the institutions created under the Constitution and how they function currently. The letter also points out that now it was conclusively proved in the booklet by Shri Pandit, that the CAG Report was not entirely factual, and the Times of India report was highly exaggerated, and in parts untruthful.

[Translation]

Incident of Fire at Patratu Thermal Power Station

1878. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an incident of fire at Patratu Thermal Power Station of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss caused as a result thereof?

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

(b) As reported by Jharkhand State Electricity Board, there was an incident of fire at Patratu TPS on

9.1.2002 which started at 17.40 hrs. in the cable gallery of unit control room of Units 1 and 2. The fire was controlled at about 20.00 hrs. and was completely quenched by 00.30 hrs. of 10.1.2002. The control room and cable gallery of Units 1 and 2 were completely burnt. One circuit breaker was damaged. The generator transformers No. 2 and 3 and station transformers have also been partially damaged due to flashing.

(e) A loss of about Rs. 50 crores has been estimated by the Jharkhand State Electricity Board.

[English]

Suspension of Oil Coordination Committee

1879. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil Co-ordination Committee is being suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether demolition of OCC is the follow up of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (AMP) for petroleum sector; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the supply of retail products such as petrol, diesel, kerosene for public distribution system and domestic LPG be co-ordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Oil Coordination Committee will stand abolished with effect from 1st April 2002 with dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism.

(d) After the dismantling of the APM, the supply of petroleum products in various parts of the country would be ensured by :

(i) Oil companies entering into product exchange/hospitality arrangements on commercial basis.

(ii) Regulator ensuring enforcement of marketing service obligations by the entities and retail service obligations by their dealers/distributors.

(iii) Issuance of directions by the Government to the regulator or the entities in the emergent situations.

Electronic Voting Machines

1880. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government use electronic voting machines in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections including bye-elections;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has been used till date;

(c) the years by which the said procedures would be completed; and

(d) the details of the programme of the Government in the next Lok Sabha elections ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that the electronic voting machines were used in 4,03,508 polling stations spread over different States/Union territories in various elections conducted from November, 1998 onwards. A Statement showing the States and elections where electronic voting machines were used is enclosed.

(c) and (d) According to the Election Commission of India, a million (10 lakhs) electronic voting machines are required for conducting the Parliamentary elections. The Commission, at present, has a stock of 2,83,800 electronic voting machines and it has placed order for procurement of additional electronic voting machines in the current financial year within the allocated budget of Rs. 14.29 crores. It will be endeavour of the Government to make provision for procurement of more electronic voting machines so that the next general elections to the Lok Sabha are held with the electronic voting machines.

Statement*Use of Electronic Voting Machines**General Elections to State Legislative Assemblies 1998*

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Madhya Pradesh | 5 | 1,149 | 1,724 |
| Rajasthan | 5 | 1,070 | 1,605 |
| Delhi | 6 | 711 | 1,062 |
| | 16 | 2,930 | 4,391 |

Bye-elections to State Legislative Assemblies held in February 1999

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Madhya Pradesh | 2 | 318 | 477 |
| Rajasthan | 1 | 197 | 296 |
| Delhi | 2 | 264 | 396 |
| | 5 | 779 | 1,169 |

General Elections to Goa Legislative Assembly held in June 1999

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used including 50% kept in reserve |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Goa | 40 | 1,135 | 1,702 |
| Total | 40 | 1,135 | 1,702 |

General Elections to Lok Sabha and Five State Assemblies and Bye-elections held in September - October 1999

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lok Sabha | 45- PC | 62,362 | 77,852 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 14 | 3,705 | 4,631 |
| Karnataka | 24 | 5,351 | 6,689 |
| Maharashtra | 24 | 5,156 | 6,445 |
| West Bengal | 1 | 108 | 135 |
| Pondicherry | 1 | 12 | 15 |
| Total | 45- PC & 64 | 76,694 | 95,767 |

General Elections to Four State Assemblies and Bye-elections held in February 2000

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used including 25% kept in reserve |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Haryana | 45 | 8,077 | 10,096 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| Orissa | 10 | 2,339 | 2,924 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1-PC, 8-AC | 3,655 | 4,569 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1 | 204 | 255 |
| Gujarat | 2 | 382 | 478 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 4 | 696 | 870 |
| Maharashtra | 1 | 122 | 153 |
| Punjab | 1 | 178 | 223 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1 | 225 | 281 |
| Total | 1-PC and 73 | 15,881 | 19,759 |

Bye elections held in May – June 20000

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMS used including 25% kept in reserve |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Orissa | 1-PC | 1,466 | 1,833 |
| West Bengal | 1-AC | 1,310 | 1,638 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2-AC | 499 | 623 |
| Haryana | 1-AC | 170 | 213 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1-AC | 141 | 176 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1-AC | 232 | 290 |
| Pondicherry | 1-AC | 18 | 23 |
| Total | | 3,836 | 4,896 |

Bye-elections held in September 2000

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMS used including 25% kept in reserve |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Rajasthan | 1-PC (7-Dausa) | 1,556 | 1,945 |
| | 1-AC (12-Lunkaransar) | 383 | 479 |
| Gujarat | 1-AC (74-Shahar-Kotda) | 120 | 150 |
| Karnataka | 1-AC (208-Kagwad) | 158 | 198 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Madhya Pradesh | 1-AC (209-Lakhnandon) | 171 | 214 |
| Maharashtra | 1-AC (280-Shahuwadi) | 161 | 201 |
| Punjab | 1-AC (88-Sunam) | 147 | 186 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1-AC (338-Karhal) | 27 | 346 |
| Total | | 2,973 | 3,719 |

Bye-elections held in February, 2001

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMS used (including 10% reserve) |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Andhra Pradesh | 2-AC | 355 | 390 |
| Rajasthan | 1-AC | 169 | 186 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3-AC | 999 | 1,100 |
| Punjab | 1-AC | 134 | 148 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1-AC | 166 | 183 |
| Total | | 1,823 | 2,007 |

General Elections to State Assemblies held in May, 2001 and bye-elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, 2001

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMS used (including 10% reserve) |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Kerala (GE) | 140-AC | 23,010 | 25,310 |
| Tamil Nadu (GE) | 234-AC | 56,220 | 62,000 |
| West Bengal (GE) | 294-AC | 62,000 | 68,200 |
| Pondicherry (GE) | 30-AC | 778 | 855 |
| Assam (GE) | 4-AC | 733 | 806 |
| Uttar Pradesh (Bye) | 1-PC | 1,471 | 1,618 |
| Total | | 1,43,212 | 1,57,809 |

*Bye-elections to Lok Sabha and State
Assemblies held in September, 2001*

| State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMS used (including 10% reserve) |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Gujarat | 1-PC and 1-AC | 1,728 | 1,900 |
| Rajasthan | 1-PC | 1,451 | 1,596 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2-AC | 340 | 373 |
| Maharashtra | 2-AC | 231 | 254 |
| Orissa | 1-AC | 190 | 209 |
| Assam | 2-AC | 246 | 270 |
| Total | | 4,186 | 4,602 |

EVMs used in General/Bye-elections February 2002

| S. No. | Name of State | No. of Constituencies | No. of Polling Stations | No. of EVMs used (including reserve) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Uttar Pradesh (GE) | 403 AC | 1,17,430 | 1,40,888 |
| 2. | Manipur (GE) | 06 AC | 176 | 194 |
| 3. | Uttaranchal (GE) | 70 AC | 6,631 | 9,900 |
| 4. | Punjab (GE) | 117 AC | 18,222 | 23,000 |
| 5. | Haryana (Bye) | 01 AC | 222 | 244 |
| 6. | Karnataka (Bye) | 01 PC | 3,008 | 3,308 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh (Bye) | 01 PC | 1,579 | 1,737 |
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh (Bye) | 01 PC | 1,429 | 1,572 |
| 9. | Maharashtra (Bye) | 01 AC | 259 | 285 |
| 10. | Tamil Nadu (Bye) | 01 AC | 230 | 253 |
| 11. | Rajasthan (Bye) | 01 AC | 145 | 160 |
| 12. | Gujarat (Bye) | 03 AC | 728 | 800 |
| Total | | | 1,50,059 | 1,82,341 |
| Grand Total : The EVMs were used in 4,03,508 polling stations | | | | |

Setting Up of Defence University

1881. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Defence University in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof;
- (c) whether the location has been identified for setting up the Defence University;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the said university is likely to be set up; and
- (f) the extent to which this university would be helpful to meet the shortage of manpower in Defence ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) The issue relating to setting up of a Defence University in the country is under examination by a Committee constituted for this purpose by the Government. Besides various issues, the Committee will identify the location for setting up of the Defence University, the amount of expenditure to be incurred in setting up of the University and also the composition and nature of students and participants. No time frame for its setting up has been fixed as yet.

Sale of Railway Property

1882. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to sell the Railway properties to augment the financial position of the Railways;
- (b) if so, whether any Railway property has been sold so far;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the amount received therefrom;
- (d) whether the Government have any plan to dispose the huge Railway properties at Bitragunta, Andhra Pradesh;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the manner in which the Government plan to utilize the 13 acres of land, 850 buildings and a large quantity of Railway equipments ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The land in question is a barren land far away from habitation. A steam loco shed was existing there, which has since been abandoned. No proposal has been formulated so far for alternative use of the said land and existing structures there.

Central Aid for Power Reforms

1883. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CEA for conditional central aid for reforms" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 3, 2002;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in regard to reforms in power distribution; and

(c) the details of assistance sought therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Distribution Reforms have been identified as the key area of reforms in power sector in the country. The main strategies identified in this regard are as follows :

1. Development of district level distribution improvement plans/projects for all districts.
2. Setting up of district level Energy Committees for monitoring and resource planning.
3. Development of 60 distribution circles as Centre of Excellence for distribution reform.
4. Hundred percent metering and effective Management Information System (MIS) for monitoring at feeder level, backed up by detailed energy audit to bring accountability into the system at all levels.
5. Taking high voltage lines up to the load centre to prevent theft of power and reduce technical losses.

6. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with States for undertaking distribution reforms in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India to achievement of pre-determined milestones (Twenty States have signed the MOUs so far).

Tariff nationalization by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). 17 States have set up SERCs and 12 of these SERCs have issued the first tariff orders.

Government of India has decided to support the States in their reform efforts. This support would be linked to time bound power reform initiatives in the States and achievements of definite milestones towards the restoration of financial viability of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities. In this connection, Government of India has launched an Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) under which financial assistance is given to States in the form of additional Central Plan Assistance for implementing schemes relating to upgradation and improvement of their sub-transmission and distribution systems, circle-wise. States have been categorized in the "special" and "non-special" categories for the purpose of assistance under APDP. For the special category States, assistance covering 100% of the project cost (90% grant and 10% loan) has been envisaged under the APDP. For the non-special category States, assistance covering 50% of the project cost (25% grant and 25% loan) has been envisaged under APDP and the remaining 50% may be obtained by them from Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)/own/other resources. During the year 2000-01 and 2001-02, the Government provided Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1500 crores respectively for assistance to schemes under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). In 2001-02, an assistance of Rs. 978 crores was sanctioned. In 2001-02 assistance for a number of schemes in various States has already been recommended to ensure utilization of the funds available under APDP. APDP has been extended during the 10th Plan with the outlay for the year 2002-03 being Rs. 3500 crores.

Introduction of 5 KG LPG Cylinders

1884. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce 5 KG LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the intention of the Government behind the move; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 Kg LPG cylinders primarily to increase the supply of LPG for domestic purpose to the low income customers in rural/urban areas and in hilly areas.

Power from State Electricity Boards

1885.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways presently draws power from State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details of the annual power requirement met by State Electricity Boards and the average cost of power charged, State-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have any plans to shift away from buying power from State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Power for traction is being purchased from 17 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and three Power Companies viz. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), TATA and National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., (NTPC)

(b) Details for the year 2000-2001 are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are as under :—

(i) Availing of direct power supply from Central Generating Agencies such as National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

(ii) Exploring possibility of setting up of captive power plants through joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).

Statement

Average Cost/Unit of Traction for various State Electricity Boards/Power Supply Authorities for the year 2000-2001

| S. No. | Name of SEBs | Energy consumed in Million units | Average cost per unit (in Rs.) |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation | 928.78 | 4.54 |
| 2. | Bihar State Electricity Board including State of Jharkhand | 487.62 | 4.60 |
| 3. | Delhi Vidyut Board | 106.10 | 4.44 |
| 4. | Gujarat State Electricity Board | 382.20 | 4.95 |
| 5. | Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam | 167.70 | 4.19 |
| 6. | Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. | 31.10 | 4.16 |
| 7. | Kerala State Electricity Board | 42.16 | 1.90 |
| 8. | Maharashtra State Electricity Board | 815.78 | 4.22 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board including State of Chattisgarh | 1504.75 | 4.74 |
| 10. | Grid Corporation of Orissa | 201.12 | 3.74 |
| 11. | Punjab State Electricity Board | 50.87 | 4.10 |
| 12. | Rajasthan State Electricity Board | 225.67 | 4.14 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---------|------|
| 13. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board | | 462.13 | 4.12 |
| 14. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. | | 847.86 | 4.38 |
| 15. West Bengal State Electricity Board | | 513.42 | 3.69 |
| 16. TATA in Mumbai area | | 672.19 | 3.82 |
| 17. Damodar Valley Corporation | | 387.58 | 3.57 |
| 18. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. | | 85.7 | 2.51 |
| Grand Total | | 7912.73 | 4.28 |

Indigenisation of Navy

1886. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'lack of facilities has hit indigenisation of Navy' appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 24, 2002;

(b) if so, whether there is a lack of modern facility at shipyards in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to modernise shipyards and to indigenise Navy ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Modernisation and development of shipyards viz-a-viz indigenisation of Indian Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology, naval platforms, the shipyards are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology to achieve greater indigenisation of the Navy.

HPCL Joint Venture with MRPL

1887. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to enquire into charges that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited management has deliberately manipulated its role in the management of MRPL;

(b) if so, whether the joint venture partner has brought to the notice of the Government on frequent occasions that they are not getting civil cooperation from the top management of the HPCL;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to ensure that public sector oil companies like HPCL performed their role and implemented the Government policy with due sincerity and maturity;

(d) if not, the reasons for ignoring the repeated pleas of the management of MRPL that they faced a hostile partner in the concerned PSU; and

(e) the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and A.V. Birla group (ABG) are co-promoters of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). ABG had represented to this Ministry about the problems being faced by MRPL. ABG had also expressed its intention to exit from MRPL. Accordingly, the offer of ABG to sell its stake in MRPL was considered by HPCL. Presently there is a proposal for restructuring of MRPL through the efforts of M/s Lazard India Limited.

Supply of Satellite Data

1888. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to accord clearance to digitise the topo sheets using the services of International Consultants and to permit NRSA to supply the satellite data without masking the restricted areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Andhra Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (APSRAC), Hyderabad, (a State Government autonomous organization) has already been authorized to digitise topo maps of unrestricted areas, after deletion of defence related information. However, the services of international consultants or private agencies for digitisation are not permitted due to security reasons.

In regard to supply of unmasked satellite imagery/data by NRSA, the existing policy permits consideration of such proposals on case to case basis.

Sale Process of ENRON

1889. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in 1999 to sale proceed of ENRON was 4 thousand 11 crore 20 lakhs American dollars;

(b) whether the net income of ENRON was 89 crore 30 lakhs American dollars and by the end of 1999 ENRON had in hand 28 crore 80 lakhs American dollars;

(c) whether ENRON had ever shown its losses on records and on the contrary they had shown profit;

(d) whether the public could not be apprised of the miserable financial situation till its abrupt fall; and

(e) if so, the steps Government have planned to safeguard the interest of ENRON's employees and the investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Enron Corporation, is a US based company having investments in several countries and as such, details related to the company such as sale proceeds, net income, losses etc. are not being monitored by the Government of India. ENRON Corporation, also has an indirect interest in Dabhol Power Company by way of investment in equity through its various investment companies. Dabhol Power Company is an Indian company set up for implementing the 2184 MW Dabhol power project in Maharashtra. Indian financial institutions, which have a major stake in the Dabhol Power Company are taking steps to select a promoter to replace ENRON so that the project can be completed and restart operations.

Awarding and Rewarding of Judges

1890. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Unit Scheme" judges will get better rewards for speedy disposal of cases, appearing in the the Times of India dated January 25, 2002;

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

(c) whether any provisions have also been made against inordinate and unexplicable delays suffered by cases, especially where poor under trails particularly women and children continue to suffer detention in jails for want of bail ?

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

(b) As per available information, the norms have been redrawn by the Delhi High Court for assessing work done by judicial officers by according graded priority for disposal of old cases according to the year of pendency. It is a step forward for disposal of old pending cases.

(c) Periodical reviews are held by the concerned District Judge and the Hon'ble High Court and corrective actions are accordingly, taken.

[Translation]

Obstruction of Telecast of DD Programme in Jaipur

1891. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the coverage area of the regional programme being telecast from Jaipur Kendra of Doordarshan;

(b) the coverage of cable net work in that area;

(c) whether the telecast of programmes from Jaipur Kendra of Doordarshan can not be viewed clearly in Bassi Township due to mountains coming in the way; and

(d) the efforts made to resolve the said problems ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) In satellite mode, regional programmes of DDK, Jaipur are available throughout the country. Regional programmes are also relayed from the various HPTs and LPTs functioning in Rajasthan, during the regional service time slot.

(b) Government of India does not maintain statistics of coverage of Cable Network.

(c) and (d) Almost of entire Jaipur district lies within the coverage zone of HPT Jaipur. Good quality signals are

reported to be available at Bassi town. However, there are some shadow pockets in Jaipur district due to hilly terrain conditions.

T and D Losses of Electricity

1892. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target to bring down the distribution and transmission losses of electricity in the country to an average of 15 per cent at the national level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Government have decided to achieve the said target;

(d) the percentage of such losses in developed and developing countries of the world; and

(e) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Central Electricity Authority have issued guidelines to States for reduction of transmission and distribution losses to between 10-15%. 20 States have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Ministry of Power for reform of their power sectors. The release of assistance under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to the States would be linked to achievement of reform milestones. Reduction of transmission and distribution losses through metering, energy audit, control of theft etc. is one of the important milestones included in the MOUs.

Statement-I and II indicating the transmission and distribution losses in developed and developing countries of the world is enclosed.

Statement-I

Percentage Transmission and Distribution losses in developed Countries vis a vis India.

| Country | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Austria | 7.19 | 7.34 | 7.44 | 7.15 | 7.59 |
| Belgium | 5.64 | 5.82 | 5.59 | 5.51 | 5.60 |
| Canada | 9.45 | 8.44 | 8.74 | 8.46 | 8.25 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Czechoslovakia | 7.91 | 7.86 | — | 8.50 | 10.34 |
| Denmark | 5.65 | 5.20 | 6.92 | 6.70 | 6.93 |
| Finland | 5.64 | 5.10 | 5.04 | 5.48 | 5.01 |
| France | 8.25 | 8.19 | 8.28 | 7.64 | 8.02 |
| Germany | — | 5.45 | 5.17 | 4.87 | 5.08 |
| Greece | 8.12 | 9.05 | 8.88 | 7.92 | 8.66 |
| Hungary | 11.11 | 11.09 | 11.06 | 9.43 | 13.66 |
| Iceland | 8.58 | 8.88 | 8.74 | 7.65 | 6.72 |
| Ireland | 9.70 | 9.78 | 10.00 | 9.71 | 9.61 |
| Israel | 5.06 | 5.22 | 5.43 | 5.06 | 4.65 |
| Italy | 8.54 | 7.83 | 8.15 | 7.84 | 8.31 |
| Netherland | 4.53 | 4.58 | 4.52 | 4.59 | 4.94 |
| Norway | 8.53 | 7.49 | 7.40 | 7.51 | 8.13 |
| Poland | 10.58 | 9.15 | 12.43 | 13.85 | 15.19 |
| Portugal | 12.31 | 12.31 | 12.27 | 12.32 | 12.46 |
| Romania | 6.16 | 8.96 | 10.16 | 10.85 | 11.25 |
| Spain | 9.10 | 9.85 | 10.01 | 10.05 | 10.10 |
| Sweden | 7.20 | 6.98 | 6.57 | 7.25 | 7.72 |
| Switzerland | 8.03 | 7.97 | 7.97 | 8.03 | 7.98 |
| U.S.S.R. | 9.45 | 9.32 | — | — | — |
| Russian Fed | — | 8.84 | 8.98 | 9.53 | 9.26 |
| Ukraine | — | 9.03 | 9.53 | 10.21 | 10.85 |
| Ukraineian SSR | 8.50 | — | — | — | — |
| U.K. | 8.53 | 8.39 | 8.80 | 7.49 | 7.85 |
| U.S.A. | 5.70 | 9.93 | 7.93 | 8.40 | 8.66 |
| Uzbekistan | — | 10.40 | 9.43 | 10.09 | 9.72 |
| Yugoslavia | 9.89 | — | 10.25 | — | — |
| India ^② | 23.28 | 22.89 | 22.83 | 21.80 | 21.41 |

Note/Source

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

Statement-II*Percentage Transmission and Distribution losses in developing Countries*

| Country | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Algeria | 18.51 | 15.07 | 16.32 | 13.31 | 17.10 | 17.50 |
| Bangla Desh | 30.10 | 35.57 | 38.95 | 39.10 | 33.98 | 33.30 |
| Barbados | 9.73 | 9.55 | 7.86 | 7.27 | 8.56 | 8.24 |
| Belize | 11.11 | 9.80 | 9.80 | 9.35 | 9.35 | 9.35 |
| Bolivia | 14.83 | 16.71 | 15.91 | 15.91 | 14.00 | 13.67 |
| Brazil | 13.70 | 13.62 | 14.67 | 14.13 | 14.43 | 15.26 |
| Bulgaria | 11.79 | 11.41 | 15.78 | 15.67 | 15.47 | 15.31 |
| Chile | 15.41 | 12.38 | 12.87 | 11.93 | — | — |
| China | 7.54 | 7.44 | 7.68 | 7.75 | 7.16 | 6.44 |
| Coloumbia | 24.25 | 23.70 | 22.94 | 20.48 | 22.74 | 23.29 |
| Coasta Rica | 11.03 | 14.33 | 11.45 | 11.46 | 11.04 | 8.00 |
| Cuba | 18.05 | 18.44 | 16.82 | 15.99 | 16.10 | 16.10 |
| Dominican Republic | 34.01 | 41.04 | 42.87 | 42.48 | 38.81 | 38.80 |
| EL – Salvador | 18.05 | 19.02 | 16.10 | 16.42 | 13.75 | 13.75 |
| Fiji | 9.76 | 9.88 | 12.32 | 13.58 | 14.63 | 14.94 |
| French Guyana | 12.37 | 12.17 | 11.87 | 12.41 | 12.67 | 14.98 |
| Guatemala | 16.08 | 16.67 | 15.65 | 15.36 | 18.01 | 16.43 |
| Honduras | 24.83 | 25.48 | 26.53 | 27.56 | 28.25 | 28.14 |
| Indonesia | 21.93 | 22.47 | 20.95 | 17.97 | 17.18 | 16.75 |
| Jamaica | 19.35 | 17.90 | 18.71 | 20.66 | 25.17 | 24.28 |
| Jordan | 10.99 | 10.07 | 10.51 | 11.00 | 10.43 | 9.94 |
| Kenya | 15.46 | 15.45 | 15.41 | 15.07 | 15.73 | 15.01 |
| Republic of Korea | 5.93 | 5.49 | 5.50 | 5.66 | 5.48 | 5.51 |
| Kuwait Including Part of Neutral Zone | 9.02 | 8.40 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Malaysia | 11.05 | 8.71 | 12.13 | 7.89 | — | 9.55 |
| Myanmar | 35.20 | — | 37.39 | 38.44 | 37.71 | 36.13 |
| Nepal | 28.39 | 28.28 | 28.38 | 24.66 | 24.94 | 25.83 |
| Nicaragua | 21.62 | 19.38 | 24.06 | 24.04 | 25.88 | 25.22 |
| Pakistan | 20.64 | 21.35 | 20.55 | 22.94 | 22.89 | 23.60 |
| Peru | — | — | 2.75 | 2.58 | 3.25 | 5.81 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Phillipines | 16.10 | 13.79 | 13.54 | 17.23 | 17.70 | 17.29 |
| Sri Lanka | 17.26 | 16.78 | 18.25 | 16.89 | 17.28 | 17.82 |
| Thailand | 10.20 | 10.85 | 11.08 | 10.67 | 8.41 | 9.90 |
| Thailand and Tobago | 11.77 | 9.09 | 13.43 | 9.55 | 8.87 | 9.31 |
| Tunisia | 13.40 | 12.77 | 12.40 | 11.76 | 11.32 | 11.26 |
| Uruguay | 19.12 | 21.64 | 19.96 | 22.37 | 19.80 | 20.44 |
| Venezuela | 17.80 | 21.73 | 17.70 | 17.10 | NA | NA |
| Zimbabwe | 6.76 | 9.74 | 12.81 | 9.87 | 14.57 | 15.49 |
| India@ | 23.28 | 22.89 | 22.83 | 21.80 | 21.41 | 21.13 |

Note/Source:

1. Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles – UN Publication
2. General Review Published by CEA
3. NA – Data not available/Not applicable
4. @ – For Financial Years

Bio-attack

1893. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the devices available with the Government as well as the Indian Defence Services to repulse the bio-attack;

(b) the medicine developed to prevent Malaria and other diseases caused by Dim Dim flies, black fly and Leech;

(c) whether the use of Dry ethyl Phenyl estamite cream prepared by the defence scientists is likely to create side effects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The measures available with the Government to repulse the bio-attack are detection, individual protection, medical protection and disinfection of agents. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed several devices like diagnostic kits and individual protective devices like gas mask, canister and suit. Medical protection is available in the trade using anti-biotics.

(b) No medicine has been developed by DRDO to cure malaria. However, medicines are available in the

trade for this purpose. DRDO has been working on screening and evaluation of plant products as larvicides/repellents to prevent the bites of mosquitoes, blackflies and leeches to prevent the disease.

(c) and (d) The insect repellent Di Ethyl Phenyl Actamide has been developed by DRDO and it has no side effects.

[English]

Facilities to Disabled

1894. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Railways to provide additional amenities for the physically handicapped persons in all railway stations and junctions;

(b) if so, the details of directions issued by the High Court;

(c) whether the High Court had also directed the Railways to submit an Action Taken Report within a specific period in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) While disposing of Civil Write Petition No. 5053 of 1998 filed by a hearing impaired, Delhi High Court in their judgement dated 20.12.2001 has directed the Railways to provide more amenities at stations and junctions for the physically challenged and file an action taken report within 4 months of the date of Judgement. The directions given by the Hon'ble Court are as under :—

1. There should be a booth established at all the major railway stations/junctions having a prominent pictorial sign that assistance is available to physically handicapped/challenged persons.
2. The booth should be manned by attendants, who would make available wheel chair/trolley, stretcher etc., as required. Folding canes should be provided for the blind. Moveable ramps should also be provided so that there is no difficulty in boarding or alighting.
3. At the time of issuance of concessional tickets to each physically handicapped/challenged person or a person, who is blind, deaf and/or dumb, information regarding the complete particulars of the passenger name, address and telephone number of the contract persons to be contacted in case of emergency should be obtained.
4. The Railway Authorities on the basis of information so obtained will print out a card giving the full particulars of the passenger name and address of the passenger as well as that of contract persons to be contracted in case of emergency. The boarding station as well as the destination to be printed out/typed out in bold letters.
5. Each physically handicapped/challenged person, blind, deaf and dumb or otherwise sick person travelling on concessional fare should carry the card to enable seeking assistance from fellow passengers/travellers in case of need.
6. The Train Ticket Examiner/Guard or the concerned staff should be given a duplicate copy of the card and made responsible to ensure that physically handicapped/challenged person has no difficulty in boarding or alighting from the train or during travel.

The above directions given by the Hon'ble High court are being examined.

Investment by Russia in Defence Sector

1895. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Russia has expressed its willingness to invest in Indian Defence Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the names of other countries who have shown their interest in this field;
- (c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines and laid down conditions for private participation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the names of the domestic private companies who have come forward in the defence production;
- (f) the areas identified for setting up joint venture for manufacturing defence needs; and
- (g) the extent to which it would help the country in saving foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) Russia has expressed willingness for investment by its companies in the development and production of Multi-role Transport Aircraft. No other country has shown similar interest as in most of the other cases decisions on the investment are taken by the respective companies.

2. The Defence industry sector has been opened 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 permissions. This includes all types of defence equipment. Guidelines have been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in consultation with the Ministry of Defence regarding the modalities for consideration of applications for grant of licence. The private companies are allowed to apply either individually or by a partnership firm amongst themselves. The Chief Executive of the company/partnership will be a resident Indian. The company/partnership firm can have Foreign Direct Investment upto 26% of the equity. Preference would

be given to original equipment manufacturers or design establishments and those having a good track record of supplies. However, there would be a three year lock-in period for transfer to equity from one foreign investor to another foreign investor and such transfer would be subject to prior approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and the Government.

3. All applications from the private entrepreneurs will be considered by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and the Licences would be granted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. 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 will be assured by the Quality Assurance Agencies of the Ministry of Defence.

4. No domestic private company has come forward for manufacture of arms, ammunition, which are hitherto reserved for public sector. As regards Joint venture, such commercial decisions have to be taken by both public and private sector Indian companies as well as foreign companies. No specific area has been identified. Any investment in the country which would result in the saving of imports, would reduce the foreign exchange outgo. No quantification on this regard has been done.

Utilisation of Budget Amount

1896. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has not been to fully utilize the budget amount during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to use the budgeted amount fully to produce the power as envisaged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Power has utilized 98%, 95% and 90.41% of its budget during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. A statement indicating year-wise details of approved budget and actual expenditure is enclosed. There have been some Savings in the utilisation of budgetary in some cases on account of factors like geological surprises, flash floods, agitations, contractual delays and delays in obtaining necessary approvals. Ministry of Power conducts reviews from time to time to ensure proper utilisation of the budget.

Statement

| Year | Total Budget | Actual Utilisation | Percentage |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1998-99 | 3808.09 | 3728.88 | 98% |
| 1999-2000 | 4218.26 | 4019.77 | 95% |
| 2000-2001 | 4172.25 | 3772.53 | 90.41% |

Use of Bagasse and Molasses to Produce Natural Gas

1897. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

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

(a) whether Scientists have made out use of bagasse and molasses by converting them into natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the encouragement proposed to be given by the Government in this venture which will reduce the import of Petroleum product and gas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As per available information, the work is at a nascent stage.

(c) In view of answer of (a) and (b) above, no such proposal is under contemplation of the Government.

Import of Petroleum Gas

1898. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of petroleum gas imported each year;

(b) the quantum of petroleum gas being burnt/wasted in the country at different exploration sites, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to store the gas for the future; 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) Presently, natural gas is not being imported either in the form of

liquefied natural gas (LNG) or through pipeline. However, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was imported during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as under :—

| | Year | Quantity (in thousand metric tonne) |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Oil Public | 1999-2000 | 1390 |
| Sector Undertakings | 2000-2001 | 674 |
| Parallel | 1999-2000 | 197 |
| Marketers | 2000-2001 | 178 |

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Currently, natural gas is not being stored. However, the LNG terminals proposed to be set up by various ventures in the country for import of LNG do have arrangements for storage of LNG.

Statement

The quantity of natural gas flared during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State wise :—

(In million cubic meters)

| State | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Assam (Including Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan) | 231 | 217 |
| Gujarat | 421 | 436 |
| Tamil Nadu | 51 | 74 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 96 | 98 |
| Tripura | — | — |
| Maharashtra | 761 | 789 |
| Total | 1560 | 1614 |

[Translation]

Permission to Travel Agents for sale of Rail Tickets

1899.SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant permission to travel agents for the sale of rail tickets under several Railway Divisions, State-wise including Dhanbad Railway Division of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether any panel of such travel agents has been prepared;

(c) if so, the criteria laid down for the selection of such travel agents; and

(d) the reasons for not appointing travel agents in Daltonganj and Gadwa under the said Division ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are appointed to purchase tickets on behalf of passengers by standing in queue like a normal passenger. They are not authorized to sell tickets. Appointment of RTSAs is a continuous process. For appointing RTSAs at a particular location, norms have been laid down by Ministry of Railways relating it to the reservation work load being handled at that location. Based on these norms, RTSAs are appointed at any location. The number of transactions dealt with at Daltonganj and Gadwa does not justify appointment of RTSAs at these locations at present.

[English]

Power Plants

1900.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of additional power projects/plants for each State to meet their growing demand of power;

(b) if so, the number of power plants proposed to be set up in each State during the next three years;

(c) the places identified for location of new power plants/projects, State-wise especially in Rajasthan; and

(d) the total amount of investment proposed to be made available to each State/NTPC for such new projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Working Group on Power for 10th Plan has assessed a feasible capacity of 46939 MW during 10th Plan. A Statement giving details of power projects to be set up during 10th Plan, year-wise is enclosed.

The Working Group on Power for 10th Plan has assessed a total fund requirement of Rs. 5,66,273 crore for the Central sector and State sector, of which generation schemes account for Rs. 3,23,533 crore.

Statement*Year wise/Region wise Tentative targets for Capacity Addition during Xth Plan*

| Plant Name | Status | Capacity | 02-03 | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | Benefits 10th Plan |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Northern Region | | | | | | | | |
| Centre Sector | | | | | | | | |
| NHPC | | | | | | | | |
| Chamera-II | SOG | 300 | | | 300 | | | 300 |
| Dulhasati | SOG | 390 | | 390 | | | | 390 |
| Dhauliganga | SOG | 280 | | | 280 | | | 280 |
| Sewa-II | NEW | 120 | | | | | 120 | 120 |
| Sub total (NHPC) | | 1090 | 0 | 390 | 580 | 0 | 120 | 1090 |
| NJPC | | | | | | | | |
| Nathpa Jhakri | SOG | 1500 | | 1500 | | | | 1500 |
| Rampur | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (NJPC) | | 2000 | 0 | 1500 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 2000 |
| NTPC | | | | | | | | |
| Rihand-II | SOG | 1000 | | | | 500 | 500 | 1000 |
| Unchahar-III | NEW | 210 | | | | | 210 | 210 |
| Dadri-II | NEW | 490 | | | | | 490 | 490 |
| Sub total (NTPC) | | 1700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 1200 | 1700 |
| THDC | | | | | | | | |
| Tehri-I | SOG | 1000 | 250 | 750 | | | | 1000 |
| Koteshwar | SOG | 400 | | | | 400 | | 400 |
| Tehri PSS | CEA | 1000 | | | | 500 | 500 | 1000 |
| Sub total (THDC) | | 2400 | 250 | 750 | 0 | 900 | 500 | 2400 |
| Total NR (Central sector) | | 7190 | 250 | 2640 | 580 | 1400 | 2320 | 7190 |
| State Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Delhi | | | | | | | | |
| Pragati (GT2 + ST) | SOG | 225.78 | 225.78 | | | | | 225.78 |
| Sub total (Delhi) | | 225.78 | 225.78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 225.78 |
| Haryana | | | | | | | | |
| WYC 2 | SC | 14.4 | 14.4 | | | | | 14.4 |
| Panipat U 7 and 8 | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub Total (Haryana) | | 514.4 | 14.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 514.4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Largi | CEA | 126 | | | 126 | | | 126 |
| UHL-III | NEW | 100 | | | | | 100 | 100 |
| Khauli | NEW | 9 | | | | 9 | | 9 |
| Siul | NEW | 13 | | | | | 13 | 13 |
| Ganvi-II | NEW | 8 | | | | | 8 | 8 |
| Shalvi | NEW | 7 | | | | | 7 | 7 |
| Kashang-I | SC | 66 | | | | | 66 | 66 |
| Sub total (H.P.) | | 329 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 9 | 194 | 329 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | | | | |
| Upper Sindh | SOG | 35 | 35 | | | | | 35 |
| Baghalihar | CEA | 450 | | | | | 450 | 450 |
| Sub total (J and K) | | 485 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 450 | 485 |
| Punjab | | | | | | | | |
| GHTPP-II | SOG | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Shahpurkandi | SOG | 168 | | | | | 168 | 168 |
| Mukerian (MHP)-II | NEW | 16 | | | | | 16 | 16 |
| Sub total (Punjab) | | 684 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 684 | 684 |
| Rajasthan | | | | | | | | |
| Suratgarh-II | SOG | 250 | 250 | | | | | 250 |
| Ramgarh-2 | CEA | 75 | 37 | 38 | | | | 75 |
| Matahanja CCPP | CEA | 140 | | | 140 | | | 140 |
| Kota TPS ST IV | NEW | 195 | | 195 | | | | 195 |
| Suratgarh III | CEA | 250 | | 250 | | | | 250 |
| Giral | NEW | 250 | | | | 250 | | 250 |
| Jakham | SOG | 5 | | | | 5 | | 5 |
| Sub total (Rajasthan) | | 1165 | 287 | 483 | 140 | 255 | 0 | 1165 |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Parichha Extn. | NEW | 420 | | | | | 210 | 210 |
| Anpara C | CEA | 1000 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (U.P.) | | 1420 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 710 | 710 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|--------|------|-----|------|------|----------|
| Uttranchal | | | | | | | | |
| Maneribali-II | CEA | 304 | | | | | 304 | 304 |
| Sub total (Uttranchal) | | 304 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 304 | 304 |
| Total NR (State Sector) | | 5127.18 | 562.18 | 483 | 266 | 264 | 2842 | 4417.18 |
| Private Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Punjab | | | | | | | | |
| Goindwal Sahib | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (Punjab) | | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Baspa | CEA | 300 | | 300 | | | | 300 |
| Dhamvari Sunda | CEA | 70 | | | | 70 | | 70 |
| Neogal | SC | 15 | | | | 15 | | 15 |
| Patikri | NEW | 16 | | | | 16 | | 16 |
| Fozal | NEW | 6 | | | | 6 | | 6 |
| Sainj | NEW | 5.5 | | | | 5.5 | | 5.5 |
| Sal-I | NEW | 6.5 | | | | 6.5 | | 6.5 |
| Lambadug | NEW | 15 | | | | | 15 | 15 |
| Sub total (H.P.) | | 434 | 0 | 300 | 0 | 119 | 15 | 434 |
| Rajasthan | | | | | | | | |
| Chambal CCGT | SC | 166 | | | | | 166 | 166 |
| Barsingsar | CEA | 500 | | | | | 250 | 250 |
| Sub total (Rajasthan) | | 666 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 416 | 416 |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Rosa | CEA | 567 | | | | | 567 | 567 |
| Sub total (U.P.) | | 567 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 567 | 567 |
| Uttranachal | | | | | | | | |
| Vishnu Prayag | CEA | 400 | | | | | 400 | 400 |
| Sri Nagar | CEA | 330 | | | | 330 | | 330 |
| Sub total (Uttranachal) | | 730 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | 400 | 730 |
| Total NR Private Sector | | 2897 | 0 | 300 | 0 | 449 | 1898 | 2647 |
| Total (N.R.) | | 15214.2 | 812.18 | 3423 | 846 | 2113 | 7060 | 14254.18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------|------|-----|-------|------|------|--------|
| Western Region | | | | | | | | |
| Central Sector | | | | | | | | |
| NPC | | | | | | | | |
| Tarapur U 3 and 4 | SOG | 1080 | | | | 540 | 540 | 1080 |
| Sub total (NPC) | | 1080 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 540 | 540 | 1080 |
| NTPC | | | | | | | | |
| Sipat-I | CEA | 1980 | | | | 600 | 1380 | 1980 |
| Vindhyachal-III | NEW | 1000 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (NTPC) | | 2980 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 660 | 1820 | 2480 |
| NHPC | | | | | | | | |
| Bav-I | NEW | 18 | | | | 18 | | 18 |
| Bav-II | NEW | 37 | | | | 37 | | 37 |
| Sub total (NHPC) | | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 55 |
| NHDC | | | | | | | | |
| Omkareshwar | CEA | 520 | | | | | 520 | 520 |
| Indira Sagar | SOG | 1000 | | 125 | 750 | 125 | | 1000 |
| Sub total (NHDC) | | 1520 | 0 | 125 | 750 | 125 | 520 | 1520 |
| Sub total WR (Central Sector) | | 5635 | 0 | 125 | 750 | 1380 | 2880 | 5135 |
| State Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | | | | | | | | |
| Sar. Sarovar-2 | SOG | 1450 | 1450 | | | | | 1450 |
| Akrimota | CEA | 250 | 125 | 125 | | | | 250 |
| Sikka | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| KLTPS Extn. (Panan) | NEW | 75 | | | | | 75 | 75 |
| Dhuvran | NEW | 106.6 | | | 106.6 | | | 106.6 |
| Sub total (Gujarat) | | 2381.6 | 1575 | 125 | 106.6 | 0 | 575 | 2381.6 |
| Maharashtra | | | | | | | | |
| Ghatghar | SOG | 250 | | | 250 | | | 250 |
| Parli TPP Ex. St-I | SOG | 250 | | | 250 | | | 250 |
| Sub total (Maharashtra) | | 500 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 500 |
| Chattisgarh | | | | | | | | |
| Korba West Ext. | NEW | 500 | | | | | 250 | 250 |
| Mahanadi | NEW | 10 | | | | | 10 | 10 |
| Sub total (Chattisgarh) | | 510 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 260 | 260 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------|------|-----|--------|------|------|---------|
| Madhya Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Birsingpur Extn. | NEW | 500 | | | | | | 500 |
| Marikheda | SC | 40 | | | 40 | | 500 | 40 |
| Bansagar II | SOG | 30 | 30 | | | | | 30 |
| Bansagar IV | SOG | 20 | | 20 | | | | 20 |
| Bargi | NEW | 10 | | | | 10 | | 10 |
| Indira Sagar LBC | NEW | 15 | | | 5 | 10 | | 15 |
| Rani Avanti Bai | SC | 10 | | | 5 | 5 | | 10 |
| Sub total (M.P.) | | 625 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 25 | 500 | 625 |
| Total W.R. (State Sector) | | 4016.6 | 1605 | 145 | 656.6 | 25 | 1335 | 3766.6 |
| Private Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | | | | | | | | |
| Hazira | CEA | 156 | | | | | | 156 |
| Jamnagar | CEA | 500 | 156 | | 500 | | | 500 |
| Pipavav | NEW | 2000 | | | | | 1000 | 1000 |
| Sub total (Gujarat) | | 2656 | 156 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 1000 | 1656 |
| Madhya Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Maheshwar | CEA | 400 | | | | 240 | 160 | 400 |
| Bina | CEA | 578 | | | 578 | | | 578 |
| Guna | CEA | 330 | | | 330 | | | 330 |
| Sub total (M.P.) | | 1308 | 0 | 0 | 908 | 240 | 160 | 1308 |
| Maharashtra | | | | | | | | |
| Dabhol-II | SOG | 1444 | 1444 | | | | | 1444 |
| Sub total (Mah.) | | 1444 | 1444 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1444 |
| Sub total W.R. (Private Sector) | | 5408 | 1600 | 0 | 1408 | 240 | 1160 | 4408 |
| Total W.R. | | 15059.6 | 3205 | 270 | 2814.6 | 1645 | 5375 | 13309.6 |
| Southern Region | | | | | | | | |
| Central Sector | | | | | | | | |
| NLC | | | | | | | | |
| Neyveli Extn. | SOG | 210 | 210 | | | | | 210 |
| Neyveli-II Exp. | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (NLC) | | 710 | 210 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 710 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--|-----|---------|--------|-----|---------|------|--------|---------|
| NPC | | | | | | | | |
| Kaiga U3 | SOG | 220 | | | | | 220 | 220 |
| Sub total (NPC) | | 220 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 220 | 220 |
| NTPC | | | | | | | | |
| Simhadri | SOG | 1000 | 500 | | | | | 500 |
| Ramagundam III | SOG | 500 | | | | 500 | | 500 |
| Sub Total (NTPC) | | 1500 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 1000 |
| NHPC | | | | | | | | |
| Upper Krishna | NEW | 810 | | | | | 810 | 810 |
| Sub total (NHPC) | | 810 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 810 | 810 |
| Sub total S.R. (Central Sector) | | 3240 | 710 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 1530 | 2750 |
| State Sector Andhra Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| Rayalsema-II | SOG | 420 | | | | | 420 | 420 |
| Srisaïlam LBPH | SOG | 450 | 450 | | | | | 450 |
| Jurala Priya | CEA | 235 | | | | | 78.2 | 78.2 |
| Sub total (A.P.) | | 1105 | 450 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 498.2 | 948.2 |
| Karnataka | | | | | | | | |
| Raichur-7 | CEA | 210 | 210 | | | | | 210 |
| Almati Dam | NEW | 290 | | 165 | 125 | | | 290 |
| Sub total (Karnataka) | | 500 | 210 | 165 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 500 |
| Kerala | | | | | | | | |
| Kuttiyadi Aug. | NEW | 100 | | | 100 | | | 100 |
| Kuttiyadi TR | SOG | 3.75 | | | 3.75 | | | 3.75 |
| Malankara | SOG | 10.5 | 10.5 | | | | | 10.5 |
| Adirapalli | CEA | 163 | | | 163 | | | 163 |
| Sub total (Kerala) | | 277.25 | 10.5 | 0 | 266.75 | 0 | 0 | 277.25 |
| Tamil Nadu | | | | | | | | |
| Neyveli Zero | SOG | 250 | 250 | | | | | 250 |
| Sub total (Tamil Nadu) | | 250 | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 |
| Sub total S.R. (Private Sector) | | 3607 | 358 | 669 | 1035 | 532 | 506.6 | 3100.6 |
| Total S.R. | | 9264.25 | 1788.5 | 934 | 1516.75 | 1227 | 2634.8 | 8101.05 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|------------------------------------|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Eastern Region | | | | | | | | |
| Central Sector | | | | | | | | |
| DVC | | | | | | | | |
| Maithon – R 1 and 2 | NEW | 500 | | | | 500 | | 500 |
| Maithon – R 3 and 4 | NEW | 500 | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Mezia – U 4 | NEW | 210 | | | 210 | | | 210 |
| Chandrapur U 7 | NEW | 250 | | | | 250 | | 250 |
| Bokaro – B Extn. (C) | NEW | 210 | | | | | 210 | 210 |
| Durgapur U 5 | NEW | 250 | | | | | 250 | 250 |
| Sub total (DVC) | | 1920 | 0 | 0 | 210 | 750 | 960 | 1920 |
| NHPC | | | | | | | | |
| Teesta V | SOG | 510 | | | | | 510 | 510 |
| Farraka Barrage | CEA | 125 | | | | | 125 | 125 |
| Purlia PSS | SOG | 900 | | | | | 900 | 900 |
| Teesta Low Dam III | NEW | 132 | | | | | 132 | 132 |
| Teesta Low Dam IV | NEW | 168 | | | | | 168 | 168 |
| Sub total (NHPC) | | 1835 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1835 | 1835 |
| NTPC | | | | | | | | |
| Talcher-II | SOG | 2000 | | 500 | 500 | 1000 | | 2000 |
| North K Pura | NEW | 1980 | | | | | 660 | 660 |
| Kahalgaon-II | NEW | 1320 | | | | | 660 | 660 |
| Barh | NEW | 1980 | | | | | 660 | 660 |
| Sub total (NTPC) | | 7280 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 1000 | 1980 | 3980 |
| Sub total E.R. (Central Sector) | | 11035 | 0 | 500 | 710 | 1750 | 4775 | 7735 |
| State Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Jharkhand | | | | | | | | |
| North Koel | SOG | 24 | 24 | | | | | 24 |
| Tenughat Extn. | SOG | 630 | | | | | 630 | 630 |
| Sub total (Jharkhand) | | 654 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 630 | 654 |
| Orissa | | | | | | | | |
| Balimela | CEA | 150 | | | | | 150 | 150 |
| Sub total (Orissa) | | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 150 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Sikkim | | | | | | | | |
| Rolep-I | SC | 9 | | 9 | | | | 9 |
| Sub total (Sikkim) | | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| West Bengal | | | | | | | | |
| Bakreshwar 4, 5 | NEW | 420 | | | | 420 | | 420 |
| Jaldhaka Extn. | SC | 13 | | | 13 | | | 13 |
| Sub total (W.B.) | | 433 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 420 | 0 | 433 |
| Sub total E.R. (State Sector) | | 1246 | 24 | 9 | 13 | 420 | 780 | 1246 |
| Private Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Bihar | | | | | | | | |
| Bihta TPS | NEW | 135 | | | | | 135 | 135 |
| Sub total (Bihar) | | 135 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 135 | 135 |
| Jharkhand | | | | | | | | |
| Jojobera | NEW | 120 | | | | | 120 | 120 |
| Sub total (Jharkhand) | | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 120 |
| Sub total E.R. (Private Sector) | | 255 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 255 | 255 |
| Total E.R. | | 12536 | 24 | 509 | 723 | 2170 | 5810 | 9236 |
| North Eastern Region | | | | | | | | |
| Central Sector | | | | | | | | |
| NEEPCO | | | | | | | | |
| Tuirial | SOG | 60 | | | | | 60 | 60 |
| Kopili II | SOG | 25 | | | | | | 25 |
| Tripura Gas | NEW | 500 | | 25 | | | 500 | 500 |
| Sub total (NEEPCO) | | 585 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 560 | 585 |
| Sub total N.E.R. (Central Sector) | | 585 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 560 | 585 |
| State Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Assam | | | | | | | | |
| Karbi Langpi | SOG | 100 | | 100 | | | | 100 |
| Dhansiri | SOG | 20 | | | 20 | | | 20 |
| Lakwa WH | SC | 38 | | | | | 38 | 38 |
| Sub total (Assam) | | 158 | 0 | 100 | 20 | 0 | 38 | 158 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|----------|
| Meghalaya | | | | | | | | |
| Myntdu (Liska) | CEA | 84 | | | | | 84 | 84 |
| Byrnihat | NEW | 24 | | 24 | | | | 24 |
| Mendipathar | SC | 24 | | 24 | | | | 24 |
| Sub total (Meghalaya) | | 132 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 132 |
| Mizoram | | | | | | | | |
| Serlui-B | SOG | 12 | | | 12 | | | 12 |
| Bairabi | NEW | 20 | | 20 | | | | 20 |
| Sub total (Mizoram) | | 32 | 0 | 20 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| Tripura | | | | | | | | |
| Barmura GT | SC | 21 | 21 | | | | | 21 |
| Sub total (Tripura) | | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Sub total N.E.R. (State Sector) | | 343 | 21 | 168 | 32 | 0 | 122 | 343 |
| Private Sector | | | | | | | | |
| Assam | | | | | | | | |
| Amguri CCGT | SC | 90 | | | | 60 | 30 | 90 |
| Sub total (Assam) | | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 30 | 90 |
| Sub total N.E.R. (Private Sector) | | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 30 | 90 |
| Total N.E.R. | | 1018 | 21 | 193 | 32 | 60 | 712 | 1018 |
| Bhutan | | | | | | | | |
| Tala | SOG | 1020 | | | 510 | 510 | | 1020 |
| Total All India, incld. Tala | | 54112 | 5850.68 | 5329 | 6442.35 | 7725 | 21591.8 | 46938.83 |

[Translation]

Pending Gas based Power Plants

1901. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether gas based power plants are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the details of each proposal received by the Government;

(d) reasons for not according approval to these proposals so far; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for this approval ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Two proposals for Gas based Power Plants are under examination in Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The details are given in Statement-I. Eight Gas based Power Project proposals received in CEA have been returned due to non-tie up of essential inputs. The details of these projects are given in Statement-II. These projects could be taken up for accord of Techno-economic clearance (TEC) after the essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the project authorities.

Statement-I*Details of Gas based Thermal Power Plants which are under Examination In CEA*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project/ State (District) | Capacity (MW) | Date of Receipt of DPR | Pending Inputs |
|---------|---|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Rajgarh CCPP M/s Alpine Power System Ltd. District – Rajgarh Madhya Pradesh (under litigation) | 343.48 | 10.3.1997 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Compliance of Sec. 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act., 1948 – corrigendum for revised capacity and cost, Report under Section 29(3) of E(S) Act – State Government consent under Section 18(A) of E(S) Act. for authorization to revised capacity – Power evacuation system and number of outlets in Switch Yard – Revalidated fuel transport clearance – Fuel linkage for revised capacity of 343.48 MW |
| 2. | Valuthur (Perungulam) CCGT (TNEP) District Aamnad Tamil Nadu | 94 | 7/2000 | Scheme was considered for TEC on 12.12.2001. TEC to be accorded after receipt of the MOE and F clearance. |

Statement-II*Details of proposals of Gas/Naphtha based Power Projects received in CEA and returned due to non tie-up of essential inputs/clearances*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project/ State (District) | Capacity (MW) | Date of Receipt of DPR | Pending Inputs/Status |
|---------|--|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Jhabua CCGT M/s Kedia Power Ltd. District – Jhabua Madhya Pradesh | 360 | April, 99 | Revised Water Allocation (State), CWC Clearance, State Forest Department SPCB and MOE and F Clearance for submergence of 194.3 Hectares of land. |
| 2. | Nanjangud CCPP M/s IPS Power Co. Karnataka | 96.7 | March, 97 | Scheme was returned by CEA in October, 2001 due to non availability of CWC clearance for water availability involving Cauvery Inter-State Aspects and other issues relating to completed capital cost. |
| 3. | Naphtha based CCPP at Hssan M/s Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd. Karnataka | 200 | Dec., 97 | Pending inputs/clearances :- Clearance from Central Ground Water Authority has since been received. As per the new IPP Policy of Government of Karnataka, Naphtha based project would not be encouraged by the State. The outstanding issues such as revised water scheme, cost estimates and use of naphtha are to be sorted out with the State. The scheme could be considered for TEC after these outstanding issues are sorted out. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|--|---|--------------------|---|
| 4. | Bidadi CCPP M/s KPC Bidadi Power Corpn. Ltd. (Joint Venture between KPCL and UNOCAL, USA) District – Bangalore Karnataka | 2x214 GT (Site output) + 1x234 MW ST=662 MW | September, 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gas linkage – Fuel transportation – Water availability (State) – NOC from AAI – SPCB clearance – MOE and F clearance – Selection of EPC contractor through ICB route and its approval from the State Government. <p>The scheme has been returned by CEA in Nov., 2001. KBPCL have been advised to submit fresh proposal/ revised DPR complete with all inputs/clearances as per guidelines of CEA. The revised DPR is to be submitted by the concerned authority.</p> |
| 5. | LNG based Combined Cycle Power Project M/s WESCO Power Generation Ltd. District – Belgaum Karnataka | 483 | Jan., 2001 | <p>LNG tie up Water availability – State Water availability– Center MOE and F clearance Finalisation of EPC con- tractor and approval from the State Government scheme returned by CEA on 27.4.2001</p> |
| 6. | Jegurupadu CCGT Expn. M/s GVK Industries Ltd. District – East Godavari Andhra Pradesh | 230 | March, 2001 | <p>Pending inputs/clearances :- Confirmation and selection of EPC contractor through ICB route. Water availability– Center. Scheme returned by CEA on 14.5.2001.</p> |
| 7. | Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant at Konaseema M/s EPS Oakwell Power Ltd. (KEOPL) District – East Godavari Andhra Pradesh | 445 | Dec. 2000 | <p>Pending inputs/clearance :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fuel Linkage for full capacity (gas confirmed for 360 MW) • Water availability – State and Center (CWC) • NAA clearance, SPCB clearance, MOE and F clearance <p>CEA that Government of Andhra Pradesh should go for fresh competitive bidding for the project and also returned the project report to the IPP.</p> |
| 8. | Kuttalam Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Project M/s TNEB District – Nagapattinam Tamil Nadu | 100 | May, 2001 | <p>Pending inputs/clearances :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water availability (State) • Water availability (enter) • MOE and F clearance <p>Gas linkage (present linkage is on fall back basis) Scheme returned by CEA on 18.7.2001 and 4.12.2001 due to the non tie-up of essential inputs.</p> |

Misuse of IRCON Aircraft

1902.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Railways misused

IRCON Aircraft' as reported in the Statesman dated December 25, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have hired IRCON's aircraft for a large number of times for unofficial purposes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of responsibilities fixed by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such misuse of aircraft in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Enactment of Legislation for Media

1903.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to bring all section of media, including the electronic media under one council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Press Council of India has submitted its proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether private T.V. channels are opposing any such move ?

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

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

(c) and (d) Chairman, Press Council of India, had in November 2000 suggested setting up of a Media Council of cover both Print and Electronic Media.

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

[Translation]

Construction of ROB/RUBs in Jodhpur

1904.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for construction of over bridges and under bridges in Jodhpur district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) :

(i) **Road Over Bridge at Basni Industrial Area in lieu of LC No. 206** :- General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved by the Railway and acceptance of abstract estimate is awaited from the State Government.

(ii) **Road Over Bridge at Mandore in lieu of LC No. C-11** :- Revised GAD awaited from State Government.

(iii) **Road Over Bridge at Rasal Road in lieu of LC No. 1** :- No firm proposal received from the State Government.

[English]

Train Robberies

1905.DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train robberies taken place during the last one year, month-wise;

(b) the State in which the train robberies have been the highest during the same period;

(c) the position in Bihar and Jharkhand in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken for curbing such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) "Policing" being a State Subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. As per information available with this Ministry, the number of train robberies that took place during the last one year that is 2001, month-wise is as under :-

| Month | Number of cases reported |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| January | 13 |
| February | 14 |
| March | 12 |
| April | 11 |
| May | 14 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----------|----|
| June | 21 |
| July | 23 |
| August | 23 |
| September | 17 |
| October | 19 |
| November | 22 |
| December | 20 |

(b) and (c) The highest number of train robberies took place in Gujarat State during 2001 and Bihar and Jharkhand are placed 5th and 6th.

(d) Though maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railway administration has taken the following steps :

1. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains.
2. Coach Attendants/TTEs keep proper watch on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Stations Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is done at all levels.
5. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.
6. RPF Assistance posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.
7. Periodic High Level co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are conducted to analyze the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.

Lifting Ban on Middlemen

1906. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lifted ban on middlemen in defence sector during the last year;

(b) if so, whether inspite of lifting ban on middlemen, the response of middlemen is very poor as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 18, 2002;

(c) whether the Defence Ministry is facing problems of acquiring various item due to poor response of middlemen; and

(d) if so, the strategy to be adopted by the Government to procure various items with or without the help of middlemen ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A comprehensive formulation of the role, if any, which Authorised Representatives/Agents/ or Sales Consultants employed by foreign suppliers for the promotion of their production may legitimately be expected to play, has been receiving the attention of Government for some time. The entire policy has been extensively reviewed recently with the objective of defining the scope, extent and condition within which such Authorised Representatives/Agents may be allowed to present a foreign supplier or suppliers.

2. Based on this review and in order to bring greater transparency to the whole procurement process and realising that the presence of an Authorised Representatives/ Agent would improve the delivery of services and follow up of post contractual obligations, the Ministry of Defence have on 2nd November, 2001 issued supplementary instructions on the appointment of Indian Authorised Representatives/Agents of foreign suppliers.

3. A report in the *Hindustan Times* dated 18th February, 2002 has appeared on the issue. It has been reported that Agents are alarmed by this kind of a regulatory regime. The Ministry of Defence has been receiving requests from various firms for the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard.

4. The Ministry of Defence is not facing any problem of acquiring equipment for the services as a detailed procurement procedure is already in place. This procedure is being successfully implemented since 1992 and would not be/dependent upon the appointment of Authorised Representative for its success.

5. The Authorised Representatives would facilitate the availability of information, technical details and literature, trial evaluation, follow up of post contractual details. Currently these activities are being done by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) directly from abroad. The presence of an Authorised Representative of OEM would facilitate this process.

Intrusion of Pakistani Fishermen

1907.SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of incidents of intrusion of Pakistani fishermen by Pakistani Navy in Western Coast have been reported during 1999, 2000 and 2001;

(b) whether these intruders are supplying arms, ammunition and narcotics etc. in the country to terrorists;

(c) whether the Government have taken some effective steps to protect Western Coast connecting Maharashtra from such intrusion;

(d) whether such issues are proposed to be discussed with Pakistani President in future as and when an occasion of meeting with him is organised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No incident of intrusion of Pakistani fishermen by Pakistani Navy in Western Coast has come to notice. However, details of the Pakistani fishing boats etc. apprehended by Coast Guard in Indian Waters are as under :-

| Year | Boat | Crew |
|------|------|------|
| 1999 | 06 | 68 |
| 2000 | 16 | 180 |
| 2001 | 02 | 25 |

(b) None of the fishing vessels/boats apprehended by Coast Guard was found to be carrying any arms/ammunition/narcotics.

(c) Coast Guard in coordination with the Navy undertake patrol off Western Coast as a part of ongoing operation for coastal security.

(d) and (e) The Government is committed to discuss all issues with Pakistan at appropriate level as and when the talks are resumed.

Transportation of Army Vehicles

1908.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether contract is awarded for transportation of new army vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent it; and

(d) the amount spent on granting contracts during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Army vehicles are being procured from the three sources viz. Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) and Trade (Private Sector). Vehicles from all the sources are required to be transported to the consignee depots by the suppliers.

Vehicles from private vendors are transported under their own arrangements as per the term and conditions of the contracts to the consignee depots.

The vehicles from BEML are transported to the consignee depots on Military Credit Note (MCN) by Rail. In case of OFB, majority of the vehicles are transported by Rail on Military Credit Note, while some vehicles are also transported by road under arrangements of the OFB.

[Translation]

Activity of Chinese Army

1909.SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing tensions in the relations between India and Pakistan have led to escalation in the activities of Chinese army along the Indian border;

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

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Filling Up of Reserved Vacancies

1910.SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in Border Roads Organisation;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the number of sanctioned posts in Group 'A' in different cadre;

(d) the number of persons belonging to SC, ST, OBC and General categories working against such posts including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997 as ascertained as per the instructions contained under para 5 of DOPMT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997; and

(e) the fresh vacancies occurred during 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 and year-wise number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General categories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacations in Courts

1911. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether summer vacation in courts are observed since the British period;

(b) if so, the total holidays being observed by Supreme Court and High Courts including the holidays being observed in Central Government offices of present;

(c) whether the Government propose to discontinue this practice of holidays in courts to clear the arrears; and

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

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

(b) According to the available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year; all High Courts in the country normally have 210 working days in a year; and the number of working days of the District/ Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

The Central Government offices having five working days per week, enjoy seventeen Gazetted holidays and two restricted holidays in a year.

(c) and (d) The question of curtailing/discontinuing the vacations in the Courts has been considered in the past, but it has not been found feasible or advisable to do so because of the taxing nature of work of the Judiciary and the Bar.

The Department of Justice in July, 2001 has invited the views of the High Courts and the State Governments regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailment of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 10 High Courts and 5 State Governments. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka, from 210 to 214; other High Courts have not favoured any increase in the number of their working days in a year. Of the five State Governments which have so far responded, the Mizoram Government has supported the present ceiling of atleast 210 working days per year for the High Court; the Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Rajasthan have favoured increase in the number of annual working days of their respective High Courts; and the Government of Meghalaya has no objection to the increase in the number of the working days in the High Court. The process of consultation is continuing.

[Translation]

Theft of Luggage Booked in various Railway Zones

1912. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of the presence of the Railway Protection Force, the incidents of theft of luggage booked in railway zones has increased; and

(b) if so, details thereof, Zone-wise and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Supply of Self Loading Rifles

1913. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out in 2001 in their report that the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur, did not supply self-loading rifles worth Rs. 12.71 crore to the Border Security Force despite advance payment made in September, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the inspection team found that 60 percent of the SLRs were of an old brand and reconditioned and not acceptable;

(c) whether despite the team's adverse observations, the sanctioned amount was drawn in full and paid as advance to the Jabalpur COD in September, 1993; and

(d) if so, the person responsible for this mismanagement; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those held responsible ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The Self Loading Rifles which were to be issued to Border Security Force had been withdrawn from Army on induction of Rifles 5.56mm INSAS and were serviceable though in used condition. These rifles were rejected by the representatives of the Border Security Force on the plea that the weapons though serviceable, were in used condition. As no new serviceable rifles were available for issue, the Border Security Force were offered ammunition against the amount of advance given by the BSF. This was agreed to by the Border Security Force.

(c) Yes, Sir. The amount was drawn by Directorate General of Border Security Force and paid as advance to the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur.

(d) and (e) In view of the replies given at (b) and (c) above, no one from Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur can be held responsible in this regard.

Status of OI DB after Dismantling of APM

1914. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the relevance of OI DB after the APM is dismantled;

(b) whether OI DB benefits will be available to private sector also; 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) Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) has been established under Oil Industry Development Act, 1974 for the development of Oil Industry. The term Oil Industry, as defined under the Act includes all activities by way of prospecting or exploring for or production of mineral oil, refining, processing, transportation, storage, handling and marketing of mineral oil, production and marketing of all products, down-stream of an oil refinery and the production of fertilizers and petro-chemicals and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

OI DB would continue to render its assistance for the above purpose even after dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). Funding towards oil sector projects are decided by OI DB on case to case basis, subject to the priorities determined by the Board from time to time.

[Translation]

Safeguarding the Interest of Shareholders

1915. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

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

(a) whether it takes a long time in redressal of complaints received under the rule made protection of the interest of small shareholders;

(b) if so, whether complaints received during the last three years have been redressed in three months, six months, nine months and within one year;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any rule to redress the complaints within the fixed time limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) To safe-guard the interest of small shareholders, Department of Company Affairs, has set-up an Investors Protection Cell which primarily deals with complaints relating to non-receipt of shares/debenture certificates after allotment/transfer, refund of share/debenture/application money, non-receipt of dividend/interest warrants and non-payment of un-claimed dividend etc. All such complaints are acknowledged and taken up with the concerned companies for redressal.

(b) to (d) During the last three years 33912 complaints were received out of which 14768 complaints were disposed off. Wherever the complaints are not redressable by this Department, they are referred to the Ministries/ Departments concerned. In case the complaints are not disposed off by the companies within a reasonable time, penal action can be taken against the companies. No time limit has been prescribed in the Companies Act, 1956. However, efforts are being made to redress the grievances expeditiously.

Modernising of Power Plants of Steel Industry

1916. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to modernize the power plants of steel plants in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) At present Government is not considering any plan to modernise power stations of steel plants. Moreover power plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro of Steel Authority of India Limited have been divested and converted into Joint venture and the process of divestment of Bhilai Power Plants is at an advanced stage.

[English]

LNG to State Governments

1917. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many States have urged the Union Government for making available LNG to enable them to set up LNG based Central Generating Stations during the last two years;

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

(c) whether the Government have accepted in principle to provide sufficient LNG to State Governments which have sent proposals to set up LNG based Central Generating Stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is on Open General License (OGL). There are various initiatives including private which have obtained approval of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for import of LNG to India and setting up LNG terminals with regasification facilities and distribution of regasified LNG to end consumers directly. A statement of such initiatives is enclosed. The re-gasified LNG from the 5.0 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity and 2.5 MMTPA capacity LNG terminals proposed to be set up by Petronet LNG Limited at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Karala respectively will be marketed to end consumers mainly through Gas Authority of India Limited.

Statement

LNG Import Initiatives

| Sl. No. | Name of Company | Name of Foreign Collaboration | Location of Proposal Terminal | Capacity of Terminal in Million Tonne Per annum | Gas Supply to | FIPB Clearance | CCFI Clearance | FDI |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | ENRON International Inc. | ENRON International Inc. | Dabhol (Maharashtra) | Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to 5 and 10 MMTPA | Captive Power plant and to others in Maharashtra and other States | Yes | Yes | US\$500 million |
| 2. | (British Gas) BG Plc. | (British Gas) BG Plc. | Pipavav (Gujarat) | Initial 2.5 MMTPA expand to 5 MMTPA | Gujarat | Yes | Yes | US\$140 million |
| 3. | Ispat Group of Industries | Ispat Energy Ltd. | Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) | Initial 2.5 MMTPA expansion unspecified | Andhra Pradesh | Yes | Yes | US\$175 million |
| 4. | Reliance Industries Ltd. | GDR/AADR/ Private Placement | Jamnagar and Hazira (Gujarat) | 5 MMTPA at each Terminal | Gujarat and other States | Yes | Yes | Rs. 1150 crore |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|-------------|------|----------------|
| 5. | Royal Dutch Shell Group of companies | Royal Dutch Shell Group of companies | Hazira (Gujarat) | 2.7 MMTPA initial expansion unspecified | Essar Power Ltd. and Essar Steel Ltd. | Yes | Yes | Rs. 583 crore |
| 6. | Petronet LNG (with Gaz de France and Rasgas) | GDF International, Paris | Dahej Gujarat | 5 MMTPA | Gujarat and other States | Yes | Yes | US\$55 million |
| 7. | Petronet LNG Ltd. | | Cochin, Kerala | 2.5 MMTPA | Kerala | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 8. | BHP Australia | BHP Australia | General Proposal | Not specified | Not specified | Yes | Yes | — |
| 9. | Hardy Oil, UK and Nagarajuna Holdings | Hardy Oil and BHP | Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh | 1 MMTPA to expand upto 5 MTPA | Andhra Pradesh | Yes | Yes | — |
| 10. | Tractabel Belgium | Tractabel Belgium | General Proposal | Not specified | Not specified | Yes | Yes | — |
| 11. | Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium | UNOCAL WOODSIDE Siemens | Ennore, Tamil Nadu | 2.5 MMTPA | Captive Power Plant at Ennore and to others in Tamil Nadu | — | — | — |
| 12. | GAIL-TATA TOTAL | TOTALFINA, France | Trombay, Maharashtra | Initial 3 MMTPA to go upto 6 MMTPA | Maharashtra and other States | Applied for | — | — |
| 13. | Consortium of Fertiliser Companies | — | Kishoriprasad Orissa | 3 MMTPA to go upto 6 MMTPA | Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab | | — | — |
| 14. | Al-Manhal | Al-Mahal, UAE | Gopalpur, Orissa | 3 MMTPA | Orissa and Andhra Pradesh | — | — | — |
| 15. | IOC/Petronas | Petronas (Malayasia) | Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh | 3.5 MMTPA | Andhra Pradesh | — | — | — |

APM on Petroleum Products

1918. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Oil Companies in India will be free to undertake import of petroleum products once the Government removes the administered pricing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government not to resort to a monthly system of price revisions as in most of the developing countries ?

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

import of petroleum products would be as per the extant EXIM policy.

(c) The pricing of petroleum products will become market determined post APM, but the Government will continue to provide subsidy on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

Reserved Quota of Vacancies for SC, ST and OBC

1919.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies reserved for their communities.

(b) the total number of persons belonging of SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the "reserved quota of vacancies" for their communities during the last three years under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/posts reserved for their communities with reasons ?

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

[Translation]

PIL Filed in Courts

1920.SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of PILs field in various High Courts in Gujarat, Delhi and other parts of the country and also in Supreme Court from January 1, 2001 till today;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the number of PILs disposed off;

(d) the number of pending PILs alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from High Courts and the Supreme Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No fixed time-frame can be laid down as it relates to the substantive functioning of the Judiciary.

[English]

Excise Theft by Companies

1921.SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Excise theft by Companies by selling goods to globally-funded projects;

(b) if so, the details of the number of such companies included in this and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to curb this situation.

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

Difficulties being faced by the Commuters of Sirsa Express

1922.SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardships and difficulties faced by the daily commuters of Sirsa Express in the morning as it never reaches New Delhi on its revised scheduled time.

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to schedule it on its earlier time i.e. departure from Rohtak at 8.45 and arrival at New Delhi by 9.40 a.m. to enable thousands of office goers to reach their office about 10 a.m.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The train arrived late beyond 15 minutes only on 40 days out of 334 days between April 2001-February 2002 mainly due to bad weather like fog (26 days) and other reasons like cattle run over, signal/loco failures, etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs in EME

1923.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in different cadres of Electronics Engineers of Corps of EME;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of sanctioned posts in different cadres of Electronics Corps of EME, cadre-wise;

(d) the number of persons belonging to SC, ST, OBC and General categories working against such posts

including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997;

(e) the fresh vacancies occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001 and the number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General categories ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The position regarding sanctioned posts and posts filled up, group-wise and category wise, in Electronic Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) as on 2.7.1997 is as follows :-

| Group | Sanctioned Strength | Post filled | SC | ST | OBC | General |
|-------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| A | 64 | 17 | 01 (5.9%) | 02 (11.8%) | 02 (11.8%) | 12 (70.6%) |
| B | 48 | 29 | 08 (27.6%) | 03 (10.3%) | Nil (0.0%) | 18 (62%) |
| C | 15125 | 12606 | 1843 (14.6%) | 916 (7.2%) | 3384 (26.8%) | 6463 (51.3%) |
| D | 5086 | 4033 | 770 (19.1%) | 282 (6.9%) | 1019 (25.3%) | 1962 (48.6%) |

Shortfall in certain categories is due to non-availability of suitable candidates.

The following table gives the vacancies released and filled, so far, in different groups and categories during 1999-2000 and 2001

| Category Group | SC | | | ST | | | OBC | | | General | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| Group A vacancies | 01 | Nil | 03 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 02 | 01 |
| Group A filled | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Group B vacancies | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 01 | Nil | Nil | 01 |
| Group B filled | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Group C vacancies | 13 | 16 | 05 | 10 | 08 | 03 | 72 | 77 | 87 | 276 | 311 | 43 |
| Group C filled | 07 | 02 | Nil | Nil | 04 | Nil | 02 | 02 | Nil | 18 | 09 | Nil |
| Group D vacancies | 12 | 09 | 03 | 07 | 04 | 01 | 35 | 38 | 44 | 222 | 198 | 176 |
| Group D filled | Nil | Nil | Nil | 02 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 13 | Nil | 15 | 07 | Nil |

Exploration of Crude Oil

1924.DR VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are constantly carrying on the exploration work for crude oil in the country;

(b) if so, the annual average amount of funds being spent on the said task; and

(c) the total quantity of crude oil and gas estimated to be available in the country at present ?

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

(b) On an average, about Rs. 2097 crores was annually spent on exploration work during the last three years.

(c) The total reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the country as on 1.4.2001 are 714.08 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 734.86 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) respectively.

Joint Venture between OICL and Reliance Petrol

1925. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Reliance Petroleum have agreed to form a joint venture for marketing after the APM is dismantled in April, 2002;

(b) whether the IOCL has undertaken to lift 15-5m/ tonnes of petro products from the Jamnagar Refinery of Reliance under this agreement;

(c) if so, whether this will force the IOCL to curtail its own production/refining capacity despite the fact that there is a stagnant demand for petro products these days;

(d) if so, whether the Government have the option open to revise the agreement in times of contingencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is not envisaging any joint venture between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Reliance Petroleum at present for formation of a joint venture company for marketing after the APM is dismantled in April, 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Third Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 873(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2001.

(ii) The Companies (Issue of Share Capital with Differential Voting Rights) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 27(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2002.

(iii) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 77(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5148/2002]

- (3) A copy of the Notification G.S.R. 36(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2002 making certain amendments in the Schedule XIII of the Companies Act, 1956 under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5149/2002]

- (4) A copy of the Forty-Fifth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Working and Administration of Companies Act, 1956 for the year ended the March 31, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5150/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 5151/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, for the year 2000-2001.

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5152/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. L-7/25(1)/2001-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2001 under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5153/2002]

- (2) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Terms and Conditions for grant to Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. L-7/25(1)/2001-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 2001 under sub-section (3) of Section 38 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5154/2002]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5155/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5156/2002]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, for the year 2000-2001, under sub-section (ii) of section 35 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5157/2002]

- (6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5158/2002]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(I) Hundred-Fourteenth Report

SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE (Marmagao) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Hundred-fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Implementation of Elementary Education Schemes.

12.02¼ hrs.

(ii) Hundred-Fifteenth Report

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Hundred-fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 31st Report on Functioning of Central Government Hospitals.

12.02½ hrs.

[Translation]

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Thirteenth Report

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to lay the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I have a submission to make. After the Statement of the Prime Minister, the leaders who desire to seek clarifications may be permitted to do so. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Why are they clapping ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : They are 'clapping for the trapping of the NDA partners'.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Current situation in Ayodhya in the wake of Supreme Court Judgement

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement on the Supreme Court's interim order yesterday on the Ayodhya issue.

At the outset, I wish to categorically and unambiguously state that the Government will implement the Court's order in letter and spirit. I had said this in the Lok Sabha on March 11 even before the Court had delivered its ruling. I reiterate it today.

I have said on numerous occasions, both in Parliament and outside, that the Ayodhya issue can be resolved either through a mutual agreement between the concerned parties or through a judicial verdict. The same was also restated by the Government through the President's Address to the two Houses of Parliament on February 25, 2002.

The Government has requested the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court to expeditiously give its verdict on the title suit in respect of the disputed site in Ayodhya. Simultaneously, in the past few weeks, I have received several organisations and individuals belonging to both Hindu and Muslim communities for a consultation on the Ayodhya issue. The Government is pleased that a dialogue process between representatives of the two communities has resumed. His Holiness Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham held discussions with members

of certain Muslim organisations and eminent Muslim individuals on a possible basis for an amicable and mutually acceptable resolution of the issue.

Although his efforts have so far not yielded the desired results, the Government believes that the dialogue between representatives of the two communities should continue. If negotiations do not produce a mutually agreeable resolution of the issue, both sides should abide by the court's verdict.

The Government received a letter from the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas on March 8, 2002 requesting permission for performing a symbolic puja on March 15 on the acquired undisputed land in Ayodhya as a part of its hundred-day *Poornahuti Yagya*. The Nyas is a permanent lessee of 42 out of 67 acres of this acquired land, adjacent to the disputed site in Ayodhya. It is also the owner of an additional one acre, out of this acquired undisputed land.

Before the Government could decide on this matter, a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court by Shri Mohammed Aslam Bhure seeking, among other things, that the Court prohibit the Government from permitting the performance of puja on the acquired land. The Court listed the petition and application for various directions for hearing on March 13.

The Government then took the view that the decision to allow a puja or not would be in accordance with the orders that may be passed by the Supreme Court on March 13.

No affidavit or written submissions were filed on behalf of the Government. It was only after the conclusion of the petitioner's Counsel's arguments, on being asked by the Court, that the Attorney General submitted that, on his reading and interpretation of the Supreme Court's judgement in Farooqui's case in 1994, temporary use of the undisputed adjacent land for the purpose of performing puja was not, *per se*, prohibited and would not violate the *status quo* order passed by the Supreme Court as this *status quo* order was referable only to the disputed site and not to the undisputed acquired land.

The Government had made this point clear through the President's address to the two Houses of Parliament on February 25, 2002. I quote the relevant sentence : "The Government of India, being the statutory receiver, is duty bound to maintain the *status quo* at the disputed site in Ayodhya".

It is the Constitutional duty of the Attorney General to interpret a law or a judgement of the Court, when asked

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

by the Court to do so. This is what the Attorney General did when the Supreme Court asked him yesterday if a symbolic puja on the undisputed acquired land in Ayodhya was permissible.

The Attorney General submitted that, even if the puja was not prohibited by any previous judgement or order of the Supreme Court, the same could be permitted only under well-defined conditions and strict restrictions, which, by way of illustration, he indicated for the Court's consideration. He further stressed that if any further safeguards and restrictions were considered necessary, the same could be imposed by the court.

The Court, however, expressed the view that no puja or religious activity of any kind should be permitted or allowed to take place on the 67 acres of land in village Kot Ramachandra, which is vested with the Central Government.

The Court made it clear that its order was an *interim* order and was subject to further orders, which may be passed in the pending writ petition.

It is clear from all this that the Government has kept its commitment of going by the order of the Supreme Court in the matter of a symbolic puja on the undisputed acquired land in Ayodhya on March 15.

I wish to assure the House that adequate preparations have been made to maintain law and order in Ayodhya and to ensure that the 13th March order of the Supreme Court is adhered to.

I take this opportunity to appeal to all the political and non-political organisations across the country to co-operate with the Central Government as well as with respective State Governments to maintain peace and communal harmony.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 5159/2002]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you know in this House we do not have the convention to seek any clarifications on a Statement. Whether you want to have a discussion on this or not is a separate matter and I cannot decide about that now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Since this matter is very sensitive, some leaders of parties would be allowed to seek clarifications as a special case.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, let us hear Shri Jaipal Reddy dispassionately.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, please sit quietly.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, only small clarifications, please.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : (Miryalguda) : Sir, the Prime Minister's statement, far from dispelling the clouds, has got our doubts compounded. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, I appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to see that the order is restored. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, if they behave like this and not allow us to make our submissions, we will also do the same thing. This is not the way to behave in the House. . . .*(Interruptions)* Their own Prime Minister is asking for cooperation from others and their own party is preventing others from speaking ! . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, on December 6th, 2000, we witnessed the slip of the famous mask of the Prime Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister had chosen to dump that alluring mask on the dung heap for ever.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, is it a clarification ? He has to seek clarifications.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am supposed to react to Prime Minister's statement. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, now we can see our Prime Minister in his pristine *Hindutva* glory. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, the Minister is disturbing. . . .*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, how can you allow him to give a speech ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, they should decide whether they would allow the House to continue. What is going on here ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Yesterday, in our considered view, the Prime Minister played* on the nation. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Sir, he should withdraw that word. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, you please ask your clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, he should withdraw that word. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, how can he say that ? . . .(Interruptions) He cannot say that. He will have to withdraw his words. . . .(Interruptions) How can he say that ? . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, he will have to withdraw those words. . . .
(Interruptions) How dare he say that ? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : He should withdraw those words and apologise. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As a special case, I have allowed clarifications, but no one is allowing anybody to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : He should apologise first.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I request you all to please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He should withdraw those words. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. I will ask him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is cheating the country. The Prime Minister apologise. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : He should withdraw those words, and apologise. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there is anything objectionable, I will not allow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Let him apologise. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please go back to your seats ? I have to say something.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Jaipal Reddy ji should apologise otherwise the House will not be allowed to function. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please go back to your seats ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock*

[English]

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen
of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You go to your place. I will say something. You allow me to say something. If you go to your place, I will ask him. You just go to your places.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, if there is anything unparliamentary, I will expunge it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : There is nothing to apologise. If there is anything unparliamentary,

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

it can be expunged from the record. Compulsion won't do.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you go to your place, I will say something. I will ask him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You resume your seats. I will ask him. You go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will look into the records and if it is unparliamentary, I will treat it accordingly.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If it is unparliamentary, I will expunge it. You please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you go back to your seats, I would say what I want to say. If you do not go back to your seats, how can I say something ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 15th March, 2002.

14.05 hours.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 15, 2002/
Phalgun 24, 1923 (Saka).*

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