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Thursday, August 16, 2001
Sravana 25, 1923 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 16, 2001/Sravana 25, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at One minute past Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Senator Ibrahim Mantu, Deputy President of the Senate, Hon. N. Chibudom, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Federal Republic of Nigeria and other Members of the Nigerian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The Delegation arrived in India on Tuesday, 14th August, 2001. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Nigeria.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Policy to Attract Large Scale Investment in Power Sector

+

*341. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to attract large scale investment in power sector;

(b) if so, the action taken so far to implement this policy; and

(c) the amount of investment in terms of dollars required by the country in order to tackle the problems relating to power?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The policy to attract the encourage greater investment through private sector participation in the power sector was announced in 1991. The private power policy was announced 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. This policy has been reviewed/modified, wherever necessary, from time to time, with a view to streamline the procedures ensuring transparency and for speedy development of the power projects. The steps taken include the following:

(i) award of power project through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route made mandatory from 18.2.1995 onwards,

(ii) delegation of power for environmental clearance,

(iii) raising of capital cost limit exceeding which techno-economic clearance is required from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA),

(iv) automatic approval of foreign investment without any limit,

(v) tariff notification prescribing rate of return on investment, norms of operations for various types of power projects, etc.,

(vi) formulation of revised mega power policy, captive power policy, liquid fuel policy, hydel policy, etc.,

(vii) relaxation of 40% cap on debt exposure by Indian Financial Institutions,

(viii) development of an alternative payment security mechanism linked to reform milestones.

(c) To meet the 'power on demand' by 2012, it is estimated that an additional capacity of around 1,00,000 MW would be required to be set up. The approximate fund requirement to meet the above capacity and also to provide matching transmission and distribution network, is around Rs. 8 lakhs crores (Around US $ 170 Billion at 1 US $ = Rs. 47).

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total amount of investment received in terms of money by the power sector till date since 1991 under the policy of the Government to attract large scale foreign investment. Also furnish the names of the countries from which these investments have been received along with the amount of the investments. Whether the Government has received the required amount of investments for solving the problem of power sector? If so, the details thereof?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last ten years several companies had offered India to participate in the power generation sector for developing of this sector by foreign investment and several such companies had come to India also to participate in the power generation sector. Out of these, only seven companies have started power generation by foreign investment in our country. Today these companies are generating 2798 M.W. of power and investment worth Rs. 13029 crore has been made for this purpose. Several companies expressed their desire to work in India but unfortunately these companies could not start commercial production. Now efforts are being made by the Government of India to remove the very hurdles due to which commercial production could not be started. The biggest weakness of the power sector is the distribution system. No real investment can be made without paying proper attention towards it. During the past ten years, we have tried to attract foreign investment in the power sector especially in the generation sector but proper attention has not been paid towards reforming the distribution system. As a result of it despite giving guarantee and counter guarantee, some companies, which offered to invest in the power sector could not do so. Seven such companies were given counter-guarantee by only two companies have started commercial production as yet. We have paid attention towards bringing structural changes in the power sector for the last few months. Now we feel that inviting foreign investment will be of no use without bringing changes in the power sector. As such a wrong impression has been created that foreign investment is not successful in the power sector but the fact is that we need to bring about reforms in the distribution sector. It would have been better and we would not have faced this problem if reforms in the Distribution Sector were initiated in 1990-91 itself.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Whether the funds worth thousands of crores of rupees received from foreign countries for the power sector could not be utilised? If so, the reasons therefor? The amount of funds received by the Government as foreign assistance during the last three years and the amount of money utilised so far for expansion of the power projects and reasons for not utilising the remaining amount along with the details of the funds invested by the Government for this purpose.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is trying to know about position of investment. While referring to foreign investment there are two types of investments. The first is investment made under the foreign direct investment by the private sector and the second is the investments made by multi-lateral agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, TFID. It is given to States and the Union Government. That is a separate issue. The investment made by the FDI is a direct investment and there is no question of unspent amount. The investment made within the country is not considered along with it. But if the hon. Members want to know about the position of assistance given by multi-lateral agencies then I would like to say that the point was not included in the original question and I would try to provide this information later on.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to what extent the quantum of power generation is likely to increase by getting large scale investment in the power sector. In the reply given by the hon. Minister it has been told that the required expansion of the power sector needs Rs. 8 lakh crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what schemes have been proposed to get this amount of fund.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the 16th power survey report published by the Central Electricity Authority recently has stated that one lakh M.W. power will be required in the coming 12 years. A capital of Rs. 8 lakh crore will be required for generation, transmission and distribution of one lakh M.W. power. How this capital of Rs. 8 lakh crore is going to be mobilised. We are trying to do so. It is not necessary that green field projects will be set up for generation of one lakh M.W. power. We can fulfill our demand by improving plant load factor through repair and modernisation. We will also try to check power pilferage that may also provide funds to us. Every year, pilferage

to the tune of Rs. 20 thousand crore is done. We can get at least Rs. 2-1/2 lakh crore by it during the next 12 years. Today, some States are suffering more than 52 per cent losses in transmission and distribution. An Action Plan has been formulated to reduce the loss up to 10-12 per cent. The money got in this manner can be invested again. The Union Government has decided to make investment up to 46 per cent in this sector during 10th and 11th Five Year Plan. The Government would try to remove shortcomings of this sector by increasing public investment if private sector is not interested. We are also trying our best to bring private investment in this sector. The matter has been taken up with various countries and industrial houses. We can generate more power only when we reduce the difference of cost of power generation of Rs. three and cost of power of Rs. two to Rs. one. This will increase our internal generation. This would also help the State Governments and the Union Governments to invest more and more.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The hon. Minister has already put his finger on what I wanted to ask, which is, the question of distribution. I feel that unless the new investors are allowed, along with the generation sector, in the distribution sector, I do not think the problem is going to be solved. It requires a tremendous political will and it must be permitted. Why is it that seven foreign investment proposals came but except the ENRON, not one has been successful? I think that we should make a case study of each one of these projects...*(Interruptions)* It has been a remarkable success in generation but the only thing is that we are tied down in too many knots. I remember that the then Planning Commission — I happened to be there — had objected to the principle of counter-guarantee. Where there is a question of foreign direct investment, where is the question of guarantee? Let them declare 40 per cent dividend and repatriate it. There is no problem. The then Finance Minister overruled all opposition and imposed this principle of allowing counter-guarantee. I think that was a very wrong thing. ENRON is a very sad case and the Minister must try to sort this problem out. Each party concerned must make a proportionate sacrifice and that itself would send a right signal to the rest of the world that in India investment is safe and the return is safe.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I fully agree with the hon. Member that distribution sector is the key to successful reforms in the power sector. That is why we have taken a number of measures. I would request you to allow me to make a presentation to all the Members of Parliament as to what type of reforms we have unveiled now in the distribution sector. If you permit, I would take one and a half hours, whenever you give me the time....

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Not now, Sir. I will give a detailed presentation to the Members of Parliament. I would also circulate to them a booklet about a detailed action plan that we have drawn and the same is called 'blueprint for the development of the power sector'. We have prepared this only in the last few weeks and the blueprint would really show you as to how we are going to solve the distribution problem. But, I fully agree with the hon. Member that the generator should also be allowed to distribute power. That is the model which is successful, even in Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and other places and the would obviate the needs for giving guarantees and counter-guarantees...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Allow them to buy the facilities of the Electricity Boards...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: In fact, guarantee given by the State Government delays the reforms because the State Government also do not need to really bring out changes in the distribution sector.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: When the Government frames the policy in this regard, the Government have to be very strict about the regional balance also. I find that though the foreign investment is mainly in this sector, the investment in some States and areas is very minimal, for example, the North-Eastern States and some Southern States. In Kerala, the foreign investment in 1998 was only 0.36 per cent; whereas in States like Maharashtra, it is 14 per cent; Karnataka— seven per cent; Andhra Pradesh—six per cent; and Tamil Nadu-six per cent. It is good and the same should be encouraged. My question is as to why there should be a total imbalance with regard to some areas and some States. As this Question relates to policy, I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Government would see that regional balance is taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please understand that this Question relates to large scale investment in power sector.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Yes, Sir. That is why I said that while framing the policy, the Government should see

that the regional balance is maintained and all the areas should get foreign investment. That is the reason why I was stressing this point. I was giving some figures in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask the supplementary, not to give all sorts of figures.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: My specific question is that the Government should see that the regional balance is maintained. In this regard, I would like to cite a project in my constituency, in Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not going to put your supplementary, I will disallow your question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am completing the question, Sir. Though the clearance for this power project has been given as early as in 1998, for which the foreign investment is expected...*(Interruptions)* The same has not reached the Cochin Refinery so far...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, there is no supplementary. Please take your seat. What is this?

Now Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is regarding the policy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not utilising the time of the House properly. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It is about regional balance.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no supplementary.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I think the Minister is ready to answer my supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is ready but you are not putting proper supplementary. Please resume your seat. Do not waste the time of the House.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The Minister has placed a statement. I appreciate his resolve to solve the power problem by 2012. The actual estimated demand is 1 lakh MW. It is a positive venture. I think that it is too much ambitious when we take our experience of foreign investment into account. A bad precedent has been set by the policy of this Government. Take for example, the ENRON project in Maharashtra. What is its fate? The ENRON project is going to be a failure instead of a success...*(Interruptions)* In this backdrop, I would like to know from the Minister as to what is the fate of foreign investment in generating power in the power sector. What is the fate of ENRON project? What is the latest position of the Central Government with regard to the counter-guarantee?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Firstly, despite our dismal performance in the Eighth and the Ninth Plan, in the Eighth Plan, we could attain only 53 per cent of the target and in the Ninth Plan, we are likely to attain 51 per cent of the target. The preparation that we are doing now, makes me very confident to tell the House that we are monitoring all the projects on week-to-week basis which are going to come up in the Tenth Plan so that the Tenth Plan target would definitely be met. The target of 100,000 MW in the Tenth and the Eleventh Plans would definitely be met. Half of the target would be met in the Tenth Plan itself.

Secondly, the Government of India has already decided not to give any more counter-guarantee to any new IPPs that are going to come up in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by hon. Minister, it has been stated that a target of generating 1 lakh M.W. power by 2012 has been fixed. You know that natural gas is the cheapest source of power generation, so that natural gas based power plants will be the cheapest. Work of laying HBJ pipe line was done by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what efforts are being made to generate more power through natural gas based power plants for achieving this target. Hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik is sitting there. If there is coordination between Ministers he can tell as to whether natural gas would be provided for increasing power generation.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, it is necessary to generate more power by natural gas based power plants. I feel that Shri Ram Naik is sitting here to support me. We would be able to achieve the target of power generation if natural gas is supplied.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: By when it will be given.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Ram Naikji can tell that correctly.

Ban on Cow Slaughter

+

*343. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of beef exported from India and the income earned therefrom;

(b) the efforts being made and the amount spent under the specific schemes relating to breeding of cow;

(c) whether there have been demands from several organizations particularly from Sant Sammelan at Kumbh Mela for banning cow slaughter;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ban cow slaughter completely; and

(e) the names of the States where laws imposing total or partial ban on cow slaughter are in force?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the EXIM Policy, the export of beef is totally banned. Hence the question of earning income does not arise.

(b) There is no specific scheme relating to breeding of cows. However, the Department has launched a comprehensive scheme, National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in 2000-2001 and funds released under the scheme during the 2000-2001 is Rs. 2492.325 lakhs.

(c) and (d) A number of organizations through appeals/requests and some Members of Parliament through Parliament Question/Resolutions and private Members Bill have been demanding a total ban on cow slaughter in India and formulation of an adequate legislation for this purpose. This request includes the demand made in the Sant Sammelan at Kumbh Mela in Allahabad in January, 2001.

Article 48 of the Directive Principle of State Policy of the Constitution of India, enjoins that "the State shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and milch and draught cattle."

The preservation of cattle is a matter in which the State Legislatures have exclusive powers to legislate.

The three different Constitution benches of the Supreme Court who heard the litigations and appeal held that due to constitutional, religious, political and socio-economic constraints the Union Government cannot bring forward or undertake a central legislation to impose a complete ban on cow slaughter.

(e) A statement as per Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Name of the States which have enacted legislation for banning/restricting cow slaughter.

The following States have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Goa
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Jammu & Kashmir
9. Karnataka
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Orissa
13. Punjab
14. Rajasthan
15. Sikkim
16. Tamil Nadu
17. Uttar Paradesh
18. West Bengal
19. Manipur

Position in Union Territories regarding cow slaughter

The following UTs have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny:-

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. National Capital Territory of Delhi
3. Chandigarh
4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
5. Daman-Diu
6. Pondicherry

The Union Territory of Lakshadweep does not have any provision.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before asking the supplementary, I would like to know the answer to this question as to how much beef is exported from India alongwith the amount of earnings from it. The hon. Minister has given a wrong reply. He said that as per the EXIM policy, export of beef is completely banned; hence the question of any income from it does not arise. This reply is misleading. Firstly, I want a correct reply to my question, only after that I will put my supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Sir, we only get reply prepared by the officers. The Ministers do not even read the reply properly, how many problems does it create? We do not get a proper reply...*(Interruptions)* ?

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Sir, I should get a proper reply...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your supplementary now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary, please?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are the number of cows per thousands persons in India in the year 1951 and 2000.

[English]

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: The figure relating to the population of cows is presently not with me. I will give that information to the hon. Member afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, cow is worshipped in our country. Cow is the abode of gods and it is revered in each house. It is worshipped in the month of Sawan. Though our country is agriculture based country yet cow slaughter takes place here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much we earn from export of beef and how much expenditure is incurred over the import of chemical fertilizers in India. Though the hon. Minister did not reply my first question properly. I expect this question to be replied properly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: It is not related to this Question. However, I will supply the information to the hon. Member later.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is planning for a total ban on cow slaughter, though in the answer it has been stated that the Government of India is not considering it.

Sir, sometimes we hear organisations like RSS, VHP, and other religious and fundamentalist parties demanding for a total ban on cow slaughter. So, I would specifically like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering for a total ban on cow slaughter or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Seth, have you gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, a National Commission for Cattle has been set up so that the cow and its progeny have a significant role in agricultural and rural economy of our country. It is, therefore, necessary to formulate measures for their development in all possible ways in order to review the relevant laws of the land relating to protection, preservation, development and well being of the cattle and implementation of the law,

regulations, standards for the movement of the cattle and improvement of the functions of *Gaushalas* and to suggest such measures as may be deemed necessary to secure the cattle of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has asked whether the Government is going to ban cow slaughter or not.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : Sir, at present, the law of the land does not permit it.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to apprise this august House that a committee had been constituted in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Sardar Dattar Singh which had recommended a total ban on cow slaughter. A resolution seeking framing of a central law to put a total ban on cow slaughter keeping in view the agriculture based and sage dominated cultural tradition of our country was passed in this House in 1979. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government have recently set up a central commission for rearing and protection of cows. If so, what are the objectives of this commission and what will be the limits of the commission regarding ban on cow slaughter in the country?

[English]

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, preservation of cattle is a State subject.

[Translation]

Supreme Court has given rulings on it twice.

[English]

The Supreme Court held that a law which prohibits the slaughter of bulls, bullocks (cattle as well as buffaloes), cows and calves (cattle or buffaloes) in pursuance of the Directive in article 48 of the Constitution in order to conserve the source of milk supply and draught cattle, constitutes a reasonable restriction...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, this exercise is not enough. Next time you must get ready with the answers. Now, Q. No. 344.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Sir, it is very important subject...*(Interruptions)*

An Half an Hour Discussion should be held on it...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, an Half an Hour Discussion should be held over it?

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Government should ban cow slaughter in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

Anti-Defection Law

\+

*344. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the frequent changing of party loyalty by the elected representatives of Parliament and State Legislatures after their elections on the ticket of a particular party, taking advantage of the present Anti-Defection Law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to entrust the Election Commission of India with the responsibility to decide the cases of defection under the Anti-Defection Law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been considerable debate on the provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India (Anti-Defection Law). As the provisions now stand, the Presiding Officer of a House has the power to decide the issue of disqualification of a Member under the Tenth Schedule. In Kihota Hollohon Vs Zachilhu and others, AIR 1993 SC 412 at 449, the Supreme Court of India held that the Presiding Officer of a House acting under paragraph 6(1) of the Tenth Schedule is a Tribunal. Hence, the decision of the Presiding Officer is subject to judicial review by a court of law.

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* Not recorded.

(c) and (d) To overcome the problem of judicial review and on the lines of articles 103 and 192 of the Constitution of India, it has been suggested by the Election Commission that the question of disqualification of Members based on the Tenth Schedule, should be decided by the President or the Governor as the case may be, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission of India. However, the Government has not taken any view in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the scope of anti defection law.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the anti-defection law in the Tenth schedule of the Constitution, one can go to Supreme Court against the decision of the presiding officer. I would like to apprise the hon. Minister that a proposal to amend the anti defection law in the 10th schedule of the Constitution was adopted in the all party meeting held on 25.5.1998. So far so that even the former President Dr. R. Venkataraman had suggested that the Membership of a Member defecting party should be terminated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the phenomenon of defection is being witnessed frequently especially during the term of the Tenth Lok Sabha. A number of cases related to defection are pending in Supreme Court and the year 2001 is running here. I would like to know from the Government whether the Government has reconsidered the matter by calling an all-party meeting in this regard during the last three to four years? If not, what are the reasons therefor? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important Question; you should not disturb the House like this.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Various suggestions have been made from time to time at various forums. In 1990 the Dinesh Goswami Committee had made certain suggestions with regard to amendment to the Tenth Schedule. Thereafter, the Supreme Court had decided with regard to judicial review being available against the orders passed on the Tenth Schedule by the Presiding Officers of various Houses. The Law Commission and the Election Commission have also made certain suggestions.

It is correct that in 1998 an all-Party meeting was held to discuss this specific subject and thereafter this subject has not come up before an all-Party meeting. But, before a larger consensus among Parties can be framed, the Government is awaiting the final recommendations of the Commission that the Government has appointed for the review of the functioning of the Constitution to come, so that those final draft suggestions that have been circulated can also be made available for a larger debate. When the final suggestions come, the Government is certainly wanting to discuss it in a larger forum. The issues involved are very major and have a larger bearing. One of the suggestions made is that the power to adjudicate under the Tenth Schedule should be taken away from the Presiding Officers and either be vested in the President or the Governor to act on the aid and advice of the Election Commission. Since this is a very larger suggestion, before such a suggestion can be considered or any decision taken, a larger consensus among Parties would be necessary. Since this debate is continuing and we are also awaiting the final recommendations on the draft proposals which have been published, the Government does intend consulting all Parties before a final view is taken in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that the Government has not been considering this issue seriously for it is true that even today defections are taking place. Suddenly, the Member of a political party...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many a defection has taken place in Bihar.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, had the Government taken this matter seriously and its intent been clear, no Member could have resorted to defection. It is seen that a Member does so only when he is offered some lucrative post or the other like the offer of Ministership in lieu of leaving one's party or offering some vehicles. I would like to know from the Government whether the Income Tax Department...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Whether the Government will hold investigation against such persons by the Income Tax Department who register a dramatic and sudden increase in their earnings and the standard of living...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: I have not given any kind of enticement to either you or somebody else...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Jaiswalji, what has happened to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker Sir, if such kind of facts or information with regard to a Member comes or is brought to the knowledge of the Government then certainly probe can be held as per the provisions under the Income Tax Act. However to make accusations against some Member or Members without substantiating it with some facts or evidence does not make a care for holding investigation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: We say that there have been some defections from the RJD and we have not this information that the people have been given Baleno cars and registered a sudden increase in their incomes, you must order investigation by the Income Tax Department into it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, liberal economy has opened up doors to the multinationals and several corporate houses. Though our democracy is a matured one, it cannot be ruled out that in the days to come, to keep the balance of a particular Party in power, come what may, in some critical economic matters and resolutions, if the existing provision of one-third split in the Party is justified, the business houses will play a major role in the country to engineer the split and to spoil the democratic culture of this nation which has been built up through ages. In view of this fact, taking this thing into consideration, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make a critical review very shortly. That is my first question. My second question is, will he ensure that a Member elected on a symbol, the moment he defects, has to go to the people for re-election without any provision of one-third or half or anything? Part (b) of my question is this. The power of Parliament is supreme. No matter of encroachment by the Supreme Court or any Court in deciding the merit of the defection should be allowed excepting by the Presiding Officer of the House. I would like to know whether he would ensure the restoration of the supremacy of Parliament.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question which has several different aspects to it. I do not know whether the factum of merely economic liberalisation itself is linked the question of change of political parties. It is because even before the liberalisation process had started in the 1990s, we had a large number of cases. In fact one of the reports has suggested the figure that in some of the Houses, by 1970s, 50 per cent of the Members had changed side even when there was liberalisation. Therefore, if we see the figures of splits and mergers, as far as the Parliament is concerned, there were a larger number of cases in the early 90s. So, in the Tenth Lok Sabha itself, there were five cases of splits which had taken place. This figure has been gradually coming down. In fact, in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, there were only marginal cases of two Members. Therefore, to say that it may be linked to liberalisation itself may not be the correct nexus.

SHRI A.C. JOS: What about U.P.?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As far as the larger questions are concerned, I agree with the hon. Member that these are very contentious issues and, therefore, in a moment, a decision ought not to be taken on these issues. There are issues on which there are various recommendations of the Law Commission, the Election Commission, the Dinesh Goswami Committee and the all-Party meeting, which have been flagged for discussion. The two principle issues are, should we continue with the present system under the Tenth Schedule where a one-third Members breaking away from the original political Party is regarded as a split or not. There are two views on this particular subject already within the political system. In fact, even when initially suggestions were made in the 1970s to introduce this legislation, there was a too distinct opinion on whether split provisions should be there or should not be there. The second issue is also on which each of the Committees has recommended, and this would be for the hon. House and the political parties to consider in view of the privileges of the House, whether powers of the Presiding Officers can be taken away in this matter and given to a body outside the House.

That is the other suggestion. Therefore, as hon. Member Shrimati Kanti Singh had earlier asked, to accept the recommendations without a thorough debate and a larger consensus between political parties might not be immediately possible. We can have a larger discussion on the subject in the House so that hon. Members can express their opinions. These are not issues on which a momentary discussion can take place.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let there be a discussion in this House and let the House recommend something. It is very important. If everything were to be decided by the courts, what are we here for?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the victims are held for five years and defections take place

under various circumstances during these five years. Somewhere it is advantageous, somewhere else it results in loss. If a loss has been suffered in Manipur then it is providing advantageous in Uttar Pradesh and especially now when the Rashtriya Janata Dal is divided in Delhi and is soon going to face defections in Bihar.

I would like to say that the Members of various political parties choose the option of defecting from their party owing to the despotic treatment given to them by the Leaders of their parties and their deviation from the issues and principles. Those who want to register their opposition to such a behaviour have to face the pressure of anti defection law etc. and attempts are made to suppress their sentiments. I would like to know the pertinence of the Government's efforts to assist in giving a blow to the sentiments of such persons?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think, it is related to this question.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Government has no policy. The policy is dictated directly by the Tenth Schedule itself. The Tenth Schedule says, 'In matters where whips are issued, the whips of the parties have to be abided by.' But one of the suggestions made by one of the Committees that have gone into this issue is that whips are only to be confined either to Finance Bills or to other matters where the survival of the Government is at stake; and therefore in other matters freedom of discussion could be given. This is an issue that would require an amendment to the Tenth Schedule, on which the House will have to take a view.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Is the Government aware that our anti-defection law has two inherent weaknesses?

One of the those weaknesses is that it does not allow retail defection, but wholesale defection is allowed. Retail defection is not allowed. This means, one or two persons cannot defect; but it is allowed in a group. When a man commits a criminal offence, whether it is done by an individual or a group is immaterial. Here, defection is an offence. But when it is committed by one or two persons, below one-third of the party's strength, it becomes an offence; if it is above one-third, it becomes sanctified. This is one inherent weakness, which we have to deal with: disallowing defections on retail basis and allowing defections on wholesale basis. That is an inherent weakness in our law.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, what is your supplementary?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am coming to that.

Secondly, the Supreme Court has recently decided that the Speaker's power is equivalent to that of a tribunal. We are not given protection under the Rules of Procedure. The Constitution gives us the protection. The decisions by the Speaker on procedural precedents for this House are protected by the Constitution under article 208. It is a constitutional protection but that protection is not extended to a decision taken under the anti-defection law under the Tenth Schedule. It becomes a review and that decision is taken as a tribunal decision. Therefore, we must give constitutional protection to the Speaker when he takes a decision under the anti-defection law.

Conversely, the Indian Speakers, as you know, have some difficulty. In the UK, Speakers, are not sponsored and Speakers are not even opposed in elections. But Indian Speakers are sponsored by political parties. So, however the Speaker may take a just and reasonable decision, it would be construed as a vulnerable decision by people who do not agree with his decision. Thus, there is always some inherent weakness so far as Speaker taking a decision is concerned. Added to that, with the Supreme Court's ruling that the Speaker's decision is reviewable, the whole thing goes. The Speaker is nowhere in the picture.

There is now a suggestion that it must be given to the Governor or to the President to take a decision bocause they are also connected with the House. So, all these factors have to be considered. I would request the Central Government to bring in a law to set right all these disputes and confusions in the matter of administration of anti-defection law.

MR. SPEAKER: These are only suggestions.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I quite have a regard for my learned friend's suggestions. With regard to the first question, it is not that the Government is unaware of what the issues arising are; but the point is whether those are defections or those are conflicting viewpoints. The earlier viewpoint expressed by hon. Member Shri Prabhunath Singh was that we must, in fact, do away the provision of Whip and allow a freedom of debate itself. It is an extremely different point of view. The point of view expressed by hon. Member Shri Radhakrishnan

is that split itself comes into conflict with the fact that one or two people changing sides is considered enough for a political disqualification but splits are not. This is a question.

This amendment was made to the Constitution in 1985 because of an evolution of a thinking on political process that we must have some provisions where there is a freedom. But when it is misused for the purpose of political opportunism, therefore, the law must step in. That is why the Legislature, at that stage, had come to this conclusion that one-third must be regarded as a split. Now, whether the split provision must continue or must not continue is a matter certainly on which two viewpoints are possible and the Government is aware of the two conflicting viewpoints on this subject.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity. This is a political question as well as a constitutional question. In deciding the question of disqualification, the Speaker enjoys the power of the House of Commons and also the Speakers of all the countries. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and know whether he will follow the powers of the Speaker conferred by the *Diet* to the Speaker in Japan that even the election petitions are decided by the *Diet* itself. It is not decided by the court of law to uphold the dignity, prestige and sovereignty of Parliament.

The Speaker is the representative of Parliament. When Speaker's decision is questioned on the question of vires, the question of the Parliament's power to decide on any question is debatable. The Supreme Court has passed a judgment after six years of our passing this anti-defection law in 1985 declaring that the power of Speaker is subject to judicial review.

Will the Government take it again to the Supreme Court to review it on the question of division of the constitutional powers between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, on the question that the power of Parliament is supreme? The supremacy of Parliament is not considered by the Supreme Court in that question. The proceedings under the anti-defection law are deemed to be the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They have made a distinction.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Yes, they have made it. Will the Government stoutly protect the independent exercise of the constitutional powers of the Speaker to decide the question of disqualification because the Speaker is the best judge of the situation? It is a question of doctrine of indoor management. Will the Government take it up to the Supreme Court to review that judicial review will not be applicable to decide the constitutionality, of the constitutional decision by the Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, I think everybody is telling that Parliament is supreme; both the Houses are supreme. But we have to see how much decorum we are maintaining in the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, the people are supreme. We are constitutionally elected to Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to think about this aspect also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member Shri Pandian has many capacities — he has been a lawyer, a Speaker and also now a Member of this House. He knows better than me that as far as the power of review are concerned, the judgements are not reviewed on the review applications filed ten years after they have been pronounced and, therefore, as and when this issue again comes up before the court in certain position, the Government, in consonance with the constitutional spirit, will take up an appropriate stand before the Supreme Court.

Review of Performance of Garments and Textiles Production

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*345. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of garments and textiles production has been reviewed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the requirements of additional financial resources in this sector; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of textiles and garments to reduce the gap between production and export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The performance of production of garments and textiles is reviewed from time to time The figures of production of textiles during the last two years are given below:-

Items	Unit	1999-00	2000-01 (P)
Yarn (cotton, spun and and man-made)	Million Kg	3940	4079
Fabrics (cotton, blended and 100% non-cotton)	Million Sq. Mtr.	39202	40908

Source: Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

Note:* = Cotton year, P=Provisional.

The production of garments during the last two calendar years has been as follows:-

(Million Pcs)

Item	1999	2000
Garments	5528.2	5893.7

Source: Clothing Manufacturer Association of India (CMAI).

(c) and (d) The production of textiles and garments is sufficient to meet the current domestic and export demand. However, to sustain competitiveness of our textile and clothing products in the domestic and the export markets and to increase exports, the quality, productivity and technology needs to be upgraded, for which additional investments would be necessary. In order to encourage required investments, in pursuance of National Textile Policy (NTxP-2000), a "Textile Package" has been announced in the Union Budget 2001-02. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:-

(i) Excise duty structure on textile items has been generally rationalized to achieve growth and maximum value addition.

(ii) Customs duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textile and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from countervailing duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(iii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest is available to textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iv) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the budget 2001-02 for establishment of Apparel Parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is O.K. However I would like to say that the export of Indian garments is decling due to increase in excise duty. Hence I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government to increase the export of garments?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that the export of garment is decreasing. I would like to cite some figures. Our exports have increased in 2000-2001 also. We exported the garments worth 10,508.5 million dollars. in 1999-2000 and worth 12,099.4 million dollars in 2000-2001. We have set a target of exporting garments worth 13.7 billion dollars during 2001-2002. I would certainly like to say that the decrease registered in the first quarter in the effect and outcome of world-wide recession and slowdown of American Economy. In the coming days, export will be made as per the target.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister says that he has made efforts to increase the exports. However, he keeps on reviving the targets. Inn the month of May he fixed a target of 17 billion dollars. Later on, it was revised to 50 billion dollars, however the percentage of actual export decreases. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the reasons for it?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: We do not change our targets. As hon. Members has stated, earlier we fixed the targets at 17 billion dollars, later on it was revised by the Ministry of Commerce keeping in view the changes in the situation of World economy. The latest figure as fixed by the Ministry of Commerce is 13.7 billion dollars.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier produce of NTC mills used to be exported on large scale.

[English]

He asked as to whether performance of garments and textiles production has been reviewed recently.

[Translation]

The production in NTC is not increasing due to the old and outdated machinery to its mills. I would like to know as to whether the Government's decision not to provide working capital and raw material has been affecting its performance. By when the raw material has been affecting its performance. By when the Government are going to do the modernisation of NTC and what is the scheme of the Government in this regard?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government have taken a number of steps including the setting up of a Technology Mission on Cotton to ensure the production of quality fabric in NTC mills. Efforts have also been made to ensure the availability of quality cotton as the good quality cotton yields quality fabric. So far as the modernisation of NTC mills is concerned, the draft approach for the same is pending before BIFR. The Government intends to mobilise the funds for the modernisation of the mills by selling the assets of unviable mills or selling the excess land of some NTC mills if permitted by the concerned State Governments. I feel that the BIFR will give its decision with in a short time.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to get your protection as far as this Question is concerned.

Sir, the Minister has said that they are giving boost to export and basically cotton export. With the opening up of the economy, this year basically, our export is going to depend upon the cost of the raw material that is available this year. In the international market, as I know, the prices have been sliding down and they are sliding down at such a rate which is going to more than what the CCI is going to pay for this coming crop.

In order to protect the exporters and to make them competitive in the international market, what steps are you going to take to see that cotton from the international market does not come into the Indian market? To put it the other way round, how are you going to protect the exporters and make them competitive in the international market?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the Government has taken many steps.

SHRI PRAKASH YASWANT AMBEDKAR: He should specify what those steps are and not merely say that many steps have been taken.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: We have taken many steps for boosting our exports. First of all, we have announced a new National Textile Policy, 2000. Under this Policy, the Government wants to replace the old, obsolete machinery with new one. Just for example, India has only 8,000 shuttleless looms whereas a country like China has two lakh shuttleless looms. Under this National Textile Policy, the Government wants to increase this number from 8,000 to 50,000. We have also decided to replace the obsolete looms. We have also decided to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms.

So far as the question of protecting the exporters is concerned, as the hon. Member rightly said, some protection should be given to our exporters in the international market. The Government and the Ministry of Textiles often review the entire situation and try to make the Indian textile sector and the exporters more competitive. We often review our export policy. In this way, we are giving protection not only to the exporter but to the entire textile sector.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: What about the import of cotton that is going to take place? I would like to know your comments on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 346.

New System of Bidding

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*346. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government are planning to replace the model production sharing contract in the oil exploration bidding process with a standard contract;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new system of bidding would avoid the unnecessary delays in finalizing the contract;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the bid evaluation procedure transparent; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to make the process faster?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) In the Model Production Sharing Contract (MPSC) System, at present being followed under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), contract, contracts are negotiated after the award of the exploration blocks, whereas under Standard Production Sharing Contract (SPSC) System, no contract negotiation is carried out after award of exploration blocks. However, companies may take exceptions to the Standard PSC at the time of bidding and it is for Government to accept or reject such exceptions. MPSC and SPSC Systems have their own relative merits. The revision of bid documents, including MPSC, is an ongoing process; keeping in view various aspects especially the changes taking place internationally and inputs from investors, companies and others. These revisions aim to bring about further clarity, substantive improvements and wider acceptability of the bid documents amongst investors.

(c) to (e) There were no delays in finlisation of contracts for the second round of NELP. The Contracts with companies were finalised and signed on 17.7.2001; in less than six weeks time from the date of award of blocks. The bid evaluation followed under NELP-II was based on a quantitative system of evaluation and the bid parameter weightages were made public for the first time through Notice Inviting Offers (NIO), making the evaluation process transparent. In the global bidding system followed under NELP-II, the entire process of evaluation of bids, award of blocks and signing of contracts was completed in a period of about three and half months, which is much faster than the earlier bidding rounds.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Energy is one of the important factors that drives progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a pointed supplementary. Otherwise, you will not get any answer.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, oil exploration has a lot of significance in the context of development of the country and the energy sector. Has the Model Production Sharing Contract (MPSC) System under the New Exploration Licensing Policy given any clarity to the Government? If so, what are the benefits that we are going to reap?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Prior to the New Exploration Licensing Policy, right from 1980 to 1996, we had given only 35 blocks for exploration; only 35 contracts were signed. Under NELP-I, we had signed 24 contracts and NELP-II, we had signed 23 contracts. That means, within one-and-a-half years, we had signed 47 contracts against 35 contracts in 10 years. So, we are giving a boost to exploration and I am happy that it is yielding results. We have struck oil and gas at certain places and this will give us more oil and gas required for the country's economic development.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: With these encouraging results that the hon. Minister of Petroleum announced, is there any plan to explore some more blocks in the Krishna-Godavari Basin? There appears to be a lot of gas and oil available there and it is being transported to other refineries. Is there any plan to explore some more blocks during this year?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, we are coming with the third round of NELP blocks and they would include off-shore, deep sea and on-land. Now the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given permission to include that State also. So, in the next round we would certainly include one on-land block from the State of Andhra Pradesh so that they could have more gas coming down the Andhra Pradesh land.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, thank you.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Delay in the Implementation of Rail Projects

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major factor responsible for delays in the implementation of projects is lack of funds;

(b) if so, whether 42 rail projects out of 48 projects have been delayed on account of fund constraints;

(c) if so, the details of the projects which are running behind the schedule along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the railways to complete its projects within the time frame to avoid cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total no. of sanctioned on-going projects is as under:

New Lines	81
Gauge Conversion	71
Doubling	85
Railway Electrification	23
Metropolitan Transport Projects	18

In view of the very large number of projects and the limited availability of funds, it is not possible to lay a firm time schedule for completion of these projects.

(d) In order to ensure early completion of projects, Railways are making constant efforts to augment the resource base by increasing the internal generation of revenue; arranging financial participation by Private Parties and the State Governments in the execution of Railway Projects; obtain additional Budgetary Support, etc.

To ensure judicious allocation of resources, these projects have been prioritised on the basis of their physical progress operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability.

Fast Track Scheme

*347. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated the process to remove the names of defunct companies from the Registrar of Companies;

(b) if so, the number of companies struck off their names under the fast-track scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate further steps to encourage de-registration of in-active companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The names of 5181 companies have been struck off under Fast Track Section 560 Scheme launched by Government during 28.9.2000 to 31.1.2001 (For the State of Gujarat, the Scheme continued till 31.3.2001).

(c) No Sir.

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

Use of Pesticides

*348. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been phasing out dangerous pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the highly deleterious effects of Allethrin and its related isomers which are being widely used and advertised;

(d) whether the Government will advise the manufacturers to desist from such advertisements; and

(e) whether the Government will also review the case in accordance with FAO Code on Advertising to which Government of India is a party?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far 27 pesticides and 4 formulations of 3 other pesticides have been banned for use in the country as shown in the statement.

(c) Allethrin and its isomers do not cause any deleterious effect on human health, if they are used as per the guidelines prescribed by the Registration Committee under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the question.

Statement

List of Pesticides Banned in India

A. Pesticides banned for manufacture, import and use (24 Nos.)

1. Aldrin
2. Benzene Hexachloride
3. Calcium Cyanide
4. Chlordane
5. Copper Acetoarsenite
6. Dibromochloropropane

7. Endrin
8. Ethyl Mercury Chloride
9. Ethyl Parathion
10. Heptachlor
11. Menazene
12. Nitrofen
13. Paraquat dimethyl sulfate
14. Pentachloro nitrobenzene
15. Pentachlorophenol
16. Sodium Methane Arsonate
17. Tetradifon
18. Texafen
19. Aldicarb
20. Chlrohenzilate
21. Dieldrin
22. Maleic hydrozide
23. Ethelene Dibromide
24. TCA

B. Pesticide banned for use but their manufacture is allowed for export (3 Nos.)

25. Nicotin Sulfate
26. Phenyl Mercury Acetate
27. Captafol

C. Pesticide formulations banned for import, manufacturer and use (4 Nos.)

1. Methomyl 24% L
2. Methomyl 12.5% L
3. Phosphamidon 85% SL
4. Carbofuron 50% G

Restriction on Cotton Export

*349. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove all restrictions on export of cotton by bringing it under OGL and set up a National Cotton Board to improve quality and provide farmers with much required level playing field;

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

(c) the recommendations of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard;

(d) whether united forum of cotton growers, suppliers, consumers and cotton industry have urged and submitted proposals in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to the which the Government have accepted those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) The Government of India have taken several initiatives concerning cotton. The export of cotton has been made free and without restrictions from 2nd July, 2001. The Technology Mission on Cotton has been launched, which aims at improving the quality and productivity of cotton in order to provide quality raw material to the industry and remunerative returns to the cotton farmers.

The Working Group on Textiles, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, envisages the setting up of a National Cotton Board of India. However, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

The existing Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) having representatives from all concerned advises the Government generally on matters pertaining to production, consumption in marketing of cotton and also provides a forum for liaison between the cotton textile mill industry, cotton growers, the cotton trade and the Government. The CAB performs similar functions that have been envisaged for the National Cotton Board of India by the FICCI.

Progress of Mega Power Projects of NTPC

*350. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Mega Power Projects of NTPC in progress for increasing power in the country;

(b) the details of the financing of these projects;

(c) the target set up for completion of each project; and

(d) whether these projects will be completed as per the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a), (c) and (d) The details of mega power projects identified for implementation by National Thermal Power Corporation are as follows:-

Project/State	Capacity (MW)	Status	Envisaged Commissioning schedule #
1	2	3	4
Anta Expansion Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) Stage-II, Rajasthan	650*	-Techno-Economic clearance from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is availble.	2005-06-Subject to LNG being offered at reasonable and stable price and Power Purchase Agreements signed by beneficiary States
Auraiya Expansion CCPP Stage-II, Uttar Pradesh	650*	-Projects will be taken up only after beneficiary States agree to bear cost of generation based on price of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)	
Kawas Expansion CCPP Stage-II, Gujarat.	650*		
Jhanor Gandhar Expansion CCPP Stage-II, Gujarat.	650*		
Kahalgaon Super Thermal	1320	CEA's Techno-Economic	Unit 1 : 2006-07
Power Project (STPP) Stage-II, Bihar.	(2x660)	clearance is under progress	Unit 2 : 2007-08
North Karanpura STPP,	1980	CEA's Techno-Economic	Unit 1 : 2006-07
Jharkhand.	(3x660)	Clearance is under progress.	Unit 2 : 2007-08 Unit 3 : 2008-09
Barh STPP, Bihar	1980	CEA's Techno-Economic	Unit 1: 2006-07
	(3x660)	Clearance is under progress.	Unit 2 : 2007-08
			Unit 3 : 2008-09
Kol Dam Hydro Power	800	-Project taken over from	2008-09
Project, Himachal Pradesh	(4x200)	Himachal Pradesh. -Techno-Economic Clearance from CEA and clearance from Mnistry of Environment and Forests (MOE&F) transferred to NPTC. -Revised Detailed Project Report submitted by NTPC to	

1	2	3	4
		CEA in June, 2001 for clearance. - Infrastructure works are in progress.	
Cheyyur STPP, Tamil Nadu.	1000**	Feasibility Report to be prepared after availability of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance and MOE&F's site clearance.	2011-12

* Expansion capacity of 1300 MW identified under Mega Power Policy. This is proposed to be implemented in stages of 650 MW each.

** New capacity identified under Mega Power Policy is 1500 MW. Being implemented in two stages.

Subject to necessary clearances/tie ups and funding tie-up.

(b) These mega power projects will be financed by NTPC in a debt equity ratio of 70:30. The equity portion will be met out of internal resources of the company and the debt portion through external and domestic borrowings.

Hydrocarbon Reserves

*351. SHRI RAMJI MANJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the estimate, with the present production rate, the hydrocarbon reserves will be utilized fully by 2016 unless more recoverable reserves are found;

(b) if so, the steps, the Government propose to meet the growing energy requirements;

(c) whether there is any proposal to take the help of private sector in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Reserves of hydrocarbons, i.e. crude oil and natural gas, as on 1.4.2001 were about 714 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of oil and 729 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of gas. The total oil and gas production in the country during 2000-01 was 32.46 MMT and 29.48 BCM respectively. Based on these production rates, the reserves are expected to last for about 22 years in respect of oil and 25 years in respect of gas. However, the accretion of hyderocarbon reserves is a continuous process whereby new reserves are added through various exploratory and development activities, undertaken with improved technology induction and significant investment, that result in new discoveries and growth of existing fields.

Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.

(iii) To attract technology and investment; PCSs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

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

(v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for

seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(vi) To acquire acreages abroad.

(c) and (d) Government has been offering exploration blocks to private companies since 1991 under various bidding rounds. In 1991 Government launched the NELP under which both National Oil Companies (NOCs) and private companies could bid for exploration blocks and so far two rounds of bidding have taken place. In addition, Government has offered discovered fields under two bidding rounds to private companies. Lastly, under Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy, seven blocks have been offered in April, 2001 for which both NOCs and private companies can bid.

Non-Payment of Deposits

*352. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that various companies are not paying/refunding of fixed deposits accepted from small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received against each company during the last one year;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such companies;

(d) whether Cable Corporation of India are not paying/ delaying the repayment to the depositors; and

(e) if so, the number of complaints received and the action taken against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. To mitigate problems being faced by the depositors in respect of non repayment of matured deposits, the powers have been given to the Company Law Board under section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 where there is default by the Non-Banking Financial Companies in repayment of deposits and under section 58A of the Companies Act, 1956 in case of default by Non-Banking Non-Financial Companies. The Company Law Board can direct the defaulting Company to make repayment of such deposits or part thereof or within such time and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order.

As regards collection of details relating to number of complaints received against each company during the last one year it is mentioned that the time and effort involved in compiling this information will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

However, as per the information furnished by the Company Law Board which is a quasi judicial body, the details of applications received by it from the depositors during the 2000-2001 are as follows:

Under Section 58A(9) of Companies Act, 1956

Period	B/f	Received	Total	Disposed off	Pending
1.4.00 to 31.3.01	4,201	5,957	10,158	6,354	3,804

Under Section 45QA of RBI Act, 1934

Period	B/f	Received	Total	Disposed off	Pending
1.4.00 to 31-3-01	9,347	11,347	20,694	14,274	6,420

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. M/s. Cable Corporation of India Ltd. is in default of making the repayments of deposits to deposit holders with effect from the financial year 2000-2001.

In this connection the CLB (WR Bench) had received 693 applications from various depositors spread all over the country for non payment of deposits alongwith interest thereon. The CLB after considering the applications of the depositors has passed an order dated 9.7.2001 to be effective from 1.8.2001 for repayment of matured deposits and all those which would be maturing in future alongwith interest over a period of 4-1-/2 years. Non-compliance with CLB order entails fine with or without imprisonment etc.

Development of Market Infrastructure etc. for Coconut Products

*353. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of market infrastructure and promotion of coconut products in the domestic and international markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal in respect of research, product diversification and value addition has been received from the Government of Kerala for inclusion in the proposed Technology Mission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for development of market infrastructure specific to coconut. However, Coconut Development Board is implementing programmes on market promotion of coconut products which include (i) Establishment of market information/intelligence service, (ii) Market promotion through publicity, participation in exhibitions etc. to widen the market for coconut products with a view to strengthen the coconut based industry in the country (iii) Financial assistance to coconut based industries for introduction of Agmark Standards.

(c) and (d) A proposal on Technology Mission which included research product diversification and value addition was received from Government of Kerala but this was confined only to the State of Kerala. A draft proposal for Technology Mission has been got prepared by Government of India through the Coconut Development Board covering all the coconut growing States and this also addresses all these issues. Consultations were held with the experts in the field and the draft document was discussed in a meeting in which all the stakeholders including representatives of Kerala Government participated. The participating States were requested to give their suggestions, if any, for further modifications. The document on Technology Mission is being finalized based on the suggestions of the participating States including the State of Kerala.

Dairy Industry

*354. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to protect the Rs. 5,000 crore domestic dairy industry in view of the reports of imported milk products flooding the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of these products do not conform to standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(d) if so, the details of imported milk products which did not conform to the standards laid down in the law;

(e) whether some of these imported products were found to be containing animal rennet which is banned in India;

(f) if so, the details of any enquiry conducted in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken to prevent them for entering the Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (g) India has been removing restrictions on imports in a phased manner since 1991. In this process import restrictions on some items of milk and milk products were removed on 31.3.2000 and others on 31.3.2001. Total imports of milk products have in fact started declining and were of the order of Rs. 4808.64 lakhs during 2000-2001 as against Rs. 18040.68 lakhs in 1999-2000.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has reported some incidents of import of milk products like cheese, butter, cream and UHT milk in consumer packs not conforming to some of labeling provisions and declaration of Maximum Retail Price under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. Use of animal rennet is not banned under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995.

The following corrective actions have been taken:

(i) Ministry of Health which is the administrative Ministry for PFA Act and Rules, has instructed all the State Governments to exercise vigil to ensure that the quality of all food articles whether imported or indigenously produced and marketed, are subject to regular checking to ensure that the quality of food items, whether imported or indigenously produced, sold in the market conform to the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955.

(ii) Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide notification dated 24.11.2000 has ordered that all such packaged products, which are subject to provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 when produced/packed/sold in domestic market, shall be subject to compliance of all the provisions of the said rules, when imported into India.

(iii) The Department of Revenue vide letter dated 13.3.2001 addressed to all Chief Commissioners of Customs and all Chief Commissioners of Custom and Central Excise has instructed to their subordinate officers to take adequate care in disposal of such uncleared cargo of food items and to ensure that it conforms to all the requirements under PFA Act before these are cleared for home consumption. It has also been instructed that price for disposal of such goods should fixed considering the market price of such goods so that the interests of consumer/ industry duly protected.

(iv) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, on its part, has also, vide Notification published vide S.O.No. 655 (E)

dated 7th July, 2001 restricted, with effect from the date of publication of this notification, the import into India of all livestock products including milk and milk products.

[Translation]

Increase in Power Generation Capacity

*355. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the long term plan chalked out by the Government to augment the power generation capacity in the country;

(b) the quantum of electricity in megawatt likely to be generated under this long term plan;

(c) the number of proposals received from foreign companies for power generation;

(d) the number of schemes being formulated in this regard, State-wise; and

(e) the names of companies and the extent of investment to be made by them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Based on the findings of 16th Electric Power Survey it has been estimated that a total capacity of 2,13,000 MW is required by 2012 to meet the energy requirement of 9,75,222 MU and peak demand of 1,57,107 MW. The formulation of the 10th Five Year Plan is in progress and is being discussed in the Working Group on Power.

(c) to (e) From a total of 58 private power projects so far given techno economic clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority, 51 have foreign participation. Two projects in West Bengal (viz. Gauripore and Bakreshwar) are no longer being pursued through the private sector by the State Government. A State-wise statement indicating the estimated cost, amount of foreign equity, details of foreign investors in respect of techno-economically cleared private power projects involving foreign equity is attached.

Statement

Details of CEA cleared Private Power Projects having foreign investments

Sl. No.	Name of the Project & Capacity (MW)	Estimated Capital cost of Project	Quantum of Foreign Equity	Name of Foreign Investor	Name of Indian Partner
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rosa TPS (2x83.5 MW)	US$ 280.7267 m+ Rs. 1435.5 crs. (1US$ = Rs. 35.5)	US$ 53.437 M (Rs. 189.70 crore)	Power Gen Plc	M/s Indo Gulf Fertiliser
2.	Dholpur TPS (702.7 MW)	US$ 364.29 m+ Rs. 855.133 crs. (1US$ = Rs. 39.5)	US$ 105.42 M (Rs. 416.41 crore)	Promoters & others	M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co.
3.	Barsingsar Lignite (2x250 MW)	US$ 322.716 m+ Rs. 1090.08 crs. (1US$ = Rs. 31.50)	US$ 114.36 M (Rs. 360.23 crore)	Not mentioned in financial package	M/s. H.V. Corp Ltd.
4.	Shrinagar HEP (4x82.5 MW)	US$ 95.054 m+ Rs. 1299.89 crs. (1US$ = Rs. 42.00)	US$ 117.10 M (Rs. 491.82 crore)	SED	Duncans NHPC
5.	Dhamwari Sunda HEP (2x35 MW)	US$ 10.91 m+ Rs. 393.04 crs. (1US$ =Rs. 43.00)	US$ 10.91 M (Rs. 46.91 crore)	PESCL and HARZA of USA	M/s. Dhamwari Power Co. Ltd.
6.	Bhadrawati TPS (1072 MW)	Rs. 5187 crs.	GEC-US$ 131.238 M (Rs. 413.40 crore)	GEC EDF	CIPCO

1	2	3	4	5	6
			EDF-US$ 62.73 M (Rs. 197.6 crore)		
7.	Korba (East) (1070 MW)	US $ 863.95 M+ Rs. 1623.04 cr	US$ 396.36 M (Rs. 1407.078 crore	M/s. Daewoo	M/s. Daewoo Power India Ltd.
8.	Maheshwar HEP (400 MW)	US $ 213.29 M+ Rs. 812.09 cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	Pacific Gen US $ 69.8 M (Rs. 247.790 crore) Siemens US $ 38.10 M (Rs. 135.255 crore)	Pacific Gen Siemens	M/s. S. Kumar
9.	Narsingpur CCGT (166 MW)	US $ 77.74 M+ Rs. 253.697 cr (1 US $ =Rs. 35.50)	GBLASSO -US $ 9.98 M (Rs. 31.879 crore) OIII Ltd. - US $ 11.680 M (Rs. 41.429 crore) Others = US$ 21.10 M (Rs. 74.905 crore)	GBL Asso OIII Ltd Others	M/s. GBL Power Ltd.
10.	Bina TPS Phase-1 (578 MW)	US $ 175.412 M+ Rs. 1820.627 cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	Birlas (off share) - US $ 30.0 M (Rs. 106.5 crore) Power Gen- US $ 53.685 M (Rs. 190.582 crore)	Birlas (off share) Power Gen Total	M/s. Bina Power Supply
11.	Jamnagar TPS (2x250 MW)	US $ 434.36 M+ Rs. 726.43 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 42.00)	US $ 87.45 (Rs. 367.29 crore)	Not mentioned in financial Package	M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.
12.	Korba (West) TPP (420 MW)	US $ 164.643 M+ DEM 169.75 M+ Rs. 834.351 crore (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50) (1 DEM = Rs. 20.50)	ITPL=US $ 76.155 M(Rs. 270.35 crore) Siemens US $ 49.277 M(Rs. 174.933 crore) Tomen US $ 23.892 M (Rs. 84.817 crore)	ITPL Siemens Tomen	ITPL
13.	Pench TPP (500 MW)	US $ 284.908 M+ Rs. 1172.155 cr (1US $ = Rs. 35.50	SOROS 145.777 M Rs. 517.508 crore) ABB- US $ 38.751 M (Rs. 137.566 crore)	SOROS & Affiliates ABB & Affiliates	M/s. Pench Power Ltd.
14.	Raigarh TPP Ph 1 (550 MW)	US $ 85.176 M+ DEM 240.676 M+ Rs. 1628.075 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50 1 DEM = Rs. 20.00	GPH Ltd.-US $ 53.0 M (Rs. 188.15 crore) IVSVRS-US $ 97.831 M (Rs. 317.3 crore)	GPH Ltd. (Malaysia) INSVRS	M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.
15.	Bhilai TPP (574 MW)	US $ 419.699 M+ Rs. 939.781 cr (1 US $ =Rs. 35.50)	US $ 76.10 M	CEA (USA)	Bhilai Power Supply Co.

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Pithampur-Kheda DGPP (119.7MW)	US $ 68.729 M+ Rs. 174.053 cr. (1US $ = Rs. 39.00)	Shapoorji US $ 8.50 M (Rs. 33.158 crore Pallanji-US $ 16.66 M (Rs. 64.990 crore)	Shapoorji Pallanji Other Foriegn Equity (Mauritius & Finland	M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co.
17.	Bhandar PS (342 MW)	US $ 197.622 M+ Rs. 346.514 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	US $ 43.399 M (Rs. 154.066 crore) + US $ 36.375 M (Rs. 127.31 crore)	Prime Gwalior Ltd. Others foriegn equity	M/s. Bhander Pvt. Ltd.
18.	Khandwa CCPP (171.17 MW)	US $ 76.0345 M + Rs. 250.331 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 39.50)	AGIO (Singapore) US $ 27.185 M (Rs. 107.38 crore) Maruben Corpn. (Japan) US $ 13.802M (Rs. 54.516 crore)	AGIO (Singapore) Maruben Corpn. (Japan)	M/s. Madhya Bharat
19.	Guna CCGT (330 MW)	US $ 152.37 M+ Rs. 484.86 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	US $ 78.02 M (Rs. 276.971 crore)	STI	M/s. STI Power Ltd.
20.	Ratlam DGPP (118.63 MW)	US $ 73.88 M+ Rs. 163.162 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 39.00)	GVK US $ 34.72M (Rs. 135.408 crore)	GVK	M/s. GVK Power Ratlam
21.	Surat Lignite TPS (250 MW)	US $ 44.538 million +DM 4.92 M+ Rs. 999.99 crs. (1 US $ =Rs. 35.00) 1 DM = Rs. 23.00	US $ 19.05 M (Rs. 66.675 crore)	Foreign equity	GIPCL
22.	Patalganga CCGT (447 MW)	US $ 319.02 M+ Rs. 246.66 cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	US $ 50.75M (Rs. 172.669 crore)	Foroign equity	Reliance Patalganga Power Co.
23.	Dabhol (2015 MW)	US $ 2828.524	US $ 738M	M/s. Enron USA Public Issue	M/s. Dabholl Power Co. Ltd.
24.	Jegurupadu CCGT (216 MW)	Rs. 827 crs.	AES (USA) Rs. 39 crs. ABB (Sweden) Rs. 13 crs. IPC/ADB Rs. 39 crs. NRI) Rs. 19 crs. Public)	AES (USA) Rs. 39 crs. ABB (Sweden) Rs. 13 crs. IPC/ADB Rs. 39 crs NRI) Rs. 19 crs. Public)	GVK Industries APSEB
25.	Godavari CCGT (208 MW)	Rs. 748.43 crs.	ST USA (USA) Rs. 28.5 crs. RR/Westing House & COD (UK) Rs. 76.01 crs.	ST USA (USA) Rs.28.5 crs. RR/Westing House & CDC (UK) Rs. 76.01 crs.	M/s. Spectrum Power Gen Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Visakhapatnam TPP (2x520 MW)	US $ 943.75 M+ Rs. 1324.99 Cr. (1US $ = Rs. 35.00)	Hindujas (US) US $ 354.35 M (Rs. 1240.225 Crore)	Hindujas (US) US $ 354.35 M	M/s. Hinduja National Power Corpn. Ltd.
27.	Ramagundam TPP Extn. (2x260 MW)	US $ 369.3 M+ Rs. 1073.56 Cr (1 US $ = Rs. 35.50)	US $ 134.34 M (Rs. 476.91 crore)	Promoter & Others BPL (India) US$ 50.36 M Others US $ 83.98 M	M/s. BPL Power Projects Ltd.
28.	Kondapalli CCPP (350 MW)	US $ 180.616 M+ Rs. 385.254 cr (1 US $ = Rs. 36.00)	US $ 93.863 M (Rs. 337.91 crore)	M/s. EGL (UK). CDC (UK), Hanjung (Korea)	M/s. Lanco Group, Hyderabad
29.	Krishnapatnam 'B' (2x260 MW)	US $ 355.131 M+ Rs. 960.614 Cr. (1 US $ - Rs. 35.50)	US $ 205.442 M (Rs. 729.319 crore)	M/s. BBI (USA) US$25.68 M M/s. PMDC US$ 50M M/s. CES US $ 30 M M/s. IGC US $ 25 M M/s. NIC US $ 10 M Others US$ 64.76 M	—
30.	Vemagiri CCGT (492 MW)	US $ 248.02 M+ Rs. 638.223 Cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 42.00)	US $ 120 M	M/s. Ispat Power Ltd. (India), US $ 61 M Others, US $ = 59 M	—
31.	Torangallu TPS (2x130 MW)	US $ 106.87 M+ Rs. 725.16 crs. (1 US $ Rs. 34.5)	US $ 47.9M (Rs. 165.255 crs.)	M/s. Tractebel, Belgium	Jindal Group
32.	Mangalore TPP (4x250 MW)	US $ 751.574 M+ Rs. 1580.89 Cr (1 US $ Rs. 31.50)	US $ 329.362 M (Rs. 1037.49 crore)	Cogentrix (USA)	—
33.	Vypeen CCGT (LNG) (3x 146.9 MW) GT +(1x238.5 MW) ST=679.2 MW	US $ 6.90 M+ S. Fr. 439.84 M+ Rs. 771.75 Cr (1US $ = Rs. 39.5) 1UFr= Rs. 26.50/-	Siasin Trading (Singapur) S. Fr 209.1 M (Rs. 554.115 crore)	Siasin Trading (Singapur) S.Fr. 89 M Pembinaam Redzaisdn. (Malaysia)	Mukhunthraj Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.
34.	Neyveli TPS -0 unit (1x250 MW)	US $ 261.59 M+ Rs. 501.10 Cr (1 US$ = Rs. 31.50)	US $ 114.28M (Rs. 246.982 crore)	M/s. ST-CMS Electric Co. (Mauritius)	—
35.	Pillaiperu-malnallur CCGT (330.5 MW)	US $ 585.96 M+ Rs. 429.8 Cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 33.50)	US $ 73.45 M (Rs. 246.058 crore)	CEA PPN Energy Co. Ltd. PPN Mauritius Cc. Marubeni Corpn. (Japan)	Reddy Group
36.	North Madras TPS-II (2x525 MW)	US $ 585.96 M+ Rs. 2402.24 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 34.50)	M/s. Mission Energy (USA) US $ 84.69 M (Rs. 292.181) Crore)	M/s. Mission Energy (USA)	M/s. Videocon Power Ltd.
37.	Basin Bridge BGPP (4x50 MW)	US $ 125.82 M+ Rs. 328.99 cr (1 US $ =Rs. 34)	US $ 33.41 M (Rs. 113.594 crore) + US $ 26.71 M (Rs. 90.814 crore)	FIIs/FFIs/OCBs/NRIs Promoter's equity	M/s. GMR Vasavi Group

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	Tuticorin TPP Stage-IV (1x525 MW)	US $ 321.779 M+ DEM 145.893 M+ Rs. 875.389. cr (1 US $ = Rs. 35.5 1 DM = Rs. 21/-)	US $ 145.4M (Rs. 292.181 crore)	MCN Corporation & Others	M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corpn.
39.	Samayanallur DGPP (7x15.143 MW)	US $ 59.840 MW+ Rs. 150.845 cr (1US $ =Rs.39/-)	US $ 17.73 M (Rs. 69.147 crore)	M/s. Wart Sila & Others	M/s. Balaji Power Corpn. Ltd.
40.	Samalpatti DGPP (7x15.094 MW)	US $ 61.222 M+ Rs. 153.098 Cr (1 US $ Rs. 39/-)	US $ 25.769 M (Rs. 101.79 crore)	M/s.SPC & Others	M/s. Samalpatti Power Corpn. Ltd.
41.	North Madras TPP-III (1x525 MW)	US $ 147.915 M + GBP 122.92 M+ F. Fr. 458.023 M +Rs. 736.560 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 35.5 1 GBP=Rs. 57.0 1 F Fr= Rs. 6.21)	US $ 189.875 M (Rs. 674.056 crore)	Promoter	Tri-Shakti Energy Pvt. Ltd.
42.	Cuddalore TPP (2x660 MW)= 1320 MW	US $ 488.193 M+ GBP 203.922 M+ F. Fr. 1258.811 M+ Rs. 2036.501 Cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 42.5 1 GBP=Rs. 68.0 1F Fr=Rs. 7.0)	US $ 427.876 M (Rs. 1818.473 crore)	International Contracting and Marketing Corporation (ICMC), New York, USA, International Electric Inc. Boston, USA Pembinan Redsai Group, Malaysia.	—
43.	Vembar CCGT (1873 MW) (5 Modules of 374.6 MW each)	US $ 694.94 M+ Rs. 2106.67 Cr (1 US $ = Rs. 42.50)	US $ 355.09 M (Rs. 1509.133 Crore)	Intech Global Resources Inc. USA Mokshasha Investment Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Singapore	Indian Power Projects Ltd. Chennai
44.	Kannur CCGT (513 MW) (3x11.90 MW GT + 1x177.3 MW ST)	US $ 210.010 M+ Rs. 587.971 Cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 42.00)	US $ 77.70 (Rs. 326.34 crore)	Koretech Corporation Ltd., Mauritius	KPP Nambiar and Associates
45.	Nagarjuna TPP (1015 MW) (2x507.5 MW)	US $ 273.795 M+ GBP 277.4 M+ F. Fr. 907.19 M+Rs. 1792.685 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 42.0 (1 GBP=Rs. 68.50 1 F Fr=Rs. 7.20)	US $ 290.51 M (Rs. 1220.142 Crore)	Fire Seed Ltd. Hong Kong	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6
46.	Kaniminke CCGT (107.6 MW) (2x35.3 1x37.0 MW ST)	US $ 56.577 M+ Rs. 152.969 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 42.0)	US $ 23.648 M (Rs. 99.32 crore)	Coastal Power Company, Texas, USA	Subhash Projects & Marketing Ltd.
47.	Bakreshwar TPP (420 MW)	US $ 23.400 M+J Yen 20544.27 M+ Rs. 925.157 Cr (1 US $ =Rs. 39.50) (1 Yen = Rs. 0.29)	US $ 34.0 M (Rs. 134.3 crore) + US $ 62.75 M (Rs. 247.863 crore)	DLC Kuljian	M/s. Bakreshwar Power Gen Co. Ltd.
48.	Ib Valley TPS (500 MW)	US $ 326.02 M+ Rs. 983.90 Cr (US $ Rs. 42.50)	US $ 166.0 M (Rs. 705.5 crore)	AES	AES Ib Valley Corp
49.	Goupripore TPS (1x150 MW)	US $ 28.07. M+ Rs. 548.57 Cr (1 US $ = Rs. 39.50)	US $ 41.74 M (Rs. 164.87 Crore)	M/s. Thermo Ecotek Corpn., USA	Gouripore Power Co. Ltd.,
50.	Duburi TPS (2x250 MW)	US $ 313.59 M+ Rs. 952.82 cr (1 US $ Rs.39.50)	US $ 166.45 (Rs. 657.478 crore)	Promoter	M/s. Kalinga Power Co. Ltd.
51.	Balagarh TPS (2x250 MW)	US $ 227.96 M+ Rs. 1517.02 Cr. (1 US $ = Rs. 31.50)	US $ 54.0 M (Rs. 170.09 Crore)+ US $ 37.0 M (Rs. 116.56 crore)	ROLLS ROYCE Equity Issue	M/s. Balagarh Power Co.

Problem of Fertility of Land

*356. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land in hectares facing problem of fertility in the country, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to remedy the situation; and

(c) the extent of progress made after adopting the said measures during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) According to an estimate, 1736.40 lakh ha. area is facing problem of soil erosion and land degradation in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) For improving the productivity of degraded lands, following programmes are being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture:

1. National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.
2. Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchment of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers.
3. Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
4. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.

In last two years about 18.0 lakh ha. area have been developed under the above programmes.

Statement

Extent of Various Types of Degraded Lands in the Country

(Area in lakh Hectare)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Water erosion	Wind erosion	Ravi-nes	Salt affected	Water Logg-ing	Shifting cultiva-tion	Degra-ded forests	Special problems	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.54	—	—	2.40	3.39	1.50	11.48	—	122.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.58	—	—	—	—	2.10	22.86	—	26.54
3.	Assam	13.34	—	1.93	—	4.50	1.30	8.83	—	29.99
4.	Bihar	32.39	—	6.00	0.04	7.07	0.81	10.21	9.00	65.52
5.	Goa	1.35	—	—	—	—	—	0.65	—	2.00
6.	Gujarat	94.62	7.04	4.00	10.42	4.84	—	4.84	0.10	125.86
7.	Haryana	15.35	14.00	—	5.26	6.20	—	0.56	0.25	41.62
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.75	—	—	—	—	—	8.39	—	19.14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.73	—	—	—	0.10	—	2.10	—	8.93
10.	Karnataka	102.25	—	—	4.04	0.10	—	7.64	—	114.03
11.	Kerala	15.77	—	—	1.17	0.61	—	1.80	—	19.35
12.	Madhya Pradesh	155.10	—	6.83	2.42	0.57	1.25	41.00	—	207.17
13.	Maharashtra	175.89	—	0.20	5.34	1.11	—	15.92	—	198.46
14.	Manipur	2.94	—	—	—	—	3.60	0.80	—	7.34
15.	Meghalaya	5.48	—	—	—	—	2.65	2.89	—	11.02
16.	Mizoram	2.87	—	—	—	—	1.89	1.34	—	6.10
17.	Nagaland	2.77	—	—	—	—	6.33	1.28	—	10.38
18.	Orissa	27.71	—	1.13	4.04	0.60	26.48	18.07	2.95	78.03
19.	Punjab	9.14	—	1.20	7.18	10.90	—	0.93	—	32.30
20.	Rajasthan	188.41	156.92	4.52	10.00	3.48	—	10.61	—	373.94
21.	Sikkim	2.58	—	—	—	—	—	0.45	—	3.03
22.	Tamil Nadu	32.42	—	0.60	1.04	0.18	—	3.98	—	38.22
23.	Tripura	0.45	—	—	—	—	1.12	1.22	—	2.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58.98	—	12.30	12.95	19.80	—	12.12	15.0	131.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	West Bengal	7.64	—	1.04	9.86	21.80	—	2.69	—	43.03
26.	U.Ts.	1.21	—	—	—	0.01	—	2.28	—	3.50
	Total:	1071.26	177.96	39.75	76.16	85.26	49.12	194.94	27.30	1721.75

Coastal Sands-No Statewise date 14.65

Grand Total: 1736.40*

(*) - includes area of three new States viz. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal.

[English]

CNG Fuel

*357. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CNG not a clean fuel not acceptable" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 20, 2001;

(b) if so whether Bhure Lal Committee has recommended electricity the only clear fuel;

(c) if so, whether Supreme Court has given any guidelines to the Union Government to use a clean fuel to restrict pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. However the caption of the news item in "CNG not a clean fuel, only acceptable."

(b) Non-hydrocarbon fuels such as electricity, solar energy and fuel cells have been regarded as the only clean fuels by the Bhure Lal Committee.

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 28.07.1998 inter-alia directed the following:

- Elimination of leaded petrol from NCT of Delhi w.e.f. 01.09.1998.
- Replacement of all pre-1990 autos and taxis with new vehicles on clean fuels by 31.03.2000.
- No eight year old buses to ply except on CNG or any other clean fuel w.e.f. 01.04.2000.
- Entire city bus fleet (DTC & Private) to be steadily converted to single clean fuel mode on CNG by 31.03.2001.

Further the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 26.03.2001 is as follows:

"No other commercial vehicle shall ply in Delhi unless converted to single fuel mode of CNG with effect from 01.04.2001..."

Captive Power Plants to Rourkela Steel Plants

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

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Captive Power Plant-II (CPP-II) of Rourkela (2x60=120 MW) was assessed by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) and it was found viable. Subsequently the CPP-II of Rourkela

has been tranferred to the Joint Venture Company of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) & NTPC i.e. SAIL Power Supply Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. (SPSCL) in March 2001.

(c) and (d) An assessment has been made in the case of Durgapur CPP-II (2x60=120 MW) during December, 2000. The CPP-II of Durgapur was found viable and transferred to the JV Company of SAIL & NTPC i.e. SAIL Power Supply Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. (SPSCL) in March, 2001. The details of the plant performance of Rourkela CPP-II and Durgapur CPP-II are given below.

Captive Power Plants	2000-2001		2001-2002 (upto July 2001)	
	MU	PLF	MU	PLF
Rourkela CPP-II	988	93.9%	346	98.5%
Durgapur CPP-II	667	63.4%	242	68.7%

MU = Million Units

PLF = Plant Load Factor

The Bokaro Captive Power Plant (302 MW) is presently being assessed by NTPC.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) At present there is no proposal for expansion of these plants since the eastern region is surplus in energy requirement.

Use of Calcium Carbide

*359. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of large scale use of banned calcium carbide for ripening of fruit especially in mangoes in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing large scale use of calcium carbide which can cause cancer;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide alternative chemicals to wholesale fruit merchants for ripening of fruits;

(d) whether there are no standards for testing adulteration since Mango, Papaya and other fruits are perishable commodities; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken against offenders?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) There have been a few Press Reports in the past alleging sale of fruits ripened by use of carbide gas in the markets.

Rule 44 AA of the PFA Rules 1955, prohibit the sale of fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas.

Ripening of fruits in natural form is acceptable phenomenon. There is no proposal to provide alternate chemicals to artificially ripening of fruits.

Excess Calcium Carbide power remains on the surface of the fruits. Such powders are visible to naked eye. Confirmatory test that the powder is of Calcium Carbide can be performed by chemical analysis.

The Food Health Authorities of States/UT Governments have been asked from time to time to keep a vigil on use of carbide gas in ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of above provisions.

Inter State Movement of Molasses

*360. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw restriction on inter-state movement of molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have appointed a consultancy firm to look into the scope for manufacturing of more value added products from the molasses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Marine Regulation Act

3564. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-implementation of Marine Regulation Act had been causing severe loss to fishermen in some States particularly Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter to contain the problem faced by the fishermen, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Effect of Open Trade Regime on Carpet Industry

3565. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of open trade regime has adversely affected the carpet industry of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by the Government to protect this industry;

(c) whether the Government are considering to make use of indigenously manufactured carpets mandatory in the ITDC hotels, Governments offices, trade centres etc. and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The open trade regime came into force recently on 1st April, 2001, hence, it is premature to judge its impact on the Indian Carpet Industry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is estimated that of the total indigenously manufactured hand-knotted carpets, nearly 90% are exported. Government is focussing on increasing exports.

Name of Foreign Nationals in Voters List

3566. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4675 dated December 19, 2001 regarding Foreign Nationals residing in Delhi and state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals registered in the voters list of Delhi;

(b) the action taken so far to delete their names from the voters list; and

(c) the rules laid down for issuing duplicate voters identity card in the event of loss of the original one and the steps taken by the Government to apprise the common people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi has received three lists of foreign nationals totaling 2077 from the Police Department out of which two were received through the Office of Lieutenant Governor and one through Divisional Commissioner, Delhi. These lists were forwarded to Electoral Registration Officers of the concerned Assembly Constituencies for checking the names of these foreign nationals in electoral Rolls and taking necessary action for deletion, if these names existed. The lists of foreign nationals sent by Police Department do not contain information, whether their names appear in the electoral roll or not. The simply sent the lists of foreign residing in a particular area.

(b) The list of foreign nationals were forwarded to Electoral Registration officers of Assembly Constituencies No. 6- (Okhla), 39- (Mandawali) and 58- (Matia Mahal) and 43- (Vishwas Nagar) for verification of these names in electoral rolls and deletion, if these names existed. The Electoral Registration Officers of Assembly Constituencies No. 6- (Okhla) and 39- (Mandawali) have stated in their reply that they have checked the lists from their record, but no foreign national had been identified in voters lists of these constituencies. However, the process of verification in Assembly Constituency-58 (Matia Mahal) and Assembly Constituency-43- (Vishwas Nagar) has not been completed yet and the report on Action Taken is awaited from them.

(c) To lodge a FIR with Police for the lost Voter ID Card is the first step/rule laid down to avoid its possible misuse. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has approved the proposal for EPIC Project with the condition that Rs. 25/- will be charged for issuing of duplicate photo identity card in case of a lost card after proper verification and also to create some responsibility among the electors about the EPIC custody. To apprise the common people of these rules, the Department has already included this information in its Citizens Charter, which has been widely circulated to public representatives and all offices of Delhi Government and is also available at the offices of all the Electoral Registration Officers

and Joint Chief Electoral Officers. The Election Commission of India has, however, informed that in the fresh phase of the issue of Voters Identity Cards to be undertaken in the current year, lost cards will be replaced without any charges.

[English]

Heritage City in Tughlaqabad Fort

3567. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heritage city is in the offing inside the historic Tughlaqabad Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the city is likely to come up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no provision in the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 for declaring any city/monument as a heritage city. The Archaeological Survey of India has declared the Tughlaqabad Fort complex as a protected monument and is engaged in its conservation, preservation and maintenance according to established archaeological norms.

(c) Question does not arise.

Closure of Directorate of Tobacco Development

3568. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right-sizing Committee of his Ministry recommended closure of the Directorate of Tobacco Development of Chennai;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time-frame by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Right-sizing Committee of the Ministry has reviewed to the workload of various functional Divisions as well as attached and subordinate offices and has, inter-alia, identified 29 posts sanctioned for the Directorate of Tobacco Development, Chennai for abolition. It has further recommended that the vacant posts may be abolished immediately and the filled posts may be abolished as these become vacant on promotion/retirement etc.

The recommendations are being implemented accordingly.

Supply of Improved Implements Under A.M.D.P.

3569. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantum of good quality seeds, seeds minikits and improved implements provided by the Union Government under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) in all maize potential districts in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the extent of increase in production of maize as a result thereof during the said period; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken for better implementation of the AMDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP), good quality seeds, seed minikits and improved implements are not provided by the Union Government to the Districts/States. However, financial assistance is provided for seed minikit demonstrations {@ Rs. 50/- per kit of 2 Kg seed of High Yielding Varieties (HYV's) and @ Rs. 60/- per kit of 2 kg. of hybrid seeds}, incentives for use of certified seed of HYVs/Hybrids for encouraging varietal replacement, propagation of location specific high-yielding germplasm by farmers at the rate of Rs. 400/- per quintal and incentives for the use of Bullock Drawn/ manually operated/power operated agricultural implements, specifically used for maize crop, for timely and effective field operations at the rate of 50% of the cost, limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer for seed-cum-fertilizer drill bullock drawn, maize planter-bullock drawn maize sheller-manually operated. For maize sheller (power operated), assistance at the rate of 25% of cost, limited to Rs. 5000/- per unit per farmer is also provided under AMDP. The allocations for above purposes are made to the States having potential for maize production for implementation of the programme in all the maize potential districts in the States. No allocations are made for district

at GOI level and hence the district-wise data are not maintained at GOI level. The State-wise details of physical and financial allocations made by GOI and physical and financial expenditure reported by the State Governments for distribution of good quality seeds, seed minikits and improved implements under AMDP for the last three year have been given in the envlosed statements-I, II & III.

(b) The production of maize in the country has increased from 111.50 lakh tonnes (1998-99) to 118.40 lakhs tonnes (2000-2001). The relevant details may be summarized as under:

(in Lakh tonnes)

Year	Maize Production	Increase over the last year
1998-99	111.50	3.30
1999-00	114.70	3.20
2000-01	118.40	3.70

However, it may be mentioned that if may not be possible to quantify the increase in maize production over the past three years, solely on account of the three sub-components of AMDP mentioned at (a) above. Thus, the above increase in production is because of a composite effort of implementation of the AMDP by addressing all the constraints and providing assistance for all components of AMDP on a mission-mode approach.

(c) Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memo/ proposal for the Ninth Plan for implementation of AMDP addressed the major constraints responsible for lower production of maize, by including/proposing the components relating to assistance for Nucleus, Breeder and Foundation seeds production of maize to ICAR, Foundation seed production by State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI)/National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and assistance for Seed Bank Scheme. All these components are to be provided assistance @ 100% by GOI. Other new components which were proposed and where assistance is to be provided @ 75% by GOI and the remaining 25% to be contributed by State Governments include demonstrations on weedicides, incentives for seed treatment/PP chemicals and demonstrations on improved crop and seed production technology to increase the seed production at farmers' field. The proposal, approved by EFC & the Agriculture Minister, has however, not been concurred in by the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission. The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has approved the inclusion of a new Technology Mission on maize for the 10th Plan.

Statement-I

State-wise details of physical and financial allocations made by GOI and expenditure reported by State Govts. in respect of distribution of seed of High Yielding Varieties & Hybrids, seed minikit and improved implements under AMDP during 1998-99

(Fin. Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/Agency	Distribution of Certified seed of hybrid and improved varieties				Seed Minikit				Improved implements Distribution		
		Alloc.		Expn.		Alloc.		Expn.		Alloc.	Expn.	
		Phy. (in tonnes)	Fin.	Phy. (in tonnes)	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	12.00	600.00	24.00	5730	2.65	0	0.00	7.50	2146	3.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	240	9.60	—	0.00	4584	2.12	4380	1.99	6.00	12	6.00
3.	Assam	220	8.80	14.27	5.71	4202	1.94	4190	1.94	5.50	2000	5.50
4.	Bihar	760	30.40	—	0.00	14516	6.72	0	0.00	19.00	—	0.00
5.	Gujarat	140	5.60	1.25	0.05	4202	1.94	0	1.01#	3.50	1.27	1.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6.	Haryana	40	1.60	—	0.00	764	0.35	0	0.00	1.00	—	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	200	8.00	44.21	1.34	3820	1.77	0	0.00	5.00	1503	2.26
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	200	8.00	45.00	1.80	3820	1.77	0	0.00	5.00	10	0.15
9.	Karnataka	280	11.20	123.51	3.77	5348	2.47	6819	3.27	7.00	1579	5.95
10.	Madhya Pradesh	400	16.00	70.41	2.80	7640	3.54	0	0.00	10.00	1776	2.96
11.	Maharashtra	320	12.80	—	0.00	6112	2.82	317	0.14	8.00	201	2.35
12.	Manipur	160	6.40	36.75	1.47	3056	1.41	2302	1.11	4.00	1500	3.00
13.	Meghalaya	40	1.60	NR	NR	764	0.35	664	0.35	1.00	—	0.00
14.	Mizoram	40	1.60	90.00	1.60	764	0.35	3000	1.35	1.00	20	1.50
15.	Nagaland	40	1.60	40.00	1.60	764	0.35	650	0.30	1.00	70	1.00
16.	Orissa	260	10.40	0.00	0.00	4966	2.29	1892	0.95	6.50	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	320	12.80	40.00	1.57	6112	1.24	7846	2.82	8.00	610	6.94
18.	Punjab	140	5.60	0.00	0.00	2674	2.83	2000	1.00	3.50	0	0.00
19.	Sikkim	80	3.20	80.00	3.20	1528	0.71	0	0.00	2.00	0	0.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	80	3.20	0.40	0.02	1528	0.70	1400	0.70	2.00	NR	2.00
21.	Tripura	40	1.60	0.50	0.02	764	0.35	0	0.00	1.00	0	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	840	33.60	11.00	0.39	12224	5.66	6702	2.41	21.00	0	0.00
23.	West Bengal	80	3.20	0.00	0.00	1528	0.71	0	0.00	2.00	0	0.00
	Total	5220	208.80		49.34	97410	45.04	42162	19.34	130.50		44.19

#Pending claims of 1996-97 adjusted.

Statement-II

State-wise details of physical and financial allocations made by GOI and expenditure reported by State Govts. in respect of distribution of seed of High Yielding Varieties & Hybrids, seed minikit and improved implements under AMDP during 1999-2000

(Fin.: Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/Agency	Distribution of Certified seed of hybrid and improved varieties				Seed Minikit				Improved implements Distribution		
		Alloc.		Expn.		Alloc.		Expn.		Alloc.	Expn.	
		Phy. (in tonnes)	Fin.	Phy. (in tonnes)	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	232	9.28	NR	0.31	4600	2.15	1643	0.38	5.8	941	9.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185.00	7.40	48.75	1.95	3055	1.41	384	0.19	4.63	12 dists.	4.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Assam	170.00	6.80	0.00	0.00	2760	1.28	0	0.00	4.25		0.00
4.	Bihar	587.00	23.48	0.00	0.00	6615	2.97	0	0.00	14.67		0.00
5.	Gujarat	108.00	4.32	0.00	0.00	3050	1.42	2599	1.24	2.70	113	0.87
6.	Haryana	31.00	1.24	0.00	0.00	510	0.24	0	0.00	0.77		0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	154.00	6.16	35.02	1.39	2562	1.19	336	0.17	3.86	2058	2.95
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	154.00	6.16	0.00	0.00	2562	1.19	0	0.00	3.86	0	0.00
9.	Karnataka	216.00	8.640	32.21	1.29	3684	1.71	1826	0.92	5.40	2650	9.10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	309.00	12.36	0.00	0.00	5193	2.41	20	0.01	7.72	10546	2.58
11.	Maharashtra	247.00	9.88	650.00	17.37	4300	2.00	1929	0.96	6.18	837	7.24
12.	Manipur	124.00	4.96	124.00	4.96	2037	0.94	0	0.00	3.09	206	3.09
13.	Meghalaya	31.00	1.24	0.00	0.00	610	0.29	870	0.44	0.77	0	0.00
14.	Mizoram	31.00	1.24	105.00	2.20	610	0.29	50	0.03	0.77	4 dists.	1.75
15.	Nagaland	31.00	1.20	90.00	2.52	610	0.29	50	0.03	0.77	180	1.00
16.	Orissa	201.00	8.04	0.00	0.00	3311	1.53	50	0.03	5.02	0	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	247.00	9.88	19.40	0.69	4575	0.82	4575	3.88	6.18	2432	17.79
18.	Punjab	108.00	4.32	0.00	0.00	1790	2.14	250	0.13	2.70	0	0.00
19.	Sikkim	62.00	2.48	62.00	2.48	1018	0.47	0	0.00	1.54	0	0.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	62.00	2.48	28.28	1.13	1020	0.47	920	0.47	1.54	NR	1.54
21.	Tripura	31.00	1.24	1.60	0.06	610	0.29	0	0.00	0.77	NR	0.77
22.	Uttar Pradesh	648.00	25.92	16.00	0.63	8550	3.97	#	#	16.21	40	0.30
23.	West Bengal	62.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	1158	0.54	0	0.00	1.54	0	0.00
	Total	4031.00	161.24		36.98	64790	30.01	15502	9.24	100.74		62.80

State of U.P. have utilized 3.707 minikit of maize cv. PRO-311 (4640) using Labelled seed in the year 1999-2000 hence, expenditure of Rs. 1.85 lakhs on this account has been disallowed.

Statement-III

State-wise details of physical and financial allocations made by GOI and expenditure reported by State Govts. in respect of distribution of seed of High Yielding Varieties & Hybrids, seed minikit and improved implements under AMDP during 2000-2001

(Fin. Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/Agency	Seed Minikit				Improved implements Distribution		
		Alloc.		Expn.		Alloc.	Expn.	
		Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.	Fin.	Phy. (In Nos.)	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1440	0.80	0	0.00	4.00	250	1.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2880	1.60	2880	1.60	4.80	308	4.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	2520	1.40	42560	22.80	4.40	0	0.00
4.	Bihar	360	0.20	0	0.00	1.00	0	0.00
5.	Gujarat	720	0.40	655	0.40	1.00	81	0.59
6.	Haryana	360	0.20	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	900	0.50	0	0.00	6.00	4510	3.32
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	540	0.30	0	0.00	1.00	NR	0.08
9.	Karnataka	1440	0.80	936—	0.5—	7.00	1230	6.05
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1800	1.00	1376	0.75	9.40	10493	1.49
11.	Maharashtra	1440	0.80	800	0.48	4.80	NR	1.51
12.	Manipur	1800	1.00	1000	0.60	3.20	120	2.40
13.	Meghalaya	720	0.40	720	0.40	0.80	0	0.00
14.	Mizoram	720	0.40	320	0.16	0.80	0	0.00
15.	Nagaland	720	0.40	750	0.46	0.80	2 dists.	0.88
16.	Orissa	720	0.40	0	0.00	1.30	0	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	1440	0.80	1400	0.78	1.00	911	5.49
18.	Punjab	540	0.30	0	0.00	4.80	0	0.00
19.	Sikkim	900	0.50	0	0.00	0.80	0	0.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	720	0.40	661	0.40	0.80	NR	0.80
21.	Tripura	540	0.30	240	0.12	0.80	0	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3240	1.80	5819	2.98	10.40	9563	5.76
23.	West Bengal	540	0.30	0	0.00	0.80	0	0.00
	Total	27000	15.00	60117	32.36	69.70	27466.00	34.46

— Provisionally admitted subject to receipt of Statement of Account and Final Performance Report by the State Department of Agriculture, Karnataka.

Note Incentives for use of certified seeds of hybrids/improved varieties (deleted w.e.f. 1st April 2000 as desired by Planning Commission.

Rate of Agricultural Production

3570. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of agricultural production is different in various regions of the country;

(b) if so, whether in view of different rate of agricultural production, the Government have categorized the agricultural land; and

(c) if so, the details of categories under which agriculture land has been divided and the criteria of such categorization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission, under agro-climatic Regional Planning Project, have divided the country into 15 regions on the basis of commonality of factors such as soil type, rainfall, temperatures, water resources etc. The demarcation of these agro climatic regions assume

importance in planning strategies for agricultural development. The details of important agro-climatic regions are given in the statement.

Statement

Important Agro-Climatic Regions of India.

Western Himalaya Region

The hill regions of Western Himalayas, spanning across Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the north of India, have much diversity. The valleys receive good rainfall and have rich soils though the temperate zones of Ladakh face climatic barriers against agricultural growth. High soil erosion also reduces fertility.

Eastern Himalaya Region

This zone includes Sikkim, parts of north West Bengal and the entire North Eastern region. The hill areas are sparsely populated with a mix of several ethnic origins and culture. The climate varies from tropical in the plains to Alpine in the high hills. Nearly a third of the cultivations is of the shifting (*jhum*) type.

Lower Gangetic Plains Region

This zone includes 12 districts of West Bengal. Major tributaries of the Ganga flow through this zone which is also in the high rainfall area with an annual rainfall ranging between 1200 mm and 1700 mm. Silt deposition has increased the frequency of floods in this zone. Flooding of vast areas during the end of September or October and drought spells during November-June have become a normal feature, rendering crop cultivation very risky.

Middle Gangetic Plains Region

Twelve districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and 27 districts of Bihar Plains form the middle segment of the Gangetic plains. The zone is endowed with rich land and water resources. The weather oscillates from the extreme limits of summer to winter with heavy downpours. Many crops can be grown throughout the year. Here Land, water and climatic factors are such that highest productivity could be realised provided planning exercises are carefully organised and action plans are implemented.

Upper Gangetic Plains Region

This is among the larger and very thickly populated agro-climatic zones. It covers 32 districts. A large part of the geographical area is cultivated and is well irrigated. Over 70 per cent of the area is sown and nearly 68 per cent of this is irrigated. The ratio of surface to ground irrigation is about 1:2. Agricultural labour and land productivity is high.

The zone is characterized by semi-desert, semi-arid and sub-humid conditions. The mean annual rainfall varies between 700 and 1000 mm.

Trans-Gangetic Plains Region

This zone encompasses the State of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, Chandigarh and district Ganganagar of Rajasthan. The sub-zones cut across the State boundaries. The climate is arid, semi-arid and sub-humid in different districts. In summer months temperatures rise up to 43° C radiating heat waves with occasional dust storms. Rainfall varies from 190 mm to 1150 mm. The rivers of Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Yamuna and Ghaggar are important sources for irrigation in the zone.

Eastern Plateau & Hills Region

This is the largest agro-climatic zone covering about 400 thousand square kilometers of geographical area. It spans across parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and is divided into five sub-zones. The population is largely rural with a concentration of tribals. The average annual rainfall is about 1350 mm. Shifting cultivation has been the traditional pattern of farming in this zone.

Agricultural productivity is quite low. Over a quarter of the region is covered by forests. In parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra falling under this zone, nearly half of the geographical area is covered by forest.

Central Plateau & Hills Region

This zone includes 46 districts from three States and is centrally located. It is interspersed with plateau and hill areas. There are vast areas of barren and uncultivatable land. Water run-off is excessive. Nearly 15 per cent of the land is not available for cultivation.

Western Plateau & Hills Region

This zone comprises a major part of the State of Maharashtra, parts of Madhya Pradesh and one district from Rajasthan. It is known for its oranges, grapes and bananas. Besides, it also accounts for around half of the jowar production in the country.

Southern Plateau and Hills Region

This zone, comprising 35 districts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is typically semi-arid with 74 percent of dry land farming. Only about half the area is cultivated and the cropping intensity is low at about 112 percent. Underdeveloped irrigation has led to unstable and low agricultural productivity.

East Coast Plains and Hills Region

This zone covers parts of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry along the coast line facing Bay of Bengal. The annual rainfall ranges between 780 mm and 1300 mm. The region has got preponderance of paddy cultivation due to alluvial soil in the delta regions of east flowing peninsula rivers.

Western Plains and Ghat Region

This is an important zone for plantation crops and spices. It runs along the west cost covering parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa with a variety of soil types and rainfall patterns.

Gujarat Plains and Hills Region

This zone covers the entire State of Gujarat. It can be broadly divided into south, Middle, North and Saurashtra - Kutch regions. Large parts of the State are plains, mountainous parts lie on the eastern border with States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Nearly 20 per cent of the area is considered drought prone. The southern parts of the State have a good canal network.

Western Dry Region

This zone includes nine districts of Rajasthan viz., Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jhunjhunun, Jodhpur, Nagaur and Sikar. The zone has all characteristics of a hot desert. Rains are scanty and erratic, rate of evaporation is high, there are no perennial rivers, ground water table is very deep and is often brackish. Vegetation is sparse.

The average rainfall is about 400 mm but with very high year to year variations. The average temperature varies from about 45° C in May - June to less than 2° C in December - January. High wind velocity, scorching heat and sand storms are common features during summer months.

The soil is mostly sandy, loamy sand and sandy loam. About 28 per cent of the land is tilled; 11 per cent of the cultivated area is irrigated. Productivity is among the lowest in the country.

Setting up of Kota Thermal Power Plant

3571. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any provision in the annual plan for setting up of the sixth unit of the Kota Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said plant is likely to be started; and

(d) the extent to which the power shortage in Rajasthan is likely to be met through the said unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) No plan provision has been made by Rajasthan Government for setting up sixth unit of Kota Thermal Power Plant (195 MW) in their annual plan proposal for 2001-2002 for the power sector. This is a new scheme and is yet to obtain Techno-Economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority. As per the project report submitted by Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RVUNL), the unit is scheduled to be synchronized within 30 months from the placement of order for the main plant equipment. As per the 16th Electric Power Survey, the State of Rajasthan is anticipated to have a peak deficit of 2274 MW and energy shortage of 11609 Million Units at the end of 9th Plan. Commission of sixth unit of Kota Thermal Power Plant (195 MW) would help in reducing shortage.

Deep Sea Fishing

3572. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to develop deep sea fishing industry to take advantage of the vast potential of country's exclusive economic zone;

(b) whether Government plans to operate this deep sea fishing industry by multinationals big businessmen;

(c) whether fishermen rushed to capital for Dharna since foreigners approached their area of fishing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In order to exploit the vast fishery potential within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), several Indian companies have been permitted to operate deep sea fishing vessels under Joint Venture Policy (1991). Further, a Comprehensive Police on Marine Fisheries including deep sea fishing is under finalisation.

(c) and (d) Fishermen expressed apprehension regarding operation of foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters. This was got checked by the Coast Guard who has clarified that there are no unauthorised foreign fishing vessels fishing in our waters. Coast Guard has been directed to maintain a strict check in the EEZ and patrolling has been strengthened to prevent illegal fishing.

[Translation]

Advertisement Agents

3573. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed some agents to streamline the process of giving advertisements on the back side of railway tickets;

(b) if so, the details of such agents who collect advertisement for Northern Railways in Delhi region; and

(c) the details about the revenue received from advertisements arranged by such agents during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Railways have not appointed any advertising agency exclusively for giving advertisements on back side of railway tickets. Advertisements are accepted either directly from the advertiser or through the advertising agencies authorised by the railway to procure the advertising business in respect of various media.

(b) and (c) Fifty nine agencies have been authorised for collection of advertisements on Northern Railway including Delhi area and during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, one of these agencies had procured a business of Rs. 3.75 lakhs for display of advertisements on the reverse of tickets.

Construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in Bihar

3574. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for construction of road over bridges at important and busy railway crossings in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of such places where such over bridges are proposed to be constructed during the next year;

(c) the details of the over bridges under construction and their present position location-wise; and

(d) the time by which these overbridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Proposals for construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are sponsored by State Govt./Local Body concerned considering the need of road traffic etc. Railways consider construction of Road Over Bridges in lieu of busy level crossings on cost sharing basis, if the traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU-a unit obtained by multiplying the number of road vehicles with the number of Trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise on deposit terms provided the State Govt. concerned sponsors proposals duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Proposals so received are examined and if found feasible, are included in the Railways Works Programme. Proposals made by State Govt. of Bihar would also be considered similarly.

(c) A Statement is attached.

(d) Railway will complete construction of bridge proper before or alongwith the completion of work on approaches by State Govt.

Statement

Construction of Road Over/Under Bridges in Bihar

(c) Details of works of Road Over Bridges under construction on cost sharing basis in Bihar alongwith their present position are as under:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Remarks
1.	Construction of ROB at Motihari in lieu of level crossing No. 163A at km. 168/2-3 on NH-28	Work in progress
2.	Saharsa-Panchgachhia ROB in lieu of Level Crossing No. 31/Spl	General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved by State Govt. recently.
3.	Chukatia Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 28/Spl. (k 113/5-6) Between Mahesh Khut and Mansi.	GAD for bridge proper approved by MOST. GAD & Estimate for approaches awaited.
4.	Replacement of ROB No. 153 near Bhagalpur	GAD approved. Consolidated estimate is under acceptance of State PWD.
5.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 193 at Km 543/14-15 on Patna-Gaya secton near Mithapur	Estimate sanctioned, Consultancy contract awarded for finalization of design & drawings.
6.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 70 at Km. 522/295 near Fatuha	Both piers of abutment on Patna side completed but obstructed on other side by villagers due to land dispute, hence, work held up.
7.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 70 'A' Spl at Km 530/16-17 on Patna Sahib-Banka Ghat section near Deedarganj.	Detailed Estimate sanctioned. Piles have been completed. Tender for approaches also finalized. Work in progress.
8.	Chiriayatand Road Over Bridge - New Cable Stayed bridge in lieu of existing Road Over Bridge.	GAD finalized but under review of State Govt. in connection with approaches as per directives of Patna High Court. Tender for Railway portion also invited from M/s IRCON.

[English]

Support Price for Agricultural Produce

3575. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governments to declare/fix support price for some agricultural produce like coconut, rubber etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government received a proposal from State Government of Kerala for fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rubber. However, fixation of MSP was not found to be a feasible proposition as price of Rubber is determined by demand and supply factors, rubber being an industrial raw material. But the Government is considering fixing and notifying the minimum price for Natural Rubber under Section 13 of the Rubber Act, 1947. As regards coconut, the Government fixes MSP for copra every year and the MSP of copra for the current year has already been notified. Fixation of the MSP of coconut has not been found feasible.

Fixation of Norms for Electrification

3576. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been formed to conduct an independent study for fixing norms for electrification projects;

(b) if so, the reasons for appointing such a Committee and the terms of reference of the said Committee;

(c) the procedures followed at present in the matter of electrification projects; and

(d) the time by which the report of the Committee is expected to be received?

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) Considerable progress has been made in the field of Railway Electrification, in the recent past. Time has now come for a comprehensive review of the process and also for evolving a clear plan for the future, keeping in view all aspects of Railways working as well as environmental factors affecting the choice of traction. It has, therefore, been decided to constitute a Committee for determining the norms for further electrification over the next three Plan periods.

The Committee will evolve an appropriate criteria including norms for sensitivity analysis for taking up electrification projects over the next three Plan periods, i.e. upto the year 2016-17. In evolving these criteria, the Committee shall take into account the following:-

(i) The total availability of energy (both electrical and petroleum) in the country and its optimum utilization between different sectors, based on energy efficiency;

(ii) The priority that needs to be given for use of electric energy for traction purposes by the Indian Railways, taking into account the total capital requirement involved;

(iii) The capabilities of the two traction systems to handle longer/heavier passenger/freight trains at higher average maximum speeds, but operating within the operational and infrastructural constraints of Indian Railways;

(iv) Cost to the Organisation caused by a redundancy of existing assets/manpower; coupled with associated benefits derived as a result of electrification like reliable power supply over the electrified route, impact on environment, etc.; and

(v) the present methodology by working out of the line haul costs, suggest improvements and propose the most viable norms including fixing a break even point. The Committee shall evaluate the actual rate of return achieved on 3 representative electrification projects (high density, moderate density and low density) completed more than 5 years ago and compare this with the projected rate of return when the project was proposed.

(c) At present, Railway Electrification projects are taken up based on financial appraisal of, and Railways operational requirements for such projects.

(d) The term of the Committee expires on 20.09.2001. Its Report is likely to be submitted thereafter.

[Translation]

Construction of Overbridge at Khalari

3577. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct railway over bridge in Khalari in Ranchi and Pedestrian overbridge in Rai Coal Fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal from State Govt.

[English]

Cases of theft in Nagpur Division

3578. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have investigated the cases of theft and corruption taking place at Central Railways, Nagpur Division, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the higher officials of G.R.P. are found involved in the cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against them?

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) Disciplinary action has been initiated against five members of RPF for corrupt activities and negligence.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Maintenance to Muslim Women

3579. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many muslim women face problem about their maintenance because as per the Muslim Law the Waqf Board will pay them under certain condition but the Waqf Boards are by and large bankrupt;

(b) if so, whether a two-day session on "Genuine Problems of Muslim Women and their solution in the light of Shariha" was recently held in Lucknow in the first week of April;

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken at the meet; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

Strike by Petroleum Employees' Union

3580. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum employees union had observed a series of token strikes from April 23 to May 15, 2001 in Mumbai and Kolkata to protest over the failure of wage negotiations;

(b) if so, the details of their charter of demands; and

(c) the extent to which the Government have acceded the demands of the union?

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) Petroleum Employees Union of IBP Company Limited, Mumbai and Kolkata had observed token strikes in Mumbai on 23, 24 & 25th April, 2001 and in Kolkata on 17 to 19th April, 2001.

(b) Demands of Petroleum Employees Union, IBP, Mumbai have been settled through signing of Long Term Settlement (LTS). IBP's Petroleum Employees Union (Eastern Branch), Kolkata had neither submitted any charter of demands nor participated in the negotiations, therefore, no settlements could be arrived with them.

(c) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Supply of Quality Seeds to Farmers in A.P.

3581. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been asked to enquire into the failure in supplying quality seeds of paddy, groundnut, jowar, maize and some other crops to farmers in the State;

(b) if so, the demand and the quantum of seeds being supplied to the farmers in the State for various crops;

(c) the reasons for short supply of seeds; and

(d) the action taken against the suppliers for supplying sub-standard seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of requirement/demand and the availability of certified and quality seeds for supply to the farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh for various crops are enclosed in statement.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The details of action taken against the suppliers of sub-standard seeds under the Seed Law Enforcement from 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001, as reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh are as under:-

- Number of cases stop sale order issued. 55
- Number of cases filed in Court of Law. 245
- Number of cases decided by Court of Law in which Fine was awarded 3
- Number of cases pending in Court of Law. 242
- Number of cases where seed was forfeited. 42

The details of action taken against the suppliers of sub-standard seeds under Seed Control Order 1983 from 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001, as reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh are as under:-

- Number of samples drawn by Seed Inspectors 11023
- Number of cases where seed seized. 42
- Number of cases where prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act. 2
- Suspension of Licence. 2

Statement

The Details of Requirement/Demand and availability of certified/quality seeds in the State of Andhra Pradesh for Kharif -2001 and Rabi 2001-02

(Qty. in Qtls.)

S. No.	Crop	Kharif-2001			Rabi 2001-02		
		Requirement/ Demand	Availability	Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)	Requirement/ Demand	Availability	Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Paddy	4,92,700	9,53,600	+4,60,900	2,93,520	7,38,322	+4,44,802
2.	Jowar	20,600	1,30,000	+1,09,400	4,300	1,36,815	+1,32,515
3.	Bajra Hybrid	4,800	21,800	+ 17,000	300	59,362	+ 59,062
4.	Bajra	1,700	39,200	+ 37,500	—	—	—
5.	Maize Hybrid	32,600	1,96,000	+ 1,63,400	15,900	54,081	+ 38,181
6.	Ragi	—	—	—	160	634	+ 474
7.	Arhar	9,500	10,100	+ 600	—	—	—
8.	Green Gram	14,300	50,000	+ 35,700	3,630	34,400	+ 30,770
9.	Black Gram	2,980	28,007	+ 25,027	20,800	44,061	+ 23,261
10.	Gram	_	—	—	7,800	19,013	+ 11,213
11.	Groundnut	3,04,800	3,82,050	+ 77,250	71,400	3,30,251	+2,58,851
12.	Castor	5,500	17,625	+ 12,125	_	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Sesamum	530	550	+ 20	630	700	+ 70
14.	Sunflower	6,300	6,400	+ 100	15,400	49,992	+ 34,592
15.	Soyabean	16,400	17,500	+ 1,100	540	5,500	+ 4,960
16.	Safflower	_	—	—	2,750	4,060	+ 1,310
17.	Cotton Hybrid	2,855	2,855	_	—	—	—
18.	Cotton	20,345	51,145	+ 30,800	_	—	—
19.	Mesta	820	820	_	—	—	—
	Grand Total	9,36,730	19,07,652	9,70,922	4,37,130	14,77,191	10,40,061

APM of Gas

3582. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administered price mechanism of gas is likely to be discontinued by March 31, 2002 and the gas price thereafter would be Rs. 2500 per thousand SCM at 4100 kcal;

(b) if so, whether price of gas 10000 Kcal would be equal to Rs. 6,098/- per thousand SCM without discount;

(c) the net price of gas based on Rs. 2500 per SCM (at 4100 Kcal) works out to Rs. 3057.38 per thousand SCM including transportation charges of Rs. 557.38 per thousand SCM;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that net price of gas would be much higher than the present average price of Rs. 1783 per thousand SCM (including Rs. 510.08 for transportation);

(e) if so, whether the Government is considering to review the gas price formula and to fix the gas price and transportation charges at a reasonable level for use of natural gas resources in Rajasthan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) With effect from October 01, 1997, the consumer price of natural gas at land fall points was linked to the International price of a basket of fuel oils with the linkage increases in the first three years from 55% in 1997-98 to 65% in 1998-99 and 75% in 1999-2000 in respect of consumers other than in the North Eastern States. The natural gas pricing regime was required to be reviewed with a view to achieving 100% parity to fuel oil International prices by the year 2001-02. The revision of natural gas price upto March 31, 2002 is under active consideration of the Government. With effect from April 01, 2002, the natural gas prices will not be fixed by the Government.

Modernization of Hooghly Dock and Shipping Company

3583. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the present state of affairs of Hooghly Dock and Shipping Company, Howrah both financial and production-wise, division-wise;

(b) whether the financial package for the modernization of these two Units have been placed at their disposal since 1985; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata has two production units, namely, Salkia Works and Nazirgunge Works. Both the units have facilities for ship repairs and shipbuilding. The installed capacity in ship building is 1100 tons per annum and that in ship repairs is 125 ships per annum. The utilization of the installed

capacity in shipbuilding is poor due to lack of orders. The Company is passing through a very critical period. The Company has been incurring losses for last several years. It has accumulated losses amounting to Rs. 167.07 crores as on 31.03.2000.

(b) and (c) Government has been giving plan assistance to the Company for modernization of its two units. During the past five years of the Government has released funds to the extent of Rs. 21.42 crores. In addition, the Government is giving non-plan assistance to the Company to enable it to meet expenditure on account of wages and salaries to its employees. However, the Company has not utilized the plan funds fully.

Bigamy Cases

3584. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the absence of adequate mechanism many bigamy cases are not reported;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make certain amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act and IPC in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, bigamous marriage is void and provisions of sections 494 and 495 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860) have been made applicable to such marriage.

As far as the mechanism under the Indian Penal Code is concerned, the required information is being collected from Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Construction of Under Bridges

3585. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not constructing a small under bridge near Shahbad in Haryana so far;

(b) whether Railways are contemplating to construct Kurukshetra-Yamuna Nagar rail line;

(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) Plan and estimate of subway have not yet been approved by the State Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Heavy throwforward of ongoing works and constraints of resources.

Import of Wool

3586. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of wool and its products imported from different countries during each of the last three years and estimated for 2001-02, quality-wise, product-wise and country-wise;

(b) the reasons for import and its effect on domestic industry; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to ban the import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The information available on quantity and value of wool and its products during the last three years (country-wise) is enclosed as statement. Estimates for 2001-2002 are not worked out.

(b) and (c) The woollen industry is an export oriented industry. The wool produced in India is mostly of coarse quality. India hardly produces 4-5 million kgs. of apparel grade wool annually whereas the requirement of the industry is 40-45 million kgs. This gap is met by imports and hence there is no proposal to ban the import of wool.

Statement

Wool not Carded/Combed (HS-Code 5101)

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Australia	24536.02	29261.59	25668.38	26412.10	22781.90	25622.96
New Zealand	11365.77	11349.25	12034.59	11431.68	11266.12	10173.01
Italy	3006.91	1101.66	4628.62	1474.97	3724.34	1161.57
Turkey	2495.48	828.56	3742.82	1076.10	2614.59	787.82
Saudi Arab	2878.63	979.79	2057.87	697.25	1461.96	506.82
Argentina	132.51	103.69	235.35	186.76	600.67	493.51
Iran	3785.48	1771.82	4621.49	1684.80	1083.42	438.54
Netherland	311.97	182.27	1100.36	554.19	504.31	294.28
Belgium	896.40	420.72	746.16	343.29	607.73	230.34
Greece	129.48	46.40	256.76	84.92	573.48	189.36
China PRP	321.07	205.29	183.29	152.51	166.07	184.25
Austria	27.71	69.28	0.00	0.00	145.91	174.39
U.K.	407.76	244.57	533.19	320.94	321.29	185.22
South Africa	606.42	543.23	421.02	280.42	205.91	151.48
Kenya	375.41	197.49	533.09	185.71	440.67	144.32
Chinese Taipe	61.18	26.75	217.66	88.83	291.74	127.29
USA	81.34	51.75	856.75	634.14	223.44	115.99
Syria	302.86	111.40	396.44	139.43	342.72	108.72
German FREP	125.66	51.42	341.73	178.63	157.52	93.29
Spain	275.06	88.69	147.11	59.29	176.66	61.15
Kuwait	620.65	222.79	226.54	71.91	234.73	78.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uruguay	338.59	195.76	219.76	128.32	147.67	85.48
Indonesia	60.58	27.14	28.86	12.61	17.00	39.44
Mongolia	143.85	66.22	214.20	110.39	61.19	38.47
U. Arab Emts	560.03	216.08	304.06	118.06	104.59	36.41
Turkmenistan	0.00	0.00	257.31	44.72	84.00	28.30
Jordan	0.00	0.00	32.98	11.31	76.32	25.01
Japan	8.00	15.29	0.00	0.00	19.20	24.26
France	152.14	60.44	126.97	44.53	44.88	21.29
Romania	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.48	21.26
Cyprus	0.00	0.00	117.51	31.68	57.80	19.71
New Calendonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87	17.09
Ireland	19.41	45.89	0.00	0.00	37.82	16.48
Thailand	4.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	21.51	11.61
Hong Kong	55.12	36.84	13.52	18.82	59.50	11.06
Singapore	132.02	118.57	75.40	72.47	32.84	8.85
Equador	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	7.71
Pakistan	354.76	102.20	255.21	88.49	24.98	7.09
Lebanon	16.58	2.75	13.25	4.62	15.06	6.61
Uzbekistan	62.53	15.27	37.20	11.55	4.20	6.18
Uganda	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.14	5.21
Sweden	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.20	3.17
Russia	181.90	134.48	4.74	1.62	0.60	0.68
Afghanistan	0.00	0.00	13.63	8.38	0.00	0.00
Brazil	17.00	45.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.00	0.00	11.55	13.09	0.00	0.00
Denmark	0.00	0.00	13.04	7.84	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hungary	0.00	0.00	11.00	10.03	0.00	0.00
Iceland	60.52	22.58	111.89	43.18	0.00	0.00
Israel	0.00	0.00	16.92	6.88	0.00	0.00
Kazakhstan	20.07	11.71	17.52	7.94	0.00	0.00
Korea RP	17.43	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kyrghyzstan	13.32	11.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norway	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	21.63	27.03	112.97	121.85	0.00	0.00
Ukraine	0.00	0.00	7.50	2.00	0.00	0.00
Zambia	0.00	0.00	12.52	3.32	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	54886.37	49030.05	61376.65	49192.69	48827.21	41742.73

Fine/Coarse Animal Hair not Carded/Combed (HS Code 5102)

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South Africa	141.89	261.21	44.71	48.95	215.47	327.96
Australia	151.28	236.10	109.90	146.62	87.89	194.58
China P RP	8.57	43.40	12.39	70.53	25.02	93.43
France	30.20	127.53	15.80	84.34	14.45	74.85
Korea RP	5.00	26.14	0.00	0.00	58.28	73.63
U.K.	6.84	34.78	0.07	0.71	7.92	55.39
Hong Kong	0.00	0.00	8.46	39.57	5.79	37.84
U.S.A.	0.05	1.51	21.37	54.80	21.54	31.72
Netherland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.83	23.89
Argentina	0.00	0.00	6.51	8.13	20.17	23.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Belgium	0.00	0.00	1.01	3.56	4.03	11.98
Saudi Arab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	3.61
German F Rep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.66
Canada	1.42	3.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Italy	3.83	10.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mauritius	0.00	0.00	1.68	7.06	0.00	0.00
Mongolia	0.00	0.00	18.73	11.91	0.00	0.00
Nepal	0.20	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Zealand	14.62	22.95	13.06	16.88	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.28	1.20	2.35	8.61	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	364.18	769.36	256.04	501.67	463.81	953.37

Wool & Fine/Coarse Animal Hair Carded/Combed (including Wool tops) (HS Code 5105)

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Australia	118.85	241.30	81.68	230.93	94.42	219.21
U.K.	2.20	24.14	15.74	90.43	33.63	186.48
Italy	17.24	92.32	9.71	49.26	29.70	165.07
New Zealand	43.26	61.37	9.24	28.31	11.00	31.74
Switzerland	5.46	36.14	8.10	56.18	1.51	27.32
China P RP	11.97	52.92	0.35	1.28	0.50	24.68
Chinese Taipei	216.03	516.77	110.71	254.67	3.03	6.07
France	61.80	77.44	21.19	131.13	0.05	0.45
Belgium	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.00
Canada	1.00	18.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
German F Rep	11.70	27.70	43.07	80.24	0.00	0.00
Ireland	0.06	1.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherland	0.00	0.00	2.90	30.86	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Singapore	0.10	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	566.11	1235.19	24.89	57.63	0.00	0.00
Sweden	0.00	0.00	0.96	5.62	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.30	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
U Arab Emts	1.88	6.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
U S A	0.02	0.10	11.60	24.57	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	1057.98	2393.14	340.17	1041.17	173.84	661.02

Woollen Yarn including Yarn of Animal Hair (HS Code 5106, 5107, 5108, 5109 & 5110)

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
China P RP	25.76	114.42	30.03	289.32	89.42	353.38
Italy	65.33	422.58	13.05	83.66	40.97	288.75
U S A	1.30	4.10	5.73	74.58	33.41	132.26
U K	22.17	103.90	34.55	133.98	42.23	121.88
Turkey	7.55	20.26	0.00	0.00	3.08	37.80
Indonesia	6.74	23.37	9.98	17.82	13.47	26.94
Mauritius	6.75	29.47	7.49	32.18	9.32	21.97
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	20.51
U Arab Emts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.35	20.00
Iran	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.06	17.20
Thailand	0.42	1.52	19.91	11.59	5.41	15.37
Australia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.34	12.94
South Africa	5.64	26.66	0.00	0.00	3.04	11.18
Israel	4.94	4.55	8.89	7.58	7.56	5.14
German F Rep	1.82	13.57	12.13	24.34	1.28	3.13
Korea RP	66.33	177.76	6.60	27.45	0.50	1.87
Chinese Taipei	5.00	18.07	11.26	37.38	0.54	1.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Philippines	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.80	0.20	0.96
Hong Kong	0.05	0.67	1.05	31.77	0.09	0.72
Ireland	4.30	14.18	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.43
Netherland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.14
Japan	0.00	0.00	2.70	10.88	0.02	0.13
Belgium	2.95	15.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.10	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
France	2.50	9.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mongolia	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.84	0.00	0.00
Peru	0.00	0.00	0.21	2.58	0.00	0.00
Sweden	0.75	2.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ukraine	6.12	24.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	236.52	1028.86	163.74	786.75	276.48	1093.81

Woven Fabrics of Wool/Fine Animal Hair (HS Code 5111, 5112 & 5113)

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Italy	52.01	410.68	16.88	115.12	70.94	419.74
Reunion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.71	86.81
China P RP	14.77	78.62	0.23	0.33	14.30	52.03
France	10.45	44.80	5.35	27.51	2.37	32.11
U.K.	16.70	116.22	2.41	23.37	4.91	27.75
Singapore	0.00	0.00	0.54	6.56	2.95	23.47
Korea RP	41.40	252.41	4.22	20.49	5.74	21.24
Thailand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.83	15.34
Namibia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	14.31
U.S.A.	16.11	143.88	10.66	56.06	2.54	11.33
Canada	0.00	0.00	1.20	7.93	2.61	9.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Zealand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.33	5.63
German F Rep	23.71	124.74	3.91	26.53	1.06	5.49
Switzerland	0.01	0.26	0.06	0.21	0.21	3.12
Spain	0.49	1.57	0.86	2.93	0.73	2.60
U Arab Emts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.36
Japan	2.23	8.95	0.30	1.99	0.09	0.89
Netherland	1.04	2.63	0.14	0.76	0.17	0.73
Nepal	0.00	0.00	1.66	39.93	0.06	0.53
Belgium	0.82	15.42	0.50	0.35	0.15	0.50
Indonesia	1.01	3.05	3.37	22.05	0.09	0.41
Chinese Taipei	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.26
Hong Kong	13.57	42.32	0.23	0.72	0.05	0.17
Malaysia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15
Australia	0.06	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.06
Brazil	0.03	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Denmark	0.14	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ireland	2.00	10.38	7.76	39.20	0.00	0.00
Korea DP RP	0.06	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Portugal	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.56	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.00	0.00	2.20	27.99	0.00	0.00
Uruguay	0.00	0.00	0.75	10.86	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	196.61	1257.29	63.30	431.45	147.25	735.66

Waste of Wool/Fine, Coarse animal Hair

(Qty. in Tonne)

(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
U.K.	2807.64	452.07	2746.18	423.15	2768.07	365.66
Australia	796.18	133.61	996.94	152.73	303.77	49.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Italy	43.50	7.18	77.21	16.45	167.49	38.88
New Zealand	263.25	81.56	405.68	133.80	196.92	38.86
South Africa	37.38	28.01	74.52	23.79	168.57	32.95
Saudi Arab	0.00	0.00	280.16	51.64	141.17	29.50
Thailand	90.23	37.21	122.19	51.00	82.60	23.05
Belgium	73.68	22.14	33.93	7.33	88.77	21.11
Turkey	383.50	55.76	835.31	154.56	131.37	20.66
Japan	16.00	3.06	32.00	6.26	105.41	20.53
U.S.A.	113.12	20.45	184.27	32.49	112.69	19.67
Greece	26.31	10.42	48.48	8.57	80.56	16.06
China P RP	0.00	0.00	57.19	23.66	22.68	14.81
Norway	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.40	12.83
U Arab Emts	38.00	4.27	59.33	13.29	59.64	11.96
France	24.36	3.78	13.60	2.85	113.68	11.02
Cyprus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.00	10.04
Iran	62.96	12.53	109.08	22.60	77.58	9.82
Chinese Taipei	0.00	0.00	14.29	8.33	20.28	6.78
Netherland	202.07	31.31	109.08	13.60	44.40	6.01
Argentina	31.51	12.72	0.00	0.00	12.87	5.72
Denmark	0.00	0.00	9.37	2.47	15.24	3.59
Korea RP	14.00	3.56	20.00	3.53	2.04	3.06
Ireland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.84	2.62
Syria	0.00	0.00	41.62	5.21	9.89	2.60
Spain	21.76	2.87	10.73	1.75	13.65	2.17
Bangladesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.10	1.64
Russia	6.72	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Singapore	21.78	3.02	88.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
Uruguay	33.33	12.76	45.98	8.05	0.00	0.00
Uzbekistan	0.00	0.00	92.00	14.18	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	5203.08	958.53	6667.54	1218.35	5035.45	810.81

Woollen Rags (HS Code 63101002, 63109002)

(Qty. in Tonne)
(Value in Rs. Lakh)

State	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001 (Apr-Feb)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Canada	3733.13	503.54	4604.10	634.37	4170.70	592.06
U.K.	2042.58	334.29	1903.44	280.30	3377.56	491.66
Italy	2858.15	419.39	3906.66	508.60	3409.13	483.74
France	2226.54	379.99	2251.68	321.27	2473.34	356.87
U.S.A.	7561.18	1023.18	5380.24	761.86	2357.55	352.97
Belgium	1432.41	195.57	1288.24	176.88	1628.76	243.42
Netherland	3518.67	494.34	1442.87	192.71	1560.00	222.92
Australia	1099.65	216.66	782.58	118.58	1165.93	184.39
Poland	285.25	41.97	1146.04	214.09	1028.76	152.47
Tunisia	443.30	64.89	514.59	69.35	691.19	97.52
German F Rep	1304.56	184.31	2385.77	326.42	622.88	84.69
Philippines	157.20	21.89	87.07	12.79	365.53	53.25
Spain	302.49	44.12	522.81	71.34	317.95	46.28
Chinese Taipei	0.00	0.00	207.88	29.33	280.56	41.37
Japan	94.04	11.57	67.80	11.39	214.34	30.42
New Zealand	281.44	65.80	81.97	15.94	150.02	30.34
Malaysia	132.60	26.68	98.00	14.87	189.32	29.36
U Arab Emts	23.66	3.74	14.51	2.05	29.15	4.16
China P RP	0.00	0.00	74.35	11.43	20.00	3.43
Russia	47.08	5.53	23.17	3.25	23.23	3.30
Thailand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.37
Indonesia	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.49	0.00	0.00
Ireland	36.80	3.79	32.43	4.58	0.00	0.00
Korea RP	8.80	1.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Portugal	22.00	3.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.00	0.00	43.02	5.45	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	27611.53	4045.33	26863.22	3787.34	24076.29	3504.99

Linking of Shahjahanpur-Tikunia-Bareilly with Lucknow by Rail

3587. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to link Shahjahanpur to Tikunia and Bareilly with Lucknow through broad gauge rail line;

(b) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay 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 is no proposal to link Shahjahanpur with Tikunia through Broad Gauge line. However, Bareilly is already connected with Lucknow on Board Gauge via Shahjahanpur.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central Assistance for Agriculture Training Centre in Chhattisgarh

3588. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal seeking Central Assistance, has been received from Chhattisgarh for setting up a State level Agriculture Training Centre in the State; and

(b) if so, the time by which cent percent assistance from the Union Government is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No separate proposal has been received from Chhattisgarh. However, Central assistance is given to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Macro-Management Scheme. Under this Scheme State Governments have been provided flexibility to make allocations for on-going programmes or new programmes according to their developmental priorities. Each State prepares a Work Plan wherein various programme components and their proposed allocations are indicated. As per the Work Plan submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh, a State level Training Centre is proposed to be set up at Bhopal. The Work-Plan Document does not indicate the estimate cost of establishment of the proposed Centre. Central Government have made an allocation of Rs. 17.00 crore for the total Work Plan for the year 2001-2002 for Chhattisgarh out of which an amount of Rs. 7.65 crore has been released to Chhattisgarh as the first instalment.

[English]

Proxy Voting for Armed Forces

3589. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to SQ No. 278 dated August 10, 2000 regarding voting through postal ballot papers by Armed Forces and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow proxy voting for armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views given by the various political parties in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to provide an additional option to the members of the Armed Forces, etc. to vote through the system of proxy at elections. Accordingly, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.12.1999. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. In its report presented to the Lok Sabha on 18.4.2001, the Committee, in view of sharp division of opinion among its members over the provisions of the Bill, while not making any recommendation either in favour of against the Bill, has suggested that Government should take up the issue with major political parties. The Government has accordingly decided to solicit the opinion of various political parties in a meeting.

Detection of Cases

3590. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2,22,938 cases involving loss of Railway material worth Rs. 23.24 Crores have been reported to RPF out of which only 45,511 cases have been detected;

(b) if so, the number of cases yet to be detected and the quantum of money involved therein; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the detection?

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. These cases were reported during the five year period from 1994-95 to 1998-99 and include theft and loss.

(b) 1,77,423 cases involving property worth Rs. 7.96 crores are yet to be worked out.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure better detection of cases.

1. Detection of cases is monitored at all supervisory levels.
2. Registration and detection of the cases are regularly analysed and necessary guidance provided to the enquiry officers.
3. The Crime Intelligence Branch of RPF is associated with enquiry officers for effective collection of intelligence.
4. Surveillance is kept over criminals for prevention as well as detection of cases.
5. Close co-ordination is maintained with GRP and Local Police to detect the cases.
6. Crime intelligence is shared with the Police for identifying the criminals and criminal gangs.

Dealers to Reconstitute Dealerships

3591. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the dealers to reconstitute their dealerships/distributorships to avoid the running of such dealership under Benami transactions;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow one of dealer of partnership firms of such dealership/ distributorships and do not restrain the partner intending to leave such dealership;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the conditions/guidelines for allowing the outgoing partners to leave the distributorship by way of reconstitution?

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 Government have delegated the powers for reconstitution of dealerships/distributorships to the Oil Companies subject to certain conditions.

(b) and (c) In the case of partnership firms, if one or more partner (s) wish to withdraw, the remaining partner(s) may be permitted to reconstitute the firms subject to the remaining partner(s) being acceptable to the Oil Company. The existing partner(s) must retain the majority share and the newly — inducted partner(s) will not be permitted to have majority holdings.

(d) According to the guidelines issued by the Government, reconstitution will not be allowed before three years from the date of commissioning and the subsequent reconstitution not before three years thereafter, except under the following conditions:

(a) compassionate grounds.

(b) death of proprietor/partner(s); and

(c) within the family.

Land Salinity in Maharashtra

3592. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to excessive use of water, fertilizers and failure of drainage system in the water shed areas, 24 thousand acres of land has become saline in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are also aware that land salinity has been increasing by an alarming rate of 10 per cent every year in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the action taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to check land salinity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No systematic survey has been made to assess annual increment in land salinity. However, the soil is getting more saline due to excessive irrigation, fertilizer application and lack of adequate drainage.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has formulated reclamation programme of water logged saline soils on the basis of irrigation sources.

(1) Major & Medium irrigation projects

The affected soils from the command areas of such irrigation projects are being reclaimed by laying of field channels and field drainage etc. Currently, the drainage scheme is being implemented by Research and Development Division of Irrigation Department.

(2) Private & Cooperative lift irrigation scheme

The Government of Maharashtra has constituted Maharashtra Water Conservation Corporation. It is decided that, the drainage schemes for the affected soils in the command of Lift Irrigation Schemes be planned and implemented by Maharashtra Water Conservation Board in association with Minor Irrigation (local sector) Department.

Reimbursement of Excess Charges by IOC

3593. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 822 dated November 23, 2001 and to state:

(a) whether the Government had admitted that Oil Corporations are entitled to charge only Rs. 15/- per K.L. on HSD and Rs. 37/- per KL on petrol as bank collection charges from out stationed dealers making payments through cheque;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that Oil Corporations especially IOCL are charging 70 paise per thousand rupees as bank collection charges from the above category of dealers in gross violation of the policy;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to issue orders to reimburse the excess charges charged by the IOCL from such dealers as both the products are covered under APM; 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) In Annexure-II of the reply to the Question No. 822 dated 23.11.2000, the rate of recovery on account of bank charges from dealers on cheque facility was indicated as Rs. 37 per KL for MS and Rs. 15 per KL for HSD with effect from 1.4.1993. However, the same was suspended effective 21-5-1993.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is charging Rs. 7/- per thousand as *collection charges* on the value of out-stationed cheques received from the dealers as the similar bank charges are required to be paid by the IOC to bankers.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken as yet.

Disqualification from Contesting Election

3594. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 5874 dated April 26, 2001 regarding disqualification from contesting election and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The news item titled "SC ruling music to politicians ears" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 26th March, 2001, as referred to in the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5874 dated 26th April, 2001, related to the judgment dated 22.3.2001 of the Supreme Court in the case of Smt. Akhtari Bi Vs. State of M.P. - Criminal appeal No. 320 of 2001 [arising out of SLP (Criminal) No. 4092 of 2000] wherein the Hon'ble Court has, while referring to the delay in disposal of appeals due to pendency of cases in High Courts after conviction of the accused by the trial court, observed as under:

> "Appeal being a statutory right the trial court's verdict does not attain finality during pendency of the appeal and for that purpose the trial is deemed to be continuing despite conviction."

The aforesaid observation and the judgment of the Supreme Court does not lead to any new interpretation *vis-a-vis* the election laws, and the newspaper report is merely an inference drawn by the concerned correspondence.

Filling Temperature of Petrol and Diesel

3595. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the filling temperature of petrol and diesel in oil terminals of refinery locations is more than the ambient temperature;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has recommended to compensate such dealers who are receiving supplies on higher temperature than the ambient temperature and natural temperature from such terminals located on refinery locations;

(c) whether the oil terminals have compared the loading temperature of the products with the ambient temperature of the respective dates and time; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Dealers were already being compensated by Temperature Variation Allowance (TVA) to all deliveries of MS and HSD from installations/facilities of the refineries, under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Committee has recommended some modifications in Temperature Variation Allowance calculation methodology.

(c) and (d) As per the existing practice, the loading temperature of the product and the ambient temperature at that location are recorded/considered for the purpose of allowing compensation on account of the variation of these two temperatures as per the Temperature Variation Allowance formula in vogue.

Missing of Rare Coins from Goa Museum

3596. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ancient coins deposited in the Goa museum are now missing;

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

(c) the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the ASI to prevent such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A Portuguese silver coin of the mid-19th century period was reported missing from the Archaeological Survey of India's museum at Goa on 16th April 1989.

(c) The local police who investigated the matter were unable to pinpoint the involvement of specific person/ persons.

(d) Adequate measures such as display in reinforced glass show cases, deployment of private security and entry of visitors through metal detector door frames have been adopted.

Waiving-Off of Losses

3597. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to provide assistance to the Integrated Cooperative Credit structure of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested the Union Government to waive-off the accumulated losses while setting up a Cooperative Rehabilitation Development Fund to assist the cooperative Banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh vide Chief Minister's letter dated 13.02.2001 requested to provide assistance to the Integrated Cooperative Credit Structure of Andhra Pradesh out of the proposed Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund to extinguish the entire accumulated losses and imbalances amounting to about Rs. 1161 crores. This was suitably replied by the Agriculture Minister on 23.4.2001.

(c) and (d) As mentioned in the reply to (b) above, the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for assistance from the proposed Cooperative Rehabilitation

and Development Fund to extinguish the losses and imbalances of the Integrated Cooperative Credit Structure amounting to about Rs. 1161 crores. There was no separate request to waive off the accumulated losses.

[Translation]

Excavation of New Sites

3598. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has identified any new sites under Archaeological excavation, survey and scientific excavation during the last three years, till date;

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

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred on this excavation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has excavated 34 new sites and surveyed 22 new sites during the last three years. The details are given in the statement I & II respectively.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on these excavation is Rs. 1,84,31,560.00.

Statement-I

New Sites Identified and Excavated by Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of the site
1	2
Assam	
1.	Talatal Ghar, Joysagar, District Sibsagar.
2.	Maidan No. 2 (burial mound) at Charaideo, District Sibsagar
Bihar	
3.	Chandimau, District Nalanda.
4.	Kesariya, District East Champaran.
5.	Rajgir, District Nalanda.
Delhi	
6.	Tughluqabad Fort, Delhi.
Goa	
7.	Chandore, District North Goa.
Haryana	
8.	Naurangabad, District Bhiwani.
Jammu & Kashmir	
9.	Kanispur, District Baramulla.
10.	Jafar Chak, District Jammu.
11.	Ambaran, District Jammu.
Karnataka	
12.	Mirjan Fort, District North Kanara.
Kerala	
13.	Bekal Fort, District Kawsargode.
Madhya Pradesh	
14.	Chichali, District West Nimar.
15.	Ubhariya, District Betul.
16.	Ghatwaria, District West Nimar.
17.	Kotwal (Kutwar), District Morena.
18.	Bijamandal Mound, Khajuraho, District Chhattarpur.
19.	Barhat, District Rewa.
Maharashtra	
20.	Hingona Sim, District Jalgoan.
21.	Elephanta, District Raigarh.
Punjab	
22.	Dhalewan, District Mansa.
Rajasthan	
23.	Lachhura, District Bhilwara.
24.	Ojiyana, District Bhilwara.
Tripura	
25.	Shyam Sunder-ka-Tila, District Pillak, South-Tripura.
Uttar Pradesh	
26.	Bisokar, District Ghaziabad.
27.	Madarpur,Tehsil Thakurdvara, District Moradabad.

1	2
28.	Mandi Village, Tehsil Titawi, District Muzaffarnagar.
29.	Orajhar, District Sravasti.
30.	Bir Chhabili-ka-Tila, District Agra.
31.	Chaukhandi, District Varanasi.
32.	Sapur, District Gonda.
West Bengal	
33.	Rajpat Khalisa, District Cooch Behar.
34.	Chandraketugarh, District 24 Parganas.

Statement-II

Details of Survey by Archaeological Survey of India during last three years from 1998-99 to 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Details of Survey
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Exploration in District Adilabad.
Arunachal Pradesh	
2.	Prehistoric Survey.
Gujarat	
3.	Wooden Architecture of Gujarat.
Himachal Pradesh	
4.	Tehsil Karsog, District Mandi, Ani, District Kullu Banjar, Distt. Shimla.
5.	Pomarang, District Lahul & Spiti.
6.	Pangi Valley, District Chamba.
Jammu & Kashmir	
7.	Kargil to Padma Valley of Indus, Districts Doda and Janskar.
Karnataka	
8.	Exploration of 14 villages listed for international Airport at Devanahalli, District Bangalore.
9.	Exploration in District Mandya.
10.	Exploration in Districts Bellary and Belgaum.
Kerala	
11.	Problem oriented survey in Pampa river valley covering the Districts of Idukki, Kottayam, Pattanamuthitta and Ernakulam.
Maharashtra	
12.	Palacolithic and Chalcolithic Site, District Yaeotmal.
Madhya Pradesh	
13.	Ubharia and its surrounding area, District Betul.
Meghalaya	
14.	Prehistoric Survey, Districts Jaintia Hills and East Khasi Hills.
Orissa	
15.	Mahanadi River Valley in Districts Khurda, Sonpur and Kalahandi.
16.	Upper Tel Valley in District Kalahandi.
17.	River valley of Brahmani District Dhenkanal.
Rajasthan	
18.	The Banas valley from Tonk to its confluences points into Chambal river at Rameshwar, Districts Tonk and Sawai Madhopur.
Uttar Pradesh	
19.	Chitrakut and Surrounding Area.
20.	Survey of Civil Architecture of Agra.
21.	Survey of brick temples in North-India.
22.	Epigraphical Survey in North-East region.

[English]

LPG Connections

3599. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the new LPG gas connections proposed to be given during this year;

(b) the number of new distributors proposed to be appointed in Andhra Pradesh during this year;

(c) whether any priority would be given to disabled and ex-Servicemen; 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) Government have approved an enrolment plan of release of 1.3 crore new LPG (domestic) connections in the country during the calendar year 2001.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 334 new LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.7.2001.

(c) and (d) As per extant guidelines, 8% of the distributorships are reserved for Defence Category (DC), 8% for Paramilitary/Police/Government personnel (PMP) and 5% for Physically Handicapped persons (PH).

[Translation]

Construction of Road Over Bridges

3600. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where railway over bridges are proposed to be constructed in Jaipur city to meet the needs of transportation; and

(b) the time by which construction work is likely to start 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) Management of road traffic and planning for the same is done by State Govt./Local Body concerned. Proposals for construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are therefore, sponsored by State/Govt./Local Body. At present no Road Over Bridge/ Road Under Bridge is under construction in Jaipur city nor is there any proposal from State Govt./Local Body for such construction.

[English]

Growth of Maize

3601. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total metric tonnes of maize grown in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total area of land used for growing maize in the country, State-wise;

(c) the extent of financial support provided to farmers by the Government; and

(d) the present annual export of maize from the country, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State-wise estimates of area and production of maize crop during last three years *viz.* 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the Statement-I.

(c) Under the Accelerated Maize Development Programme, the Government released @ Rs. 415 lakhs, Rs. 435 lakh, Rs. 475 lakhs and Rs. 108.37 lakhs during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-2002 respectively. In addition, an amount of Rs. 45 lakhs and Rs. 30 lakhs during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively has also been released to the States under the UNDP Sub-programme on Maize Based Cropping System.

(d) The details of export of maize from India to other countries are given in statement-Ii.

Statement-I

Estimates of Area & production of Maize in India during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

Area - '000' hectare

Production - '000' tonnes

S.No.	State	Area			Production		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	396.0	399.0	439.0	1083.0	1383.0	1397.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.5	36.2	35.6	50.0	47.0	48.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	19.2	19.8	19.7	14.7	14.0	14.1
4.	Bihar	705.2	711.1	804.1	1309.5	1527.5	1611.3
5.	Goa	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.2	0.8
6.	Gujarat	399.8	408.3	391.0	658.2	696.0	504.0
7.	Haryana	24.0	21.0	21.0	46.0	41.0	51.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	311.9	305.0	299.9	620.7	671.3	681.4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	310.9	311.4	317.3	440.9	532.4	471.2
10.	Karnataka	561.4	512.4	608.0	1510.9	1671.3	1688.0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	860.7	852.2	854.7	1135.4	1232.7	1354.7
12.	Maharashtra	240.7	278.4	279.9	297.7	511.4	417.0
13.	Manipur	3.6	3.0	4.3	13.1	10.1	10.7
14.	Meghalaya	17.2	17.2	16.6	24.9	25.3	24.1
15.	Mizoram	8.2	8.7	5.3	16.5	16.5	9.7
16.	Nagaland	30.0	32.0	32.0	30.0	41.6	48.0
17.	Orissa	52.1	51.0	54.5	64.0	66.3	80.8
18.	Punjab	165.0	154.0	162.0	345.0	352.0	417.0
19.	Rajasthan	974.5	951.0	933.6	1232.0	1032.2	973.2
20.	Sikkim	39.4	39.4	39.4	55.7	50.8	52.8
21.	Tamil Nadu	58.0	55.7	117.0	94.9	88.3	188.2
22.	Tripura	2.0	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.7
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1063.2	995.8	954.0	1640.3	1012.9	1358.0
24.	West Bengal	43.5	38.5	35.1	130.4	121.2	69.7
	All India	6321.2	6203.7	6426.5	10816.2	11147.7	11472.7

Statement-II

Export of Maize from India in 1999-2000

(Kilograms)

S. No.	Country	Maize Seed	Other Maize	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bangladesh	12000	—	12000
2.	Indonesia	794160	—	794160

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Mauritius	—	1500	1500
4.	Nepal	31000	20000	51000
5.	Oman	30000	—	30000
6.	Philippines	199420	—	199420
7.	Sri Lanka	25000	—	25000
8.	United Arab Emirates	12000	146500	158500
	Total	1103580	168000	1271580

Imparting of Training

3602. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no awareness and training programmes are being conducted and imparted by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research in the North Eastern Region particularly in Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya where the headquarters of the ICAR is located;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking up such programmes;

(c) the steps taken by the ICAR to impart technical know-how to the farmers/people of NER in horticulture, floriculture and animal husbandry;

(d) whether locals are appointed in the ICAR; and

(e) if so, the details of such appointments during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir, during 2000-2001, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani, district Ri-Bhoi Meghalaya conducted various awareness programmes like Field days, farmers' days and Kishan melas with the participation of 1,111 farmers.

The Institute also organized 42 training programmes with the participation of 1,160 farmers, 62 small scale entrepreneurs and 216 extension functionaries.

(c) During 2000-2001, 253 training programmes were conducted in horticulture including floriculture and animal husbandry by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) funded by ICAR with the participation of 3494 farmers, 1625 rural youths and 1279 extension functionaries.

(d) and (e) Recruitment to Group 'C & D' posts is made through Local/Central Employment Exchange. The institute has not made any recruitment during the last 3 years due to current ban except 5 appointments in Group 'D' category on compassionate ground.

Status to DPP and Mega Power Project

3603. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Union Government to declare Dabhol Power Project as Mega Power Project under the Mega Power Policy of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had forwarded proposals to the Ministry of Power for classification of Dabhol Power Project (2184 MW) as a mega power project. The Dabhol Power Project, which was awarded through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) route, is not an inter-State project. The project does not also fulfil the conditions of the revised mega power policy of the Government of India announced in 1998. Therefore, the request of the Government of Maharashtra was not acceded to.

Effect of Natural Calamities on Handloom/Handicrafts

3604. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to formulate specific schemes for natural calamities' affected handloom weavers/handicrafts artisans in all parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No specific scheme is under consideration for natural calamities affected handloom weavers/handicrafts artisans. However, to assist the weavers during natural calamities in the State, special dispensations in the existing schemes are made and/or special drive is undertaken for that State.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Government Cases

3605. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are a party to more than one third of the litigations in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up any Committee to ascertain whether the cases involving the Government should be pursued further or not;

(c) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted any report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to settle the disputes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Union Government are a party in a number of cases pending in various Courts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps for speedy settlement of cases such as setting up of fast track courts; setting up of Lok Adalats; enactment of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to encourage settlement of disputes through arbitration and conciliation; and setting up of various fora for speedy disposal of disputes such as Central Administrative Tribunal, Consumer Forms at District level, State level and Central level, Railway Claims Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, etc.

Formations of Trust

3606. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Trust was constituted by the Department of Culture on May 5, 1995 to administer the fund of rupees One crore twenty lakhs saved from the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) conference held in New Delhi in 1992 organized by Indian Library Association (ILA) and the letters to the Trustees had to be issued by May 18, 1995, but on May 22, 1995 it was stalled by the officer concerned for personal reasons;

(b) whether the file concerning the formation of the trust has been deliberately misplaced by the officer concerned;

(c) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to revive the trust; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. Though a decision was taken to set up a Trust to administer the savings of IFLA' 92 but the Trust was not constituted.

(b) The file was not misplaced.

(c) and (d) The matter has been reviewed and a decision has now been taken in consultation with the Dept. of Legal Affairs that the funds belong to the Indian Library Association.

Activities of Afzalkhan Memorial Trust

3607. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of activities of Afzalkhan Memorial Trust at the foothill of Pratapgrah Fort in Satara district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the said Trust has obtained due permission from the Archaeological department for indulging in such activities;

(c) whether the Government approves the Trust's activities of eulogising Afzalkhan and denigrating image of Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to stop such activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir. Government is aware of the activities of Afzalkhan Memorial Trust at Pratapgarh. The said Trust was operating a Dharmsala (sanatorium) which is now taken over by Forest Department of the State Govt. of Maharashtra.

(b) The Trust is not under the control of Archaeological Department.

(c) and (d) No such activity is ever reported.

Construction of Ludhiana-Chandigarh Rail Line

3608. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made regarding construction of Ludhiana-Chandigarh rail line;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the said project 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) The work from Chandigarh to Morinda (47.5 km.) has been taken up at the first instance. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress in 20 km. length wherever land has been handed over by State Government.

(b) The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 200 crores and expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2001 is Rs. 24.77 crores.

(c) No target date has yet been fixed. The completion of this project would depend upon availability of land and resources.

Reduction in Agricultural Schemes

3609. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided that all Centrally sponsored schemes of Agriculture Ministry be reduced to half or in some cases completely weeded out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) its impact on the overall development of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) With a view to providing greater flexibility to States, a macro Management Scheme "Supplementation/ Complementation of States Efforts through Work Plans" by integrating 27 on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes was launched in October, 2000. A list of the 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes subsumed under Macro Management Scheme is enclosed as statement.

It is a major step towards achieving decentralization in pursuance of restoring primacy of States in agricultural development planning. Integration of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Macro Management mode will optimize the utilisation of scarce financial resources and maximise the returns. The Central Government will supplement/complement the State Governments efforts through differentiated Work Plans comprising region/crop/ area specific interventions for the development of agriculture. State Governments have welcomed this new Scheme.

Statement

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section.
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives.

3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme.
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund.
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST.
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas.
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas.
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas.
9. Special Jute Development Programme.
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas.
11. Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizer.
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers.
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid & Temperate Zone Fruits.
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture.
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
17. Development of Roots & Tuber Crops.
18. Development of Cocoa & Cashew.
19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.
20. Development of Mushroom.
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
22. Bee-Keeping.
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
24. Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers.
26. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils.
27. State Land Use Boards.

Tourist Projects of Karnataka

3610. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 5220 dated December 21, 2000 regarding Tourism projects of Karnataka and to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released on various tourism projects in Karnataka by the Government during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, so far, project-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing the second instalment against such proposals; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to release the remaining sanctioned amount?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There is no separate allocation of funds to any State Government/UT Administration. However, Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with the State Government of Karnataka. The information showing projects sanctioned and funds released during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given in statement I & II. For the year 2001-2002, 37 project proposals have been prioritised for Rs. 1174.00 lakhs. On receipt of project proposals, complete in all respects, these would be processed on inter-se-priority basis and funds released, subject to availability.

(b) On receipt of utilization certificate for the first installment released, Land Transfer document, Management Agreement, etc. complete in all respect, cases for release of second installments are processed and funds released.

(c) For claiming the balance/final amount of Central Financial Assistance, State Government of Karnataka is required to submit Utilisation and Completion Certificates to the Government of India.

Statement-I

Projects sanctioned during 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Details of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Tourist Home at Pajaka Kshetra, Udupi District	49.00	37.00
2.	Tourist Home at Hanumanthanagar	44.30	34.30
3.	Yatri Niwas at Sagar Shimoga	48.00	14.40
4.	Yatri Niwas at Sirsi	48.00	14.40
5.	TRC at Gulbarga	22.40	6.72
6.	WSA at Kudligi (Bellary)	26.00	7.80
7.	WSA at Bankapur Cross (Dharwad District)	25.00	7.50
8.	WSA at Zalki Cross (Bijapur)	25.00	7.50
9.	WSA at Bannerghata National Park	27.35	8.35
10.	New Tourist Cottage at Muthyalamadu	44.66	13.40
11.	Addl. Tourist Cottages at Srirangapatnam	27.50	8.00
12.	Addl. accommodation facilities at Nandi Hills	14.30	4.50
13.	Public conveniences at Arasikere-Honnavar Road Midway to Jog	8.00	2.40
14.	Public conveniences at Shivanasmudra (Near Dargah)	8.00	6.40
15.	Public conveniences at Sri Ramadevarakatte	8.00	2.40
16.	Public conveniences at Malekamanahalli near Bandipur	8.00	6.40
17.	Public conveniences at Ganigapura (Near Temple) Gulbarga Dist	8.00	6.40
18.	Public conveniences at Hampi (4 Nos.)	32.00	9.60
19.	Public conveniences at Tumkur-Honnavar Road	8.00	2.40
20.	Public conveniences at Badami (Near Caves)	8.00	6.40
21.	Public conveniences at Srirangapatna (Near Gumbaz)	8.00	2.40
22.	Public conveniences at Horanadu (Naer Kalasa)	8.00	2.40
23.	Public conveniences at Pilikula Nisarga Dhama near Mangalore (2 Nos.)	16.00	12.80
24.	Jungle Lodges Tourism Resort, Hampi	49.00	14.70
25.	Construction of Log Huts at Cauvery Fishing Camp Unit II at Doda Makali Mandya District	45.40	13.62

1	2	3	4
26.	Construction of Eco-Tourism facilities at Kammangundi Chickmagalur Dist.	45.45	13.63
27.	Purchase of OBM at Mysore, Belgaum	13.62	6.80
28.	Procurement of Water sport equipments at Devbag Beach Resort	5.00	2.50
29.	Water sports equipment for various boat clubs	8.67	3.00
30.	Illumination/floodlighting of Chitradurga Fort	18.55	5.56
31.	Feasibility Study Report at Jog Falls	10.00	5.00
32.	Yatri Niwas at Siddaroodha Swamymath	38.27	10.40
33.	WSA at Gadag/Lakkundi	30.00	9.00
34.	Jetty at Sankey Boat Club	5.50	1.65
35.	Const. of Student nature Camp, Bannerghata	32.00	9.60
36.	Eco-Tourism Resort at Bannerghata National Park	48.00	14.40
37.	Illumination/floodlighting of Gumbaz at Tippu's Summer Palace	17.23	4.97
38.	Hampi Festival	2.40	2.40
39.	Mysore-Dussehra Festival	6.40	6.40
40.	Hoyasala Festival	1.00	1.00
41.	Pattadakal Festival	2.00	2.00
42.	Karavali Festival	1.00	1.00

Statement-II

Projects Sanctioned during 2000-2001

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount to be released
1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
1.	Yatri Niwas at Mangasuli Belgaum District	56.00	16.80
2.	Yatri Niwas at Hazrath Fakhi Shah Wali Dargah	56.00	16.80
3.	Yatri Niwas Dattatreyapeeta	56.00	16.80
4.	Yatri Niwas at Biligiri, Rangana Betta	56.00	16.80
5.	Public Conveniences at Gokarna	7.20	2.16
6.	Public conveniences at Golgambuz and Ibrahim Roza	14.40	4.32

1	2	3	4
7.	Public Conveniences at Karwar	7.20	2.16
8.	Public Conveniences at Kondaji, Davangere	7.20	2.16
9.	Public Conveniences at Basavana Bagewadi (2 Nos.)	14.40	4.32
10.	Restaurant and Cafetaria at Chitradurga	24.00	7.20
11.	Public conveniences at Banvasi, Sirsi Taluka	7.20	2.16
12.	Yatri Niwas Mallai Temple	56.00	16.80
13.	Establishment of Ayurvedic treatment at Pilikula Nisargadhama	12.50	3.75
14.	Development of Karanji Tank, Bird Sanctuary in Mysore	9.00	3.00
15.	Floodlighting to Maravanthe Beach, Udupi Dist.	29.54	9.00
16.	Floodlighting to Malpe Beach, Udupi District	29.54	9.00
17.	Watersports equipment at Gulbarga Tank	8.00	2.40
18.	Public conveniences at Bidar	7.20	2.16
19.	Tourist Reception Centre, Mandya	31.92	9.58
	Total	447.38	147.37

Performance of Power Finance Corporation

3611. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed in depth the performance of Power Finance Corporation in terms of implementation of its projects and programmes, in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total investment made by the PFC during the last three years under various projects/ programmes/schemes in Maharashtra, year-wise and scheme-wise; and

(d) the details of funds allocated and actually released to Maharashtra during the last three years and allocation made for 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government periodically reviews/evaluate the performance of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) through Annual and quarterly performance reviews. Besides that, PFC has been signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Power since 1993-94 and the performance of the PFC against the MOU targets has been monitored/ evaluated both by the Ministry of Power and Department of Public Enterprises. Based on the performance against the MOU, Department of Public Enterprises has consistently rated PFC 'Excellent' in all the years since 1993-94.

(c) Scheme-wise details of disbursements made by PFC during the last three years in Maharashtra is given in Statement-I.

(d) Details of loan amount committed and disbursement made to Maharashtra State Electricity Board during the last three years and commitment made during 2001-2002 is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of disbursements made during the last three years in Maharashtra

(Rs. in Crores)

S.N.	Scheme	Amount Disbursed		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	Thermal Generation	192.72	205.51	—
2.	Transmission	202.50	132.94	69.16
3.	R&M	6.45	23.53	37.33
4.	Shunt Capacitor	13.97	1.17	0.50
5.	Urban Distribution	11.11	10.12	27.04
6	Studies/Consultancy	2.41	0.63	6.90
7.	Lease Finance	1.07	0.63	—
	Total	430.23	374.53	140.93
B.	To private Power Utilities			
1.	Urban Distribution - BSES Ltd.	47.5		

Statement-II

Details of Loan Amounts Committed & Disbursements made during the last three years to MSEB

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Committed	Disbursements Made
1998-1999	286.33	429.16
1999-2000	468.30	373.90
2000-2001	204.50	140.93
2001-2002	249.25	27.82*

*Figure for the period April-June, 2001.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned by Railways

3612. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earnings of Railways fell short by several crores as compared to the target fixed in this regard;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to make up the shortfall;

(d) whether rampant corruption in the Railways is attributed to be the reason for this shortfall;

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

(f) if not, the reasons for it's shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Details of Revenue earned by Indian Railways zone-wise *vis-a-vis* the Revised Budget estimates for 2000-2001 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	Revised Budget Estimates	Actuals	Variation
Central	5820.00	5737.15	-82.85
Eastern	3855.00	3793.43	-61.57
Northern	6391.00	6301.56	-89.44
North Eastern	1182.00	1164.14	-17.86
Northeast Frontier	728.00	767.90	39.90
Southern	2619.00	2600.25	-18.75
South Central	3592.00	3625.03	33.03
South Eastern	6482.00	6561.94	79.94
Western	4814.00	4701.80	-112.20
Total	35483.00	35253.20	-229.80

(c) The following are some of the important steps taken to increase earnings:-

(i) Volume discount Scheme extended for the year 2001-02.

(ii) Conditions for grant of "Station-to Station" rates liberalized.

(iii) A scheme of reduced Lump-sum rate for traffic moving on Merry-go-round (MGR) concept basis introduced to attract traffic of very short lead.

(iv) Monitoring the loading of high profit yielding commodities.

(v) Tapping non-traditional sources of revenues such as utilisation of right of way for laying of optic fibre cable, commercial utilisation of land and air space, advertising rights at stations and on rolling stock etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The main reasons for shortfall in Goods Earning is on account of slack demand in major commodities such as coal, iron and steel, fertilizer etc.

The shortfall in sundry earnings is due to non-materialisation of utilisation of Right of Way for laying optic fibre Cables, Commercial utilisation of Land and commercial publicity to the expected level.

[English]

Gas Pipeline Between Bangladesh and India

3613. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a mega gas pipeline from Bangladesh to North India via West Bengal, Bihar and U.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Increase in Plan Outlay

3614. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan outlay of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been increased drastically whereas physical

targets for crude oil/gas production, accretion of reserves etc. have not been enhanced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to increase the production of crude gas/oil?

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 respect of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), an outlay of Rs. 20199 crore was originally approved for the IX Plan. During the Mid Term Review (MTR) in 1999-2000, based on the actuals for the first two years, the Revised Estimate of 1999-2000, the Budget Estimate of 2000-01 and the indicative figure for 2001-02, the plan outlay has been estimated to be Rs. 23771 crore. The increase in the MTR outlay as compared to the IX Plan is mainly on account of the increase in the programme for exploration.

As regards Oil India Ltd. (OIL), the IX Plan outlay of Rs. 2961 crore and the physical targets have not been revised subsequently.

(c) Several important steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country, which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.

(iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

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

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

Construction of Over Bridges in Kerala

3615. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway Over Bridges (ROB) being constructed on Shoranur-Mangalore line during 2001-02;

(b) the places where the proposed over bridges are located;

(c) the total amount of money to be spent for the construction of these bridges; and

(d) the progress made in the construction of ROB on Shoranur-Mangalore line?

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) A Statement is attached.

Statement

S. No.	Location of Works	Estimated cost	Present Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 269 at Km. 805/5-6 between Cheravattur & Nileshwar station in Shoranur-Mangalore section (Cochin Harbour yard)	1010	General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) sent to CE/NH/ Trivandrum Central for concurrence no 28/11/2000. Price bid opened.
2.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 272 at Km. 810/1-2	1010	GAD sent to CE/NH/Trivandrum Central for concurrence on 28/11/2000.

1	2	3	4
	bet. Kanhangadi and Nileshwar stns. (Padanakkad) in Shoranur-Mangalore sec.		
3.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 239 at Km. 749/2-3 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns. in Shoranur-Mangalore Section	1010	GAD sent to CE/NH/Trivandrum Central for concurrence on 30/11/2000. CE/NH has requested revision of GAD on 4/5/2001.
4.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 196 at Km. 679/1-2 bet. Elattur and Quilandi (Vengalam stns. in Shoranur—Mangalore Section	998.4	GAD approved. Estimate sanctioned by CAO/C on 11/1/2001. Contract awarded. Foundation drawing under scrutiny.
5.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 192 @ KM. 673/8-9 bet. West Hill and Elattur stns. in Shoranur—Mangalore Section	1161.92	Work entrusted to Road & Building Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDCK) GAD approved Estt sanctioned by GM Madras on 12/1/2001. Contract awarded. Foundation drawings approved and issued on 24/4/2001.
6.	Road over bridge at Km. 666/11-12 bet. Calicut & West Hills. in lieu of level crossing No. 186 in Shoranur—Mangalore Section	1694	GAD concurred in by RBDCK. Estimate under Accounts vetting. Contract awarded. Foundation drawing under scrutiny.
7.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 238 at Km. 743/3-4 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns. in Shoranur-Mangalore Section	1010	GAD sent to CE/NH/Trivandrum Central for concurrence on 30/11/2000. CE/NH has requested revision of GAD on 4/5/2001.
8.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 206 at Km. 695/12-13 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns. in Shoranur—Mangalore Section	1219.74	GAD concurred on 30/12/2000. Estimate sanctioned by GM/Madras on 22/1/2001. Contract awarded.
9.	ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 199 at Km. 686/1-2 bet. Elathur and Quilandi stns. in Shoranur — Mangalore section.	1212.64	GAD concurred on 30/12/2000. Estimate sanctioned by GM/Madras on 19/1/2001. Contract awarded.
10.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 232 at Kms. 738/7-8 bet. Dharmadam & Ettakot stns. (Muzahuppliangadi) in Shoranur-Mangalore Section	1251.41	GAD concurred on 30/12/2000. Estimate sanctioned by GM/Madras on 19/1/2001.
11.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level crossing No. 229 at Kmg. 732/9-10 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	1071.58	Kerala Govt. has requested for deletion of this work from the works programme.

1	2	3	4
12.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 177 at Km. 660/4-5 between Feroke & Kallayi stations of Shoranur-Mangalore section	1071.58	GAD concurred in by RBDCK. Estimate sent to Accounts for vetting on 26/7/2001. Substructure design and drawing under scrutiny. Estimate is under Accounts vetting. Contract awarded.
13.	Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 171 at Km. 626/10-11 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	1071.58	GAD concurred in by RBDCK. Estimate sent to Accounts for vetting on 26/7/2001. Contract awarded.
14.	Shoranur-Mangalore ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 271	1071.58	GAD concurred in by MD/RBDCK on 25/4/2001. Estimate sent to Accounts for vetting on 18/7/2001.
15.	Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level crossing No. 174 at km. 639/14-15 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	1130.2	Site plan and LS awaited from CE/Highways.

Growth Rate in Ninth Plan of Production of Gas

3616. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to arrest the shortfall and achieve the target growth rate in the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan in respect of production of Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have adopted any liberalised policy for allocation of CNG for industrial use under Pollution Control Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production in the country, which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.

(iii) To attract technology and investment, PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

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

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

(c) and (d) The allocation of natural gas is made to various consumers including the Power, Chemicals, fertilizers and Steel Sectors, as well as for supply as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for automotive use, on the recommendations of an inter-Ministerial Committee, Gas Linkage Committee (GLC), keeping in view the merits of the case and availability of gas.

[Translation]

Awarding of Tenders

3617. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terms and conditions of tender are followed during the process of awarding the tender;

(b) if not, the details of such cases where the said conditions have not been followed;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in such cases; 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. Any marginal deviations in certain clauses considered acceptable (without vitiating the process of awarding the tender) by the Tender Committee and are approved by the competent authority are also incorporated in the contracts.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Generation of Employment Opportunities

3618. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether official language division in the Railways has introduced computerisation for progressive use of Hindi;

(b) if so, whether it is viewed to reduce and replace the manpower;

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be adopted to provide employment to the idle manpower and generate employment opportunities in future;

(d) if not, the reasons for a large scale use of computers instead of manpower in the railway operations; and

(e) the reasons for keeping the posts of officers/ employees vacant in the official language division?

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) As per the Official Language policy of Government of India, Ministry of Railways have also introduced computerization for progressive use of Hindi in railway offices. However, it has never been viewed to reduce or replace the manpower taking in view the limited strength of Hindi organisation. The main reason of computerization of Hindi organisation is to keep pace with the latest technology on the lines of the directives from the Government of India.

(e) The position of the vacancies in Official Language Department in given in Statement. Necessary action is being taken to fill up all vacancies.

Statement

(I) Ministry of Railways:-

Designation	Total No. of posts Sanctioned	Total No. of Posts lying Vacant	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Director, Official Language (Scale: Rs. 14,300-18,300)	1	—	—
Joint Director, Official Language (Scale: Rs. 12,000-16,500)	1*	—	—
Deputy Director, Official Language (Scale: Rs. 10,000-15,200)	5	—	—

1	2	3	4
Assistant Hindi Officer (Scale: Rs. 6,500-10,500+S. pay Rs. 300/-)	3	—	—
Liaison Officer (Scale: Rs. 6,500-10,500+S. Pay Rs. 300/-)	1	—	—
Section Officer (Scale: Rs. 6,500-10,500)	7	—	—
Hindi Assistant Grade-I (Scale: Rs. 5,500-9,000)	12	—	—
Hindi Assistant Grade-II (Scale: Rs. 5,000-8,000)	26	—	—
Hindi Stenographer Grade 'D' (Scale: Rs. 4,000-6,000)	6	—	—
Lower Division Clerks (Scale: Rs. 3,050-4,590)	13	1	—

* Being Operated as Dy. Director, OL by down-grading the post.

(II) Zonal Railways/Production Units & Subordinate Offices etc.

Designation	Total No. of posts Sanctioned	Total No. of posts lying Vacant	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Dy. Chief Rajbhasha Adhikari (Scale: Rs. 12,000-16,500)	5	—	—
Sr. Rajbhasha Adhikari (Scale: Rs. 10,000-15,200)	34	21	These posts have been filled up on ad-hoc basis. Action has already been initiated to fill up these posts on regular basis.
Rajbhasha Adhikari (Scale: Rs. 7,450-11,500)	65	06	Action to fill up these posts has already been initiated.
Hindi Supt. (Scale: Rs. 6,500-10,500)	116	04	
Rajbhasha Sahayak, Grade-I (Scale: Rs. 5,000-8,000)	176	15	
Rajbhasha Sahayak, Grade-II (Scale: Rs. 4,500-7,000)	542	120	Rajbhasha Sahayak, Grade-II posts is a feeder post of Hindi cadre. Any Promotion in the higher grade results in a vacancy in the lowest grade of Rajbhasha Sahayak, Grade-II. Posts of Rajbhasha Sahayak, Grade-II, Grade II are filled up through Railway Recruitment Boards and Departmental

1	2	3	4
			selection. Indents for 96 posts have already been placed with the respective RRBs. Selection is in process and out of these, panel for 21 posts has already been received. The process of filling up the remaining 24 posts through Departmental Selection is in progress.
Hindi Stenographer Grade 'D' (Scale. Rs. 4,000-6,000)	56	05	Action to fill up these posts has already been initiated.
Lower Division Clerk (Scale: Rs. 3,050-4,590)	256	27	

[English]

Import of Crude Oil for Panipat Refinery

3619. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited had imported crude oil for its Panipat refinery during December 1997 at higher prices leading to loss of Rs. 97.84 crore;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the responsibility fixed by the Government on such losses; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such losses in future?

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) Crude oil was imported for Panipat Refinery in December, 1997 at prevalent price of that time and as per standard procedure for crude procurement, anticipating that Panipat refinery would be commissioned in February, 1998. Due to some unforeseen problems like metallurgical mismatch, problem in oily water sewer system etc. that cropped up at the time of pre-commissioning activities, the commissioning of the unit got delayed and first trial operation could be taken in May, 1998 against earlier estimate of February, 1998. Thus the loss is attributable to the unforeseen factors that delayed the commissioned process.

Oil Exploration by ONGC

3620. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of digging/exploration undertaken by ONGC during last three years;

(b) the number of wells in which oil found;

(c) the number of wells allotted to Private bidders; and

(d) the number of wells dig by private explorers?

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 & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has drilled 419 exploratory wells during the last three years, out of which 151 wells were oil bearing.

(c) A total of 47 exploration blocks, including blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), and 27 discovered fields have been contracted to Private Companies/Joint Venture(JV) consortia.

(d) In the above blocks/fields, Private Companies/JV consortia have drilled 35 exploratory wells till March 2001.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

3621. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals regarding conversion of metre-gauge rail line into broad gauge one in Rajasthan during the current financial year;

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the number of metre gauge rail lines targeted to be converted into broad gauge rail lines under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

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 gauge conversion works taken up wholly/partly in Rajasthan State and appearing in the Budget 2001-2002 alongwith outlay for the year 2001-02 are as under:-

Project	Length (in Km.)	Cost (Rupees in crore)	Outlay for 2001-02 (Rupees in crore)
Bhildi-Samdari	223	244.90	5.00
Luni-Barmer-Munabao	297	283.90	25.4
Luni-Jodhpur	28	58.10	0.55
Luni-Marwar	72	60.67	0.05
Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	116	68.72	0.10
Rewari-Sadulpur including Hissar-Sadulpur	211	282.76	2.00
Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara	41	21.46	0.10
Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	572	632.35	13.50
Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur including Udaipur-Umra	311	294.69	15.00
Agra Fort-Bandikui	152	178.03	10.00
Total		2125.58	71.7

(c) The Tenth Plan document has not yet been finalised.

[English]

Settlement of Outstanding Dues

3622. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to waive its dues towards State Electricity Boards as a one time settlement;

(b) if so, the total dues and surcharge towards State Electricity Boards as on March 31, 2001;

(c) whether the Union Government monitors the working of S.E.Bs; and

(d) the guidelines issued to S.E.Bs to improve their overall performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Expert Group for one time settlement of SEB dues recommended waiver of 50% of surcharge subject to other conditions being met. Following the submission of the Report of the Expert Group a high level Empowered Group consisting of Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Power and Chief Ministers of some States met on 26.6.2001 and 6.7.2001. The Empowered Group endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. That waiver of surcharge would now be 60% instead of 50% proposed by the Expert Group. Recently, Minister of Power wrote

to States & UTs urging them to take necessary steps for implementation of the recommendations regarding one time settlement of dues. A statement showing dues as on March 31, 2001 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Union Government have held a number of conferences with CMs/Power Ministers to discuss various issues of power sector including working of SEBs.

The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3.3.2001 recognised that the real problem of management and the challenge of power sector lies in the distribution sector and resolved that:

(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 make 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 will 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 distribution,
- Or any other means.

(vi) Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focused on the distribution sector.

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

The Government of India is also signing MOUs on reforms with States whereby the States commit to achieve definite milestones to reduce T&D losses, eliminate theft, improved billing and collection, setting up of functional State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) etc. The Government of India offers financial support through the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and additional allocation of power from unallocated share of central pool etc. So far 16 States have signed MOUs.

Statement

Outstanding Dues payable to Central Sector Power Corporation (Principle & Surcharge)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs/States	NTPC			NHPC			PGCIL			NEEPCO		
		Prin	Intt	Total	Prin	Intt	Total	Prin	Intt	Total	Prin	Intt	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-22.73	43.37	20.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.57	0.69	7.00	1.50	8.50	14.88	2.29	17.17
3.	Assam	33.55	19.23	52.78	0.23	0.01	0.24	168.00	35.00	203.00	509.73	193.10	702.83
4.	Bihar	1830.89	1285.36	3116.25	10.78	25.07	35.85	152.00	42.00	194.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	-3.86	227.78	223.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	2.20	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	HVPNL (HSEB)	68.63	275.06	343.69	127.69	551.36	679.05	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	22.50	15.25	37.75	39.25	32.60	71.85	0.00	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	33.78	0.00	33.78	533.83	303.63	837.46	120.00	37.00	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	180.31	92.80	273.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	15.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Kerala	455.04	75.45	530.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	5.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1058.32	368.38	1426.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.00	10.00	67.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	421.48	230.61	652.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.14	6.68	20.82	41.00	9.00	50.00	105.14	24.30	129.44
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	1.31	1.47	10.00	1.00	11.00	11.71	1.26	12.97
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.01	1.04	5.05	5.00	0.00	5.00	31.38	5.43	36.81
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.10	2.51	7.61	17.00	5.00	22.00	46.62	14.22	60.84
18.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	410.71	143.25	553.96	6.73	11.75	18.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Punjab	77.73	19.88	97.61	125.09	172.52	297.61	0.50	2.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	291.58	115.25	406.83	61.34	8.65	69.99	27.00	0.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Sikkim	25.47	11.79	37.26	1.99	0.26	2.25	9.00	4.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	306.60	145.53	452.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.92	1.15	3.07	10.00	0.00	10.00	40.36	5.65	46.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2041.34	690.35	2731.69	441.20	258.32	699.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	WBSEB	836.73	620.56	1457.29	9.53	8.58	18.12	53.00	22.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	DVB (DESU)	1445.84	1463.76	2909.60	241.64	268.29	509.93	105.00	52.00	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	DVC	268.89	399.49	668.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	4.00	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	DNH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh (UT)	-0.71	0.00	-0.71	6.20	5.32	11.52	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	NEEPCO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	7.75	8.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	-1.02	1.08	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	21.52	13.29	34.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Cooperatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	State Govts.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Power Grid	0.44	3.12	3.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
36.	Other (Wind)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37.	Privae (JPHPCL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38.	Railways	-0.15	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39.	MEA (Power to Nepal)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.	Chhattisgarh (CSEB)	-2.23	0.00	-2.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	9800.65	6262.84	16063.49	1631.87	1667.37	3299.25	812.90	253.70	1066.60	759.82	246.25	1006.07

Upto 31st March, 2000.

Outstanding Dues Payable to Central Sector Power Corporation (Principle & Surcharge)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs/States	PFC			DVC			REC		
		Prin	Intt	Total	Prin	Intt	Total	Prin	Intt	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.84	0.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.84	0.03	3.87
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	1.70	56.54	118.77	175.41
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	889.12	1084.24	1973.36	141.32	303.17	444.49
5.	Gujarat	0.12	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.55
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
7.	HVPNL (HSEB)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh $$	0.43	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.06
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.33
10.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.74	0.00	3.74
11.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14.23	0.00	14.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	805.98	600.48	1406.46
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.84	0.33	3.17
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.71	19.71	31.42
16.	Mizoram	2.39	0.00	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.72	2.66	5.38
17.	Nagaland	0.14	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
18.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69	4.15	11.84
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.01	1.04
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.59	0.61
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	407.62	452.49	860.11
25.	WBSEB	0.00	0.00	0.00	404.19	408.31	812.50	157.47	361.32	518.79
26.	DVB (DESU)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	DVC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	DNH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh (UT)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	NEEPCO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Cooperatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.91	22.32	37.23
34.	State Govts.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.07	0.34
35.	Power Grid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Other (Wind)	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	4.80	12.80
37.	Private (JPHPCL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38.	Railways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39.	MEA (Power to Nepal)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.	Chhattisgarh (CSEB)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	17.36	0.00	17.36	1295.31	1492.55	2787.86	1626.18	1893.91	3520.09

*Including Rs. 14.23 crores of Maheshwar.

$$Including Rs. 0.43 crores of HPGCL.

As on 31st March, 2001

Outstanding Dues Payable to Central Sector Power Corporation

(Including Surcharge)

(Rs. in crores)

Name of PSUs	Principal	Surcharge	Total
1	2	3	4
NTPC	9800.65	6262.84	16063.49
NHPC	1631.87	1667.37	3299.24
PGCIL	812.90	253.70	1066.60
NEEPCO	759.82	246.25	1006.07 Upto 31.3.2000
PFC	17.36	0.00	17.36
DVC	1295.31	1492.55	2787.86
REC	1626.18	1893.91	3520.09
Total	15944.09	11816.62	27760.71

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge on Ahmedabad Highway

3623. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to construct an overbridge on the Ahmedabad highway near the Medhnagar railway station in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government would accord its approval for construction of an overbridge at the level crossing; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has yet been received from State Govt. to construct the Road Over Bridge.

[English]

Laying of OFC

3624. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railtel Corporation have prepared a project to lay 10,000 K.M. of optic fibre cable network;

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

(c) the facilities and benefit likely to be obtained by the railway users?

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. A policy decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways to build a nationwide broad band Telecom & multimedia network by laying optical fibre cable (OFC) along 62,800 route kms of Railway track by utilising Railways' right of way through a professionally managed corporation. A Corporation named Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) under Ministry of Railways has since been formed. The corporation will be laying optical fibre cable in phases. The phase I will cover about 10,000 route K.M. connecting 4 Metros *viz* Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata.

(c) The venture will speedily modernise Railway's telecommunication system thereby improving not only Railway's operational efficiency but safety of Railway passengers and trains.

[Translation]

Construction of Bhagalpur-Mandarhill-Dumka Rail Line

3625. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Bhagalpur to Dumka via Mandarhill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a railway line from Rajmahal Project Lalmatia coalfield to Farakka via Pirpainti;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to lay a railway line from Bausi Railway station to Dumka via Godda and connect the same with the proposed railway line; 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) Yes, Sir. Bhagalpur-Mandarhill is already an existing BG rail line. The work of a new BG line from Mandarhill to Rampurhat via Dumka is an approved work and is in progress. On completion of this line, Bhagalpur, will get connected to Dumka.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Constraint of resources.

Shortage of Rail Engines

3626. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of rail engines is being experienced by all the railway zones including Northern Railway;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps for manufacturing of rail engines;

(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) No Sir, there is no shortage of engines on Railway Zones including on Northern Railway.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Genetic Food Stuff

3627. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is required to observe extra precautions in using genetic food and seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details of precautions required to be observed;

(c) whether the Government have alerted the agricultural producers about these precautions;

(d) if so, the arrangements made to create awareness among farmers at the Central and State level; and

(e) the percentage of farmers benefited so far thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) All Genetically Modified food and seeds before introduction into the Indian environment requires authorization under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989. Such authorization is provided by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests after satisfactory evaluation of safety from the use of such materials, including safety to human and animal health. The Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any genetically engineered food and seeds in the country.

(c) to (e) The Government of India organizes discussions and workshops involving participants from different walks of life to disseminate factual information about the utility as well as the risks involved in the use of genetically modified food and seeds.

[English]

Study of Coastal Routes

3628. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up a steering committee to monitor study of coastal routes in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of such monitoring committee;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the main points of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Study Group to monitor the proposed Study relating to the coastal routes, availability of cargo including return cargo, specific needs for development of infrastructure at ports, etc. also covering integration of coastal shipping and inland water transport, wherever feasible.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Passengers In Reserved Coaches

3629. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Aarakshit Coach Main Jabaran Chad Rahe Hein Log" appearing in the Patna Edition of 'Hindustan' dated July 7, 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such type of practice?

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. The News Item appeared in the *Hindustan* newspaper published from Patna on 21.7.2001

(b) Some instances of unauthorised travel mostly by short-distance/local passengers have come to notice. In addition to manning of reserved coaches by ticket checking staff, intensive drives are conducted by Railways in association with the Police to prevent the entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved compartments.

[English]

Security Deposits on Cylinders

3630. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the security deposits on the LPG cylinder to be collected in 1963;

(b) the number of times it has been raised by the manufacturers, year-wise and amount-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to clarify the charges of maintenance as well as the security deposit per cylinder;

(d) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to reduce the security deposit towards the cylinder; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Prior to 1-4-63, the combined security deposit for LPG cylinder and pressure regulator was Rs. 25/-. Thereafter, the security deposit was revised as under:-

Period	Security Deposit (Rs.)	
	Cylinder	Pressure Regulator
1	2	3
01-04-63 to 08-01-70	40	10
09-01-70 to 15-02-70	60	10
16-02-70 to 15-07-74	90	10
16-07-74 to 01-04-78	175	20
02-04-78 to 30-04-82	250	30
01-05-82 to 15-07-83	300	50
16-07-83 to 11-08-95	450	50
12-08-95 till date	900	100

The above rates applicable till 30-04-1982 were also in force for North East States. Thereafter, for North East States security deposit of Rs. 250/- for cylinder and Rs. 30 for pressure regulator were applicable till 11-08-95 and since 12-08-95, rates of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 50/- for cylinder and pressure regulator respectively are in vogue.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

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

Revival of Composite Mills

3631. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) revealed that 121 composite mills have been closed;

(b) if so, whether it has affected the exports of the country and also rendered a large number of workers unemployed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation;

(e) whether any concrete action plan is being worked out by the Government to revive these mills; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, during the financial year 2000-2001, seven (07) composite mills of cotton/man-made fibre textile employing over 5500 workers were closed. During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, exports of textiles have registered an increase of 13.3.% & 21.4%, respectively.

(d) Government have set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills. Under the Scheme, interim relief is granted for a period of 3 years on tapering basis to the eligible workers of the closed textile mills, as per the provisions of the Scheme.

(e) and (f) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Construction of Earth Quake Proof Building

3632. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to build all railway future structures and buildings in strict earthquake proof specifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific steps being taken in this direction;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to protect the existing structures and buildings from earthquake; and

(e) 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 (c) Sir, the structures and buildings are designed as per provision of codes and manuals. The earthquake forces provided for in the codes/manuals are duly taken into account in the designs and constructions.

(d) and (e) Structures are already designed as per codes & manuals in vogue at the time of construction. Very old buildings have also stood the test of time.

Import of Oil Exploration Equipments

3633. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of oil exploration equipment at zero duty;

(b) if so, the details of the oil exploration equipments to which ONGC or oil companies can import at zero duty and the savings expected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the private sector companies in oil exploration activities would also be benefited by this decision; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the production of oil in the country is likely to be increased?

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) Equipment which can be imported duty free are mentioned in list 19 of the Customs Notification No. 17/2001 — Customs (Sl.No. 247, 249, 250) dated 1.3.2001. Extent of savings for the companies depend upon the value of imported goods.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Import of duty free equipment for hydrocarbon exploration is fiscal concession provided to investors for accelerating the E&P activities which may eventually result in increased oil and gas production and will depend upon the outcome of exploration activities by various companies.

Oil Exploration in Mahanadi Basin

3634. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration in the Mahanadi basin has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the exploration work in Mahanadi basin;

(d) whether any foreign company has offered to continue exploration there; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government on the proposal?

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

(d) and (e) One foreign company namely M/s. Niko Resources Ltd. Canada, in a consortium with an Indian Company M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed the Production Sharing Contract for one block, namely MN-DWN-98/2 in Mahanadi deep water offshore area.

Alignment of Chandigarh-Ludhiana Rail Line

3635. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resentment amongst the people of Faidan/Jhumru in UT Chandigarh about the circuitous alignment of a part of the proposed Chandigarh-Ludhiana rail link is known to the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken to avoid passing of the line through the above inhabited area of Chandigarh UT and provide for straight alignment in the said segment?

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) Representations have been received regarding alignment of Chandigarh-Ludhiana rail line in Jhumru/Faida village. Jhumru and Faida village falls between Km. 7 to 8 on the alignment. The Railway alignment in the Union Territory of Chandigarh area upto km. 6.8 has been fixed through the corridor already earmarked in the Master Plan. The area on either side of corridor is fully built up. In view of these circumstances, change of alignment has not been found feasible.

[Translation]

Setting up of National Grid

3636. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering on any proposal for setting up of a national grid to resolve the problem of power in the entire country;

(b) if so, whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited have failed to meet the requirement of the power the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other financial institutions have agreed to advance loans to the Government for setting up of the National Grid;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

POWERGRID, as Central Transmission Utility is responsible for undertaking transmission of energy through inter-state transmission system, evacuation of power from all Central Power Stations and delivery of allocated power to constituent states. POWERGRID has achieved excellent performance and have received 'Prime Minister's MOU Award' amongst top ten PSUs in 1997-98 and 1998-99.

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

For further strengthening of the National Grid, high capacity long HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with Mega Projects. With these interconnections, the total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 23,400 MW by 2006-07. In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generating resources. This would involve development of a high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines interconnecting Eastern, Western and Northern regions. Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW by the year 2012.

POWERGRID has planned to invest about Rs. 80,000 crores for implementation of projects including those required for development of a strong and vibrant National Grid capable of transferring 30,000 MW power by the year 2012. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan of US $ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grid strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January 2001. POWERGRID has also signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of US $ 450 million for implementation of its various transmission schemes.

[English]

Construction of New Rail Lines

3637. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the siphoning of greater proportion of allocation for the construction of new lines to the States with higher rail route length per thousand square kilometers of area in 2001-2002 in the Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific policy for construction of new rail lines in different States/regions; and

(d) the specific programme drawn to bring the States having rail route length per thousand sq km of area less than the national average to bring nearest to the current national average at least among the non-special category of States?

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 development of rail infrastructure is not done Statewise. The new line works are being taken up on operational requirement, strategic reasons, development of infrastructure in North East region and socio economic consideration. The funds are being allocated keeping in view the priorities of the lines.

Installed Capacity of NCES Projects

3638. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of installed capacity of non-conventional energy in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated a policy recently to increase and expand the share of non-conventional energy sources and production by adding 10,000 MW, by 2012;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds required for this purpose; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in meeting the power needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The present share of power generation from non-conventional energy soures in the total installed capacity in the country is about 3%.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has formulated a Draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement which envisages 10% share, or 10,000 MW, for non-conventional energy in the installed capacity by 2012. The draft of the Policy Statement has been submitted by the Ministry for further approvals. A detailed Action Plan, including the requirement of funds, will be prepared after the approval of the Policy Statement.

(d) The Policy Statement seeks to enhance the contribution of non-conventional energy sources for augmentation of grid power and for electrification of villages in remote and difficult areas in the country.

[Translation]

Proposal from Jharkhand for DVC

3639. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the headquarters of the Damodar Valley Power Corporation is located in Kolkata;

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

(c) whether the Government of Jharkhand has sent any proposal to shift the headquarters of the said Corporation of Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is located at Kolkata since its inception.

(c) to (e) The Government of Jharkhand has sent a proposal to shift the Headquarters of DVC to Ranchi as the 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, has been sought in this matter.

[English]

Cheaper LPG Connections

3640. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is in the offing to provide cheaper cooking gas connections to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which a consumer is likely to be benefited by this proposal; and

(d) the other benefits, the Government propose to pass on the consumers?

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) At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

Gauge Conversion of Rangiya-Joral Rail Line

3641. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the long standing demands of gauge conversion of Rangiya-Jorai meter gauge into broad gauge line in Assam; and

(b) if so, the action being 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) No, Sir. However, work of gauge conversion of Jorai-New Bongaigaon has been taken up as a part of gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon, which is in progress.

Opening of Regional Offices

3642. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of regional offices of Power Grid Corporation in the country;

(b) the reasons for opening of more regional offices; and

(c) the steps proposed to restrict the administrative expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) POWERGRID is maintaining a vast network of Transmission Systems spread across the country. With a view to facilitate effective Grid management and smooth operation and maintenance of the Transmission System and the construction activities, a hierarchical system has been established in POWERGRID by creating Regional set ups. These Regional Offices help in faster decision making and focused attention on activities resulting in

better project management and improved availability of Transmission System.

Initially, the development of Power Sector was based on Regional self-sufficiency concept and for this Indian Power Sector was divided into 5 Regions namely Northern, Western, Eastern, North-Eastern and Southern Regions. POWERGRID evolved its Regional structure in line with the above concept and, accordingly, five Regions were formed. Subsequently, keeping in view the size and geographical spread of Transmission System, Northern Region and Southern Region have been bifurcated into two different administrative entities in each of these Regions to ensure effective management of activities. The details of the regional offices of POWERGRID in the country are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The decisions relating to administrative expenditure are taken by POWERGRID based on sound commercial principles.

Statement

Details of Regional Offices of POWERGRID

Sl. No.	Regional Transmission System	Regional Hqrs.
1.	Northern Region TS-I	Faridabad
2.	Northern Region TS-II	Jammu
3.	Eastern Region TS	Patna
4.	Western Region TS	Nagpur
5.	Southern Region TS-I	Secunderabad
6.	Southern Region TS-II	Bangalore
7.	North-Eastern Region TS	Shillong

Details of Regional Load Dispatch Centres

Sl. No.	Name of Regional Load Despatch Centre	Hqrs.
1.	Northern Region	New Delhi
2.	Eastern Region	Kolkata
3.	Western Region	Mumbai
4.	Southern Region	Bangalore
5.	North Eastern Region	Shillong

[Translation]

Results of New Agriculture Policy

3643. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain positive results have been recorded in agricultural sector after announcement of new Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the logic behind adopting the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The first ever National Agriculture Policy was announced in July, 2000. Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are behind implemented by the Government of India and the State Governments for development of agriculture and allied activities as envisaged in the Agriculture Policy. Following major initiatives have been taken recently to accelerated the pace of developmental activity and implement the objectives of the Agriculture Policy:

- Macro Management Scheme has been launched after integrating 27 ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes to enable a shift from programmatic approach to micro level planning at the State level for adopting crop/area specific regionally differentiated strategies, to provide flexibility to State Governments and to ensure timely and effective application of limited financial resources.
- Common guidelines have been issued for National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas to harmonize the implementing norms with other watershed development programmes. A Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 200 crores each from NABARD and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, has been created.
- A Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern Region has been launched.
- Seed Legislation is under revision to provide fillip to varietal research and plant breeding. The Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers Rights Bill has been introduced in Parliament and a National Seed Policy is under formulation. A Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance has been launched to cover the risks involved in seed

production. A Seed Bank has been established to meet contingent requirements of seed in the wake of natural calamities.

- Increasing availability of farm credit: Till January, 2001, 115 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, providing flexibility and security in the flow of credit to the farmers. All eligible farmers are proposed to be covered under the scheme within the next 3 years. A personal insurance package is proposed to be extended to Card Holders covering them against risk to life and injury.
- A scheme has been introduced for provision of capital subsidy for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce.
- Rural Infrastructure Development Fund corpus has been increased in 2001-02 from Rs. 4500 crore to Rs. 5000 crore.
- Market Information Network has been launched with the objective to provide farmers latest information on price movements of agricultural commodities and other essential data.
- Cooperative Sector Reforms: a new Bill has been formulated and introduced in Parliament for replacing the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.
- Formulation of new subsidy linked scheme for establishment of rural godowns.
- Promotion of Food Processing Industry and value addition in agriculture through the excise exemptions and other interventions.

The results of these initiatives/schemes will be visible in due course of time.

[English]

Private Investment in Railways

3644. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to review the finances of the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, whether several BOLT schemes of the railways have been put down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have urged the private investors to invest in various railway projects; and

(e) if so, the details of private investors shown interest and the fields for which they have shown interest to invest?

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) Review of Railway Finances is a continuous process. Efforts are being made by the Government to involve the user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings as also the State Governments to mobilise additional resources for the development and implementation of Railway projects.

As the BOLT (Build Own Lease Transfer) scheme has not been quite successful and proved to be unattractive to investors, Government has reviewed the BOLT scheme to make it more market friendly. The new scheme viz. BOT (Build Own Transfer) is under examination in consultation with the Law Ministry.

As a trial measure, the following projects have been proposed to be taken up on BOT scheme.

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost (in Rs. Crores)	Works to be done under BOT
1.	Utratia — Chandrauli and Sultanpuri — Bandhua Kalan	47	Track, Ballast and Signalling only
2.	Karpurigram — Siho Doubling	33	Total Work
3.	Viramgam — Mahesana Gauge Conversion (W. Rly.)	65	Track, Ballast and Signalling only

The Government has launched several other schemes to raise additional resources and channel private investment into the Railways. They include:

(i) Own Your Wagon Scheme.

(ii) Setting up of Private Terminals.

(iii) Facilitating warehousing at existing Railway terminals.

(iv) Leasing of Brake Vans.

(v) Leasing of Parcel Vans.

(vi) Point to Point Parcel Service.

The response, so far, has been encouraging in these fields.

Construction of Railway Line on Sharing Basis

3645. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways is seeking free land from States for the new projects;

(b) whether the railways is also seeking financial participation by States for carrying out most of the projects;

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;

(d) whether inspite of the financial crunches in various State Governments, the Union Government has approved of the move taken by the railways; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) For some of the projects pertaining to new line and gauge conversion projects, references have been made to State Governments for providing land free of cost.

(b) Financial participation has been sought from State Governments in their respective States.

(c) No response has been received from the State Governments regarding providing land free of cost. As regards financial participation Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have already agreed to share the cost of some of the Railway projects or have reached agreement with the Railways for financial participation in identified rail projects. Government of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana have also shown interest.

(d) and (e) Railways are also facing financial crisis and since the development of rail infrastructure is for the benefit of the people of the area, the participation of State Governments have been sought by Ministry of Railways for expeditious completion of certain identified projects which are vital for development of infrastructure.

Development of Tourism

3646. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the hospitality of major EIH Limited, formerly East India Hotels Limited has sought concerted efforts from the tourism industry as reported in the *Pioneer* dated July 25, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the kind of help sought by EIH; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from M/s. EIH Limited regarding concerted efforts from the tourism industry. However, the Department of Tourism has taken up the following matters as reported:

"Visa on arrival" issue has been taken up for *inter-alia* consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The traffic rights with respect of Civil Aviation are governed by the principle of reciprocity and bilateral agreement which is an international accepted practice followed world over. There has been an increase in the "Air Seat Capacity" in the last one year. To further improve the services at the airports, the Department of Tourism has installed Touch Screen Information Kiosks in the four metropolitan cities and as a pilot project hotel reservation at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

The question of "Rationalisation of Taxes" in the tourism sector has been discussed at the State Tourism Ministers Conference. The Transport Development Council, The Regional Meeting of the Inter-State Council and at various other fora. However, no consensus has been possible so far with the State Governments.

Setting up of National Agricultural Marketing Bank

3647. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a National Agricultural Marketing Bank and 'mega' markets in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have since received the report of the expert committee set up to suggest ways to improve agricultural marketing;

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a National Agricultural Marketing Bank and 'mega' markets in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Major recommendations of the Expert Committee are as follows:

(i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country.

(ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.

(iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information, (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

(e) With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.

Withdrawal of Foreign Companies from India

3648. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many proposals of foreign companies coming in power sector have withdrawn;

(b) if so, the names of the companies withdrawn their proposal during the last three years along with the reasons for their withdrawal; and

(c) the steps, the Government are taking to encourage companies to come forward with investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details, as per information available, in regard to foreign investors who have recently withdrawn from power projects, are mentioned below:-

M/s. Cogentrix Energy, Inc., who were one of the main promoters of the 1013.2 MW Mangalore power project in Karnataka, informed that with effect from February 11, 2000, the Company has transferred their interests in the project and the Mangalore Power Company (MPC) to China Light (Mauritius) Ltd., who are equity partners in the MPC. No reasons were conveyed for withdrawing from the project.

- M/s. Electricite de France (EDF), a French Power Company, who was the co-promoter in the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Power Project, has conveyed its decision to pull out from the project. The following reasons have been indicated for pulling out:-

(i) Inordinate delay in getting clearance from various authorities.

(ii) A very high coal price sought by the coal supplier.

(iii) Lack of proper commitment for escrow arrangements.

In the case of M/s Maheshwar Hydel Power Project (10x40 MW), foreign collaborator M/s Bayernwerk Vew has decided to pull out from the project because of non-project specific reasons. M/s Ogden Energy of U.S.A. exited from the project due to its internal restructuring and changed business focus.

- In the case of 1070 MW Korba East Thermal power project, M/s Daewoo Power (India) Ltd., have given termination notice to the State Government authorities on 14.8.2000 citing inability of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board to provide payment security.

- In the case of 2x210 MW Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project, Units 4&5, the Government of West Bengal have informed that M/s. Bakreshwar Power Generation Co. Ltd., (BGCL), which is the Joint Venture Company (JVC) set up by the West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDCL), M/s. DCL and M/s. Ogden Energy Asia Pacific Ltd., for setting up the 2x210 MW Bakreshwar TPP Unit 4 & 5, has since been wound up and M/s. Ogden Energy Asia Pacific Ltd., has exited from the JVC. M/s. BPGCL have intimated that they have no interest in the project. WBPDCL have requested for transfer of the techno-economic clearance accorded to the project by the Central Electricity Authority to be transferred to them as per the decision of the Government of West Bengal.

(c) The Policy to encourage private sector investment (including foreign investments) in the power sector was announced in 1991 and has been reviewed/modified from time to time, with a view to streamlining the producers for speedy development of the power projects. Some of the steps taken by the Government for simplifying and decentralizing the procedure for clearance of private power projects and to attract more companies in the power sector, are:

- minimizing the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

- minimizing the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution have been permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route without any limit.

- delegating more powers to State Governments for environmental clearance.

- raising the capital cost limits up to which techno-economic clearance (TEC) of CEA is not required.

- preparation of a shelf of projects to facilitate early execution and reduction of time required for preparation.

- close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.

- the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

- the Electricity Laws Amendment, Act 1998 was enacted to make transmission as a distinct activity for encouraging greater participation by the private sector.

- A policy on Hydro Power Development was initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at faster pace, increase the private investment, promote small and mini hydel projects.

- The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads, coastal location and in regions with hydro potential both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions is being encouraged. Under the existing mega power policy, the identified mega projects have been given certain fiscal concessions such as exemption from payment of customs duty for import of equipment, income tax holiday etc.

Renewable Energy Sector

3649. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renewable energy sector in India require Rs. 70,000 crore for financing various projects by 2012;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the plan of the Government to mobilize such huge resources;

(d) the details of projects under the schemes; and

(e) the benefit likely to be achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement for accelerated development of renewable sources of energy in the country. The draft of the Policy has been submitted by the Ministry for further approval. A detailed Action Plan, including the requirement of funds will be prepared after approval of the Policy Statement. Funds are expected to be mobilized from budgetary allocations, private investments, financing by financial institutions and banks, and international financing mechanisms.

(d) and (e) The main objective of the Policy Statement is to enhance the contribution of renewables, viz., solar, wind, biomass and small hydro for meeting minimum rural energy needs; providing decentralized/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural and urban areas; and, grid quality power generation and supply. The Policy Statement envisages a target of generating 10,000 MW or upto 10% of new power capacity addition projected for the period upto 2012.

Procurement of Jute

3650. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of jute procured by purchase centers of Jute Corporation of India during each of the last three years and proposed for 2001-2002, quality-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the extent to which the jute growers in these States are getting the support price for their raw jute produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) A statement indicating the procurement of raw jute by Jute Corporation of India (JCI) during the last three years is enclosed. The estimated procurement during 2001-2002 will depend upon the crop size, production, arrival of raw jute and market price.

(b) During the jute year 2000-2001, out of total production of 94 lakh bales of raw jute, JCI along with the State Cooperatives purchased 4.62 lakh bales under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. JCI, with support from state level cooperative societies/organizations, is fully geared up for procurement operations during the current year. JCI has been directed to enter the market as and when prices tend to go below Minimum Support Price levels.

Statement

(A) State-wise procurement of raw jute by JCI during the last three years

(figure in '000' bales of 180 kgs each)

State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
West Bengal	48.7	91.8	276.9
Bihar	0.5	13.5	71.4
Assam	5.3	1.3	113.3
Meghalaya	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—
Orissa	—	0.4	0.9
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	1.1

(B) Variety/quality procured by JCI during the last three years

Year	Variety/Quality	Quantity/Purchased (in bales of 180 kgs.)
1	2	3
1998-99	White	5619
	Tossa	48531
	Mesta	Negligible

1	2	3
1999-2000	White	419
	Tossa	103622
	Mesta	2982
2000-2001	White	15751
	Tossa	386505
	Mesta	2235

[Translation]

College of Agricultural Sciences In Madhubani

3651. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a college of Agricultural Sciences in Madhubani, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the progress made in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal before ICAR.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Incentive for Setting up of Small Hydro Power Projects

3652. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any package of incentives for setting up of small hydro power projects in the country;

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

(c) the amount sanctioned and spent under the schemes;

(d) whether any scheme for development of small hydro projects upto 3 to 25 MW capacity has been launched; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources have announced a number of incentive schemes for setting up of small hydro power projects in the country. These are for Detailed Survey & Investigations, Detailed Project Report preparation, Capital subsidy for Government Sector projects, Interest subsidy for commercial projects, scheme for Renovation & Modernisation of old SHP projects and for development and upgradation of water mills.

(b) The details of various incentives under these schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Against the revised estimates of Rs. 27.00 crores for the year 2000-01, an expenditure of Rs. 27.03 crores was made under the schemes.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The schemes mentioned above covers SHP projects up to 25 MW and the incentives are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Incentives Under Small Hydro Power Programme

Schemes	Areas	Below 500 KW	500 KW upto 1 MW	Above 1 MW & upto 5 MW	Above 5 MW & upto 15 MW	Above 15 MW & upto 25 MW
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Survey & Investigation	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs		Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs	
Detailed Project Report	Plain	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Hilly	Upto Rs. 0.75 lakhs		Upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs	Upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs	
Interest Subsidy For Commercial Projects	Plain	5.00%		2.50%	2.00%	1.50%
	Hilly & NE region	7.50%		5.00%	3.00%	2.00%
Capital Subsidy For Govt Sector Projects	NE Region, Sikkim,	90% cost of the project upto Rs. 75000/- KW	90% cost of the project upto Rs. 60000/- KW	75% cost of the project up to Rs. 45000/- MW	Equipment Cost+ 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 22.50 crores/project	Nil
	Middle Himalayas, Ladakh, A&N	Equipment Cost + 50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 45,000/KW		Equipment Cost + 25% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 3.00 crores/MW	Equipment Cost + 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 15 crores/project	Nil
	Other Areas (only notified hilly regions)	Equipment Cost + 50% of Civil Cost upto Rs. 30,000/KW		Equipment Cost + 25% of Civil upto Rs. 1.5 crores per MW	Equipment Cost + 25% of Civil Cost limited to Rs. 7.5 crores/project	Nil
Renovation & Modernisation of Old projects		Upto Rs. 2 cores/MW		Limited to Rs. 10 crores/project	Nil	
Development/Upgradation of water mills						
Mechanical mode		Rs. 30,000				
Mechanical/Electrical mode		Rs. 60,000				

Revamping of Mazagaon Dock

3653. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the failure of the Mazagaon Docks Limited complete the revamping of a process platform in the Mumbai High Oil fields have hit the ONGC's output very badly;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this delay is also going to hit the downstream of oil refinery companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check this trend in future?

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) There has been some delay in the completion of revamping jobs contracted to Mazagaon Docks Ltd., a public sector undertaking in BHN complex in Mumbai High Field, which affected the crude oil and gas production of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

(c) Since refineries were provided with suitable imported crudes to meet the shortfall, their operations were not affected.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase In Reservation Quota

3654. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the reservation quota in a particular train from a particular station;

(b) whether the Government have received representation from some Members of Parliament and various organisations to add a two tier coach or increase 20-30 reserved berths in the Kalindi Express from Mainpuri station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) The reservation quota at any particular station for a particular train is allotted taking into account the demand pattern at various stations enroute on the run and also the total availability of reserved accommodation in the train.

(b) to (d) A representation has been received for enhancement of reservation quota at Mainpuri station by 4023 Kalindi Express from 8 berths to 20 berths and attachment of a two tier/three tier coach. The demands have been examined. The reservation quota has been enhanced from 8 Sleeper Class berths to 10 Sleeper Class berths w.e.f. 08-07-2001 by this train taking into consideration the utilisation of the existing quota. As regards attachment of additional coach, the request has been examined but the same is not justified on commercial grounds.

Commercial Utilisation of Railway Land

3655. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 850 dated November 23, 2000 regarding commercial utilization of railway land and to state:

(a) whether feasibility study of each site has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay 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, feasibility study has been undertaken in identified sites for commercial exploitation.

(b) Feasibility study has been completed in respect of 25 sites and reports finalised. Bidding process has also been initiated.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Doubling of Irugur and Coimbatore Rail Line

3656. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there exists a single line between Irugur and Coimbatore railway station due to which the incoming/outgoing trains are invariably delayed;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to double the said rail line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The trains are some times delayed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Doubling of the line between Irugur-Coimbatore is a sanctioned work and is in progress. Land acquisition for the project has been taken up. Work would be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Selling of Equipment in National Museum

3657. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Croreon Ke Yanter Kabedeyon Ko Bechane Ki Mansha" appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated July 29, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for appropriate utilisation of these equipment?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal, as alleged in the newsitem, to dispose of the equipment that were received by the National Museum in 1990 under the Japanese Government's grant-in-aid scheme. In fact, National Museum has taken the initiative of taking up the matter of servicing of these equipments as also training of museum conservators, with the Embassy of Japan in India.

[English]

Setting up of Fast Track Power Projects

3658. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some Fast Track Mega Power projects in the country during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the States where these projects are likely to be set up, location-wise;

(c) whether any such project was proposed to be set up at Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of the 19 mega power projects, as per the revised mega power policy of the Government of India of November, 1998, indicating their executing agency, installed capacity and location are given in the statement. None of these 19 projects is scheduled for commissioning during the ninth five-year plan.

(c) There is no proposal to set up a mega power project at Mangalore in Karnataka.

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

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project/State	Capacity (MW)
	Private Sector	
1.	Hirma Thermal Power Project, M/s. Southern Electric Asia Power Ltd. (SEAP), Orissa	3960
2.	Cuddalore Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	1000
3.	Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1500
4.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000
5.	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000
	Public Sector	
1.	Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar	1500
2.	North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar	2000
3.	Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC, Bihar	2000
4.	Maithon Thermal Power Project, Damodar Valley Corporation	1000
5.	Cheyyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I, NTPC, Tamil Nadu	1500
6.	Anta CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Rajasthan	1300
7.	Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	1300
8.	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
9.	Gandhar CCPP, Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
10.	Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar	710
11.	Chamera HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	300
12.	Teesa HEP Stage-V, NHPC, Sikkim	510
13.	Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh	800
14.	Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	800

Gauge Conversion of Trichy-Manamadurai-Rameswaram Rail Line

3659. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed the survey for gauge conversion of Trichi-Manmadurai-Rameswaram line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) whether the Government have allocated funds to commence the long pending scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the three express trains viz., Kamban "Rameswaram" and Sethu would be extended upto Egmore (Chennai) station; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The survey for gauge conversion of Trichy-Manamadurai-Rameswaram has been covered by two separate surveys i.e. Trichy-Manamadurai and Madurai-Rameswaram via Manamadurai which have been completed.

(b) The survey for Trichy-Manamadurai was completed in 1999-2000. As per the survey report the cost of conversion of this 51 km long line was assessed as Rs. 170.94 cr with rate of return of 12.79%.

The survey for Madurai-Rameswaram was completed in August 1997. As per the survey report the cost of conversion of this 161.5 km long line was assessed as Rs. 193.98 cr with rate of return of 3.45%.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Funds are being provided as per availability of resources.

(e) During 2001-02 an outlay of Rs. 10 cr each have been provided for the work of Trichy-Manamadurai and Madurai-Rameswaram.

(f) and (g) At present there is no proposal for extension of 6875/6876 Tambaram-Karaikudi Nagore Kamban Express, 6701/6702 Tambaram-Rameswaram Express and 6713/6714 Tambaram-Rameswaram Sethu Express upto Chennai Egmore.

Tourist Guides

3660. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the lot of authorised tourist guides; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Authorised tourist guides are expected to give detailed, complete and uptodate information to tourists. Therefore, updating information and upgradating of knowledge and skills is a continuous process for tourist guides.

(b) Refresher courses and foreign language training programmes for tourist guides are held from time to time through the Government of India Tourist Offices in India in coordination with the travel trade, and State Govt. Tourism Departments.

Integrated Processed Food Development Act

3661. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact a legislation namely Integrated Processed Food Development Act on the pattern of United Kingdom to remove anomalies in the existing law governing the food processing sector;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been worked out in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government's views were also considered in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Food Processing Industries organised four Regional Seminars at Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow to elicit regional inputs towards formulation of National Food Processing Policy. In these Seminars there was a general consensus that apart from formulation of a National Policy on Food Processing, an appropriate development oriented legislation be conceived as the present enactments are impeding the growth of this sector.

Accordingly, a draft Bill has been drawn up based on the inputs received from a cross section including the State Governments. The proposed Act envisages inter-alia harmonisation and simplification of existing laws, development orientation, creation of a Development Fund, defining standards through a Processed Food Authority.

(d) Taking into consideration various procedures to be followed, a definite time frame for the finalisation of Act is difficult to envisage.

[Translation]

Mechanised Farming

3662 SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports to the effect that there has been a significant change in the ratio of mechanised farming and farming done through the animals;

(b) if so, the details of the said ratio;

(c) whether the change has harmed or benefited the agriculture; and

(d) if so, the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the use of animals in farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Although no specific report in this regard has been received, the available data indicate that the contribution of draught animal to total power availability in Indian agriculture has been declining over the years. This contribution, which was 45.30% in 1971-72, is estimated at 9.89% during the current year. The contribution of tractors and power tillers to total power availability in agriculture during the same period has increased from 7.75% to 42.50%. During this period, the total power availability increased from 0.295 kW/hectare to 1.231 kW/hectare.

(c) As farmers have followed selective mechanization, the changes in the sources of power referred to above have benefited Indian agriculture.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been pursuing research in the utilization of animal energy on the farm and in the development of matching implements for agricultural operations by animals. Besides, subsidy is also being provided to the farmers for the purchase of bullock drawn implements under various schemes.

[English]

Facilities Provided Under Mughalsarai Division in Bihar

3663. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3763 dated March 22, 2001 regarding the facilities provided by Mughalsarai Division in Bihar and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, whether the same has been laid on the Table;

(c) whether his Ministry have *suo moto* examined the press report published in the "Hindustan" (Patna edition) dated December 11, 2000; and

(d) if so, the measures his Ministry have taken to provide the facilities in Bihar by the Mughalsarai 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) Yes, Sir. The requisite information was collected and sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 14.6.2001. A copy of information is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Date of Fulfilment, 14.6.2001

Ministry of Railways

Q.No., Date & Name of MP	Subject	Promise made	How fulfilled	Reasons for delay
USQ. NO. 3763 dated 22.3.2001 by Shri Ramjee Manjhi	Facilities Provided by Mughalsarai Division in Bihar Asking:- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Mughalsarai Rai Mandal Ka Adikansh Hisaa Bihar mein; Suvidhaan Uttar Pradesh Ko" appearing in the 'Hindustan', Patna, dated December 11, 2000; (b) if so, the details of points brought out in the news-item and the reaction of the Government thereon; and (c) the steps taken to provide better facilities to the residents of the area falling in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?	(b) & (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.	(b) & (c) The position has been explained in Annexure.	

ANNEXURE

The question relates to mainly access of PRS/ Mughalsarai in the reservation quota of 3010 Dn Doon Express, 9305 Shipra Express and 1160/1182 Chambal Expresses to the quota of PRS Gaya and extended run of the slip coaches of 3009/3010 Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express meant for Gaya to Mughalsarai, creation of maintenance facilities at Gaya etc. The position is as under:-

1. **Extension of Howrah-Gaya coaches by 3010 Dehradun-Howrah Express upto Mughalsarai resulting in depletion of reserved accommodation at Gaya**

Two sleeper coaches are provided as Howrah-Gaya slip coach by 3009/3010 Doon Express for reservation from Gaya of Mughalsarai division. The run of these slip coaches was extended to Mughalsarai during the last decade. The coaches were extended to clear commuters between Gaya and Mughalsarai and reserved passengers were booked from Gaya and onwards towards Howrah. Since the slip coaches by 3009 Up/3010 Dn were running upto Mughalsarai for operational reasons and their utilization ex. Gaya was found ranging between 50-55%, facility for booking of tickets ex. Mughalsarai in these coaches was also extended to the passengers at Mughalsarai w.e.f. 27.1.2001 purely with a view to improve utilization of these coaches on the railway and also in meeting the larger interests of the passengers in general.

2. **Utilisation of reservation quota allotted at Gaya by Mughalsarai passenger by 8 2307/2308 Howrah-Jodhpur Express and 9305/9306 Howrah-Indore Shipra Express**

Gaya has been provided with a quota of 72 berths by 1182 Dn/1160 on Chambal Express and 52 berths by

9305 Dn Shipra Express. These berths can be booked for travel ex. Gaya only. Instructions have been given to Eastern Railway administration to prevent its misuse, if any.

3. Abolishing of Gaya quota in 2801 Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express and 8605 and making it first come first served system

After introduction of a new reservation policy, the reservation quotas allotted by Mail/Express trains at various stations have been rationalised by clubbing the quotas of adjacent stations and giving access to a larger accommodation. Accordingly the reservation quota available at Gaya by 2801 Puri Express and 8605 Jharkhand Swarnajayanti has been clubbed with the reservation quotas of Sasaram, Dehri-on-Sone & Mughalsarai and general access has been given to the enhanced reservation quota by these trains on first-come-first-served basis.

4. Development of thermal facilities at Gaya

Facilities provided at Gaya are considered adequate for the level of traffic handled at Gaya.

5. Running of Gaya-Dhanbad trains as announced in Rail Budget 3 years back

In the Minister of Railways Budget Speech, three years back, it was announced that main Line EMU (MEMU) services will be introduced on Dhanbad-Gomoh-Gaya section. Accordingly, 043/044 Dhanbad-Hazaribagh and 045/046 Hazaribagh-Gaya trains are being run with MEMU rakes.

6. Provision of Jet cleaners at Gaya

Two High Pressure Jet Cleaning Machines are available at coach Maintenance Depot at Gaya which are regularly used for cleaning for rakes of trains based at Gaya for maintenance.

7. Provision of medicine shop at Gaya station

Zonal railway has been advised to take necessary action keeping in view the requirement of travelling public.

Ongole Cattle Breeding

3664. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign countries have agreed to cooperate in breeding in Ongole cattle breed of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the foreign countries that have shown their interests;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements has been entered into this regard; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to protect the unique Ongole cattle breed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Accident at Level Crossing

3665. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an express train ripped apart a truck at a level crossing near Byappanahalli on the outskirts of the Bangalore City on April 16, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible?

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) On 16.4.2001 while 272 passenger train was on run between Baiyyappanahalli and Heelalige stations at unmanned level crossing near Bangalore City, one lorry suddenly crossed the track and dashed against the train. This accident occurred on Bangalore Division of Southern Railway.

(c) In this accident the Driver and Cleaner of the lorry received simple injuries. Cost of damage to Government property in this accident was Rs. 50,000/-

(d) to (f) Above accident was inquired into by a Committee of Railway Officials and as per findings of the inquiry committee, this accident occurred due to

negligence on the part of the lorry driver. An FIR has been lodged against him.

Fishing Harbour in A.P.

3666. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to build a fishing harbour in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where harbours will be constructed; and

(c) the time by which the same are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for construction of Nizampatnam fishing harbour Stage-II, Guntur district. The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore has carried out detailed investigations and submitted an interim report to State Government for preparation of detailed cost estimate of the project. The State Government is yet to forward detailed cost estimate of the project.

(c) As the project proposal is presently at a very preliminary stage, the time by which the project would be completed cannot be estimated at this stage.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

3667. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme has been fully implemented in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide the benefit to insurance to the farmers at the time of natural calamity or any other loss and to enable them to get remunerative prices for their crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK):- (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh since Kharif 2000 season. The State Government of Uttaranchal has not opted in favour of the scheme so far.

(b) NAIS is a voluntary scheme for the States/Union Territories. Uttaranchal has not yet decided for the implementation of the scheme.

(c) The NAIS operates on area approach basis and for practical purposes it is all risks (non-preventable) insurance scheme. If the actual yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area, in the insured crop season, falls short of the specified threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the defined area are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and become eligible for compensation. The scheme intends to provide coverage against yields losses and not market price of agricultural produce.

[English]

Surplus Foodgrains in States

3668. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute a task force to look into various problems posed for food grains surplus States such as Punjab due to the implementation of WTO regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the task force is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from the Government of Punjab.

[Translation]

Reservation Quota at Delhi and Patna Railway Stations

3669. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reservation quota including V.I. quota for New Delhi/Delhi and Patna Railway Stations in the trains running between New Delhi and Patna;

(b) whether this quota fulfils the requirements of the travellers; and

(c) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fulfil the requirements of the passengers 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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Slashing of Terminal Handling Charges

3670. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent order by Tariff Authority on Major Ports (TAMP) to slash terminal handling charges in Mumbai port has led to a major clash between foreign shipping lines and the domestic shippers;

(b) if so, whether foreign container lines met in London on July 20 and have decided not to follow the TAMP order;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether such situation is likely to arise in other major ports of the country also; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for an amicable solution of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the press report, there is a clash of interest between various parties but no representation has been received by the Ministry.

(c) Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) is a statutory authority and its order has to be complied with by the concerned parties.

(d) Order of TAMP pertains to Mumbai Port only and is not applicable to other major ports.

(e) Does not arise.

Pending Power Projects of Bihar

3671. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for power projects sent by the Government of Bihar for clearance;

(b) the present status of each of the pending projects; and

(c) the progress made at the ongoing power projects in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) At present, no proposal for setting up power projects in Bihar is under examination in the Central Electricity Authority for grant of Techno-economic Clearance. However, the following schemes have been returned to projects authorities for want of inputs such as compliance of Sec. 29 (2) of Electricity (Supply) Act, authorization of State Government under Sec.18 A of Electricity (Supply) Act, fuel linkage/transport, water availability, MOE&F clearance, firm financial package etc.

1.	Katihar (2x250 MW)	Returned in 10/95
2.	Kadhwan MPP (5x90 MW)	Returned in 3/95
3.	Patna G.T. Combined Cycle (GT 2x50 MW + ST 2x30 MW)	Returned in 5/89
4.	Barauni GT combined cycle (2x50 MW GT + 2x30 MW ST)	Returned in 1/89
5.	Patna TPS (2x67.5 MW)	Returned in 9/90

The pending project would be considered for accord of TEC as soon as the essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the project.

(c) There is only one power project i.e. Muzaffarpur TPP (2x250 MW) which had been accorded TEC by CEA but work on which is yet to start. The project was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in December, 1995. The project was originally scheduled for commissioning during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Order for main plant and equipment is yet to be made. Project execution has not been taken up due to financial constraints.

[Translation]

Construction of Overbridges in Uttar Pradesh

3672. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct new overbridges at Chilbila and Babuganj level crossing in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Donation to Political Parties

3673. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President, CII, has asserted that any donation by corporates to political parties should be made by the cheque and all such contributions should be eligible for cent per cent tax exemption;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The CII sends pre-Budget and post-Budget memorandum like various other representative bodies to the Government, to Ministry of Finance. No proposal regarding making donation by corporates to political parties by the cheque has been made by CII in their memoranda. However, similar suggestions have been received from other quartes by the Government in the Ministry of Finance. Regarding making such contributions eligible for cent per cent tax exemption, the Finance Ministry has not favoured the proposal.

[Translation]

Progress in Rajasthan in the Field of NCES

3674. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years in the field of non-conventional energy sources; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the development of non-conventional energy sources in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing wide ranging programmes based on major Non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biomass throughout the country including the State of Rajasthan. The details of programme-wise achievements made under various Non-conventional energy programmes in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the statement. The Ministry has taken various steps for overall development and deployment of renewable energy systems/devices by way of providing various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives i.e. central subsidy, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional custom duty, excise duty/sales tax exemption, soft term loans, conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale of renewable energy power and soft loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), etc., throughout the country including the State of Rajasthan.

Statement

Details of physical achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99 to 2000-2001 in the State of Rajasthan

Sl. No.	Programme/Schemes	Achievements during last three years
1	2	3
A.	Power Generation	
1.	Wind Power	7.30 MW
2.	Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	0.55 MW
B.	Decentralised Energy Systems	
1.	Biogas Plants (Family type)	3,135 Nos.
2.	Community/Institutional/Night soil biogas plants	15 Nos.
3.	Improved Chulha	1.95 lakh Nos.
4.	Solar Photovoltaic	
	i. Solar Street Lighting Systems	1,106 Nos.

1	2	3
	ii. Home Lighting Systems	16,164 Nos.
	iii. Solar Lanterns	2,910 Nos.
	iv. SPV Power Plants	25.8 kWp
5.	Solar Cookers	1,255 Nos.
6.	Solar Water Heating Systems	6,000 sq.m. collector areas
7.	Wind Pumps	50 Nos.
8	Solar PV Pumps	9 Nos.
C	Other Programmes	
1.	Energy Parks	3 Nos.
2.	IREP Blocks	36 Nos.

kWp = Kilowatt peak sq.m.=Square Meter

MW=Megawatt kW=Kilowatt.

[English]

Fall in Crude Oil Production

3675. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crude oil production falls from 7.5% to 2.481 MT in June, 2001, as compared to a production of 2.682 million tonne in the corresponding month of the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the capacity utilization of oil and natural gas corporation during the month of review;

(d) the extent to which it is short against the corresponding month of the previous year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of crude oil?

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 major reasons for the shortfall in respect of production of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in June, 2001 vis-a-vis the monthly target are:

(i) Revamping of BHN and tanker mooring/ demooring at BHN-SBM.

(ii) Closure of 7 wells of Gandhar for reservoir health.

(iii) Increase in water cut in KSP (E&W) and Gopawaram fields.

As regard Oil India Ltd. (OIL) the marginal shortfall has been due to the complicated work-over and prolonged work-over testing in few wells.

(c) The concepts of installed capacity and capacity utilization do not hold good for oil fields.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Several important steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country, which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.

(iii) To attract technology and investment; PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

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

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

Karwar Port

3676. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted any request to include the Karwar port in the list of sea port and permitted it to import edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the quantity of cargo handled by Karwar port during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to include Karwar port in the list of sea port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) and (e) Import of edible oil is permitted through all notified sea ports, including Karwar Port.

(d) Karwar not being a major port, its administration including cargo handling is looked after by the Government of Karnataka.

Workshop on Small and Marginal Farmers

3677 SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop was held at Lucknow by Gorakhpur Environment Action Group on 28-29 November, 2000 to discuss the important issues relating to small and marginal farmer programmes;

(b) if so, the highlights of the discussions held and the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the steps taken to help in implementing these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Return of Case File to Clients

3678. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lawyer can not refuse to return the case file(s) to his client(s) on demand;

(b) if so, the action taken against the lawyer if he refuses to return the case file(s) to his client(s);

(c) the number of such cases have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years and the action taken against them;

(d) the action taken against the accounts writers when they disappear in mid of the year leaving the business community in the lurch;

(e) whether they are bound to return the money which they have taken in the year when the business people had to get rewrite their accounts from someone else; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) In case a clients wants to change lawyer and demands the file back, the lawyer is bound to return the file. As per the recent judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which held that lawyers have no lien on the file for fees, which are not paid. Normally, a client should pay the fees before terminating the engagement of the lawyer. Earlier, there was a view that a lawyer had the lien on the file for unpaid fees. In view of the recent judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the lawyer is bound to return the file.

(b) If the lawyer refuses to return the file, the client can initiate action against the lawyer for professional misconduct.

(c) Bar Council of India do not maintain any record in this regard.

(d) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Violation of Food Laws by Foreign Importers

3679. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several incidents of violation of food laws by foreign importers have been reported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01;

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

(c) the action taken to check such type of violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Year-wise number of samples of imported items found not conforming to the requirement under PFA Act, 1954, as made available for 1999, 2000 and 2001 by Central Food Laboratories are as under:-

Year	Nol. of Samples found not conforming
1999	549
2000	797
2001	359

This information is not maintained State-wise or territory-wise.

(c) The import of food products are regulated as per the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 of the PFA Act, 1954. The Custom Officer may detain the consignment of food and draw the sample and get it analyzed in Central Food Laboratory to assess the quality of such food as per the provision contained under PFA Act and Rules made there-under.

The Ministry of Health has initiated number of measures to sensitize the various agencies dealing with the import of food as well as the importers/ traders.

Sensitization training programmes were organized at the ports of Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Cochin on 30.05.2001, 14.06.2001, 20.06.2001 and 23.06.2001, respectively. In these training programme, Officers and Staff of Customs, Port and Airport Health Organizations, Importers, Custom House Clearing Agents and Trade Organizations participated.

Experts from Ministry of Health, DGHS, Ministry of Finance, Department of Consumer Affairs, Confederation of Indian Food, Trade and Industries (CIFTI), a subsidiary body of FICCI and Confederation of Indian Industries, explained the various provisions of different laws relevant to the import of food products and replied to the queries raised on the subject during the sensitization programme.

Ministry of Commerce has issued a notification making provisions that all imported food products shall meet the requirement as prescribed under PFA Act and Rules made thereunder. Accordingly, all the products are being analyzed before releases for human consumption. The laboratories analyzing the samples are checking the labelling provisions in addition to chemical analysis of food samples.

Department of Food Processing Industries have released advertisement in National newspapers to create awareness among the consumers regarding labelling requirements of imported food products.

[Translation]

Duplication of Historical Artefacts

3680. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several historical artefacts which were taken abroad for the purpose of exhibition were received back with duplicate ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Opening of Marketing Counter in Foreign Countries

3681. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contacted or propose to request the concerned agencies of other countries to have an Indian counter for marketing its products in their duty free shops;

(b) if so, whether they have reacted favourably to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kerosene Quota

3682. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received any representation from the State Governments regarding the enhancement of Kerosene Quota; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Requests are received for enhancement of Kerosene quota from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country, and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy, the distribution has to be judicious, and hence, it has not been possible to agree such requests always.

Production and Import of Tar

3683. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity and requirement of Tar in the country;

(b) whether Tar is being imported;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Tar imported from Iran is cheaper one;

(e) if so, whether there is any treaty entered with Iran for import of Tar; 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) The production/Demand of Bitumen during 2000-01 and estimates during 2001-2002 are as under:-

(Figures in TMT)

	Production	Demand
2000-2001 (ACT)	2,721	2,711
2001-2002 (EST)	2,729	2,726

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

Committee to Monitor APDP

3684. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee to monitor the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) has concretized a strategy to ensure field level monitoring of the allocation to various States; and

(b) if so, the funds allocated to each of the States for renovation and modernization of the existing power infrastructure during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 under APDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Monitoring Committee of Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) is developing a detailed field level monitoring strategy by involving by CEA and REC and their regional offices to ensure field level monitoring.

(b) The fund allocated during 2000-2001 separately for R&M of old generating stations and for upgradation of distribution network in the identified distribution circles, State-wise is given in the statement. Approval of appraised projects by CEA and allocation of funds for the year 2001-2002 would be considered in the forthcoming meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

Statement

List of Projects Approved Under APDP During 2000-2001

Sl. No.	State Utility	Name of Scheme	Name of the Project	Cost of Project	Proposed APDP sanction		Total Amount under APDP
					Grant	Loan	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh							
1.	APGENCO	R&M of Vijaywada TPS U-1&2 (2x210MW)	R&M	22.30	5.58	5.58	11.15
2.	APGENCO	R&M of KTPS B&C (2x105+2x110)	R&M	67.76	16.94	16.94	33.88
3.	APGENCO	Various Activities For Hydel Power station under the programme of accelerated generation, evacuation & Refurbishment (page R)	R&U	2.06	0.52	0.52	1.03
4.	APGENCO	Flood Protection Wall for Nagarjuna Sagar HEP (1x110 MW +7x100MW)	R&U	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
5.	APTRASNCO	Eluru Circle	Distr Tranf	7.38	1.85	1.85	3.69
6.	APTRASNCO	Eluru Circle	Meter	29.26	7.32	7.32	14.63
7	APTRASNCO	Tirupati Circle	Distr. Tra. NF	13.53	3.38	3.38	6.77
8.	APTRASNCO	Tirupati Circle	Meter	19.72	4.93	4.93	9.86
9.	APTRASNCO	Warangal Circle	Distr Transf	9.97	2.49	2.49	4.99
10.	APTRASNCO	Warangal Circle	Meter	19.72	4.93	4.93	9.86
				194.70	**48.68**	**48.68**	**97.35**
Bihar							
11.	BSEB	PESU (East)	Trans	8.93	2.23	2.23	4.47
12.	BSEB	R&M PF, Izzafar IR	R&M	20.55	5.14	5.14	10.28
13.	BSEB	PESU (East)	Meter	5.58	1.40	1.40	2.79
14.	BSEB	Muzaffarpur	Meter	7.82	1.96	1.96	3.91
				42.88	10.72	10.72	21.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat							
15.	GEB	R&M of Wanakbori TPS	R&M	4.45	1.11	1.11	2.23
16.	GEB	Sabarmati Circle	Meter	12.98	3.25	3.25	6.49
17.	GEB	Palanpur & Himmatnagar Zone	Meter	9.80	2.45	2.45	4.90
18.	GEB	Restoration of Power Sys. of Kutch Distt. (Total Cost is Rs. 470 Crs. Expenditure For 1st Six Months Only)	Trans	192.00	48.00	48.00	96.00
				219.23	**54.81**	**54.81**	**109.62**
Haryana							
19.	DHBVN	Hissar Town	Trans	7.71	1.93	1.93	3.86
20.	DHBVNL	Hissar Circle	Trans	4.50	1.13	1.13	2.25
21.	DHBVNL	Faridabad Town	Trans	8.84	2.21	2.21	4.42
22.	DHBVNL	Faridabad Circle	Trans	8.50	2.13	2.13	4.25
23.	UHBVNL	Sonepat Circle	Meter	8.77	0.19	2.19	4.39
24.	UHBVNL	Sonepat Circle	Trans	1.98	0.50	0.50	0.99
25.	UHBVNL	Karnal Circle	Meter	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
26.	UHBVNL	Karnal Circle	Trans	6.56	1.64	1.64	3.28
27.	HPGCL	R&M of Faridabad TPS	R&M	23.70	5.93	5.93	11.85
28.		Hissar	Cap	0.34	0.09	0.09	0.17
29.		Faridabad	Cap	1.93	0.48	0.48	0.97
30.		Hissar	Dist. Tran	2.40	0.60	0.60	1.20
31.		Faridabad	Dist. Trans	14.00	3.50	3.50	7 00
				99.23	**24.83**	**24.83**	**49.66**
Jharkhand							
32.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Circle	Trans	29.89	7.47	7.47	14.95
33.	Jharkhand	Loyabad Circle	Trans	14.05	3.51	3.51	7.03
				43.94	**10.99**	**10.99**	**21.97**
Karnataka							
34.	KPCL	R&M of Raichur TPS U1, 2&3 (3x210 MW)	R&M	28.84	7.21	7.21	14.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
35.	KPCL	R&U of Sharavati, Supa, Ling Namaki, Bhadra & Varahi Heps	R&U	16.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
36.	VVNL	RM&U of 28MW Munirabad Hydro Power Station (2x9 + 1x10MW)	R&U	3.64	0.91	0.91	1.82
37.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Distr Trans	9.98	2.50	2.50	4.99
38.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Meter	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
39.	KPTCL	Mysore Circle	Trans	27.48	6.87	6.87	13.74
40.	KPTCL	Bijapur Circle	Meter	5.84	1.46	1.46	2.92
41.	KPTCL	Bijapur Circle	Trans	39.90	9.98	9.98	19.95
42.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Distr Transf	9.99	2.50	2.50	5.00
43.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Meter	6.59	1.65	1.65	3.30
44.	KPTCL	Belgaum Circle	Trans	4.72	1.18	1.18	2.36
				162.98	**40.74**	**40.74**	**81.49**
Madhya Pradesh							
45.	MPEB	R&M of 1142.5 MW Satpura TPS (5x625+1x200+3x210 MW)	R&M	22.34	5.59	5.59	11.17
46.	MPEB	Gwalior	Meter	12.41	3.10	3.10	6.21
47.	MPEB	Indore	Meter	19.35	4.84	4.84	9.68
48.	MPEB	Ujjain	Meter	21.36	5.34	5.34	10.68
49.	MPEB	Gwalior	Cap	0.42	0.11	0.11	0.21
50.	MPEB	Indore	Cap	2.99	0.75	0.75	1.50
51.	MPEB	Ujjain	Cap	1.70	0.43	0.43	0.85
52.	MPEB	Indore	Dist.	18.49	4.62	4.62	9.25
				99.06	**24.78**	**24.78**	**49.55**
Maharashtra							
53.	MSEB	Addl. Financial Assistance For Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) Scheme of Parli TPS	R&M	4.41	1.10	1.10	2.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
54.	MSEB	Ash water Recovery Scheme of Parli TPS	R&M	8.05	2.01	2.01	4.03
55.	MSEB	ESP Augmentation Retrofit for Nasik TPS	R&M	22.00	5.50	5.50	11.00
56.	MSEB	Repair & Modification of Coal Mills by MPSP System at Koradi, Nasik and Parli TPS	R&M	6.00	1.50	1.50	3.00
57.	MSEB	R&M of Koradi TPS (U-5) (Aug. of ESP)	R&M	48.00	12.00	12.00	24.00
58.	MSEB	Solapur Circle	Meter	40.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
59.	MSEB	Ratnagiri Circle	Distr Trans	10.00	2.50	2.50	5.00
60.	MSEB	Ratnagiri Circle	Meter	14.15	3.54	3.54	7.08
61.	MSEB	Osmanabad Circle	Meter	40.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
62.	MSEB	Jalgaon Circle	Dist Trans	26.27	6.57	6.57	13.14
63.	MSEB	Jalgaon Circle	Meter	50.00	12.50	12.50	25.00
				268.88	**67.22**	**67.22**	**134.44**
Orissa							
64.	OHPC	RM&U of Hirakud-1 (Burla) U-3&4	R&U	126.13	19.00	19.00	38.00
				126.13	**19.00**	**19.00**	**38.00**
Punjab							
65.	PSEB	R&U of Shanan HEP	R&U	11.98	3.00	3.00	5.99
66.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Distr Tranf	8.51	2.13	2.13	4.26
67.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Meter	9.68	2.42	2.42	4.84
68.	PSEB	Patiala Circle	Tranf	25.00	6.25	6.25	12.50
69.	PSEB	Khanna Circle	Distr Tranf	7.44	1.86	1.86	3.72
70.	PSEB	Khanna Circle	Meter	12.79	3.20	3.20	6.40
				75.40	**18.85**	**18.85**	**37.70**
Rajasthan							
71.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur Circle	Distr Tranf	27.89	6.97	6.97	13.95
72.	Jodhpur VVNL	Jodhpur Circle	Meter	15.62	3.91	3.91	7.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
73.	RR VPNL	Alwar Circle	Trans	7.12	1.78	1.78	3.56
74.		Alwar	Meter	9.00	2.25	2.25	4.50
75.		Jhunjhunu	Meter	8.15	2.04	2.04	4.08
76.		Jodhpur	Meter	10.85	2.71	2.71	5.43
77.		Alwar	Cap	3.20	0.80	0.80	1.60
78.		Jhunjhunu	Cap	3.70	0.93	0.93	1.85
79.		Jodhpur	Cap	4.45	1.11	1.11	2.23
				89.98	**22.50**	**22.50**	**45.00**
Tamil Nadu							
80.	TNEB	Routine R&M Activities (Addl) Under R&M Phase II of Tuticorin TPS	R&M	33.84	8.46	8.46	16.92
81.	TNEB	R&M of Ennore TPS (Construction of Ash Dyke)	R&M	73.04	18.26	18.26	36.52
82.	TNEB	Capacitors	Cap	24.03	6.05	6.05	12.10
				130.91	**32.77**	**32.77**	**65.54**
Uttar Pradesh							
83.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Paricha TPS (2x210 MW)	R&M	32.80	8.20	8.20	16.40
84.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Panki TPS Unit 3&4 (2x210 MW)	R&M	31.43	7.86	7.86	15.72
85.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Anpara 'A' TPS (3x210MW)	R&M	26.10	6.53	6.53	13.05
86.	UPRVUNL	R&M of Paricha TPS (2x210 MW) (Pager)	R&M	8.02	2.01	2.01	4.01
87.	UPJVNL	R&U of Khodri Hep	R&U	10.50	2.63	2.63	5.25
88.	UPJVNL	R&U of Chilla Hep	R&U	47.10	11.78	11.78	23.55
89.	UPJVNL	R&U of Chibro Hep	R&U	20.90	5.23	5.23	10.45
90.		Moradabad	Meter	14.41	3.60	3.60	7.21
91.		Gorakhpur	Meter	11.64	2.91	2.91	5.82
				202.90	**50.72**	**50.72**	**101.46**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Bengal							
92.	WBSEB	R&U of Jaldhaka Hep STG-1(3x9MW) & STG-II (2x4MW)	R&U	49.79	12.45	12.45	24.90
93.	WBSEB	Meters for Domestic Consumer in identified 3 Circles (Howrah, Bid Hannagar & 24 Pargana)	Meter	7.20	1.80	1.80	3.60
94.	WBSEB	Meters, Cap & Dist. Trans. in 3 Circles	Meter	30.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
				86.99	**21.75**	**21.75**	**43.50**
Chhattisgarh							
95.		Raipur	Meter	6.40	1.60	1.60	3.20
96.		Bilaspur	Meter	5.00	1.25	1.25	2.50
97.		Ranandgao	Meter	6.10	1.53	1.53	3.05
98.		Raipur	Cap	1.00	0.25	0.25	0.50
99.		Bilaspur	Cap	1.40	0.35	0.35	0.70
100.		Rajnandgao	Cap	0.61	0.15	0.15	0.31
				20.51	**5.13**	**5.13**	**10.26**
Uttaranchal							
101.		Dehradun	Meter	3.60	0.90	0.90	1.80
102.		Roorkee	Meter	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
103.		Rudrapur	Meter	3.00	0.75	0.75	1.50
				9.60	**2.40**	**2.40**	**4.80**
		Grand Total		**1873.32**	**455.66**	**455.66**	**911.33**

[Translation]

Black-marketing of Railway Tickets

3685. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have arrested such touts and unauthorised Travel agents who are involved in blackmarketing of confirmed rail tickets with the help of some railway employees/officers during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to trace such officers/employees who are involved with the touts in blackmarketing of rail tickets so far and action taken against them during the last six months?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Tourism Projects of Bihar

3686. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted a number of projects on Tourism to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the names thereof during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the amount allocated and released thereunder during the said period, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The details of prioritised tourism project proposals received from Government of Bihar and amount sanctioned and released during the last three years are as per the given statement.

Proposals for projects prioritised for the current financial year have not been received so far.

Statement

List of prioritised tourism project proposals received from Govt. of Bihar during the last three years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1998-99				
1.	Tourist Complex at Aurangabad	25.00	07.50	
2.	Yatri Niwas at Singheshwar Asthan (Madhepura)	19.39	06.00	
3.	Tourist Reception Centre at Bhagalpur	15.00	04.50	
4.	Tourist Reception Centre at Munger	15.00	05.00	
5.	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Jeevak Vihar, Rajgir	—	—	Not sanctioned
6.	Renovation of Hotel Birsa Vihar, Ranchi	20.00	06.00	
7.	Renovation of Hotel Ratna Vihar, Dhanbad	25.00	07.50	
8.	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Kautilya Vihar, Patna (Phase II)	08.06	02.50	
9.	Refurbishment of monuments at Vikramshila	16.66	05.00	
10.	Construction of Health Resort & Hot Water Bath/SPA Complex at West of Kund Kshetra, Rajgir	13.92	04.18	
11.	Illumination of Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya	24.00	12.00	
12.	Entrance Gate/Notice boards, light polls and benches at Buddhist Sites at Nalanda, Vaishali, Patna and Rajgir under ASI	13.32	04.00	

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Rajgir Festival	10.00	10.00	
14.	Sonepur Fair	02.22	02.22	
15.	Buddha Mahotsava	13.56	13.56	
16.	Integrated development of Tourist Centre—Landscapping redevelopment of Kundkshetra Rajgir (Distt. Nalanda)	50.00	25.00	
1999-2000				
1.	Yatrika at Madhuban	41.65	12.50	
2.	Tourist Complex-cum-Information Centre at Purnea	49.28	14.78	
3.	Tourist Complex at Muzaffarpur Phase II	—	—	Not sanctioned
4.	Tourist Complex at Munger	—	—	-do-
5.	Renovation of Baidhanath Vihar at Deoghar	20.00	06.00	
6.	Tourist Complex-cum-Information Centre at Saharsa	49.28	14.78	
7.	Tourist Information Centre at Saharsa	—	—	Not Sanctioned
8.	Tourist Information Centre at Deoghar	15.00	04.50	
9.	Tourist Information Centre at Muzaffarpur	15.00	04.50	
10.	Tourist Information Centre at Purnea	—	—	Not Sanctioned
11	Wayside facilities at Pawapuri	—	—	Not Sanctioned
12	Wayside facilities at Khajana	—	—	-do-
13.	Wayside facilities at Kishanganj/Gopiganj	—	—	-do-
14.	Wayside facilities at Baharagora	—	—	-do-
15.	Rajgir Festival	10.00	05.00	
16.	Sonepurr Fair	—	—	Not sanctioned
2000-2001				
1.	Tourist Complex at Rikhia (Deogarh)	49.28	14.78	
2.	Tourist Reception Centre at Patna	46.16	13.85	
3.	Tourist Complex at Bhim Bandh	49.28	14.78	
4.	Development and beautification of Tourist spot at Kakolat (Nawada)	24.40	07.32	
5.	Development and beautification of Tourist Spot at Deo (Aurangabad)	18.73	05.62	
6.	Development and beautification of Tourist Spot at Kuneri (Distt. Gaya)	18.73	05.62	
7.	Wayside facilities at Itakhori (Chatra)*	19.55	05.86	

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Wayside facilities at Godermana (Garhwa)*	19.55	5.86	
9.	Tourist Complex at Jamshedpur*	49.28	14.78	
10.	Tourist Complex at Rajrappa*	49.28	14.78	
11.	Wayside amenities at Tenughat*	19.55	05.86	
12.	Wayside facilities at Patna By-Pass (NH), Patna Sahib	19.55	05.86	
13.	Wayside facilities at Riwilganj (Chapra)	19.55	05.86	
14.	Third Buddha Mahotsava	15.00	03.75	
15.	Rajgir Mahotsava	05.00	00.77	
16.	Sonepur Fair	05.00	01.25	
17.	Tourist Complex at Hazipur	—	—	Not sanctioned

* Consequent upon bifurcation of the State funds were released in favour of Govt. of Jharkhand.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Rajasthan

3687 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on-going and proposed Railway Projects in Rajasthan are being delayed for want of adequate budgetary provisions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for their completion in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Railway projects in general and those under New Lines and Gauge Conversion Plan-Heads in particular, including those in Rajasthan, are faced with a shortage of funds.

(b) In order to ensure timely completion of projects, Railways are making efforts to augment the resource base by increasing internal generation of revenue; arranging financial participation of private parties and State Governments in the execution of Railway projects; obtaining additional Budgetary Support, etc.

To ensure judicious allocation of resources to New Line and Gauge Conversion projects, these projects have been prioritised on the basis of their physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability.

[English]

Problem Faced by Railway Labourers

3688. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Book on 1974 rail strike released" appearing in the Hindu dated the May 31, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that no change has taken place in the condition of railway labourers and they are having the same plight and facing the same problems as they had been facing in 1974; and

(c) if so, the reaction 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety Zone in Mumbai Suburban Railway

3690. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 30 ft. safety zone in Mumbai Suburban Railway has been cleared;

(b) the number of slums removed from the safety zone and the number of slums out of them habilitated;

(c) whether the Government have planned to use salt land in Mumbai for the relocation of the slum; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the railway land from encroachment in future in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Major portion of the area coming under safety zone has been cleared of encroachments.

(b) Nos. removed-10540

Nos. rehabilitated - about 9000. However, the exact position on rehabilitation is maintained by the State Govt. who are doing the rehabilitation.

(c) Rehabilitation of the slum dwellers is being carried out by the State Govt. of Maharashtra who would have planned to utilise some of the salt land for this purpose.

(d) The land is proposed to be protected by putting up boundary walls and fencing and also by licensing vulnerable land to Railway employees under "Grow More Food" scheme, prompt removal of encroachments as soon as these are noticed to be coming up, and greater vigilance in this direction.

Creation of Geographic Information Database System for Handicrafts

3691. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are working on creating a Geographic Information database System to create awareness among the people regarding handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Geographical Information System based Portal on handicraft is under development. The Portal shall contain information and data on all aspects of the handicraft sector and shall enable exchange of information and data across the globe among a variety of user groups like artisans, designers and State and Central Handicraft Development Corporations, domestic and international buyers and other interested groups. The portal with information and data related to the State of Uttar Pradesh was launched on the net on 2.3.2001 and the All India data is likely to be uploaded by the end of October, 2001.

Investment by Reliance in Russia

3692. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance has been cleared by the Government for investment in Russia for revamping the sick units of their natural gas; and

(b) if so, the total quantum of investment and the share of the Government in this investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the concerned authorities.

Generation Capacity Through NCES

3693. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up non-conventional energy technology commercialization fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed target for addition of power generation capacity through renewable sources in the next decade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategy evolved to achieve the target?

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

(b) The Government has set up a Non-Conventional Energy Technology Fund (NETCOF) to:

(i) Support commercialization of indigenously developed non-conventional energy technologies.

(ii) Support setting up of pilot plants for manufacture of non-conventional energy systems/products/ devices with a view to expedite their commercialization.

(iii) Support rapid commercialization of imported non-conventional energy technologies for wide spread domestic use.

(iv) Adapt/modify processes/products based on imported technology to enable adaptation to domestic as well as international market.

(v) Develop innovative products/technologies which are in early stages of their life cycle but which hold substantial potential for growth and return.

The NETCOF scheme will be implemented by the Ministry through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and also through other financial institutions like Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and ICICI. Assistance in various forms upto 75% of the total project cost is envisaged.

(c) to (e) The ministry envisages a target of 10% share (10,000 MW) through renewable energy sources in the installed capacity addition by 2012. The Ministry has formulated a draft Renewasle Energy Policy Statement and it is proposed to meet this target through various sources of renewable energy like Solar, Wind Biomass, Small Hydro etc.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Daliganj

3694. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not starting the construction work of the sanctioned over bridge at Daliganj railway crossing in Lucknow;

(b) the time by which construction of the overbridge at the said crossing is likely to be taken up; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) State Govt. has advised to keep the construction of Road Over Bridge pending as it has not been decided whether it has to be constructed in lieu of level crossing No. 7 or in lieu of Level crossing No. 6 for which sanctioned originally.

(b) On receipt of clearance from State Govt.

(c) Total cost at the time of sanction of the Road Over Bridge in 1998-99 was estimated as Rs. 7.00 crores (at originally sanctioned location).

Power Supply in Orissa

3695. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of power to Orissa is less than the quantum of power required by this State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the efforts made by the government to ensure supply of power to Orissa in adequate quantity and as per requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The power supply position in the State of Orissa during the period April, 2001-July, 2001 was as under:-

	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%
Energy (MU)	3908	3908	0	0.0
Peak Demand (MW)	1924	1797	127	6.6

There is no energy shortage in Orissa. However, there is a peaking shortage of 6.6%, Eastern Region as a whole is surplus in power and exports power to other regions. Orissa is also supplying 150 MW power to Andhra Pradesh under a bilateral agreement.

Mechanise Farming Schemes for Small Farmers

3696. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has been running any scheme for encouraging small farmers to mechanise farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds spent under the scheme in Maharashtra specially in Jalna and Aurangabad districts; and

(d) the steps taken to provide subsidy of more than Rs. 30,000/- to farmers for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Subsidy is being provided under various schemes to the farmers for the purchase of agricultural implements and machines. The details of subsidy are given in the statement.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide subsidy of more than Rs. 30,000/- to the farmers for the purchase of agricultural equipments.

Statement

Pattern of assistance for Farm Mechanisation

Sl.No.	Name of Implements/Machines	Subsidy rate		
1	2	3		
1.	Tractor	@ 30% limited to Rs. 30,000		
2.	Power Tiller	@ 50% limited to Rs. 30,000		
3.	Power drawn implements	@ 30% limited to Rs. 10,000		
4.	Power Threshers (all types)	@ 30% limited to Rs. 10,000		
5.	Diesel/Electric pump sets	@ 50% limited to Rs. 8,000		
6.	Sprinklers	Sprinkler sets-		
		(a) @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- per set for small, marginal, SC&ST and women farmers.		
		(b) 33% of the cost limited to Rs. 10,000/- per set for other farmers up to 2 ha.		
7.	Drip Irrigation	50% of the cost for SC&ST, small, marginal and women farmers, and 35% of the cost for other farmers with the limit as under:-		
	State		SC/ST S/M and Women Farmers	Other farmers
		(a) Fully* developed	22500/-	16000/-

1	2	3		
		(b)	less* developed	26000/- 18200/-
		(c)	Hilly* region.	28500/- 20000/-
8.	Animal drawn implements	@ 50% limited to Rs. 2,000		
9.	Manually operated implements/ tools	@ 50% limited to Rs. 2,000		
10.	Plant Protection Equipment			
	(i) Manual	@ 50% limited to Rs. 800		
	(ii) Power operated	@ 50% limited to Rs. 2,000		
	(iii) Tractor mounted	@ 25% limited to Rs. 4,000		
11.	Self propelled reaper, paddy transplanter and other similar self propelled machines.	@ 50% limited to Rs. 30,000		
12.	Specialised power driven equipment such as Sugar-cane cutter planter, potato planter, rotavator, straw reaper, strip till drill, tractor drawn reaper etc.	@ 30% limited to Rs. 20,000		

Note: (1) Subsidy on tractor & Power tiller can be given to those which have been tested at Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Budni, and fulfil the guidelines issued in this regard.

(2) Subsidy on tractor and Power Tiller is allowed on those having upto 30 PTO Horse Power and on those having 8 to 15 Horse Power, respectively.

(2) While the State Government shall keep the same rate of subsidy, the maximum amount could be reduced depending upon the cost of the equipments

(3) *Fully developed- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu.

*Less developed- Others, except those in Himalayan Region

*Hilly region- North-Eastern Region and Himalayan Region (HP, J&K, Uttaranchal, Darjeeling)

[English]

Survey of Extension of Kottur-Hospet Track upto Harihar

3697. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made for extension of Kottur-Hospet rail line upto Harihar;

(b) if so, the estimated cost for the proposed work;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to extend Kottur-Hospet rail line upto Harihar?

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 (d) The work of construction of new line from Kottur to Harihar has been included in the budget. The estimated cost of the work has been assessed as Rs. 124.13 cr. Land acquisition process has been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

New Strategy for Cheaper Power

3698. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to chalk out to formulate new strategy for cheaper power to consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of fresh reforms undertaken under consideration in power sector to achieve reduction in the cost of power generation, distribution and transmission, rural electrification, increasing share of hydel power generation ensuring transparency equipment and power purchase agreement (PPAS);

(d) whether the task force has submitted its report to the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) In the context of the need to reduce the cost of power by the end users and to bring total transparency in the bidding process of power projects, the Government had set up an Inter Disciplinary Group under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Power), Ministry of Power. The IDG has submitted its reports which has recommended various short term and long term measures in the areas of.

- The project execution stage
- Bench marking of capital costs
- Operation and Maintenance of Power Plants
- Renovation and Modernisation of Power Plants
- Reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses
- Human Resource Development & Training.

The issues of reforms, rural electrification, transmission and distribution were discussed in depth in the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held in March, 2001. The Resolutions which were adopted in the Conference are enclosed as statement. As regards increasing the share of hydro power, the Government enacted a hydro policy, 1998 in order to encourage construction of hydro projects in the country.

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 2012.

(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.

Handling 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.

Rain in Kerla

3699. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of damages caused by the heavy rains in Kerala, Orissa etc.;

(b) whether the affected State Government have sought any financial assistance from the centre for relief measures; and

(c) if so, the details and assistance extended by the centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Governments of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Tripura and Uttaranchal have reported damage to life and property due to heavy rains and floods during South-West Monsoon 2001. A statement I indicating damage to life and property due to heavy rains and floods, as reported by the respective State Governments, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States. There is availability of funds with the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking immediate relief measures. Statement II indicating state-wise details of release of Central share of CRF during 2001-2002 is enclosed.

The Governments of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have submitted memoranda for additional Central assistance in the wake of heavy rains and floods. The Government of Orissa has submitted preliminary memorandum.

Second instalment of Central share of CRF for 2001-2002 amounting Rs. 26.48 crore was released to Kerala for undertaking immediate measures in the wake of floods. An ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 100.00 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been released to Orissa. In addition, 3 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated to Orissa under Food for Work Programme.

Further Central assistance under the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is dependent on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Teams which have already visited Kerala and Chhattisgarh for assessment of the situation.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of State	Human Lives lost (Nos.)	Crop Area affected (lakh ha.)	Houses damaged (in lakhs)
1.	Assam	NR	0.13	NR
2.	Bihar	15	1.08	0.33
3.	Chhattisgarh	13	0.77	0.07
4.	Himachal Pradesh	18	Neg.	Neg.
5.	Kerala	125	0.40	0.24
6.	Orissa	100	9.00	2.00
7.	Punjab	6	0.58	Neg.
8.	Tripura	9	0.14	0.07
9.	Uttaranchal	18	NR	Neg.

NR=Not reported

Neg.=Negligible.

Statement-II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund Released
1.	Assam	3996.00
2.	Bihar	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	2163.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3424.00
5.	Kerala	8603.61
6.	Orissa	6465.75
7.	Punjab	—
8.	Tripura	—
9.	Uttaranchal	—
	Total	24652.36

Allotment of CNG for Industrial Use

3700. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have liberalized the policy for allocation/allotment of CNG for industrial use;

(b) the number of companies applied for grant of allotment of CNG during the last three years and the details of permission granted in this regard; and

(c) the number of applications pending for grant of permission of allotment of CNG with Government as on 30.06.2001?

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

(b) and (c) Nil.

[Translation]

Validity of Tenders

3701. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tenders above Rs. 25 crore opened during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the dates on which final decisions were taken on those tenders;

(c) the validity dates of the said tenders and the reasons for not taking decisions within the validity date;

(d) whether it has adversely affected the working of the railways; and

(e) if so, the persons responsible for the same?

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) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Drive of Train by a Youth

3702. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 17 years youth drove an engine of an empty train in the reverse direction for 115 kilometres on July 19, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any effort was made to halt the train running in the reverse direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

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

(f) the precaution being observed to check recurrence of such dangerous incident;

(g) whether some persons have been injured in this incident;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government have paid any compensation to those injured;

(j) if so, the details thereof; and

(k) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 19.07.2001, the empty rake 556 Dn. Passenger train was standing at Manduahdih station. The loco shunter came down from engine and while the engine was left unmanned one miscreant climbed in the cab, interfered with the controls and drove the train in the reverse direction. This accident occurred on Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway. All efforts were made to halt the train and the line was kept clear and set & locked for straight run, detonators were placed, stones thrown to attract attention of youth to stop the train. At last route was set for dead end siding of Allahabad City station, where the train entered and derailed after travelling a distance of 118 kilometres.

(d) and (e) Above accident has been enquired into by a Committee of Officers and as per findings of Enquiry Committee, this incident occurred due to negligence of Loco Shunter who left the loco without handing over charge to authorised staff or taking proper precautions as stipulated before leaving the locomotive unattended. Loco Shunter/Varanasi has been held primarily responsible and Senior Sectional Engineer/Loco/Varanasi has been held secondarily responsible in this accident. Action under Discipline & Appeal Rules has been initiated against them.

(f) The Loco Shunter who had left the locomotive unattended has been placed under suspension. Intensive monitoring and counseling of Drivers/Shunters are being done so that they do not leave locomotive following proper procedure required to ensure safety.

(g) and (h) In this accident, one unidentified person was killed and one RPF Havaldar sustained serious injuries.

(i) to (k) Compensation claims for train accidents are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. No compensation claim has been made so far. However, an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5,000 was made to the injured RPF Havaldar.

School Running under Railways

3703. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools running under the Ministry of Railways as on March 2001;

(b) the number of these schools wherein the education is imparted as per the CBSE curriculum and the curriculum formed by the respective State Education Boards respectively;

(c) whether the transparency is maintained in regard to the appointment of teachers in these schools; 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) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Complete transparency is maintained in the recruitment of teachers in the railways schools, which is done through Railway Recruitment Boards.

(d) The vacancies are advertised through the Employment News/leading newspapers for calling applications from all over the country. The selection of teachers is based on objective type written examination and interviews. The evaluation of answer sheets of the written examination is done through a computerized process. Interviews are held by a committee comprising of serving/retired Railway officers belonging to General, SC/ST, Minority & OBC communities to ensure the interests of these communities. Final results are published in the "Employment News"/News Papers.

[English]

Irregularities in Duty Free Shops

3704. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of various irregularities in the duty free shops of ITDC;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities noticed during raids conducted by ITDC Vigilance Department at duty free shops;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the functioning of the duty free shops of ITDC; and

(e) if so, the losses suffered by ITDC due to various irregularities and the steps taken by the Government to bring transparency in their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The irregularities noticed by ITDC Vigilance Division during surprise checks on duty free shops are mainly of possessing unaccounted Indian as well as foreign currency, discrepancies in the preparation of cash memos; sale of goods at higher price; bogus sale of duty free goods.

(c) Disciplinary action is taken against the concerned officials as per Corporation's rules.

(d) ITDC has appointed an independent chartered accountant firm for carrying out special audit of the functioning of duty free shops.

(e) It is not feasible to assess financial loss suffered due to such irregularities. However, necessary instructions have been issued to check irregularities and ensure transparency in the functioning of duty free shops.

Kolkata Metro Railways

3705. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engines/coaches at present under the Kolkata Metro Railways;

(b) the number of engines/coaches are in working condition; and

(c) the number of engines/coaches which are not in working condition alongwith 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) At present, 144 coaches (108 Motor coaches and 36 Trailer coaches) are available with Metro Railway, Kolkata.

(b) 128 coaches (96 Motor coaches 32 Trailer coaches) are in working condition.

(c) 16 coaches (including 3 fire accidental coaches) are not in working condition due to scheduled overhauling and major repair.

Bank Guarantee to NAFED Market Intervention Scheme

3706. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government for approval of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for purchase of 15,000 MTs of Red Chillies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested the Union Government to provide advance or bank guarantee to NAFED for procurement operations of Chillies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Market Intervention Scheme, a quantity of 15,000 MTs of Red Chillies was approved by this Department at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 2400 per qtl. during period from 20th March to 15th June, 2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NAFED was directed to procure Red Chillies as per the terms and conditions approved by this Department.

[Translation]

Opening of Handicraft Showroom

3707. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicraft showroom opened with the assistance provided by the Handicraft Board during the last three years, till date, location-wise;

(b) whether some of these showrooms have been closed down after obtaining funds from the handicrafts Board; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the government thereto and the efforts made by the Government to recover funds from those showrooms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The number of handicrafts emporium/showroom opened with assistance from office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) during the last three years, till date, location wise, is as under:

Sl.No.	Location Emporium/Showroom	Sanctions
1.	Imphal, Manipur	1 No
2.	Borjhar, Assam	1 No
3.	Kolkata Best Bengal	1 No
4.	New Delhi	1 No
5.	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	1 No
6.	Dimapur, Nagaland	1 No
7.	Srinagar, J&K	2 No
8.	Lunglei, Mizoram	1 No
9.	Pondicherry	1 No
	Total	10 Nos.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Closure of Evening Law Colleges in Jharkhand and Bihar

3708. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of evening law colleges functioning in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) whether the bar Council of India has demanded for the closure of said colleges;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether the Government have received the representation against the closure of such colleges;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take necessary steps to continue the evening law colleges in the said states; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

Computer Scam in ICAR

3709. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted to investigate into the irregularities committed in the purchase of computers in I.C.A.R. has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Bhaskar Barua's Committee recommended for a detailed enquiry by an agency like CBI.

(c) and (d) As recommended, the matter is under investigation.

(e) Does not arise.

Production of Petroleum Products More than Consumption

3710. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the production of petroleum products like petrol, diesel etc. is more than its consumption;

(b) if not, the estimate of consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during 2000-2001;

(c) the quantum of production of the two products during the said period; and

(d) the share of the public and private refineries in the production thereof in terms of percentage?

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

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

(c) and (d) Production of petrol and diesel during 2000-2001 was 8,068 TMT and 39,048 TMT respectively.

The percentage share of the public and private sector refineries in the production of petrol was 69.7% & 22.6% respectively and of diesel it was 67.8% & 24.6% respectively during 2000-2001.

The balance percentage of 7.7% in production of petrol and 7.6% in diesel was from the joint sector refinery.

[English]

Arrears of Oil Companies

3711. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether mounting arrears forced oil companies to go in for fresh loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of arrears pending;

(c) the amount of additional borrowing likely to be raised; and

(d) the steps taken by the oil companies to recover the arrears?

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 deficit in oil pool account as on 31-3-2001 was about Rs. 12,600 crore which constituted mostly the outstanding amount payable to the oil companies. The level of borrowing varies from company-to-company depending upon various factors including requirement of working capital, capital expenditure, oil pool dues etc.

(d) Oil companies regularly follow up with Oil Coordination Committee while oil pool account allows 10.5% yearly interest on the oil pool dues to them.

[Translation]

Facilities in Trains

3712. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to do away with the kind of mismanagement as has been reported in the Patna edition of the 'Hindustan' dated July 20, 2001 under the caption "Rail Mantri Shikar huye Rajdhani Express Kee Kuvyavastha ka".

(b) whether the quality of food being served in train No. 2309/10 is extremely poor as compared to other Rajdhani Express trains;

(c) if so, whether the catering system of this train has ever been checked; and

(d) if so, the result of such checking and the action 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) Instructions have been reiterated to tone up the maintenance practices at all the depots responsible for maintenance of coaches and conduct frequent inspections. A special drive has also been launched for 2 weeks covering all the important Mail/ Express trains to keep the coaches in good condition.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Floods in Orissa

3713. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for heavy floods in Orissa and since it was anticipated, why precautionary measures could not be undertaken in time;

'b) the loss of life, property and crop suffered due to floods;

(c) whether it is a fact that the situation worsened because of breaches in various river embankments and dams;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against delinquent river and dam maintenance managers; and

(e) the steps being taken for effective flood control system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (e) As per available information, the recent floods in Orissa were mainly due to heavy rains in the catchment areas of Mahanadi system and discharge of excess water from the Hirakud reservoir and the reservoirs in Chhattisgarh. As per reports available from the Government of Orissa, the floods resulted in loss of 100 human lives, affected cropped area in 9 lakh ha. and caused damage to 2.00 lakh houses. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State. Various long-term schemes of flood control are under implementation with financing from the State Plan.

[Translation]

Allotment of Chambers to Advocates

3714. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5824 on April 26, 2001 regarding Allotment of Chambers to Advocates and to state:

(a) whether the desired information has been since collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the desired information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The desired information is still awaited from various High Courts i.e. A.P. High Court, Delhi High Court, Patna High Court, Kolkata High Court, Rajasthan High Court and Madras High Court.

(d) The desired information likely to take some more time.

[Translation]

Organic Cultivation

3715. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified areas for organic paddy, wheat, vegetable horticulture and flower cultivation;

(b) if so, the names of States and locality in which such organic cultivation is being taken up;

(c) the advantages likely to be obtained by farmers in adopting organic agriculture/horticulture and floriculture;

(d) whether the Government have adopted organic products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce has identified following areas for organic cultivation:

State	Area	Item
1	2	3
Assam	Siphajar	Paddy,
Tripura	Jumerdhepa	Pineapple
Manipur	Mao	Passion Fruit
West Bengal	Darjeeling	Honey
J&K	Jammu	Walnut
Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Jaora	Pulses, cereals
Haryana	Sonepat, Sirsa	Paddy, Wheat
		Sugarcane, Pulses
Maharashtra	Bhusawal, Nasik	Mango, Banana

1	2	3
	Nagpur, Ratnagiri	Pulses
Tamil Nadu	Gangaor Patti,	Fresh/ Processed
	Kodai Canal	Fruits/ vegetables
Gujarat	Junagadh,	Groundnut
	Fokdi	

Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce has identified following areas for the production of major organic spices.

State	Area	Item
Kerala	Idukki & Wyned	Pepper, Ginger
	District	Turmeric, Clove
		Nutmeg.
Karnataka	Coorg & Shimoga	Pepper, Vanilla
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris	Rosemary, Thyme Parsley, Orengano
Orissa	Phulbani	Turmeric, Ginger Mustard, Tamrind

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is promoting enhanced use of farmyard manure, compost and bio-fertilizers as an approach to Integrated Nutrients Management System.

(c) Organic agriculture is an holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-eco system health including bio-diversity, biological cycles and soil biological activities. Value is added to the organically produced food through certification by accredition agencies. In spices 20-30% increased return was realized by farmers from organically grown spices.

(d) and (e) A Steering Committee under the Ministry of Commerce has been set up to look into the matters pertaining to accredition, certification, and promotion of organically grown products.

Renewal of Tracks

3716. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for track renewal by the Indian Railways during the last three years and the extent to which it was achieved;

(b) the total tracks due for renewal as on date;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for renewal for the remaining tracks in the country;

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

(e) whether track renewal goes through at a slow speed;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to renew track fastly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The targets of track renewal were 2710 kms., 2550 kms. and 3250 kms. respectively for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Progress achieved during the 3 years was 2967 kms., 3006 kms. and 3250 kms. respectively.

(b) 12500 kms of track on Board Gauge, 5000 kms on Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge was for renewal as on 1.4.2001.

(c) and (d) The yearly targets for track renewal are fixed after likely availability of funds within the plan size of the Railways is known.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The pace of renewal is commensurate with the funds available.

Amenities in Tis Hazari Court

3717. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Delhi Tis Hazari Court is overpowered by the foul and filthy smell emanating from the stinky public toilets and overflowing water which make it impossible for the public to reach the court hearing rooms;

(b) whether the 50 years old court has insufficient toilet facilities coupled with other shortcomings such as proper maintenance of the premises and control over pilferage etc; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for renovation of conveniences and proper maintenance of the premises?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Government of NCT of Delhi as well as from the Delhi High Court and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Facilities at Reservation Centres

3718 SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dalalon ke Garh Ban Gaye Hain Railway Arakshan Kendra" appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated May, 13, 2001;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more facilities to the passengers at reservation centres?

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) The Railway is alive to the problems and is constantly adding more booking windows as per feasibility. In past four years 27 PRS counters have been added at existing as well as at three new locations in Delhi area. The work for adding more PRS counters at four new locations is underway. For assisting passengers, various facilities like reservation availability display boards/ TVs, touch terminals, terminal information repeaters etc. are also being added progressively depending upon availability of funds.

[English]

Grid Failure

3719. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has stated that some States behave contrary to the establishment practices;

(b) whether State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) is aware of such deliberate lapses led to the grid failure in recent times;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to allow the Power Grid Corporation for distribution of full power; and

(d) the details of policy, nation-wise, to have proper utilisation of all available power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) POWERGRID, the Central Transmission Utility, has been entrusted with the responsibility of operation of Regional Load Despatch Centres. It has, at times, noticed departures by the constituents from the prescribed norms, like over-drawls causing low frequency, under drawals causing high frequency, non-installation of capacitors leading to local low voltages, etc. The instances of grid indiscipline are brought to the notice of the concerned authorities by POWERGRID, from time to time.

(c) There is no proposal to entrust POWERGRID with the responsibility of distribution of power in the country.

(d) In order to extend the benefit of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power from one region to a power deficit region, setting up of National Grid by interconnecting the regions has been planned. The present total power transfer capacity of the inter-regional transmission system is about 4850 MW (at 220 KV and above level and HVDC systems). It is proposed to enhance this capacity to 30,000 MW by the year 2012.

Kakinada-Kotipalli Rail Line

3720. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the Kakinada-Kotipalli Railway line in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh 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): The completion of the work of restoration of Kakinada-Kotipalli rail line would depend upon handing over of the land by the State Government and availability of resources in the coming years.

NIFT Plan For Handloom Weavers

3721. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the National Institute of Fashion Technology has worked out plans to help the handloom weavers with better designs and markets;

(b) if so, the details of the understanding made especially with APCO; and

(c) the interest shown by the weavers to involve with the ideas of NIFT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The NIFT is providing trends and forecasts for the National Centre for Textile Design to enable weavers to use them to better respond to the needs and demands of the market and to prepare them for the same. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the context of revival of Handloom Sector in the State in general and with reference to APCO in particular, had requested NIFT, Hyderabad to study the problems confronted by the handloom and powerloom sectors in the State and indicate the strategy for revival. Accordingly, a comprehensive report has been prepared and submitted to the State Government.

Share of Power from RAPP Unit 5 to 8

3722. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for expeditious implementation of RAPP unit 5 to 8;

(b) if so, whether under long term Nuclear Power Programme the implementation of Unit 5 to 8 (each having 500 MW capacity) has been planned beyond Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan has also demanded allocation of 400 cusecs of water required for these units; and

(d) the time by which execution of these units are likely to be completed to reduce the gap between demand and supply in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is a plan to set up four units of 500 MW each at (RAPP 5-8) Rawatbhata, Rajasthan. These are expected to be taken up for commissioning during 10th Plan, subject to availability of financial resources.

(c) Rajasthan Government has agreed to spare the required quantity of water for these units.

(d) The scheduled completion date would emerge after the 10th Plan proposals are firmed up.

Artificial Insemination

3723. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to arrange delivery of improved Artificial Insemination (AI) Service at farmers door-step;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for modernization of AI network with doubling of capacity for frozen semen production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ninth Plan Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding envisage delivery of breeding inputs at the farmers doorstep. The Scheme also envisage radically improving coverage of bovine population under organised breeding programme, improvement in quality of bulls used for natural service, conservation of indigenous breed, optimum utilisation and enhancement of capacity in institutional infrastructure as well as developing synergies among major players.

(c) Detailed guidelines for formulation of State sub-project have already been circulated and assistance released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Proposals from a number of States have been received and are being scrutinised. Strengthening of sperm stations and bull mother farms, institutional restructuring to improve quality and supply of breeding inputs, a radical human resource development programme for skill upgradation of personnel,

quality control of services and inputs, cost recovery of services and inputs and adherence to scientific programme for genetic improvement are being insisted upon in States assisted under National Project for Cattle and Bufallo Breeding.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to SCs/STs

3724. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted to the persons belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes during the last three years;

(b) the number of petrol pumps out of them being run by the company concerned;

(c) whether dealership has been allotted to the contractors of the petrol pumps run by petroleum companies: and

(d) if so, the reasons for which dealership has not been given to the contractors in Mandavary town of district Dausa, Rajasthan despite the fact that he owned a site of his own?

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) 245 retail outlet dealerships were allotted to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(b) None of the above dealerships is being run by the concerned Oil company.

(c) and (d) Dealership is to be allotted as per the guidelines laid down, through a selection process by DSB. A retail outlet under the ST category developed by the IBP Co. Limited at Mandawari in Dausa District was commissioned in March, 2000 pending selection of the dealer by the DSB and was operated in COCO basis with the late Shri Riaz Khan as the Labour Contractor till his death and the operation of the retail outlet was stopped on 6.4.2001. A dealer has since been selected and the LOI was issued on 1.5.2001.

[English]

Power Generation Through NCEs

3725. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generation capacity added through various non-conventional energy sources in the year 2000-2001;

(b) the share of wind, solar and tidel power in the total power generated through these sources;

(c) the incentives given to the private power producers in setting up non-conventional energy power projects; and

(d) the amount sanctioned and spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A power generation capacity of nearly 340 MW was added through non-conventional energy sources during 2000-2001. The share of wind power is 51% and the share of solar power projects is less than 1%. No tidal power project has so far been set up in the country.

(c) and (d) Fiscal and financial incentives such as relief in taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation and soft loans are available. Conducive policies have also been introduced by several States to attract private sector participation. Central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 19.17 crores was provided during 2000-2001 for private sector non-conventional energy power projects.

Export Losses by Private Sector Company

3726. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private sector company has requested the Government to direct all the refineries and other State run companies to share their export losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Sakri-Hasanpur Rail Line

3727. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sakri-Hasanpur rail line project is proposed to be undertaken;

(b) if so, the progress of work made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said project 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) Land acquisition has been completed. Work of earthwork is in progress.

(c) Work will be progressed and completed as per availability of resources.

[English]

Purchase of Computers by Institute of Company Secretaries

3728. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Company Secretaries of India has purchased computers for its offices throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of computers purchased by the Institute during the last three years and the total amount spent thereon, year-wise;

(c) whether with the introduction of computer system the requirement of staff strength in the Institute has been reduced; and

(d) if so, the number of staff/officers working in the Institute before introduction of computer system and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Computers purchased by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India during the last three years, and the total amount spent thereon, are as under:-

S. No.	Year	No. of Computers (with accessories) purchased	Total amount spent (in lakhs)
1.	1998-1999	10	17.99
2.	1999-2000	8	14.02
3.	2000-2001	15	13.79

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of number of staff/officers working in the Institute are as under:-

01.04.1998	239
01.04.1999	237
01.04.2000	239
01.04.2001	228
11.08.2001	223

During the pre-computerisation period on an average 50-60 casual workers were being engaged per month which in the post computerisation period has been reduced as under:

Year	Average number of workers engaged per month
1998	10
1999	9
2000	8
2001	4

Use of Cello Phone in Trains

3729. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are utilizing the full device of cello phone in all trains to prevent accident and robberies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Cellular phones are not being utilised in trains to prevent accidents and robberies. At present continuous cellular coverage is not available along the track and as such it will not be possible to use cellular phones for this purpose.

Institutional Credit to Small and Marginal Farmers

3730. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to lack of adequate institutional credit to small and marginal farmers, they are driven to borrow funds at a very high rate from usuaries which in turn results in debt trap for small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, whether some farmers in the country had committed suicide in the past for not being able to repay the loans; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to institutionalise the credit system to ensure easy, adequate and timely availability of funds to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some such incidents have been reported from some parts of the country.

(c) With a view to providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers, various measures/initiatives have been taken for strengthening the institutional credit system in the agricultural and allied sector. These include the following:

(i) Banks should not insist on margin money for crop loans term loans granted to farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-

(ii) Banks should not insist upon collateral security/ third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000/- Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security.

(iii) As regards loans above Rs. 10,000/- banks have discretion in the matters relating to margin security.

(iv) Payment of interest should be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan/ installments fixed.

(v) Banks should not compound interest on current dues in respect of long duration crop loans and investments not falling due in respect of term loans.

(vi) Total interest debited to the account of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term advances.

Development of Tourist Sports of Keonjhar

3731. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made to preserve and publicize the tourist spots of Keonjhar namely, Sitabanji associated with the Ramayana and Bhimkund associated with the Mahabharat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps envisaged in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Preservation and promotion of tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./UT Administrations in their respective States/UTs. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, extends financial assistance for the projects prioritised every year in consultation with the State Govts./UT Administrations. During last three years, the Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 45.00 lakhs for Construction of Tourist Complex at Keonjhar and Rs. 5.00 lakhs for Wayside Amenities at Deogaon in Keonjhar district.

Companies In Losses

3732. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies in the corporate sector in Madhya Pradesh have been running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for their losses; and

(d) the time since when those corporate sector companies are incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Some companies in (i) Iron & Steel, (ii) Textile, and (iii) Solvent extraction sectors in Madhya Padesh have been incurring losses for about last three years due to recession in economy in these sectors.

Privatisation of Major Ports

3733. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatise some of its major ports;

(b) if so, the ports identified for privatisation;

(c) the steps taken in that direction;

(d) the reasons for privatising these major ports for privatisation;

(e) whether Paradeep Port is under consideration for privatisation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, in order to attract additional investment and new technology, introducing better managerial practices & foster strategic alliances for creation of optimal port infrastructure, private sector participation is sought in identified areas within the existing Major Ports in terms of Guidelines issued on 26-10-1996 and 1-06-1998.

MoU Between U.I.A. and H.A.I.

3734. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Uganda Investment Authority has singed an MoU with the Hotel Association of India for cooperation in the development of hospitality and tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total investment plans being considered by the Uganda Government in the tourism sector;

(d) whether India has agreed to provide and develop tourism sector in Uganda; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposals that are being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MoU envisages exchange of information in respect of development and trends in hotel sector; sharing experience and expertise in hospitality fields and exploring investment opportunities in these sectors in Uganda and India;

(c) Uganda Investment Authority's plans are primarily directed at inviting investment for creation of tourism infrastructure in Uganda to meet the growing tourism inflows;

(d) the MoU signed between U.I.A. and H.A.I. does not involve Government of India.

(e) Does not arise.

Urban Haats

3735. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of urban haats in the country, location-wise;

(b) the benefits accrued therefrom to artisans and weavers;

(c) the number of weavers and artisans benefited from it so far, state-wise; and?

(d) the rate at which space is provided to artisans and weavers in these haats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Based on the pattern of Dilli Haat, 10 more urban haats have been sanctioned at Tirupati, Agra, Allahabad, Jammu, Ahamadaba, Bhopal, Kolkata, Bhubneshwar, Karnal and Ranchi.

(b) and (c) The Urban Haats are set up exclusively to provide marketing outlets to artisans and weavers of the country in major urban and tourist places to enable artisans and weavers to sell their products directly to consumer without involving middlemen. The information relating to number of weavers and artisans benefited from it so far, State-wise, is being collected.

(d) At present only one haat i.e. Dilli Haat is operational. The space rent is decided by the Managing Committee of the Haat. The current rates charged at Dilli Haat is Rs. 250/- per stall per day per artisan/weaver.

Excavation of Archaeological Sites

3736. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASI has undertaken excavations of Ramayana and Mahabharata as well as Buddhist sites in the country;

(b) if so, the details of sites excavated under each project and the details of its findings, chronological and culture sequence; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the excavation of these sites and the number of individual excavation reports brought out so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the statement.

(c) As per available information the expenditure incurred in this regard is Rs. 1,90,27,301.00. To date, ten individual excavation reports have been brought out.

Statement

State wise Details of the Excavations of Ramayana and Mahabharata as well as Buddhist Sites Conducted by Archaeological Survey of India

Sl. No.	Name of the Site	Details of Findings and Cultural Sequence
1	2	3
	Ramayana Sites Uttar Pradesh	
1.	Sringaverpura, Distt. Allahabad	Seven-fold cultural sequence ranges from Ochre Colour Ware (closing centuries of second millennium B.C.)., Painted Grey Ware, Black Slipped and Black-and-Red Ware (10th century B.C.), Northern Black Polished Ware (7th - 2th century B.C.), Red Ware (1st century BC - AD), Gupta, Rajput, Late medieval and East India Company times. A notable discovery from site is a large brick tank complex belonging to Ist century BC - AD.
2.	Ayodhya, Distt. Faizabad.	The ASI, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Simla excavated Ayodhya under the Project "Archaeology of Ramayana Sites" during 1977-78 to 1985-86. The excavation showed that the site was first occupied in 7th century B.C. and remained occurred during the Sunga, the Kushanaa, the Gupta periods to the medieval times.
3.	Bhardwaja Ashram, Allahabad	The ASI, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Simla excavated Bhardwaja Ashram

1	2	3
		under the Project "Archaeology of Ramayana sites" during 1978-79. The excavation revealed occupation of two widely separated periods which are - Period I, the NBP ware period (circa 6th century BC to 2nd century BC), Period II, the Gupta period (circa 4th - 5th century AD) with a gap in between the two.
4.	Pariar, Distt. Unnao	A small-scale excavation yielded archaeological material of five periods which are OCP (2nd millennium B.C.), Black Slipped Ware, Black and red ware (Late 1st millennium B.C.), PWG (circa 1100 - 600 B.C.), NBP (circa 6th - 2nd centuries B.C.), Sunga-Kushana (2nd cent. B.C. - 3rd century A.D.).
Mahabharata Sites		
5.	Delhi, Purana Quila. New Delhi	Purana Qila, also known as Indrapat, and identified with Indraprastha, the capital of the Pandavas after bifurcation of the Kuru Kingdom, was excavated earlier in 1954-55 and later for four field seasons. The eight-fold cultural sequence ranges from Mauryan (4th - 3rd century B.C.), Sunga (2nd - 1st century B.C.), Saka-Kushanaa (1st-3rd century AD), Gupta (4th-6th century AD), Post-Gupta (7th -9th Century AD), Rajput (10th -12th century AD), Sultanate (13th-15th century AD), Mughal (16th - 19th century AD).
Haryana		
6.	Panipat, Distt. Panipat	Remains of Painted Grey Ware culture (dating about beginning of Ist millennium B.C.), have been found in the lower levels.
7.	Sonepat, Distt. Sonepat	Remains of Painted Grey Ware culture (dating about beginning of Ist millennium B.C.) have been found in the lower levels.
8.	Tilpat, Distt. Faridabad	Remains of Painted Grey Ware culture (dating about beginning of Ist millennium B.C.) have been found in the lower levels.
Uttar Pradesh		
9.	Bagpat, Distt. Meerut	Horizons of Painted Grey Ware culture (dating about beginning of Ist millennium B.C.) have been found.
10.	Ahichchhatra, Distt. Barelly	The capital of the north Panchala under Drupad (father of Dropadi, wife of Pandavas) has yielded nine cultural strata: Stratum IX (before 300 BC), VIII (300-2000 BC), VII (200-100 BC), VI & V (100 BC-100 AD), IV (100-350 AD), III (350-750 AD), II (750-850 AD), I (850-1100 AD).
11.	Hastinapura, Distt. Meerut	The capital of the Kuru kingdom of the Mahabharata fame was excavated in 1950-52 to ascertain the cultural sequence of the site and linking or otherwise and archaeological

1	2	3
		material with the epic. The five-fold cultural sequence begins with OCW (first held of 2nd millennium BC), PGW (circa early 11th - 18th century BC), NBP (circa 6th-3rd century BC), Sung-Kushana (early 2nd century BC to 3rd century AD) and comes to a close with the medieval (late 11th to early 15th century AD) period. The site has given the evidence of a flood that destroyed the PGW settlement. As a result, the excavator related the archaeological material of the Period II represented by the deluxe ware called the Painted Grey Ware pottery which he subsequently found at such sites like Panipat, Sonepat Bagpat, Tilpat and Indarpat, which are related to the Kuru family of the Mahabharata period.
12.	Ganwaria and Piprahwa, Distt. Siddharthnagar	The excavation of Gangwaria and Piprahwa, the twin mounds of ancient Kapilavastu, has brought to light a stupa with monastery on the corporeal remains of Buddha at the former and an ancient town turned into a monastery at the latter. The sites were in occupation from before the 6th century BC to the Kushana period.
Buddhist Sites:		
Andhra Pradesh		
13.	Nagarjunakonda, Distt. Guntur	Revealed a cultural sequence from the lower palaeolithic to the medieval times, besides unearthing the remains of the city of Vijayapuri, which flourished mainly in the 3rd and the 4th century AD. Several Buddhist structures were exposed.
14.	Kotturu, Distt. Visakhapatnam	Revealed Buddhist vihara complex.
15.	Amaravati, Distt. Guntur	Site yielded remains of 3rd - 2nd century BC to 9-10th century AD. The excavation also brought to light the damaged portion of the original drum, ayaka-platforms and pradakshina-patha of the Mahastupa. Relic caskets were found near western ayaka platform when debris clearance was taken up in 1990-91.
16.	Bhattiprolu, Distt. Guntur	Revealed brick built stupa, ayaka platforms, railing and two wings of viharas.
17.	Kondapur, Distt. Medak	A stupa mound discovered. Earlier excavations by Archaeology department of Hyderabad shows that Kondapur was a thriving town from circa 100 BC to 200 AD with a marginal time span of a century on both sides.
18.	Ghantasala, Distt. Krishna	Chronological sequence of the site was established. The site has a well-known early Buddhist stupa.
19.	Peddavegi, Distt. West Godavari	The mound Dhanam-Dibba revealed two brick built structures (probably Buddhist stupas).

1	2	3
20.	Adurru, Distt. East Godavari	Revealed spoked-wheel type stupa.
21.	Jujjuru, Distt. Krishna	Trial excavation revealed the lime stone copings and the small-scale excavation revealed a brick votive stupa and lead an copper coins of Sada & sataushana periods.
Bihar		
22.	Ashok Pillar Site Kolhua, Distt. Muzaffarpur	The already famous site for a large brick stupa and a Mauryan pillar with a lion capital has yielded in excavation a large number of votive stupas, miscellaneous objects and pottery in addition to a tank and a monastery datable to the period from Pre-Mauryan to 3rd - 4th century AD.
23.	Kesariya Distt. Champaran	Life-size images of Buddha and other deities made of clay mixed with lime and brick jelly with smooth surface treatment placed in a large stupa datable to early centuries of Christian era.
24.	Chandimau, Distt. Nalanda	A Buddhist temple with courtyard of paved bricks and some votive stupas are recovered. Among important finds are terracotta sealings, fragmentary stone sculptures of Buddha, Tara besides Surya and Vishnu.
25.	Antichak (Vikramshila), Distt Bhagalpur	A huge Buddhist monastery, called Vikramshila Mahavihara datable from 9th to 13th century A.D. has been brought to light. Among the important antiquities are stone and bronze sculptures of Buddhist deities.
26.	Bakraur (Sujata Kutir), Distt. Bodh Gaya	The site excavated in 1972-73 has yielded Buddhist structural remains and associated finds.
Himachal Pradesh		
27.	Chaitru, Distt. Kangra.	A Buddhist stupa, showing two structural phases has been brought to light. Phase-1 revealed a semi circular undressed pebble stone structure, whereas Phase-2 has yielded burnt brick and undressed pebble stone circular structure. The stupa is dated to circa 1st century AD onwards.
Jammu & Kashmir		
28.	Ambaran, District Jammu	The Buddhist stupa, containing a reliquary copper casket, and fragments of terracotta human heads, dated to the Post 3rd century A.D., have been unearthed.
29.	Thisseru, Leh, District Leh (Ladakh)	The excavation has exposed a lofty Buddhist shrine, made of mud bricks (historical period).
Karnataka		
30.	Sannati Distt. Gulberga	Excavated the stupa mound. The periphery of the mound revealed evidence of the brick revetting wall which was extending the circumference of stupa at the north-eastern side; and series of damaged structures perhaps votive platforms running almost parallel to the drum wall on the north-east of the stupa.

1	2	3
31.	Kanganhali (Sannati), Distt. Gulberga	Lead coins of the Satvahana period (Ist century BC to Ist century AD) have been found. The coins bear the names of Satvahana kings like 'Siri Satakarani, Pulumavi and Yajna Sri'. The most important finding being a sculptured slab bearing the name 'Raya Asoka'.
32.	Koppal, Distt. Koppal	A brick structure and lead coins of Satvahana period (circa 2nd century AD) have been found near Gavimath, a site known for Ashokan rock edict.
Maharashtra		
33.	Elephanta Caves, Elephanta	The lower portion of stupa made of brick and decorated with design over the dome has been excavated probaly historical period.
34.	Pauni, Distt. Bhandara	A Buddhist stupa has been found. Besides Northern Black Polished Ware (circa 6th - 3rd century BC), inscriptions in Mauryan Brahmi (circa 3rd - 2nd century BC), Red Polished Ware (historical period) and Satvahana coins have been discovered.
Orissa		
35.	Ratangiri, Distt.	Buddhist stupa and monastic complex of historical period has been found (Report published).
36.	Lalitgiri, Distt.	Buddhist Monastery complex of historical period has been excavated.
37.	Udaigiri, Distt. Jaipur	Buddha & Bodhisattva heads, a miniature Ganesha, bust of divinities, inscribed terracotta sealings, inscribed stones. terracotta and iron object datable to 9th - 12th century AD.
Tripura		
38.	Shyam Sunder-ka-Tila, Distt. Pillak, South-Tripura	A Buddhist stupa, built on cruciform pattern, and dated circa 9th-10th century A.D., has been brought to light. Among the important discoveries excavated are a lite size stone sculpture of Avaloketeswara, few stone sculptures and a large number of terracotta plaques.
Uttar Pradesh		
39.	Chowkhandi Stupa Samath, U.P.	Remains of a huge Buddhist stupa at the site where Buddha is said to have met his five companions who became his disciples. The site - datable to Gupta period.
40.	Sankissa, Distt. Farrukhabad	In addition to the stupa remains, cultural sequence of the Painted Grey Ware (9th century BC to 6th century BC), the Northern Black Polished Ware (6th century BC to 3rd century BC) and Kushana (1st century AD to 3rd century AD) period have been found.

Objectives of NATP

3737 SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) and the States covered thereunder; and

(b) the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred under this project during 2000-2001, State-wise?

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

(i) Revitalize the national technology Generation, assessment, refinement and dissemination system;

(ii) Address location-specific production system problems for which technical solutions exist;

(iii) Strengthen frontier areas of research to take advantages of modern tools now available;

(iv) Conserve natural resource base and enhance productivity of these resources;

(v) Strengthen management tools and procedures and development of information management systems, suited to national needs;

(vi) Strengthen national capacity in research and extension management, policy planning, priority setting, monitoring and evaluation to meet current and emerging needs of agricultural development.

(b) The State-wise releases/expenditure during 2000-2001 is as per Statement.

Statement

State-wise Releases/Expenditure of Funds during 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Release/Expenditure (2000-2001)			
		ICAR Institutes	SAUs	NGOs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,863.18	151.09	64.92	4,079.19
2.	Assam	—	152.06	24.80	176.86
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	7.99	62.29	—	70.28
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	1.31	—	1.31
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	15.03	57.99	—	73.02
8.	Haryana	483.66	26.33	—	509.99
9.	Himachal Pradesh	31.18	91.39	—	122.57
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	32.89	—	32.89
11.	Jharkhand	—	15.13	—	15.13
12.	Karnataka	569.05	281.18	21.73	871.96
13.	Kerala	111.61	95.16	—	206.77

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	138.19	108.92	—	247.11
15.	Meghalaya	33.61	—	9.41	43.02
16.	Manipur	—	0.67	—	0.67
17.	Madhya Pradesh	627.39	115.36	—	742.75
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
19.	New Delhi (including PIU)	3,637.92	—	63.38	3,701.30
20.	Orissa	73.11	38.15	—	111.36
21.	Punjab	11.97	52.48	—	64.45
22.	Rajasthan	550.97	26.55	—	577.52
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	6.00	231.50	22.94	260.44
25.	Port Blair (UT)	66.91	—	—	66.91
26.	Uttar Pradesh	578.79	193.06	28.78	800.63
27.	Uttaranchal	12.50	—	—	12.50
28.	West Bengal	12.04	40.45		52.49
	Total	10,831.10	1,773.96	235.96	12,841.02

Formation of Techno-Savvy Policy

3738. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a 'Techno-Savvy' policy to make India responsive to the needs of International tourists;

(b) if so, the main features of the policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Evidence Before the Magistrate

3739. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Evidence Act to make it mandatory to give evidence before a Magistrate to check the trend of eye witness turning hostile during proceedings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which amendments are likely to be made in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Railway Link with Paradeep Port

3740. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been pressing for railway link with Paradeep Port under South Eastern Railway in

Orissa for making Paradeep Port more useful and productive;

(b) if so, the details of project being pursued by his Ministry; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following projects which will benefit Paradeep Port are under implementation by the Ministry of Railways.

(1) Doubling of Cuttack-Paradeep Rail Link

(i) Raghunathpur-Rahama

(ii) Rahama-Paradeep

(iii) Rajatgarh-Nergundi

(iv) Nergundi-Raghunathpur

(v) Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep

(2) Electrification of Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies to Kargil War Widows

3741. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some dependents of the soldiers killed during the 'Operation Vijay' of Kargil war have transferred their petrol pumps/ gas agencies allotted to them under a special scheme by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

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 cases of transfer of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships allotted under the Special Scheme for widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil, have been reported.

Famine in Rajasthan

3742. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by the farmers of Rajasthan due to famine during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have sought details from the State Government regarding the loss of crops to the farmers, if so, the date on which this information was sought and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Union Government are formulating any scheme to help famine hit farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Rajasthan crop area in 64.96 lakh ha. during 1998-99, 78.18 lakh ha. during 1999-2000 and 89.47 lakh ha. during 2000-2001 were affected by drought.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government with financial and logistic support. The Union Government have however, provided Rs. 113.97 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund and 6.68 MTs. of wheat free of cost for undertaking the Food for Work Programme, in addition to many other items of assistance.

[English]

Export of Meat

3743. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 1% of the total meat produced is processed;

(b) if so, the total export of meat made during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the number of units assisted by the Union Government for processing and export of meat during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is a vast scope for export of meat to West and Arab countries; and

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative to promote the processing of good quality of meat and its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Since export of meat from this country, after a degree of processing, accounts for around 3.4% of the total meat production, the percentage of processing is more than 1%.

(b) 1,80,270.66 MTs. meat in 1999-2000 and 3,00,302.70 MTs meat in 2000-2001 was exported.

(c) The number of units assisted by the Union Government during last three years is as under:-

Year	No. of Units Assisted
1998-1999	13
1999-2000	14
2000-2001	14

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India have taken various steps to promote the processing of good quality meat and its export such as lying down standards, registration of exporting units and participation in trade fairs.

Income Generating Schemes for Farmings

3744. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the farm and non-farm linkages to get higher social gains from the current liberalization policy;

(b) the steps being taken to reduce marketing costs and increase the real income for farmers;

(c) whether any pilot projects have been approved by the Government for better management and farmer controlled marketing establishment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has taken following steps to develop the marketing infrastructure/facilities and improve market organization;

(i) Minimum price support scheme and market intervention schemes are implemented to ensure remunerative prices to farmers;

(ii) Cold Storage facilities are being strengthened under a Back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy scheme being implemented by National Horticulture Board.

(iii) The State Marketing Boards/Departments are engaged in creating/strengthening agricultural marketing infrastructure facilities in the market yards, as well as construction of roads connecting villages with the main roads.

(iv) State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Departments have established Apni Mandies to provide for direct sale to the consumers by the farmers eliminating middlemen.

(v) Unwarranted restrictions on the movement of agricultural produce and Acts/Rules hindering private investment in agricultural marketing sector are being reviewed and progressively dismantled.

(vi) The recommendation made by Expert Committee on Marketing constituted by Ministry of Agriculture are under consideration.

(vii) The Directorate of Marketing & Inspection is implementing Central Sector Scheme 'Agricultural Marketing Information Network' to establish a nationwide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information. Under this scheme, computer facilities with internet connectivity have been provided to 210 points (171 important agricultural/horticultural markets and 39 offices of State Agricultural Marketing Boards/ Departments) through National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Directorate has proposed to extend this facility to another 500 points during 2001-2002 which is under process. The Marketing information thus provided would facilitate the farmers to dispose of their produce at remunerative prices.

Export of Handicraft Products

3745. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of handicraft products exported during 2000-2001 and target set for 2001-2002, product-wise and country-wise;

(b) the difficulties being faced by the handicraft industries and their exporters; and

(c) the details of action being initiated to redress the grievances and also to boost the export of the handicraft items made in small cottage industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Quantity-wise export statistics for handicrafts items is not maintained. However the value of handicraft products, including Hand-Knotted carpets exported during the year 2000-2001 has been estimated to the tune of Rs.9270.50 crores. The details of export product-wise and country-wise during the year 2000-2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

A target of Rs.10,610.00 crores has been fixed for handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets for the year 2001-2002. Export targets are not fixed, product-wise and country-wise.

(b) The difficulties being faced by the handicrafts industry and exporters of handicrafts include: shortage of quality raw material; high interest rates on credit; continually changing design preferences; lack of market intelligence; inadequate infrastructure facilities like irregular power supply, poor transport facilities and non-availability of proper rail and air linkages with the crafts pockets etc.

(c) Handicrafts is a State subject. However to solve various problems of handicrafts industry and its exporters the steps taken by the Central Govt. include: setting up of Craft Development Centres and Common Facility Service Centers; pre and post shipment credit by banks; launching of website on handicrafts; upgradation of existing Regional Design and Technology Centres at New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore and Guwahati by providing Computer Aided Design (CAD) facilities; setting up of National Centre for Design and Product Development at New Delhi and Moradabad; setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi and sanction of need based infrastructure projects under the Critical Infrastructure Balance (CIB) scheme of Ministry of Commerce.

To boost the export of handicrafts, the steps taken include: organisation of buyer - seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) and Indian Carpet Expo by Export Promotion Council for Handicraft and Carpet Export Promotion council respectively, annually in New Delhi.

Statement

Rs. in Crores

Name of Countries	Hand Made Carpets	Art Metal Ware	Wood Wares	Hand Printed Textile & Scarves	Embroidery & Embroidery Goods	Shawl as Artware	Zari & Zari Goods	Immitation Jewellery	Miscellaneous Handicrafts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Australia	34.97	16.45	12.8	28.64	22.32	1.35	1.72	2.27	20.85
Canada	41.29	30.58	6.68	101.27	63.46	1.41	3.86	2.91	25.66
France	68.85	55.92	23.15	55.02	113.12	0.81	6.12	4.65	60.97
Germany	568.01	176.16	26.55	139.96	224.11	1.5	11.99	7.26	153.51
Italy	34.88	56.09	24.22	36.57	44.41	0.36	11.1	6.47	71.81
Japan	62.44	9.28	18.1	53.65	31.22	2.32	2.77	14.63	115.99
Netherland	30	43.7	21.46	25.81	61.14	0.67	2.43	1.23	30.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Saudi Arabia	0	41.64	18.6	29.08	20.13	10.24	4.26	5.76	31.59
Switzerland	20.2	15.58	18.51	11.51	55.7	0.16	3.17	0.64	1.5
USA	1008.47	614.13	109.93	348.27	659	3.61	29.11	25.65	368.68
UK	106.82	208.2	54.05	144.14	211.65	2.15	25.55	20.18	103.12
Argentina	2.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	22.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	20.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	20.28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	18.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxemburg	0.94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norway	6.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	47.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	33.75		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	168.39	510.37	100.39	302.83	458.52	2.62	40.24	30.03	225.95
Total	2315.15	1778.1	434.44	1276.75	1964.78	27.2	142.32	121.68	1210.08
Grand Total									9270.5

Controversy in Bihar and Jharkhand

3746. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any controversy has been created by the Government to Jharkhand over the power plant Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has threatened to take up this issue in a court of law;

(c) whether the Union Government have not taken timely action for settlement of this dispute within a year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action Government propose to take to settle this dispute between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per provisions of Section 47(1) of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000, the assets and liabilities relating to any commercial or industrial undertakings of the existing State of Bihar shall pass to the State in which the undertaking is located. Jharkhand Government has issued a notification dated 27.2.2001 taking over the Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed against the Union of India and Others in the Patna High Court for quashing the notification dated 27.2.2001 issued by the Government of Jharkhand, whereby Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. was notified as an undertaking of the State of Jharkhand. However, the High Court, in its judgement dated 27.6.2001 has dismissed the PIL.

(c) to (e) Government of India in exercise of the power conferred upon it by clause (a) of sub section (4) of Section 62 of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 has notified an order on 22nd March, 2001 for provisional allocation of assets, liabilities, rights and undertaking of the undivided Board of erstwhile State of Bihar to successor State Electricity Boards of Bihar and Jharkhand with effect from 1.4.2001.

Fast Track Courts

3747. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI T. GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the observation made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India regarding Fast Track Courts Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the procedure of appointment of judges and reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its policy of setting up the Fast Track Courts in the light of the observations of the Supreme Court of India;

(d) if so, whether the Supreme Court's prior concurrence was sought before initiating action on such a proposal;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of such courts already set up and the formal appointment of Presiding Officers made therein;

(g) the number of cases disposed of by the said courts till date, State-wise;

(h) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation to give legal sanctity of these courts; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the scheme recommended by the Eleventh Finance commission, retired sessions judges are to be appointed in Fast Track Courts. Against this, a few writs were filed in the Andhra Pradesh and Punjab & Haryana High Courts. The Supreme Court stayed the order of Andhra Pradesh High Court in W.P.M.P. No. 11305 of 2001 & ordered for transfer of all cases pending in these High Courts. Now, the cases are *sub judice* in the Supreme Court of India.

However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has no such observations which may necessitate a review of the policy of setting up of Fast Track Courts.

(d) and (e) The Supreme Court was kept informed about the scheme of Fast Track Courts.

(f) So far, 459 Fast Track Courts have been set up throughout the country. The appointment of Presiding Officers falls under the purview of the respective High Court/State Government.

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

(h) No Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Dealers in Bihar

3748. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of L.P.G. dealers in Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar and the number of gas connections with each of them;

(b) whether most of these dealers are black-marketing cylinders on the pretext of shortage of L.P.G.;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, there is only one LPG distributorship of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) operating in Shekhpura District of Bihar with a customer strength of 4300 as of 30.6.2001. Similarly, in Lakhisarai District, one distributorship of IOCL is operating with a customer strength of 8452 as of 30.6.2001.

(b) to (d) IOC has detected some irregularities including overcharging on refills in the functioning of

M/s Poonam Enterprises, Lakhisarai during an inspection carried out on 11.7.2001 and action has been taken against the distributor in accordance with Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001.

[English]

Releasing of Relief Funds

3749. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to the Union Government seeking immediate release of relief operations funds, for the natural calamities affected districts;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the funds released to Maharashtra for taking up of relief operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance in the wake of drought. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State during July, 2001 for assessment of the situation. Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 123.80 crore has been released to the State for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought along with 50,000 MTs free of cost for Food for Work Programme.

O.F. Project

3750. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the studies of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics' Pune as reported in the 'Indian Dairyman' June 2000 issue highlighting the failure of all Cooperatives both Anand type and non-Anand type in Maharashtra under Operation Flood Project;

(b) whether the Government are aware that report of the initiatives group at Mumbai which was presented at a workshop chaired by the Planning Commission have reached similar conclusions;

(c) whether an in-depth study of the reports earlier prepared by EEC, World Bank, Indo Dutch Group, initiatives will be re-examined as also L.K. Jha Committee report to set the record straight over the so called success of the Anand Model so that we can learn from our past mistakes and failures specially from the Nalgoan experience from Maharashtra and help in our future planning; and

(d) whether the Government will examine the lesson that the Anand pattern was successful only in places like Anand and sister Coops run by GCMMF where massive quantities of low priced smp and butter oil were poured for conversion in high priced produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The said study does not conclude that all cooperatives, both Anand type and non-Anand type, in Maharashtra under OF-Project have 'failed'. The author has stated prominently in his article—"The Jalgaon and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra, as shown by a study, present two extremes as far as the functioning of the cooperative societies is concerned. While Kolhapur Milk Procedures were largely satisfied with the cooperatives, the Jalgaon Producers generally complained about the inputs and services provided by the societies." However the inferences drawn in the study are based on inadequate statistical data and therefore should not determine the success or failure of a Model.

(b) The study by "initiatives" suffers from inadequate sample size in limited areas, follows no stratified random sampling to arrive at statistically invalid results and misleading generalization. The study wrongly indicates India's milk production and productivity growth and recommends strategies that could displace India's majority small producers of their income from dairying.

(c) The Jha Committee and the world bank evaluations report both noted the criticism leveled against Operation Flood (Indo-Dutch, World Bank, etc.) but commended the achievements of the programme. Similarly EEC too considered the operation flood experience satisfying.

The future planning for Dairy Development in the country would thus be based on the successful features of the Operation Flood Programme and the lessons learned from possible shortcomings.

(d) The success of dairy cooperatives in Anand and the sister cooperatives affiliated to the GCMMF was due

to better participation of farmers members, professional management and better governance. There has been no dumping of massive quantities of low priced SMP and butter oil for conversion to high priced produce in the cooperatives affiliated to the GCMMF.

Ship Yards

3751. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of shipyards in the country along with their capacity;

(b) the number of ships built so far; and

(c) the undergoing projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are a total of about 28 shipyards existing in the country out of which 9 are in the public sector and about 19 shipyards in the private sector. The aggregate annual capacity of all Indian Shipyards is estimated to be approximately 0.15 million compensated gross tonnage.

(b) A total of 597 ships/vessels have been built by member shipyards of Shipyards Association of India (an association of private sector shipyards and 2 public sector shipyards under the administrative control of State Governments). The total number of ships built by the four shipyards under the administrative control of this Ministry are as under:

(i)	Hindustan Shipyards Ltd., Visakhapatnam	115
(ii)	Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin	34
(iii)	Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Calcutta	93
(iv)	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd., Calcutta	95

(c) A statement indicating the projects under execution with shipyard within the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping, as on date, is enclosed.

Statement

Undergoing Projects, as on date, of Shipyards under the Administrative Control of M/o Shipping

Name of Shipyard	Type of Vessel	No. of Vessels
1	2	3	4
1. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam	100 passenger vessels (for A&N)	10
	45 BP Tugs (for Mumbai Port Trust)	1
	50 Ton BP Tugs (for NMPT)	1
	500 Meter Dredger (for VPT)	1
	50 Ton BP Tug (for VPT)	1
	Oil Recovery & Pollution Control Vessel (for VPT)	1
	700 Passenger Cargo Vesel (for UT of Lakshadweep)	1

1	2	3	4
Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Cochin.	93000	DWT Double Hull Tanker (for Shipping Corporation of India)	1
	150	Passenger Vessel (for UT of Lakshadweep)	1
		Ocean-going Dredgers (for Chennai Port Trust)	1
Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers, Ltd., Calcutta.	400	Passenger Vessel (for Andaman & Nicobar Admn.) Light House Tender Vessel	1
		Surface Dredger	1
		(for Inland Water Ways Authority of India Multipurpose Tug	1
		(for Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.)	1
	30	Ton Bollard Pull Tug (for Calcutta Port Trust)	1
Rajabagan Dockyard of	Push-cum-side Towing Tugs		4
Central Inland Water Transport Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta	1400	Tone Self-propelled Oil Tanker	1

Flood in Orissa

3752. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Orissa which have been affected by floods recently;

(b) the number of persons died due to floods and the worth of loss suffered;

(c) whether the Central assistance did not reach people in time following which the affect of floods was more sever; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa had reported that the recent floods affected 24 districts in the State, resulted in loss of 100 human lives and caused damage to life and property worth more than Rs. 6000 crore.

(c) and (d) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

Drought Prone Areas

3753. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on account sever drought in several States and lower acreage in wheat, rice and pulses will have an adverse impact on foodgrains in 2000-01;

(b) if so, whether this scenario is based on the inputs provided by the State Agricultural Production

Commissioners, State Agricultural Secretaries, Vice Chancellors of Agriculture Universities and senior officials of the Union Agriculture Ministry during their two days conference;

(c) if so, the other recommendations made in the conference; and

(d) the steps being considered to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Conference deliberated on the strategy for achieving a higher production level during Kharif 2001 in the light of expected shortfall in production during 2000-2001. It was decided that the States will lay greater emphasis on larger coverage of area under high yielding varieties including intensive propagation in hybrid seeds, timely supply of inputs like seed, fertilizers and regular surveillance of pests and diseases and make efforts for effective transfer of new technologies developed by the ICAR helpful to the Farmers. The Conference also deliberated on the issues relating to WTO, progress made under watershed management, macro-management schemes and drought situation. It was also decided to monitor the progress of the implementation of the programme more intensively.

(d) The Government have been taking, overtime several measures to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops and consequently there is a long term upward trend in production of foodgrain crops such as rice, wheat and oilseeds etc. However, the production of agricultural crops tend to fluctuate sometimes, from year to year, due to agro-climatic conditions and to meet such a situation contingency plans are drawn, which are location and condition specific.

Gauge Conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur Rail Line

3754. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Department of Maharashtra has requested the Railways for free travel of their employees in lieu of land provided for gauge conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur line;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereon;

(c) whether the Railways has suspended its plan for gauge conversion due to this demand; and

(d) if not, the time by which the conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur 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) The Forest Department has demanded free travel of their staff boarding the train for checking illicit forest activity on Gondia-Birsola section.

(b) The condition is not acceptable to Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No target date for conversion of this line has yet been fixed. Work would be progressed and completed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Pending Hydel Power Projects

3755. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hdyel power projects/mini-projects pending in the country at present;

(b) the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the estimated cost over-run due to delay in completion of these projects;

(d) whether the Government propose to start Rahughat Hydel Power Project in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to be self-sufficient in the field of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Details of hydro-electric projects under execution in the country, time and cost over-run thereon and the reasons thereof are given in the enclosed statement. In addition, 186 small hydro power projects (upto 25 MW) aggregating about 527 MW are being executed by the State Governments as well as by the private sector.

(d) The project report of Rahughat Hydro-electric scheme submitted by Rajasthan State Electricity Board to CEA in June, 1987 was returned in February, 1988

for re-submission after resolution of inter-state aspects with Madhya Pradesh. It has now been proposed that utilisation of Chambal waters may be made by constructing (1) Rahu ka Gaon/Devipura (2) Gujjapura (3) Jaitpura and (4) Barsala hydro-electric schemes. However, detailed project report of these schemes have not been received in CEA for examination.

(e) The target of the Ministry of Power is to make available power on demand by the year 2012.

Statement

Hydel Power Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the project / Executing Agency	Date of CCEA clearance/ investment	Commissioning Schedule		Time Over-run [In Yrs.]	Estimated Cost Rs. in Crs [Price Level]		Cost over run		Reason for time and cost over run
			Original	Latest		Original	Latest	% tage	Rs. Crs.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Sector										
NJPC										
1.	Nathpa Jhakri HE Project [6x250 MW] H.P.	5.4.1989	1996-97	2003-04	7	1678.02 [12/85]	7666.31 [6/98]	356.87	5988.29	Completion of Dam & HRT works. Tendered cost higher than estimated. Flash flood of August 2000.
NHPC										
2.	Dulhasti HE Project [3x130 MW] J&K	12.7.1989	1994-95	2003-04	9	1262.97 [10.88]	3559.77 [11/96]	181.86	2296.80	Law and order problem and poor geology in HRT. TBM buried due to rock burst in Feb 2000.
3.	Chamera HE Project St-II [3x100 MW] HP.	18.5.1999	2004-05	2004-05	Nil	1684.02 [8/98]	1684.02 [8/98]	0.00	0.00	—
4.	Dhauli-ganga HE Project [4x70 MW] U.P.	8.4.1991	1998-99	2004-05	6	601.98 [12/89]	1578.31 [8/99]	162.19	976.33	Delay in tying up of funds. Acquisition of private land and demand of oustees for employment in NHPC.
5.	Loktak D/S HE Project [3x30 MW] Manipur	30.12.1999	2006-07	2006-07	Nil	0.0 [4/99]	576.62 [4/99]	0.00	0.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.	Teesta HE Project St. V [3x 170 MW] Sikkim	11.2.2000	2006-07	2006-07	Nil	2198.04 [4/99]	2198.04 [4/99]	0.00	0.00	—
NEEPCO										
7	Ranganadi HE Project [3x135 MW] Ar. Pradesh	Apr. 87	1994-95	2001-02	7	312.78 [2/88]	1446.09 [7/99]	362.33	1133.31	Funds constraints. Slow progress of HRT works, delay in award of Dam and Power House works.
8.	Turial HE Project [2x30 MW] Mizoram	July 98	2005-07	2005-07	Nil	368.72 [6/97]	368.72 [6/97]	0.00	0.00	Nil
9	Kopili St. II 1x25 MW Assam	July 99	2003-04	2003-04	Nil	76.09 [9/98]	76.09 [9/98]	0.00	0.00	Nil
THDC										
10.	Tehri HE Project [4x250] U.P	Mar 94	1997-99	2002-03	4	3391.40 [3/93]	5690.64 [8/99]	67.80	2299.24	R&R problem Uttarakhand agitation. Delay in award of spillway, PH and dam work. Non closure of diversion tunnels.
11	Koteshwar HE Project [4x100 MW] U.P	April 2000	2005-06	2005-06	Nil	1301.56 [10/99]	1301.56 [10/99]	0.00	0.00	Nil
NHPC										
12.	Indira Sagar [8x125 MW]	6.9.89	1997-2000	2003-06	6	1190.12 [12/88]	3381.32	184.12	2191.20	R&R problem. Slow progress due to funds constraint.
Northern Region										
Haryana										
13.	WYC-II [2x7.2 MW] HPGCL	4.2.2000 State Govt.	10th Plan	10th Plan	Nil	70.00 [12/98]	94.00	34.29	24.00	Cancellation of OECF Loan. Fund constraint Water dispute between UP and Haryana.
Himachal Pradesh										
14.	Larji [3x42 MW] HPSEB	14.1.2000 (TEC)	2002-03	2003-05	1-2	796.98 [3/99]	796.98 [3/99]	0.00	0.00	Delay in award of contract packages of Civil Works. ICB route followed instead of LCB in case of E&M equipment.
Jammu & Kashmir										
15.a	Upper Sindh-II 2x35 MW J&K PDC	22.11.83	1988-89	1999-2002	11-13	76.46 [11/83]	399.50 [6/2000]	422.50	323.04	Law and order problem. Funds constraints. General price escalation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.b	Upper Sindh [extn.] J&KPDC	26.6.89	1993-94	2001-02	8	20.69 [6/89]	42.27 [4/96]	104.30	21.58	Law and problem. Funds constraints. General price escalation.
16.	Sewa St. III [3x3 MW] J&K PDC	Sanctioned by State Govt.	1997-98	2001-02	4	16.92 [3/88]	60.00 [5/98]	254.61	43.08	Funds constraints. Land acquisition. Slow progress of works. Flooding of Power house.
Punjab										
17.	Shahpur [2x40+ 2x40+ 1x8 MW] PIW/PSEB	5.7.93	10th Plan	11th Plan	About 5 Yrs.	895.08 [12/91]	1538.00 [4/99]	71.83	642.92	Funds constraints.
Jttaranchal										
18.	Lakhwar Vyasi [3x100+ 2x60MW] UPJWNL/ NHPC	9.1.76	1989-90	2004-06	15-16	140.97 [1/78]	1446.00 [3/96]	925.75	1305.03	Funds constraints. Change of executing agency.
19.	Maneri Bhali-II [4x76 MW] THDC	21.2.2000 [CEA]	2003-05	2003-05	Nil	0.0 [2/99] [Completion cost]	1249.18 [2/99] [Completion cost]	0.00	0.00	—
Western Region Gujarat										
20.	Sardar Sarovar HEP 6x200+ 5x50 MW SSNL	5.10.88	1994-96	2003-05	9	1551.86 [86-87]	3267.25 [1998-97]	110.54	1715.39	Cancellation of World Bank Loan. Suspension of OECF loan. Increase in R&R scope. Stay by Supreme Court on construction of dam for raising of spillway height above 80.3 m initially and then above 85.0 m.
Madhya Pradesh										
21.	Bansagar Tons P.H.-II & III 2x15+3x20 MW MPEB	30.6.84	PH-II 1990-91 PH-III 1989-91	2002-03 2000-02	12 11	301.17 [Incl. Ph-I 3x105 MW [6/84]	966.81 [2000]	221.02	665.64	Slow progress of Civil Works due to delay in land acquisition in Ban Sagar Dam. R&R problem. Funds constraint.
22.	Bansagar Tons PH-IV 2x10 MW MPEB	31.7.92	1996-97	2002-03	6	51.06 [9/90]	84.97 [2000]	66.41	33.91	Slow progress due to funds constraint. Delay in finalisation of executing agency R&R problem.
23.	Marhi-Kheda 2x20+ 1x20 MW	11.5.01 By State Govt.	2003-04	2003-04	Nil	177.38 [2000PL]	177.38 [2000PL]	0.00	0.00	—
Maharashtra										
24.	Ghatghar PSS 2x125 MW ID/Govt. of Mah.	11.8.92	1995-96	2004-05	9	485.96 [1992]	830.00 [5/97]	70.80	344.04	Low priority by State Govt. Land acquisition. General price escalation. Delay in award of major works.
25.	Bhivpun PSS 1x90 MW Tata Electric Corp. [licence]	4.12.90	2001-02	2003-04	2	89.87 [11/89]	89.87 [11/89]	0.00	0.00	Inter State dispute.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
South Region										
Andhra Pradesh										
26.	Srisailam LB HEP [6/150 MW] APGENCO	1.9.1986	1993-95	2000-2003	7-8 [85/86]	418 [2000-01]	2482.00	493.78	2064.00	Delay in award & slow progress of civil works. Variation in exchange rate. General price escalation.
Karnataka										
27	Brindavan HEP [2x60 MW] KPCL	10.4.1990	1993-94	2002-03	8	15.23 [8/89]	51.24 97/98]	236.44	36.01	Delay in commencement of works due to stay order from court. General price escalation. Change of executing agency. Funds constraints and slow progress of dam and PH civil works. General price escalation. Stay order from court. Cancellation of WB loan.
28.	Sharavathy TR [4x60 MW] KPCL	6.5.1987	1993-94	2001-02	8	160.59 [82/83]	531.00 [2001-02]	230.66	370.41	
Kerala										
29.	Malankara HEP 3x3.5 MW KSEB	August 86	1990-91	2002-03	12	7.80 [86/87]	41.57 [99-2000]	432.95	33.77	Delay in award of civil works and revision in capacity. General price escalation.
30.	Kutti-yadi TR 3x1.25MW	May 89	2000-01	2002-03	2	3.97 [98/99]	12.92 [99-2000]	225.44	8.95	General price escalation. Delay in a award and execution of works.
Tamil Nadu										
31	Pykara Ultimate 3x50 MW TNEB	1.8.1988	1994-95	10th Plan	8	70.16 87/88]	373.06 [98/99]	431.73	302.90	General price escalation. F.E. variations. Delay in award of TR & E/M works. Slow progress of pressure shaft works.
A&N Islands										
32.	Kalpong [5.2 MW] A&N Adm	15.7.98 (date of agreement between A&N Adm. & NHPC.	2001-02	2001-02	Nil	49.37 [1/98]	47.31 [Yr.2000PL]	-4.16	-2.06	
Eastern Region										
Jharkhand										
33.	Chandil 2x4 MW JSEB	14.4.87	1988-90	2001-02	12-13	12.95 [4/87]	32.49 [1996]	150.89	19.54	Funds constraints. Delay in supply & erection of EOT crane. PH civil works. General price escalation. Delay in supply of shortage by BHEL.
34.	North Koel 2x12 MW JSEB	10.3.84	1988-89	2002-03	14	21.94 [23/83]	[47.34] [1996]	115.77	25.40	Funds constraints. Delay in TRT/TRC & PH Civil works. Law & order problem. General price escalation.
Orissa										
35.	Potteru 1x3+ 1x3 MW OHPC	30.7.84	1989-90	2001-02	12	5.46 [1984]	18.83 [1997]	244.87	13.37	Funds constraints. Delay in land acquisition. Shortage of staff. Forest clearance. Law and order problem. Delay in civil works by ID.
36	Balimela Dam Toe [2x30 MW] OPCL	26.2.77	1982-83	10th Plan	19	17.77 [12/76]	69.30 [1997]	289.98	51.33	Inter state dispute. General price escalation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
West Bengal										
37	Rammam St-I 3x12 MW WBSEB	17.3.1993	9th Plan	10th Plan	About 5 Yrs.	90.88 [3/91]	176.59 1998-99]	94.31	85.71	Works not yet started.
38.	Purulia PSS 4x225 MW WBSEB	9.2.94	2002-03	2004-06	2-3	1456.56 [9/91]	3188.90 [4/94]	118.93	1732.34	Loan agreement with OECF signed after one year of sanction. General price escalation. Delay in finalisation of supply orders.
Sikkim										
39.	Rolep St-I 2x3 MW Revised to 2x4.5 MW SPDCL	16.8.97	2001-02	2003-04	2	35.13 [1996]	45.00 [1999]	28.10	9.87	Works not yet started due to fund constraints.
North-Eastern Region										
Assam										
40.	Karbi Langpi [Lower Borpani] 2x 50 MW ASEB	24.9.79	1985-86	2003-04	18	36.36 [1979]	288.37 [1998]	693.10	252.01	Frequent change in executing agencies. Fund constraints. Completion of Dam. Poor performance in Joint Sector.
41	Dhansiri 5x3x 1.33 MW ASEB	6.2.85	1988-89	2002-03	14	10.53 [1985]	78.63 [1999]	646.72	68.10	Law and order problem. Shortage of funds for last 7 years.
Nagaland										
42.	Likim-Ro 3x8 MW Power Deptt. Nagaland	18.10.89	1993-94	2001-02	8	33.84 [3/88]	215.88 [2000]	537.94	182.04	Delay in award of Civil works. Slow progress of Power Channel and other civil works. Funds constraints.
Private Sector										
43.	Baspa-II [Pvt.] 3x100 MW M/s JHPL HP	29.4.94 [TEC]	2001-02	2003-04	2	949.23 [12/93]	949.23 [12/93]	0.00	0.00	Delay due to flash flood on 31st July/1st August 2000.
44.	Vishnu Prayag [Pvt.] 4x100 MW M/s JPVL UP	30.6.97 [TEC]	10th Plan	10th Plan	Nil	1614.66 [6/97]	1614.66 [6/97]	0.00	0.00	—
45.	Srinagar 4x82.5 MW DNHPC	14.6.2000 (TEC)	2005-06	2005-06	Nil	1699.12 [3/99]	1699.12 [3/99]	0.00	0.00	—
46.	Mahesh-war [Pvt.] 10x40 MW SMPHC MP	30.12.96	2001-02	2003-05	2-3	1569.27 [96-97]	1673.00 [4/2000]	6.61	103.73	Delay in finalisation of executing agency. General price escalation. R&R problem. Delay in finalisation of firm financial package for loan.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
47	Boothathan-kettu 16 MW Kerala M/s Silical Mett. Ltd.	—	2000-01	2001-02	1	32.83	35.65 [1989]	8.59 [1993]	2.82	—

[English]

Funds Allotted to West Bengal

3756. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation of funds made in Non-Conventional Energy sector at the beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan for West Bengal, Project-wise;

(b) the total release of funds so far during this fiscal year towards these projects; and

(c) the details of achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) State-wise funds are not allocated during Five Year Plan periods for non-conventional energy programmes of the Ministry. However, the details of funds sanctioned/released during the 9th Plan period and the current financia; year 2001-2002 and cumulative achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes in the State of West Bengal as on 31.3.2001, are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of funds released during the 9th Plan period and cumulative physical achievements made upto 31.3.2001 under various non-conventional energy programmes in the State of West Bengal

Sl. No.	Sources/Systems	Funds released during 9th Plan (1997-2001) (Rs. in crores)	Funds released during the year 2001-2002 (Rs. in crores)	Cumulative Physical Achievements as on 31.03.2001
1	2	3	4	5
A	Power Generation			
1.	Wind Power	0.97	0.45	0.5 MW
2.	Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	4.92	—	89.28 MW
3.	Biomass Gasifier	0.66	—	1030 kW
4.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	0.60	—	25 kWp
B.	Decentralised Energy Systems			
1.	Biogas Plants (Family type)	17.40	2.29	1,87,129 Nos.
2.	Community/Institutional/Night soil biogas plants	0.64	0.05	61 Nos.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Improved Chulha	9.99	0.13	34.41 lakh (Nos.)
4.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme	11.08	0.48	
	i. Solar Street Lighting Systems			1,309 Nos.
	ii. Home Lighting Systems			14,549 Nos.
	iii. Solar Lanterns			3,471 Nos.
	iv. SPV Power Plants			352.3 kWp
5.	Solar Cookers	0.11	—	7,391 Nos.
6.	Solar Water Heating Systems	0.17	—	5,500 sq. m. collector area
7.	Solar PV Pumps	—	—	47 Nos.
C.	Other Programmes			
1.	Energy Parks	0.51	—	7 Nos.
2.	IREP Blocks	0.06	—	34 Nos.

MW = Megawatt; kW = Kilowatt; kWp= Kilowatt peak; sq.m. = Square Meter

Special Trains by Ministers

3757. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times, the Ministers of Railways and the Minister of State for Railways visited various places by a special train during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on travel by special train each time; and

(c) the measures taken by the Railways to effect economy in the 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) Information is being collected and will laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Service Rules of Rajasthan High Court

3758. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any judgement in regard to the Service Rules of the Rajasthan High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish uniform laws across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India has given its judgement dated July 17, 2001 in Civil Appeals No. 6469 of 1998, 722 of 1999 and 2411 of 1999- Ganga Moolchandani and others Vs. State of Rajasthan and Others, relating to the Service Rules of the Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service.

In the Appeals, the Appellants have challenged the validity of Rules 8(ii) and 15(ii) of the Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service Rules, 1969, which provide that only those advocates be eligible for consideration to the post of Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service who are practising in the Rajasthan High Court and Courts subordinate thereto, on the grounds, inter-alia, that the same were violative of

the Fundamental Rights, guaranteed to a citizen of India, under articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court in its judgement has held that Rules 8(ii) and 15(ii) of the Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service Rules, 1969 are ultra vires articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution and liable to be struck down. The judgement has been given prospective effect.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to formulate uniform laws/ rules regarding service matters of judicial officers as the subject matter pertains to the respective High Court/State Government under articles 233, 234, 235 read with article 309 of the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

Construction of Shed at Palanpur Railway Station

3759. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Palanpur railway station is without any shed due to which the goods transported get damaged;

(b) if so, the efforts made to provide a shed at the railway station; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Palanpur does not have goods shed. However, there is transhipment platform with Broad Gauge track on one side and Metre Gauge track on the other side. BG and MG wagons are placed opposite each other for transhipment and goods are transhipped directly from MG wagons to BG or vice-versa. There is no cover on this transhipment platform and is actually not required due to the above method of transhipment. The width of the platform is narrow so that the distance between the two tracks is not much and goods are not damaged in transhipment. At the station there are five passenger platforms and sufficient platform sheds are provided on all the passenger platforms.

[English]

Lok Adalats

3760. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in each state during the last one year upto July 31, 2001; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of by the Lok Adalats during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A statement showing number of Lok Adalats held and cases disposed of during the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000 is enclosed. The information regarding Lok Adalats held in each State and cases disposed of so far the period from 1.1.2001 to 31.7.2001 is being collected from the respective State Legal Services Authorities and will be laid on the Table of House as soon as received.

Statement

Number of Lok Adalats held and cases settled from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2000

(Based on the information provided by the State Legal Services Authorities)

S. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Lok Adalats held	No. of cases settled
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,759	82,308
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	37	10,735
4.	Bihar	214	23,601
5.	Goa	64	509
6.	Gujarat	4,944	6,75,556
7.	Haryana	95	22,687
8.	Himachal Pradesh	402	3,898
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	133	3,311
10.	Karnataka	266	16,337
11.	Kerala	1,913	28,390
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,110	35,282
13.	Maharashtra	587	18,363
14.	Manipur	1	32

1	2	3	4
15.	Meghalaya	3	3
16.	Mizoram	9	6
17.	Nagaland	1	30
18.	Orissa	385	3,13,238
19.	Punjab	225	8,201
20.	Rajasthan	8,259	1,74,504
21.	Sikkim	71	243
22.	Tamil Nadu	895	7,977
23.	Tripura	2	242
24.	Uttar Pradesh	918	3,66,350
25.	West Bengal	224	4,240
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3	46
27.	U.T. Chandigarh	59	13,205
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	1	25
30.	Delhi	440	10,308
31.	Lakshadweep	Not provided	Not provided
32.	Pondicherry	5	444
33.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	—	—
	Total	26,025	18,20,071

[Translation]

Price of Indigenous and Imported Coaches

3761. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the manufacturing cost of indigenous coach *vis-a-vis* those imported from Germany;

(b) the reasons for import of those coaches;

(c) whether production of the railway coaches has come down in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of measures likely to be taken by the Government to increase the production of railway coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The cost of similar indigenous coach built to old technology of 1950s is approximately Rs. 50.6 lacs (during 1998-1999). The average cost of imported coach is Rs. 4.46 crores (Free on Board) which includes the development cost and cost of jigs & fixtures supplied along with the coaches. The imported coach has a number of advanced safety and passenger comfort features.

(b) Since Indian Railways were using technology of 1950s and passenger safety and comfort level and had taken a quantum jump in developed countries, need was felt to acquire modern technology for providing higher safety, comfort and reduced cost of operation. The coaches were imported to prove the technology under actual field experience, prior to building them indigenously in the railway production units under transfer of technology agreement.

(c) to (e) The targets and actual production of coaches in the last three years is given below:

Year	Target	Actual
1998-1999	2571	2466
1999-2000	2397	2453
2000-2001	2262	2256

The production of coaches is based on the passenger traffic requirements and availability of funds. The present production level of coaches is commensurate with the traffic arising and funds availability.

[English]

Generation of Solar Energy

3762. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of solar energy and wind energy plants set up in the country during the last three years indicating generating/installing capacity, state-wise, especially in Rajasthan;

(b) the quantity of solar energy being generated in the country, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government have mooted some proposals to increase generation of power through solar energy in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total demand and availability of power generation in the country and estimated shortfall thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) State-wise break-up and solar photovoltaic systems and wind energy systems installed during the last three years is given in statement-I.

(b) Estimated energy generated from SPV systems as on 1st April 2001 is given in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up 35,000 home lighting system, 3000 street lights, 220 kWp stand alone power projects, 300 kWp grid connected power projects and 800 SPV pumping systems and to distribute 85,000 solar lanterns in the country during 2001-02.

(e) According to the statistics compiled by Central Electricity Authority, in July 2001, total requirement of electricity was estimated at 43,343 million units, while the availability was 40,474 million units and the shortfall was 2,869 million units.

Statement-I

State-wise installation of wind power capacity, SPV power capacity SPV pumps, solar lanterns, home lighting systems and street lights during the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-01) as on 31.3.2001

Sl.No.	State/UT	Wind Power	SPV Power	SPV Pumps	Solar Photovoltaic		
		(MW)	(kW)	(Nos.)	SLS Nos.	HLS Nos.	SL Nos.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36.10	175.00	160	285	283	13208
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	393	2000
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	973	366
4	Bihar	—	—	23	50	550	17735
5.	Goa	—	—	1	10	20	235
6.	Gujarat	—	—	4	262	1837	20782
7.	Haryana	—	—	57	288	3348	10749
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	571	4920	6324
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	40.00	1	30	7411	2500
10.	Karnataka	27.60	—	131	123	1004	2867
11.	Kerala	—	25.00	369	65	1714	12637
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10.30	100.00	39	110	84	1503
13.	Maharashtra	184.30	75.00	35	259	295	2353
14.	Manipur	—	—	11	—	50	500

1	2			3	4	5	
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	5	—	50	995
16.	Mizoram	—	—	4	82	385	2288
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	135	95
18.	Orissa	—	3.00	1	3497	1296	2508
19.	Punjab	—	136.00	527	1200	2320	11495
20.	Rajasthan	7.30	25.80	9	1106	16164	2910
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	54	50
22.	Tamil Nadu	105.40	10.00	185	194	69	5226
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	125	315	12029
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	125.00	109	238	27044	21896
25.	West Bengal	0.50	240.00	1	181	11241	637
26.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	31	1	146
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	2	—	150	875
28.	Delhi	—	—	28	—	—	939
29.	Lakshadweep	—	200.00	—	90	—	5400
30.	Pondicherry	—	—	4	—	—	394
31.	Others	—	—	—	—	6	10851
	Total	371.50	800.00	1706	8797	82112	172493

MW=Mega Watt; KW=Kilo watt;

Statement-II

Estimated annual Energy Generation as on 1.4.2001 From SPV Systems Installed upto 31/3/2001

S.No.	State/UT	Energy Generated in Million Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.55
3.	Assam	0.24
4.	Bihar	4.88
5.	Goa	0.06
6.	Gujarat	3.29
7.	Haryana	3.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.68
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.3
10.	Karnataka	0.82
11.	Kerala	4.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.08
13.	Maharashtra	0.97
14.	Manipur	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	0.44
16.	Mizoram	0.53
17.	Nagaland	0.03

1	2	3
18.	Orissa	0.91
19.	Punjab	1.81
20.	Rajasthan	2.48
21.	Sikkim	0.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	1.82
23.	Tripura	1.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11.93
25.	West Bengal	1.8
26.	A & N Islands	0.31
27.	Chandigarh	0.14
28.	DNH	0
29.	D&D	0
30.	Delhi	0.73
31.	Lakshadweep	0.86
32.	Pondicherry	0.08
33.	BEL	0.56
34.	BHEL	0.56
35.	CEL	0.09
	Total	49.67

[Translation]

Crude Oil Requirement and Capacity of Refineries

3763. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to the total annual crude oil requirement to meet the installed capacity of oil refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum thereof and the quantum of crude oil estimated to be available from import and indigenous production to meet this demand separately during 2001-2002; and

(c) the extent to which the quantum of oil estimated to be imported during 2001-02 is in excess of the quantum of imported during 2000-01?

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

(b) The total crude oil requirement for processing assessed for 2001-2002 is 113.5 million metric tonne (MMT). The availability of indigenous crude oil for processing during 2001-2002 is estimated as 29.1 MMT. The balance processing requirement of 84.4 MMT is expected to be met through imports.

(c) The actual import of crude oil during 2000-01 was 74.1 MMT against the estimated requirement of 84.9 MMT during 2001-02. Thus, the crude oil import during the current year is estimated to be higher than last than year by 10.8 MMT.

Security Arrangements to Petrol Pump owners Belonging to SC/ST

3764. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide any security to the owners of petrol pumps allotted by the Government to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the windows;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure ownership right of the people as the influential people often take undue advantage of their poverty;

(c) whether the Government have launched any drive to enquire into the security for such poor people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the Corpus Fund Scheme, the dealers-select of retail outlet dealerships under the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes category are given the dealerships by the Oil Companies in a completed condition and appropriate working capital is given to him/her on loan at an interest of 11%, recoverable in 100 monthly

instalments, commencing from the 13th month of operation. According to the guidelines, issued by the Government for the reconstitution of dealerships/ distributorships, owing to constraints being faced by LOI holders, all categories of allottees can taken financial partners from inception, after the issue of LOI subject to the condition that the new partners must satisfy the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, income, residence, multiple dealership norms, etc. applicable for selection at the time of reconstitution. In the case of SC/ST Category, the financial partner should belong to that category only.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Implementation of Agreement

3765. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union of Railway men have criticized the Union Government for not implementing the 1997 agreement reached between the Government and the employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the agreement;

(c) whether Railwaymen's Unions have expressed opposition to privatisation of catering and station maintenance work; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision to privatize the catering services on Indian Railways was taken in the year 1992. The organized labour have been taken into confidence in this regard from the very beginning and their opposition to the move and demand for security to the employees of the departmental units had been deliberated with them at great length. Ministry of Railways have assured job security of the personnel working in Catering Department including Commission bearers/vendors. Necessary action has been taken to absorb them in catering as well as in other departments of Indian Railways.

As regard station maintenance work, there is at present no move to privatize the same.

[Translation]

Fishery Centres

3766. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishery centres approved to be set up at Pandharpur in Maharashtra including other tribal and scheduled castes areas in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of total amount incurred on this scheme, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish new fishery centres in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest position in regard to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, assistance has been provided to the Government of Maharashtra for setting up of Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) at Solapur in Maharashtra which covers Pandharpur. Therefore, no separate fishery centre has been set up at Pandharpur in Maharashtra during the last three years. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, there is a provision to give assistance for setting up of fishery centers under the agency of the FFDA and this assistance is provided to all fishers including those for tribal and scheduled caste areas. In Maharashtra, inland fisheries schemes are being implemented for improvement of fish production and economic upliftment of fishers belonging to the 26 FFDAs. In Solapur district, during the last three years 162 youth have been trained in fishing activities including 12 youth belonging to Scheduled Castes.

(b) The state-wise and year-wise details of assistance released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture during the last four years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No proposal of Maharashtra is pending at present.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Development of Freshwater Aquaculture through FFDAs

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	States/UTs	Funds released			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.00	0.00	8.00	25.00
3.	Assam	38.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	114.00	0.00	70.11	0.00
5.	Gujarat	51.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	25.39	20.00	38.06	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.00	15.00	0.00	22.73
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	42.57	30.00	31.24	0.00
10.	Kerala	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	227.00	200.00	185.84	87.00
12.	Maharashtra	78.91	59.29	40.00	184.46
13.	Manipur	22.74	0.00	0.00	43.47
14.	Meghalaya	35.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Mizoram	9.50	10.00	10.00	30.00
16.	Nagaland	40.00	60.00	26.66	103.14
17.	Orissa	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Punjab	50.00	34.00	0.00	50.00
19.	Rajasthan	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Sikkim	5.00	0.00	3.50	5.86
21.	Tamil Nadu	16.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tripura	16.00	8.90	31.00	40.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	259.28	120.00	283.34	205.00
24.	West Bengal	222.56	240.81	140.25	333.99
25.	Pondicherry	2.00	0.00	0.32	2.32
26.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.07
	Total	1494.24	798.00	868.32	1195.04

[English]

Import/Export of Fruits

3767. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fresh fruits and vegetables exported and imported by NAFED during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the profit and loss occurred during the said period;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for appointing the commission agents to market the fresh fruits and vegetables; and

(d) the outstanding amount to be recovered from the commission agents by NAFED during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the Statement enclosed.

(c) The terms and conditions for appointing the commission agents to market the fresh fruits and vegetables are governed by the agreement entered into by the parties as per the 'Business Procedure' of NAFED.

(d) the following outstanding amounts are to be recovered from the commission agents by NAFED during the last three years:-

Year	Amount to be recovered
1998-99	Nil
1999-2000	Rs. 30,000
2000-2001	Nil

Statement

During the last three years, NAFED has exported/imported the following items of fruits and vegetables and occurred profit/loss against each as under

Export

Year	Item	Qty. (MTs)	Value (Rs. in lakh)	Profit/loss (Rs. in lakh)
1998-99	Onion	15992	1882.97	565.86
	Potato	275	25.00	4.02
	Garlic	34	11.98	2.57
1999-2000	Onion	24909	2429.31	391.79
	Potato	1450	165.46	31.89
2000-2001	Onion	38941	3453.25	473.88
	Potato	1450	178.28	28.32
Import				
1998-99	Onion	431	USD-208076	Nil
1999-2000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2000-2001	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

Handover of Ancient Inscription and Relics to ASI

3768. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to handover ancient inscription and relics (Murti) belonging to Kalchuri King of Ratanpur and Mallar in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh to Archaeological Survey of India with a view to preserve it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Question does not arise.

Fillling of Vacant Posts In ITDC

3769. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Paryatan Vikas Nigam Me Khatam Hone Wale Pad Bharney Ke Taiyari" appearing in the 'The Rashtriya Sahara' dated July 6, 2001;

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

(c) the date on which the decision to abolish the said vacant posts was taken; and

(d) the details of losses suffered by the Motels of Indian Tourism Development Corporation during each of the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The instructions issued by the Government on austerity measures like ban on filling up vacant posts are in the nature of general guidelines. Specific cases of filling up vacancies in PSUs are to be decided by the respective Boards of PSUs.

(c) As clarified by Department of Expenditure vide their OM No. 7(3) E-Coord/2001 dated 10.05.2001 recruitment/promotion to various posts below Board level comes under the purview of the respective PSEs and specific cases of recruitment/promotion are to be decided by the Boards of these PSEs. In the instant case the decision to fill up two posts of Vice Presidents was taken with the approval of Board of Directors of ITDC. Out of two posts of Vice President (Hotels) for which interviews were held, officiating arrangement has been made against one post.

(d) The details of losses incurred by Hotels Division during the last 3 years are given as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	1998-99	1999-00	2000-2001 (Prov.)
Loss	13.09	45.36	43.73

The loss making situation is attributed inter-alia to:

(i) Higher wage cost and higher fixed variable cost.

(ii) Increase in availability of hotels rooms in approved sector resulting in cut-throat competition and price war and

(iii) Uncertainity because of impending disinvestment etc.

[English]

Repairing of Damaged Ports

3770. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ports damaged due to earthquake and cyclone in Gujarat have been repaired;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to repair the damaged ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port has suffered damages to its permanent structure such as cargo jetties, oil jetties, equipment, warehouses, godowns, water supply, oil pipelines, administrative office building at Gandhidham and the Port & customs building at Kandla, boundary walls of residential and non-residential building, roads and storm water drains, electrical installation/equipment, quarters, etc. due to cyclone and earthquake. Immediate rescue and relief operations were undertaken by the Kandla Port Trust on war-footing and the earthquake damaged Port resumed operation on 3rd February, 2001.

[Translation]

Sharing of Power In Newly Created States

3771. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal in the matter of sharing of power in the newly created States;

(b) if so, whether the power sharing between Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh has been done properly; 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) Government of India issued an order on 31.1.2001 making the allocation of power from Central Generating Stations of Western Region to successor States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. According to the order the share of M.P. has been determined as 1116 MW and share of Chhattisgarh has been determined as 498 MW. In terms of Section 75 (ii) of M.P. Reorganisation Act, 2001, it has been decided that to the extent Chhattisgarh is unable to utilize its allocation, the power would stand temporarily allocated to Madhya Pradesh.

Government of India further issued orders provisionally dividing assets and liabilities of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) on 12.4.2001. Taking cognizance of Section 75 (1) of the MP Re-organization Act, 2000, it has been stipulated that Madhya Pradesh will have the first right to purchase the power (generated by the stations transferred to Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board), that may be in surplus for the State of Chhattisgarh after meeting its demand, at a rate to be agreed mutually failing which the rate to be decided by the Chairman, Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

Intake Capacity of Hotels/Guest Houses Under I.A.S.R.I.

3772. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) under ICAR has a number of hostels/ guest houses meant for scientists/officials visiting Delhi on tour;

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

(c) the total intake capacity of these hostels/guest houses along with average number of vacant rooms per day during each of the last three years;

(d) whether ICAR is constructing a big hostel at the NASC complex, Pusa for touring officials; and

(e) if so, the total estimated cost involved and justification for its construction by diverting a part of World Bank loan, especially when enough accommodation is already available?

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

(b) It has one student-Hostel exclusively used by students and there is one Guest House known as Panse Hostel where visiting scientists/officials are accommodated depending upon availability.

(c) Out of 24 rooms in Panse Hostel, average vacancy over last three years is 9 rooms per day. However, in event of workshop, seminar or conferences organized, there is invariably acute crisis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Estimated cost of Guest House at NASC Complex is Rs. 800 lakhs out of which Rs. 100 lakhs have been provided by Indian Agricultural Universities Association. The Indian National Agricultural Research System has over 30000 scientists. Besides, ICAR has Memorandum of Understanding with a number of developing countries, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutions, and is required to associate with other national and international organizations. Thus, ICAR has planned to have this guest house, to accommodate participants of national and international scientific events and senior academicians and scientists visiting Delhi for interaction with ICAR. Academicians and Scientists visiting ICAR New Delhi experience acute accommodation problem. However, no funds have been diverted from World Bank Loan for construction of the Guest House.

Vacant Posts of Divisional Heads in IASRI

3773. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Head of Division at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute have been lying vacant for nearly two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making regular appointments;

(c) whether any, stop-gap arrangements/interim appointments were made against these posts during the said period;

(d) if so, the details of such appointments;

(e) whether these appointments were made in accordance with the ICAR guidelines for interim appointments; and

(f) if not, the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Recruitment action could not be initiated pending Council's decision on the recommendations of Quinquennial Review Team for phasing out/merger/change in the nomenclature of the Divisions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Out of four divisions interim arrangements of two divisions have been made by giving the charge to the senior most Principal Scientists on acting basis and the charge of the remaining two Divisions is with Director, IASRI.

(e) and (f) The guidelines for appointments of Heads of Divisions *inter-alia* provide that in the absence of regular Heads of Divisions interim arrangement can be made by giving charge to the senior most Principal Scientist in the Division. The guidelines do not preclude the Director of the Institute to take charge of any Division in the absence of regular Head of Division.

India as Largest Producer of Food Articles

3774. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been adjudged as largest producer of food articles in the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) According to FAO's Production Year Book, 1999, India occupies the first, second and third position in terms of the production of total pulses, wheat & paddy and total cereals respectively in the world. The details in respect of important crops are given in the statement.

Statement

India's Position in World in Production of Food Items During 1999

Item		Production in million tonnes			India's Position	
		India	World	% Share	Rank	Next to
1		2	3	4	5	6
1.	Total Cereals	230	2064	11.1	Third	China, USA
1.1	Wheat	71	584	12.2	Second	China
1.2	Rice (Paddy)	131	596	22.0	Second	China
1.3	Coarse grains	28	884	3.2	Fourth	USA, China, Brazil
2.	Total Pulses	16	59	27.1	First	—
3.	Rapeseed	6	43	14.0	Third	China, Canada
4.	Fruits & Vegetables					
4.1	Vegetables & Melon	59	629	9.4	Second	China
4.2	Fruits Excluding Melon	39	445	8.8	Second	China
4.3	Potato	23	294	7.8	Third	China, Russian Fed.
4.4	Onion (dry)	5	44	11.4	Second	China
5.	Commercial Crops					

1		2	3	4	5	6
5.1	Sugarcane	282	1275	22.1	Second	Brazil
5.2	Tea	0.75	2.87	26.1	First	—
5.3	Coffee (Green)	0.27	6.48	4.2	Seventh	Brazil, Colombia, Vietnam, Indonedia, Coe Divoire, Mexico
5.4	Tobacco (Leaves)	0.70	7.09	9.9	Second	China

Source: FAO Production Year Book, 1999.

Chhatopadhyaya Committee Report

3775. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vth Central Pay Commission has recommended vide para No. 55-159 to make the Chhatopadhyaya Committee Report Public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which report is likely to be made public?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made in para 55.159 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Circulation of Review Committee Report

55.159 The Review Committee made several remarkable recommendations to improve the functioning of libraries and for career advancement of librarians. However, the report has been kept confidential by the government and only the portion which was accepted by Government finds mention in the implementation order issued by the Ministry of Finance. The demand made in this context by the professional association of librarians that the report of the review committee should have been circulated to all concerned is considered to be wholly justified. We, therefore, recommend that the report should be made public by the government.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Lucknow Junction Parcel Office

3776. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow junction parcel office is causing lose of thousands of rupees everyday due to irregularities and corruption;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) the details of amount claimed by the traders; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to check irregularities in the Lucknow junction parcel office?

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) One complaint was received during 2001-2002.

(c) The details of amount claimed by the traders are as under:

Year	Amount claimed (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	12.22
2000-2001	52.18
2001-2002 (upto July)	12.14

(d) In order to check irregularities in the Lucknow junction parcel office, regular and surprise checks are conducted by Commercial & Vigilance Officers to detect irregularities by commercial staff and preventive action taken. Further, to prevent loss of revenue on account of compensation claim for loss/damage of parcel consignments, Claim Prevention checks are conducted regularly.

[English]

Production of Cotton

3777. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cotton procured from NTC Merchants/Federations during each of the last three years, so far, State-wise;

(b) the outstanding amount in this regard as on date; and

(c) the manner in which the outstanding amount is likely to be paid on all the NTCs cotton merchants/ federations/suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The quantum of cotton purchased by NTC from all sources during the 2000-2001 is 1,46,831 bales and the cumulative outstanding dues as on June, 2001 (including interest) is approx. Rs. 375.69 crores. The State-wise information for the last three years is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Clearance of old outstanding cotton and other dues forms part of the Draft Revival Schemes (DRSs) presently under formulation by Operating Agencies of BIFR. However, NTC is paying Current dues regularly.

[Translation]

Allotment of Retail Outlets and LPG Agencies

3778. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. V. SAROJA:

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

(a) the number of L.P.G. retail outlets and other distributors appointed in each state of the country during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the number of distributors proposed to be appointed during 2001-2002;

(c) whether the number of distributors at present is sufficient; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of consumers benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The number of Retail Outlets (ROs) and LPG distributorships commissioned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the country is as under:-

Year	Retail Outlets	LPG distributorships
1999-2000	455	489
2000-2001	417	259

(b) The selection of ROs/LPG distributorships is made through dealer Selection Board (DSBs) in a phased manner and it is not possible at this state to indicate the exact number of allotments for ROs/LPG distributorships during the year 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) As on 1.4.2001, 6477 LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating and the total customer strength with these distributorships was about 579 lakhs. Further to increase the supply of LPG in the country, OMCs have identified about 700 locations for setting up of new LPG distributorships under 1999-2000 Marketing Plan, apart from the locations pending for selection from previous Marketing Plans.

[English]

Borrowing from Market

3779. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways borrowed money from the market till March, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways has made any action plan to repay the borrowing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Money was borrowed from the market by Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) on behalf of the Railways for financing the Railway Plan.

(b) IRFC has raised an amount of about Rs. 19440 crore as market borrowing till end of the March, 2001.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Out of the total borrowing, an amount of Rs. 5445 crore has already been repaid by IRFC till end of March, 2001. Repayment of borrowing is made out of lease charges paid to IRFC from Railway revenues against rolling stock financed through market borrowing.

(e) Does not arise.

Special Tourism Areas

3780. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI K.P SINGH DEO:

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

(a) Whether the Government have identified some places in various States for developing them into special tourism areas;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided for each places identified as a special tourism area during each of the last three years and 2001-2002;

(d) whether the Government have asked the concerned States to draw up a comprehensive plans for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details of plans submitted by the State Governments for clearance; State-wise; and

(f) the role of the Union Government in implementing the special tourism areas plans?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism Government of India in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations has identified five Special Tourism Areas namely; Bekal in Kerala, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu, Puri in Orissa and Diu in Daman & Diu. Central financial assistance sanctioned to different projects for development of these Special Tourism Areas during the last three years is as follows:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UT	Special Tourism Area	Amt. Sanctioned
Kerala	Bekal	Nil
Maharashtra	Sindhudurb	281.32
Tamil Nadu	Mamallapuram	27.00
Orissa	Puri	83.00
Daman & Diu	Diu	Nil
	Total	391.32

The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India in consultation with the State Governments/UTs have prioritised the following projects for the year 2001-2002:

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UT	Special Tourism Area	Amt. Prioritised
Kerala	Bekal	Nil
Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	140.00 (3)
Tamil Nadu	Mamallapuram	65.00(4)
Orissa	Puri	134.50(4)
Daman & Diu	Diu	91.20(3)

(Figures in bracket indicate the number of projects prioritised).

(d) to (f) The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has asked the concerned States to prepare Master Plans/ Project Reports and also to take necessary steps for acquisition of the land. The implementation of the projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./UT Administrations in their respective States/UTs.

[Translation]

Pre and Post Harvest Facility for Farmers

3781. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have to suffer heavy financial losses due to lack of pre and post harvest facilities in the agricultural sector in the country;

(b) if so, the assessment made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any time bound scheme and set any target to bring improvements in this sector; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof and the estimated amount likely to be spent on implementation of the aforesaid schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) While the exact quantum of pre and post-harvest losses is not known, different studies have indicated varying degree of post-harvest losses in foodgrains. For example:-

- A Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post-harvest losses in foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%.
- A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74 had estimated post-harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5%.
- A joint study conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 had estimated total post-Harvest loss in wheat at about 4.12%.

In case of fruits and vegetables, according to a Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for the 9th Plan, the wastage of fruits and vegetables ranges from 8-37% at various stages of handling after harvesting, due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure and lack of cool chain handling like pre-cooling, reefer vans, etc.

(c) and (d) To bring about improvement in post-harvest losses, no targets have been fixed as it is a continuous process. However, in order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post-harvest period, the Government of India launched Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. Training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level, improvement of grain storage structures and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers. There is a budget provision of Rs. 6.33 crores for implementation of this scheme during 2001-2002.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB), which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, is implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure and minimizing post-harvest losses:-

(i) Capital investment subsidy for construction/ expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce. There is a budget provision of Rs. 65.00 crores under this scheme during 2001-2002.

(ii) Development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management of horticultural products. There is a budget provision of Rs. 12.10 crores under this scheme during 2001-02.

[English]

Electrification of Railway Lines

3782. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the necessary electrification of railway lines is likely to be made;

(b) the necessary funds allocated for the same; and

(c) the time by which fully electrification of railway lines is likely to be made?

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) Electrification of railway tracks on Indian Railways is a continuous process. Electrification projects are undertaken on techno-economic merits and operational requirements on a network basis depending on annual budgetary provisions.

Only those sections are considered for electrification which give adequate return on investment or are operationally necessary.

[Translation]

Development of Wind and Solar Energy

3783. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of wind and solar energy under the development of non-conventional energy sources during the last three years;

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for research and development and the amount actually utilised in this regard; and

(c) the details of the specific achievements so far made in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) An amount of Rs. 168.83 crores was spent on wind and solar energy programmes during the last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-2001.

(b) Research & Development projects are normally being sponsored to Universities, National Laboratories, IITs and other R&D organizations. No separate funds are given to State Governments for research and development.

(c) The cumulative physical achievements made in this sector upto 31.3.2001 are as follows:

1	2	3
1.	Wind power	1340 MW
2.	Wind pumps	714
3.	Small aerogenerator/wind Solar hybrid systems:	91.5 KW
4.	Grid interactive solar power:	1.6 MW
5.	Solar Photovoltaic:	
	(i) Solar street lighting systems	41403
	(ii) Home Lighting systems	1.52 lakh
	(iii) Solar lanterns	3.5 lakh
	(iv) SPV power plants	1132 kWp
6.	Solar PV pumps	4148
7.	Solar water heating systems	5.9 lakh m^2 Collector area
8.	Solar cookers	5.1 lakh

Pending Power Projects of Maharashtra

3784. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending power projects of Maharashtra, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of pending techno-economically cleared (by Central Electricity Authority) power projects in Maharashtra, District-wise and the time by which the work is likely to be commenced is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/District	Capacity (MW)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Parli TPS Extn. St. I (Beed)	250	State Government yet to take investment decision.
2.	Bhadrawati TPP (Chandrapur)	1082	Project yet to achieve financial closure.
3.	Patalganga CCGT (Raigad)	447	Project yet to achieve financial closure.
4.	Bhivpuri PPS (Pune)	90	Project is yet to be sanctioned as it involves inter-state issues.
5.	Malshej Ghat PSS (Thane/Pune)	600	Detailed Project Report returned in January, 1999 in project authorities due to non compliance of various comments of CEA/CWC.

1	2	3	4
6.	Humbrali (PSS (Satara)	400	Detailed Project Report returned in July, 2000 to project authorities due to non compliance of various comments of CEA/CWC.
7.	Chikhaldara PSS (Amaravati)	400	Detailed Project Report returned in December, 1996 to project authorities as clearance from CEA was not necessary as the cost of the project is not exceeding Rs. 1000 crores and the scheme is now posed for private investment through competitive bidding.

[English]

Upgradation of Refineries

3785. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invest nearly Rs. 35,000 crores in upgrading refineries to provide clean diesel across the country;

(b) if so, whether oil companies would be able to supply diesel with 0.035 percent sulphur in only seven cities by 2005;

(c) whether the Government propose to alternatively import ULSD from other countries as per the users; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Rs. 35,000 crore has been estimated by the refineries to be the cost of upgradation for both petrol & diesel from Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) 2000 specifications to Euro-III equivalent specifications for the existing and the proposed refineries. Petrol & diesel quality standards for the year 2005 have not been finalized as yet.

(c) and (d) Presently the country is in the process of switching over from Euro-I equivalent vehicle technology to Euro-II equivalent vehicle technology for which 0.05% max. sulphur content diesel is the required specification. Diesel meeting this specification is being produced in the country. Engine technologies that need diesel having lower sulphur content are yet to be developed/tested in the country. Ultra-low sulphur diesel is, therefore, not required at present.

Vacant Posts of Judges

3786. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court and in various High Courts, High Court-wise; and

(b) the number of posts of judges in the Supreme Court and each of the High Court lying vacant at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A statement showing the approved strength of the Supreme Court and various High Courts and the number of posts vacant in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 13-8-2001 is enclosed.

Statement

Supreme Court:

Sanctioned Strength	26
Posts Filled	24
Vacancies	02

High Courts:

S.No.	High Court	Approved Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	95	50	45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	26	13
3.	Bombay	60	52	08
4.	Calcutta	50	38	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	06	03	03
6.	Delhi	33	32	01
7.	Gauhati	19	12	07
8.	Gujarat	42	34	08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	07	01
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	10	04
11.	Jharkhand	12	05	07

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Karnataka	40	34	06
13.	Kerala	29	18	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	21	08
15.	Madras	42	36	06
16.	Orissa	16	14	02
17.	Patna	31	21	10
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	30	10
19.	Rajasthan	32	22	10
20.	Sikkim	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal	07	03	04
	Total	647	470	177

Functioning of Bridges Rehabilitation Committee

3787. SHRI. A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted Bridge Rehabilitation Committee;

(b) if so, whether the said committee is still in existence;

(c) if so, the main functions of the said Committee;

(d) the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No Committee by name Bridge Rehabilitation Committee was constituted in this Ministry. However, a Sub-Committee on rebuilding of old Railway Bridges was constituted in February, 1986.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Sub-committee was to make a critical study to assess the magnitude of problem of rebuilding of old bridges on Indian Railways and to recommend a programme for rebuilding. The sub-committee recommended a programme at an approximate outlay of Rs. 800 crores (1987 price basis) for execution in 10 years. The Railways have been carrying out rehabilitation on a programmed basis subject to availability of funds.

Dispute Regarding Posts Sanctioned

3788. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any dispute between the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra regarding number of posts sanctioned for Railway Police and the huge expenditure incurred by the State Government towards Railway Police personnel;

(b) If so, whether the dispute has been settled by the Union Government;

(c) If not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said dispute is likely to be settled?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Loss Suffered by Railways Due to Fire

3789. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by Railways due to the incidence of fire in railway scrap during each of the last three years and till date, location-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the comprehensive steps taken by the Government to prevent such incident 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 (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Zodiac Clothing Company Limited

3790. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Zodiac clothing Company Limited, Mumbai, has violated the mandatory provisions of Section 217 (2A) of the Companies Act 1956 and has not disclosed the name of employees drawing salary etc. more than that those prescribed in law in that those prescribed in law in their Annual Reports during the past many years ending March 31, 1999 and March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether this fact was brought to the notice of the Department of Company Affairs; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. violation of the provisions of Section 217(2A) of the Companies Act, 1956 was brought to the notice of the Department of Company Affairs in respect of the Director's Report for the year 1999-2000. The Department ordered prosecution for violation of the aforesaid section. The company has denied the violation. Matter has been referred to the Department of Legal Affairs for their opinion. Their report is awaited.

Non-Functional Railway Station

3791. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the land customs station at Haldibari Railway Station is non functional as there is no rail traffic on Haldibari-Chilahati route on account of absence of rail track for about half kilometre on Indian side and five kilometres on Bangladesh side;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to get the missing rail link restord; and

(c) the time by which this link is likely to be restored?

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 no plan to restore this link.

(c) Does not arise.

Posting of Nodal Officer

3792 SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has promised to post a nodal Officer to look after the progress of the developmental works in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing Nodal Officers so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to post Nodal Officer in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Chief Engineer, Construction of Trivandrum has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for Railway Projects in Kerala.

Transfer of More Subjects to States

3793. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer more subjects to the States from the Union and concurrent List; and

(b) if not, the manner in which the Central Government schemes for rural areas being watched to ensure satisfactory implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Article 243 (G) of the Constitution of India envisages devolution of powers and responsibilities on Panchayats, inter-alia, for the purpose of implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. The Eleventh Schedule lists 29 matters which include rural housing, rural electrification including distribution of electricity, family welfare, maintenance of community assets, drinking water, agriculture etc. in view thereof, there seems to be no apparent need to transfer more subject to the States from the Union and Concurrent Lists.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year, 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3978/2001]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year, 1999-2000.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3979/2001]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year, 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Calcutta for the year, 1999-2000.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3980/2001]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

A copy of the Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 393(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3981/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 1998-1999.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3982/2001]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English and versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3983/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3984/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Joining Time) Regulations, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. A-24011/2/98-TAMP in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001, under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3985/2001]

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2001-2002

12.01 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT/3986/2001]

12.02. hrs.

[English]

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.8.2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received one more notice from Shri Radhakrishnan also. He is there to speak on every subject.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the IRD Act was enacted last year and consequent to the passage of that Bill, the insurance sector has been opened for participation by the private sector.

Now, through the amendment of this Insurance Act, the Government of India, in the name of intermediaries, is planning to engage brokers in the insurance sector. We have before us the exprience of the happenings in the stock market and we also have seen the role played by the brokers. The same thing is likely to happen in the insurance sector also if, in the name of intermediaries, the brokers are engaged in the field of insurance.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is not the consideration stage of the Bill. We are only at the introduction stage. You can raise these points at the consideration stage of the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a petition regarding this has been filed by Shri Rupchand Pal and same has been referred to the Petition Committee by you. The Petition Committee has taken it up and when the Petition Committee is seized of the matter, this type of a Bill should not be brought in this House. This is against the Constitution and is beyond the legislative competence of the House. Unless the Petition Committee presents its report on the subject, this Bill should not be taken up by this House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I am on a point of order.

I had submitted a petition covering all these points. More than 86,000 people of this country belonging to different walks of life look jurists, economists, Members of Parliament, etc. had expressed their views that this would cause disaster to our industry and to our economy. This issue is under the consideration of Committee on Petitions. At such a time, this Bill cannot be introduced in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a point of order or is it a point that you wanted to make?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, when he moved an amendment to the principal Act of 1938, made a solemn declaration in this House that allowing private participation is in the interest of the public sector undertakings; and that the Government will take all necessary steps to strengthen the public sector undertakings which were existing then. He meant that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) would be strengthened. That was the intention of the legislation also at that time. The Minister made a solemn declaration that GIC and LIC would be strengthened by allowing privatisation through that amendment. Now the Minister is doing just the opposite of what he had said previously. He had previously stated that the public undertakings will be strengthened. But, what he did was the GIC was divided into for units which were asked to compete with each other. Now, the entire business is facing competition.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, we are not discussing the provisions of the Bill right now. What is your specific objection for introduction of the Bill?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He made a declaration in this House then and now he is bringing in a provision which would pave the way for people like Harshad Mehta to come into insurance business. Brokerage is now being allowed in insurance. People like Harshad Mehta, who are now operating in the share market, would be coming into insurance business also. The would result in many agitations and the Government having to institute several inquiries in future.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of brokers here. This is a limited amendment to Section 8 of the Act intended to allow cooperative sector to enter insurance sector. Beyond that nothing is there. I cannot understand why this is being opposed?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are not opposing the entry of cooperative sector into insurance business. What is objectionable to us is engagement of brokers. That provision is being amended. The Government is inviting brokers into insurance.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia and others have opposed the introduction of this amendment Bill on the ground that this is beyond the legislative competence of the House. I was trying to figure out why they were saying that it was beyond the legislative competence of this House. Despite the effort at understanding their point of view, I have not been able to find any justification for their statement that this is out of the legislative competence of this House.

They have also talked about the merits of some of the provisions which are sought to be amended through this amendment. As Sharad Pawarji has said, the most important amendment which is incorporated in this, as a result of the demand generated by the cooperative sector of this country, is to enable the cooperative societies to be able to participate in the insurance business. That is the most important amendment which is combined in this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What about the engagement of commission agents?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Simultaneously, we are also suggesting amendment of certain other clauses where experience has shown that such amendments will be in the interest of development of insurance business in the country.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Shri Malhotra himself has categorically stated that this will cause a disaster. In America, this has caused a disaster in the insurance sector...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Whatever has happened in the US need not be repeated here. There is no law that I am aware of that whatever happens in the US will certainly by repeated in this country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): That is happening here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the point which has been raised is about insurance intermediaries. If I am allowed to respond to that issue, at the moment, we have agents. Agents in the insurance business work on behalf of the insurance companies. There are no class of people who work on behalf of the clients who are looking for insurance, and I am not talking of those who are seeking a small insurance benefit. There are a large number of players who are looking for a good insurance product for their insurance needs, and they need advice. The insurance intermediatries will be able to provide this service which the agents will not be able to provide to those who are seeking insurance cover...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What type of people?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That is why, Sir, it is a practice which is prevalent in all countries of the world and this is a modern practice that we are seeking to introduce in our country through this Amendment.

Sir, we will discuss the merits of this issue when the Bill comes up for discussion. At this point of time, I do not think that there is any merit in the argument that this is beyond the legislative competence of this House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are saying about the legislative propriety of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.12 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, two Discussions under Rule 193 are listed in today's List of Business, namely, 'Saffronisation of Education' and 'Disinvestments of public sector undertakings'.

The Discussion on Disinvestments of public sector undertakings is scheduled to be taken up at 4.00 pm. It has been brought to my notice that a similar Discussion is also listed in the Rajya Sabha today, which is to be replied by Shri Arun Shourie, the hon. Minister of State of the Department of Disinvestment.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has desired that the Discussion on Disinvestments of public sector undertakings may not be taken up today.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It should have been 'requested' and not 'desired' by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I am requesting with folded hands.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

As it may not be possible for the concerned Minister Shri Arun Shourie to be present in both the Houses at the same time, I therefore, propose that the Discussion on Saffronisation of Education may be taken up at 4.00 pm. today. The date and time of Discussion on Disinvestments of public sector undertakings may be decided in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to be held today.

I hope the House agree.

12.14 hrs.

[English]

RE: APPOINTMENT OF SHRI P.S. SUBRAMANYAM, AS CHAIRMAN OF UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very important matter to bring to your notice and the notice of the whole House...*(Interruptions)* For the last two days I have been giving notice to raise it...*(Interruptions)* The Finance Minister may kindly be present for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet started the 'Zero Hour'.

Is it a 'Zero Hour' matter?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, Sir....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat. When your turn comes, you will get a chance to raise your matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you allow, we may take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government. Our distinguished Member of this House and the former Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please clarify to me. This subject matter is before the JPC for examination.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. It is not with the JPC. It is a current matter. It is a very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to that issue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the subject matter of the JPC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No. It is not the subject matter of the JPC. The distinguished Member of this House, the former Union Defence Minister and the Convenor of the NDA, had made a direct allegation about the conduct or functioning of the Prime Minister in a statement...*(Interruptions)* What is this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Sir, JPC has already been constituted. What is the rationale behind raising it time and again. You please see the newspaper honourable Jaipal Reddyji himself has said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH (Bijnor): It has already been discussed. What is the need to discuss it again....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is an established practice in the Government that high level appointments will be made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet based on rules and procedures. Here, a distinguished Member of this House made a public accusation that the leader of the AIADMK, Ms. Jayalalithaa who was earlier an ally of the previous Government headed by Shri Vajpayee, sent a written letter to the Prime Minister, and based on that letter, the Prime Minister appointed Shri Subramanyam as the Chairman of the UTI...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a serious charge about the functioning of the Prime Minister and his Office...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The JPC is examing the entire matter of the UTI. You can raise it in the JPC also. What is this? Why are you doing it here?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I demand that the letter of Ms. Jayalalithaa to the Prime Minister should be passed on to the Joint Parliamentary Committee forthwith...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister owes an explanation to the House about his conduct. ...*(Interruptions)* May I know whether the Prime Minister based on pressures from the allies, appoints Chairmen of Boards like this?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is not a simple thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there are 24 partners in this coalition Government. If, on the basis of the recommendation of allies, the Prime Minister appoints one person after another, then I feel that the House has the right to know the method of operation of the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am not going to allow anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I have to reply to that. I will reply in a minute. Sir, my leader Ms. Jayalalithaa has categorically denied that statement and, said that she did not know Shri Subramanyam and that she had not recommended his name. My leader has categorically denied that statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

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* Not recorded.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, please give me one minute to reply to that. I must reply to that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, more than 38 hon. Members have given notices to raise issues during 'Zero Hour'. Please understand that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I will have to reply to that. It is concerning the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government's side?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, my leader has categorically denied that statement and said that she did not know Shri Subramanyam...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to speak. Shri Pandian, there is nothing for you to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): You may first go back to your seat. You do not know where to stand in the House...*(Interruptions)* There is some procedure in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganapathi, please go to your seat. Shri Pappu Yadav, you may also go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Even Shri Pandian is not sitting in his own seat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I am elected to Lok Sabha by a Party. My leader's name has been dragged into this. Am I not entitled to reply?...*(Interruptions)* My leader, Dr. Jayalalitha, has categorically denied saying that she does not know Shri Subhramanyam and that she had not recommended his name. It has been stated by the Minister of Finance in the Rajya Sabha that a sub-Committee had appointed Shri Subhramanyam and that his appointment was not made on the recommendation of Dr. Jayalalitha, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhi Sankar, please go to your seat first. How can you raise a matter from here?

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): I may be given an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, According to what I have tried to listen is that an honourable Member of this House Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has referred some statement given outside by an Honourable Member of this House Shri George Fernandis. What I want to say is that as per the rules governing the conduct of business in Lok Sahba, rule 40 says which I want to quote:

[English]

> "A question may be addressed to a Private Member provided the subject matter of the question deals with..."

Then, a few subjects have been mentioned. What I want to say is, if one Member has to ask some question to another Member, as in this case Shri Dasmunsi has to, under this Rule he should give a notice to Shri George Fernandes, who in turn will answer his question. How does the Government come into this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is the responsibility of the Government...*(Interruptions)* It is a direct allegation against the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Shri Dasmunsi has not raised a question about a particular Member. It raises the basic question of the functioning of the Government, whether the Government acts on the advice of the people from outside or takes its decisions according to the rules and norms that are there for the functioning of any Cabinet form of Government.

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* Not recorded.

We understand that so far important appointments have been made by the Appointment Committee. But here, the convenor of the NDA says that this appointment was made on the recommendation of a particular individual. It creates doubts about the whole functioning of the Government and the Government is responsible to this House to clarify this matter. The Minister cannot refuse it under Rule 40. He reads rules every day. But this is the basic question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Please see the rule.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I do not read the rules. I have never read the rules. But I have more experience of parliamentary life than you have got and in parliamentary life, it is the decency, docurum, dignity, rules, and traditions that operate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, let the Minister of Finance come forward with a statement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I think what the hon. Member has raised is not a clarification...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a pity that you are not allowing other Members to raise important matters in the House. That is the problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, how Somnath Dada has stood up to speak on it. It is zero hour. Whatever Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raised, that has been answered....*(Interruptions)* This is too much. I have also got some matter, I also hail from some constituency and that has also got some problems....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will also call you to speak.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: It cannot be discussed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will also call you.

[English]

You have to understand the agony of the Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, important issues are raised. I do not know why I cannot speak...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I will hardly take half a minute...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Sir, it is not being discussed. Why they are speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, the Minister of Finance stated in the Rajya Sabha that the sub-committee had appointed him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is very fundamental...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have your names with me. I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, we come in the morning and wait for this occasion to present our views...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you to please take you seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would have concluded by this time. Sir, the trouble is that I find at this age of my career that we have got too many 'Speakers' in this House. This is the trouble. If a Member is permitted by the hon. Speaker, there are others who are questioning your authority to call a Member. What is all this?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: You always comment on us...*(Interruptions)* It is wrong...*(Interruptions)* Has he given notice to speak....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a tradition in the House that whenever a senior Member speaks, you have to respect him. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please advise them not to pass such comments...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to follow the traditions also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, no leader from that side will be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they gave the rule but is there no rule for the senior members who stand up to speak at once...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing the senior Members also to understand the anguish, anger, and agony of the junior Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, a question has been raised as to the procedure for the appointment to the important positions in important public sector undertakings. Sir, whether some hon. Member has said something or not, it has a bearing on this. The answer can be given not by the hon. Member in his private capacity but by the hon. Minister of Finance or by someone on behalf of the Government. Therefore, Rule 40 has no relevance here. Sir, it is because it was said that the name was noted down on a piece of paper and sent to the Prime Minister and on that basis, the appointment had been made. Therefore, this is a matter which has to be clarified. This is not an individual matter or the individual statement made outside. It cannot be just thwarted down in this fashion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, the Minister of Finance made a statement in the Rajya Sabha in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Government's side.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government's side?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, a reference was made to the other House. In the other House I was responding to a specific question during the Question Hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is also a specific question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: But this is not Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem always, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. You are raising a matter and you are not willing to hear anything from the Minister.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This matter has been raised here.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): I have a point to make.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa, please take your seat. I have not called you to speak. Only the Minister's intervention will go on record. You are not allowing the Minister to speak after asking him a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Nothing of this should go on record, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Here it has been raised suddenly during 'Zero Hour'. It is not necessary for the Government to respond immediately to all issues during 'Zero Hour'. This is an accepted practice of this House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandian, this is too much.

* Not recorded.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: But, in view of the fact that we are interested in going ahead with the business of the House and the Government does not want to create any problems, I would only say from my side that I have checked up my records; we have followed the full procedure of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in this regard.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is the procedure?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister towards Bilha Railway station in Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh State from where Sarnath Express train passes but it does not stop there...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the local people there are facing a lot of difficulties due to non stopping of Sarnath Express at Bilha Railway station. Large number of people from that place want to travel by Sarnath Express but this train does not arise stop there. Earlier also I had drawn the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the above said problem but no action has been taken or being taken so far...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Minister of Railways kindly to issue order to provide a stoppage to Sarnath Express at Bilha Railway Station keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the people of District Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh State...*(Interruptions)*

12.35 hrs.

RE: REVIVAL OF INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Indian Iron and Steel Company, IISCO, is one of the leading and pioneer steel industries of our country. It is supposely the best steel plant of our country having its own captive iron ore mines, collieries and the best foundry in Asia. It has a network spread all over the country, IISCO was taken over by the Government of India in 1972 with 100 per cent equity, followed by transfer to SAIL. IISCO is the only subsidiary of SAIL. It is unfortunate that it was referred to the BIFR in 1994. Up-till now the Government of India has not submitted any revival package or proposal during the last seven years. IISCO is the basic steel industry of our country. Not only IISCO, even the Vizag Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant are also sinking. Therefore, for the benefit of the country, I demand to the Government of India that it should come forward to take suitable steps and measures to receive IISCO and other steel plants.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also humbly submit to you to please use your good offices to direct the Government to come forward and save IISCO and other steel plants of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Bir Singh Mahto may all associate themselves with Shri Ajoy Chakraborty on this issue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The Prime Minister said in the House the other day that he would look into the matter. What has happened to it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Prime Minister assured us on the floor of this House that the revival of IISCO would be looked into. But, fifteenth days have already elapsed and to no action has been taken in regard to the revival of IISCO...*(Interruptions)* BIFR has given two months' time to the Government to submit a proposal in regard to the revival of IISCO. But the Government of India has not taken any decision in this regard. This in an important steel plant of our country. It is the oldest steel plant also. Three lakhs of people are depending on IISCO for their livelihood. Unless the Government of India submits a revival package within two months, that is, by September, BIFR will order winding up of IISCO. Therefore, we demand that the Government of India should take immediate steps in this regard.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): We fully support the point raised by Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, as an assurance has been given by the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you may also associate yourself with Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They have represented to the hon. Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, it is very difficult to reply to this point in 'Zero Hour' because I do not know the background of it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. What is this that you are doing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the reaction of the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, we want to know the reaction of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem with you. You are not allowing the Chair also to ask the Government to reply to a point.

SHRI M.V.V S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): For want of support, the Company is starving. There is a similar situation in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant...*(Interruptions)* I also strongly support their views, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, the same thing has happened with the Salem Steel Plant which is in my constituency, Salem...*(Interruptions)* I am also associating with them on the views expressed on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much, Shri Selvaganapathi. How can you associate with any Member without giving a notice? If you want to associate, you have to first give a notice. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members have represented to the hon. Prime Minister with regard to the revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company. I am now asking the Government as to whether there is any reply from them on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he has said the he will look into the matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Now, the hon. Members have met the Prime Minister. I want not privy to that. They never called me to accompany them. At this juncture, if they just stand up and ask me about it, how will I be able to answer them? Please appreciate my position also, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When the Prime Minister gave an assurance, in this very Session, on the floor of the House, you were sitting behind the Prime Minister. You might have heard what he had said at that time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If the Prime Minister has given any assurance on the floor of the House, then the assurance is there. What do you want me to do in the matter?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Honourable Speaker, Sir, the point on which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that Bangladesi intruders have intruded into Indian territory in a large number...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir I had given notice on the issue of the Durban Conference under the United Nations banner...*(Interruptions)* They have referred the matter to the concerned Ministry. I would like to have a clarification in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way to raise maters in the 'Zero Hour'? I have already called Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to speak. Please take your seat. If you want any clarification, you may come to my Chamber and not in this way.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: State has listed them in the voter's list...*(Interruptions)* Bangladeshi intruders

have created social and political imbalance. They have enhanced criminal activities and communal tension...*(Interruptions)* Bangladeshis have settled in a large number at various places like Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi and Mumbai etc. and getting political shelter. Even in our Rajasthan State, thousands of Bangladeshi families are living illegally. Recently the Bangladeshis attacked the police officials in Jaipur and detained them. As such, through you I would like to request to the Government to conduct without any delay a survey in regard to Bangladeshi intruders and deport them out and expose those political parties who have placed them in the voter's list just for being greedy of their votes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue regarding the situation in Tamil Nadu. In Katpadi, 50 persons have died due to a fire accident. Earlier also, in Erwadi, 27 innocent and mentally retarded persons died due to fire accident. Such incidents are happening continuously in Tamil Nadu. So, I urge upon the hon. Home Minister, through you Sir, to give a statement on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I want to draw attention of the Government towards it....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject. How can you raise it here?

SHRI RASHID ALVI: No, Sir. it is not a State subject.

MR. SPEAKER: We have discussed it recently in the House.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: No Sir, we have not discussed this matter. I have been giving notice continuously for three days...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Government is deliberately spoiling the atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh. Elections are drawing near in Uttar Pradesh and due to the election, they want to put the entire Uttar Pradesh in the fire of firkaprasti. Earlier, it was in Moradabad, then in Muzaffarnagar and thereafter in Jalalabad. Bhartiya Janta Party is involved in all the incidents that have taken place at these places. In Moradabad, six people were killed, four women raped and 13 people kidnapped. Such type of circumstances are being created deliberately in Muzaffarnagar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: First you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I would like to submit that there are reports about the starvation deaths in Raigada district in Kasipur block. The main reason for this is that the Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK has not been approved by the Planning Commission till date and the implementation of other schemes is also very slow.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to approve the Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK so that starvation deaths could be avoided in future in KBK districts. The Public Distribution System is a total failure there. There people are not getting any employment....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. I have already said that.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, please address the Chair. Why are you addressing the hon. Member?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister had announced that a National Policy on tourism would be formulated. I would like to say that thousands of tourists from all over the world come to Delhi every year. These tourists come to see Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Old City of Delhi in my parliamentary constituency Chandni Chowk. What impression they would be carrying. There are hundreds of Havelies in Chandni Chowk which are getting demolished and illegal construction is being made therein. I would like to say that the Government should declare the Old Delhi as Heritage city and provide adequate funds to maintain these Havelies and the monuments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not repeat it. Sit down.

* Not recorded.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Lastly I would like to say that Chandni Chowk constituency is the area which includes New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, I.S.B.T., Red Fort, Town Hall and Jama Masjid. If you declare this city as Heritage city, then I think that would carry a good impression on the thousands of tourists coming from within the country and abroad. That is why special funds should be provided. I think the House would support and welcome my statement by thumping the Tables.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the price of coffee, which affects the coffee growers, has reached an all-time low in the last forty-two years. Similarly, the price of other agricultural products, like tea, rubber, pepper and coconut, has also come down. I would suggest that the Central Government should immediately call a meeting of the farmers concerned to decide about some stern action plan. I would also suggest that Rs. 300 crore for each of these crops may be spent for their cultivation.

12.50 hrs.

RE: CLOSURE OF GLASS INDUSTRY IN FIROZABAD, U.P. DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF CNG

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is famous in the entire world for its glass industry. As per the orders of Supreme Court coal based industrial units were closed down. An agreement was signed between GAIL and factory owners that GAIL will supply CNG to them.

Approx. 400 industrial units are working n Firozabad out of which 74 factories are getting CNG. About two years ago an agreement was signed with 90 units in this regard. About 2 lakh laborers are engaged in glass industry there. However, at present they are on the verge of starvation. Glass industry is a small scale and cottage industry. Besides, the gas being supplied there is costly in comparison to that being provided in other cities. In Vadodara it is Rs. 32,000 per thousand Cu.m; in Delhi it is Rs. 4,000 per Cu.m. but in Firozabad it is being sold at Rs. 500 per Cu.m. Firozabad is my Parliamentary constituency. Shri Ram Naik is present in the House. I request him to intervene in the matter in order to make expeditious arrangements for the advance supply of gas so that the people who have been rendered jobless and who are starving could be provided relief.

MR. SPEAKER: First you go back to your seat. How is it that you are coming forward?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): A mention has been made regarding Agra and Firozabad. I myself had gone there. We have provided new facilities to some people there. If hon. Members have any specific complaint, they should tell me or give it in writing. I will certainly look into that. At this moment, I can this much only.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It was about two years ago that an agreement was signed with 90 units but CNG is not being provided to all of them. Only 74 units are getting CNG though the agreement was signed for 90 units.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of this House and also I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the fact that there is an urgent need to introduce an overnight train between Waltair and Chennai. Waltair is a very important headquarters in the South-Eastern Railway Division. Chennai is in Southern Railway Division.

[English]

12.52 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

A lot of business community people are facing trouble while travelling between Waltair and Chennai. So, there is a need to introduce an overnight super-fast express train between Waltair and Chennai. If it is introduced, commuters will come from Chennai to Visakhapatnam in the morning. Likewise, those who travel from Waltair, they will start in the evening, go back to Chennai, would complete their business and return the same day through the overnight train. So, this is an urgent need...*(Interruptions)* There is a demand from the commuters, business community, various organisations, institutions and students also. There is an urgent need for the introduction of a super-fast express train.

I would, therefore, request hon. Deputy-Speaker also to use his good offices for the introduction of an express train.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the

attention of the House towards anti-national activities increasing on Indo-Nepal border. A particular section of people is giving support to the anti-national activities there. A bomb explosion which took place in a passenger train in Moradnagar a day before Independence day proves it. Everybody knows that the persons involved in that bomb explosion are being trained in Darul-Uloom of Devband. Not only this but take currency notes in the denomination of 500/- rupees worth one and a half crores rupees were also seized. Therefore, ban should be imposed on the use of the religious places for anti-national activities as is being done by a particular section in border areas. Maoist activities are also on the spurt on Indo-Nepal border, therefore, a separate force should be deputed there to keep a check on them.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the issue raised by Shri Yogi Adityanath because Uttar Pradesh Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not allow him. The earlier speaker has completed his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please resume your seat. I am on my legs. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to warn you if you continue like that. Please resume your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, your conduct is unbecoming and deplorable. Is this the way to express?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why I give permission, only then, you can speak. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, I did not allow you to speak. Will you resume your seat? There is a limit.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh, if you conduct yourself like this, I would take extreme step against you. You cannot talk like that. Do not talk like that. There is a limit.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With the permission of the Chair only, you can talk and not like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.56 hrs.

RE: PENSION AND OTHER FACILITIES TO GOA FREEDOM FIGHTERS

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Home Ministry towards an important issue. India got freedom in 1947 but Portual Government remained in Goa. At that time Goa was not merged in our country. With the efforts of Shri Nagagore, S.M. Joshi, Jaswant Rao Joshi, Madhu Dandvate, Madhu Limaye and other leaders, Goa also got independence. In this freedom struggle many people sacrificed their lives, many were sentenced to jails, indiscriminate firing and lathi charge took place. Freedom fighters of Goa are getting pension from the Government of Maharashtra but not from the Union Government. Union Government has granted pension and other facilities to the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli but people of other areas are not getting these facilities. Hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik is present in the House. He had given assurance in this regard but pension facility has not been provided so far by the Union Government to the freedom fighters of Goa. These freedom fighters are staging dharna at Jantar-Mantar. I request the Union Government to provide pension to these freedom fighters...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal. He has given the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow you to associate with this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): In Dadra & Nagar Haveli, 82 freedom fighters of the Portuguese Colony have been granted pension on 26th January last. But these 2,000 people, mostly aged, above 70, are sitting in a *Dharna*. There is a formula given by the former Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta, and Shri Madhu Dandavate. Under that formula, they can be granted pension on the basis of the list of the Maharashtra Government...*(Interruptions)* You should do something...*(Interruptions)* Let the Minister respond...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pal, you have already raised the matter. I cannot compel the Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Under the rules, they are required to provide records of jail sentences but the Portuguese destroyed all the record when they withdrew. There are no jail records. So, genuine freedom fighters of Goa have not received any recognition or pension.

13.00 hrs.

I am appealing to the Government to make an exception in the case of these people because their companions know that they were in jail together, though there are no records because the Portuguese have destroyed them before they left...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, since my name has been taken, I am trying to clarify the matter. It is true that many Goa freedom fighters did not get the pension for the last so many years. When I was looking after Home as Minister of State, we had made a start...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not shout like this.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Prof. Madhu Dandavate and other leaders have also seen the hon. Home Minister. As far as personal information is concerned, because I am not in that Ministry now, this issue is being looked into by the hon. Home Minister.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to raise the question of non-implementation of the Fourth Long-Term Wage Settlement for non-Executive employees of NALCO, the National Aluminium Company Ltd., which is the flagship public sector undertaking under the Department of Mines, Government of India. It is a mini *ratna*, which is being converted into *Navratna* probably today or tomorrow.

Sir, an MOU was signed with all the 21 unions of the company on 28th July and was placed before the Board on 30th and 31st July. Now the Board has turned it down. It will not agree to the MOU. So, it is a breach of faith.

All previous wage negotiations which had been implemented resulted in the company making phenomenal progress. The financial turnover of the company, this year is Rs. 22,700 crore. The employees remuneration is only Rs. 159.8 crore whereas after revision an additional sum of Rs. 23 crore will be required. Are we cavilling for this excellent performance of the company, when over the last ten years the value addition of the employees has gone up from 19.9 lakh to 29.5 lakh in the last five years? The sales and turnover from 1992, when it was Rs. 884 crore, has gone up to Rs. 2,406 crore. Exports have gone up from Rs. 277 crore to Rs. 314 crore. The net profit has gone up from Rs. 56 crore to Rs. 653 crore.

Therefore, Sir, I request you to impress upon the Government of India to keep the morale of the workers high because it is the workers themselves who have given this phenomenal success to the company from which the country is also benefiting. It is the largest aluminium exporter of the country at the moment. If this is not done, it will lead to social tension. So, the Government may be asked to look into this.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pathetic conditions of the part-time correspondents of the regional news unit of Kolkata. These part-time correspondents are getting only a monthly sum of Rs. 500. But they have to cover as many as 13 bulletins everyday. It is very difficult to run their families with this meagre sum of Rs. 500.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: I therefore, urge upon the Government to regularise the part-time correspondents of the regional new unit, Kolkata and

increase their remuneration to a decent level. This is my demand. So that they will be able to manage their family with dignity.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) Sir, I have also given notice.

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter during 'Zero Hour' today.

A serious situation has developed regarding the S.K. Firing range of IAF station Halwara, Jagraon in the district of Ludhiana, Punjab.

Initially the range was planned at Sidhwan Kalan which is about 30 kilometres from the present site but then it was transferred to its present site due to some political pressure.

The farmers of adjoining nine villages used to cultivate this piece of land and for this, they used to pay IAF dues regularly for the last 30 years. Now, IAF stopped these farmers from farming on the land which farmers themselves made cultivable with their own money and toil as earlier vide the letter of Ministry of Defence No. 11026/1/75/D (Land) dated 16th May 1976, it was agreed to give this land to present farmers on nominal rates.

But now, as the IAF went back from its commitments, the lives of about 20,000 people dependent on this piece of the land has become totally vulnerable...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bhan Singh Bhaura ji, there is no rule to read the information given under rule 377 during zero hour.

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Along with the stoppage of farming, another problem which the people of this area is facing is that they have to cross on an average extra 25 to 30 kilometres as six roads adjoining the land has been blocked by the IAF, though the hon. Supreme Court has observed earlier that the roads cannot be blocked by the IAF.

Regarding this problem, the local population are agitating for some time now and if proper remedial measures are not taken forthwith, the situation may turn to a fiery one.

Therefore, I demand that the concerned Departments of the Union Government take up the issue immediately and take appropriate measures to normalise the situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura, this is 'Zero Hour'. Reading is not permitted during zero hour.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very strange incident. We get adequate foreign assistance for women and child welfare. In the same context a startling incident happened in Sapotara legislative assembly area of Karoli district in Sawai Madhopur area of Rajasthan. The Government of Canada had sent very expensive medicines for pregnant women and malnutritioned children. However, employees of Rajasthan Government did not distribute those medicines. Fake documents showing distribution of medicines were prepared and the medicines were destroyed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very sensitive issue. On one hand our country is celebrating this year as women empowerment year but on the other hand medicines received as assistance from the countries for pregnant women and malnutritioned children are being misutilised as it has been in Rajasthan. It is a matter of serious concern. The child development department of Rajasthan is indulging in statistical jugglery. I demand from the Union Government not to forgive such criminals and action should be taken against them.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The matter pertains to ICDS and Central Government allocates grants to the States. I like the Government to take action in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, more than two crores of people are affecting by it in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I have given the floor to Dr. Nitish Sengupta and not to you.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, it is a serious situation caused in the capital market due to arbitrary and highhanded withdrawal of *badla* trading from the 2nd of July.

Suddenly, like a midnight decree of the great Moghul, on the 2nd of July, SEBI introduced the following changes: ban on deferral products such as ALBM/BLESS; introduction of Options Trading; uniform settlements on all exchanges; rolling settlements in leading scripts; and reduction in bank finance to the securities industry.

As a result, the brokers community has been much maligned, which perhaps has been more sinned against than they have sinned. They have been practically reduced to paupers. The annual market values have shrunk from around Rs. 20 crore till about two or three months ago to about less than Rs. 5 crore in the post-July period. Many of the Stock Exchanges are facing closure. Many of the broker houses are also facing closure. As a result of this ban, some have committed suicide. I think the remedy has been worse than the disease which the Ministry of Finance has tried to control. They have no care for what is called 'sentiment' which is the biggest factor in the capital market which has been killed. There has been no single public issue in the last one year. Apart from the closure of the primary market, even secondary market has been closed as a result of this. So remedial action should be taken. By this I do not mean that Badla trading should continue for all time to come but its abolition should be a process rather than an event. It should be phased out and along with the new changes, it should be allowed to continue for some time.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I want to draw the attention of House and the Minister of Civil Aviation to the serious problem of my constituency. It is to re-route the flight between Rajkot and Mumbai. It should be *via* Vadodara because this is a very serious problem because everyday flight between Mumbai and Baroda is going to be closed. Being an industrial area, this step will be unfair to my people. So, I urge upon the Government to reschedule the Rajkot-Mumbai flight *via* Vadodara.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The notice given by Shri Rawaleji has been disallowed by the Speaker and he has also rejected the adjournment motion.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak about the freedom fighter Udham Singh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker has rejected your adjournment motion.

[English]

And the issue which you want to raise now comes within the purview of the Speaker. So it is not to be taken up here.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was about installation of his portrait....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true it is the subject of the Speaker. That cannot be taken up here.

[Translation]

The Speaker has rejected your notice for the adjournment motion.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on the subject pertaining to public importance. I request that I may please be allowed to raise this issue during the zero hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly I will allow you provided you present your case within two minutes.

[English]

Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know there is no industry in Bihar. During this week Shri Ashwani Kumar son of

Shri B.P. Gupta, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Bihar whose brother-in-law Shri Anil Agarwal has purchased Balco, has been kidnapped. The car used for kidnapping has been recovered from the residence of a Minister. Next day a Pharmacist namely Shri Sanjay Kumar who resides next to the residence of D.I.G. Khan was abducted. Few days back another pharmacist Chawla of Delhi was kidnapped by the Yuva RJD state lavel General Secretary Shri Govind Kanodia under the Krishnapuri police station. Shri Govind Kanodia was arrested but thereafter no action has been taken against him. After few days Shri J.K. Jain of Gaya was kidnapped. Not only this after the kidnapping of pharmacist Shri Sanjay the registrar of Vaishali was kidnapped. Three persons were killed in this incident. Shri Ashok Jalan was kidnapped by some legislators and Ministers. Ramesh Todi was abducted and ransom was taken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people kidnapped from Uttar Pradesh are taken to Bihar. Not only this, the people abducted from Delhi, Gujarat and Orissa are also taken to Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter comes under the purview of the State Government.

[English]

The subject of matter is a State subject.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kidnapping of Shri Ashwani Gupta is a serious matter...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the car used for kidnapping has been recovered from the residence of a Minister. In this regard I want to say and request you that the attention of the Government should be invited towards the law and order situation in Bihar.

The entire Bihar has been ruined. The traders are migrating from Bihar. It must be enquired as to why the State Government is maintaining silence on this issue. Priority should be given to this matter. Attention is not being paid towards Bihar...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are our guardian. None is safe there. Ministers as well as common people are being shot at in the State. I request you to kindly ensure the safety of people in the State. The Union Government should provide security to the traders and industrialists security to the traders and industrialists in the State. The Union Government should also provide security to the people's representatives from the State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadavji I have allowed you to speak, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Murattupuzha): The constitutional machinery has failed there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now except what Shri Jaswant Singh says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a need to ban the edible oil and other food items being imported by the Government presently. Three years ago farmers were paid Rs. 3000 per quinal for Raida and Mustard. But today same Raida and mustard is being sold at the rate of Rs. 700 to 800 per quintal. During the last three years electricity charges, diesel prices fertilisers prices and other agricultural inputs have increased considerably. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House like this. I have given you a chance to speak. Don't you know this is a Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: The prices of everything have increased but the prices of farmers produce have decreased. Today plight of the farmers is worst. Rajasthan has been facing famine for the last three years. The electricity charges in the State have been increased but the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produces. It has been heard that Government have banned the export of onion. I request that the ban imposed on export of onion should be lifted immediately and its export should be permitted. It has also been heard that the Government are importing garlic and onion. It should be banned immediately...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, this is not a mere issue of law and order. It is a total failure of the constitutional machinery...*(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, this is a State matter. Even then, I allowed him to speak. Is this the way to interrupt the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, there is a small difference. This is not a mere law and order issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But how can I compel the Government to react?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: If the import of garlic and onion is not banned immediately. Garlic and onion produced by our farmers would get rotten and the farmers would face starvation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want from the Government tell that, do not make a speech.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Sir, through you I would like to request the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce so that the farmers could sustain...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav please do not disturb now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the collective responsibility of all of us to protect our Constitution. But Bajrangdal is attacking the christian missionaries in Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States. The reason given for these attacks by Bajrangdal is forcible conversion to the christianity. I would like to remind them that these are only 10 to 12 per cent christian students in the schools run by the christian missionaries and rest of the students i.e. more than 85 per cent students belongs to Hindu community. Therefore the allegation of forcible conversion is wrong. Despite all this a christian priest was attacked on sixth instant in Thane. The church was also attacked. In this way activities of the Bajrangdal are a threat to the integrity and unity of our country. Bajrangdal is a threat to our secular fabric. As such there is a need to ban it. I request the Government that if the Bajrangdal want to glorify the name of Lord Hanuman they should stop attacking the christian community.

If the Bajrangdal continues to attack christians like this we demand that Bajrangdal should be banned. Shri Prabhuji and Shri Ram Naik ji are present here. I want to ask them as whether they are going to ban the Bajrangdal or not immediately and if not the reasons therefore and if you intend to ban it by when?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the sugar mills run under the Government of India and Uttar Pradesh Government are being closed one by one in Uttar Pradesh. The Ganesh Sagar mill, Anandnagar in Maharajganj district has been lying closed for the last so many years. A sugar mill named Gughali has been closed last year itself in Maharajganj district. The Pipariach Sugar Mill and Sardar Sugar Mill are lying closed in Gorakhpur. Likewise Kakuniya, Padaraina Sugar Mills in Kushinagar near Sant Kabirnagar, Khallilabad under Basti district are lying closed. When the farmers hold agitation and stage demonstration in a peaceful manner for payment of sugarcane arrears and revival of sugar mills, the State Government behave with them barbarically. A mammoth agitation by the farmers was recently held under the leadership of the President of the Kishan sena, Diwakar Singh for the revival of the Pipariach Sugar mill. The President of the Kishan Sena, Dewakar Singh was sent to jail at the instance of the Minister of the State Government and when the other day the farmers sat on dharana in protest against his arrest, 93 farmers were sent to the Gorakhpur jail and people who were hiding in the temple were also lathi charged by the police. I urge upon the Government of India through you that the Government should make meaningful efforts for the revival of all the sugar mills particularly that of in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Government of India is responsible for the sugar mills under its control, however, it should provide additional assistance to the Uttar Pradesh Government for the revival of sugar mills which are under the control of the State Government and it should also direct the State Government to check the atrocities and excesses being committed by the police at the instance of the Ministers of the State Government and immediate action should be taken against the ministers at the instance of whom the police has been committing excesses and atrocities.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I have to draw your attention to a very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, your notice was received after 10 o'clock in the office.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the unprecedented and barbaric atrocities by the police which are going on against the innocent Bodo people including my own family members....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you can give the notice for tomorrow. Today's notice was given after 10 o'clock.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I want to know whether I am an Indian or not...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give the notice tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you are a senior Member. You should know. Do you think anything can be taken up on the floor of the House? There are some rules. I cannot allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary. When you asked for permission, I checked up the matter here. You can give your notice for permission to speak on tomorrow.

The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

13.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to include 'Tarkhan' caste in Himachal Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Castes and Gaddi and Gujjar castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Tarkhan (Carpenter) caste engaged in wooden work has been granted the status of scheduled caste in Himachal Pradesh and likewise, the Gujars living in old Himachal Pradesh have been granted the status of scheduled tribes and these communities are getting facilities as per their entitlement. But after the reorganization of the State some parts of Punjab were included in Himachal Pradesh. And thus the Tarkhans and Gujjars living in the new areas, included in Himachal Pradesh have not been granted the status of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe respectively as a result of which the Tarkhans and Gujjars living in the one part of the Himachal Pradesh are getting facilities available to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes whereas the people of the same castes living in other parts of States have been deprived of these facilities and this has created an anomaly.

Sir, I request the Government and the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, through you, that in view of the importance and gravity of the issue to immediately remove the above anomaly and thereby granting the status of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to Tarkhanas and Gujjars living in some parts of the state included in Himachal Pradesh after the reorganisations so that justice could be meted out to them.

(ii) Need for early completion of Rani Avantibai Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, a long chain of dams have been constructed on the Narmada river on the pattern of western countries which is considered as the life line between Madhya Pradesh and the Gujarat. A re-study of mythological and geological situation of the Narmada rivers has become necessary since the pace of erosion of the Narmada river is fastest among the rivers flowing in the plains. In such a situation, the belatedly constructed irrigation projects cannot achieve their targets, on the other hand, the Government should immediately formulate an action plan for inter connecting the rivers confluencing into the Narmada. The Government should also formulate a scheme for inter connecting main canals of the dams so that security measures could be undertaken in case of excessive rains and earthquake to reduce the pressure of water on the dams.

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* Not recorded.

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

The Rani Avanti Bai Sagar Project which is underway at the next highest site from the originating point of the Narmada, there the construction of canal on the right side of river should be completed immediately because it is important for the safety of the dam and the Narmada valley Project as well.

(iii) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh for opening of a medical college at Bilaspur.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Guru Ghasi Das University, Bilaspur has completed all the formalities for opening of a medical college in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh State. The Central Government had sent its first study group to Bilaspur in April, 2001. They had submitted their first report to the public Heath Department. The Central Government had referred the report to the Medical Council of India for examination after accepting the same. Thereafter the Medical Council of India sent a study team to Bilaspur in July 2001. The team has already submitted its report. The need of opening of a medical college in Bilaspur is also necessary as it is second largest city of Chhattisgarh estate and High Court is also located there. It also houses the headquarters of the railway zone and commissionery as well, giant factories, SEL headquarters and two industrial areas are also located there. The Central Government is requested that sanction should be granted for opening a medical college in Bilaspur for advancement of the area from the educational and health points of view.

(iv) Need to make Gorakhpur unit of KRIBHCO in U.P. viable

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Gorakhpur unit of the Fertilisers Corporation of India Ltd. was established in 1969. The fertiliser factory was a boon for the farmers of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar but the said factory was closed down following a minor accident on 10th June, 1990. A deep sense of disappointment is prevailing among the employees as well as the farmers due to closure of the above factory set up in Eastern Uttar Pradesh which is already lagging behind industrially. The Government had directed the P.I.B. to assess the value of investment made in the above closed fertiliser factory giving approval in principle for its revival in view of the wider public interest. The P.I.B. has sent the proposal to the Government for final approval after assessing the value of investment made in the project. I, therefore, request the Union Government, through you, to kindly grant final permission for the revival of the fertilizer unit of KRIBHCO in Gorakhpur.

(v) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 7 between Jabalpur and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the national highway No. 7 between Jabalpur to Seoni (approx. length 14.5 kms) was in a dilapidated condition for a long time but it was reconstructed last year itself. But the showers of first rains the construction work on the entire stretch of 14.5 kms was washed away and the entire stretch was converted into potholes. I request the Minister-in-Charge to conduct a high level inquiry into irregularities committed in the construction work of the said high way and see to it that responsibility should be fixed in such cases of construction works of such important routes in future. Reconstruction of the above stretch of the highway should immediately be undertaken so that inconvenience caused to the public and frequent accidents could be avoided.

(vi) Need to Provide Basic Facilities at Palanpur Railway Station, Gujarat

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the extensive filth at the Palanpur railway station under my parliamentary constituency. Palanpur is the headquarter of Banaskantha district. There is a lack of basic amenities at this railway station. After laying the broad gauge, the platform at this station has not been fully covered with shade which is causing inconveniences to the public. The fertilisers meant for farmers are kept in open and are likely to be spoiled. Therefore there is an urgent need to construct a shade at Palanpur railway station.

Through this House I would like to request the Central Government to declare the Palanpur railway station as an ideal station and also ensure proper sanitary facility and provide basic amenities at the station and take up the construction of a shade immediately.

(vii) Need to enact law to provide social security to workers engaged in unorganised sector, particularly agricultural workers

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, the number of workers of unorganised sector is increasing rapidly. But there is no law for their social security. They are mostly shelterless. They are denied need-based wages.

But it goes without saying that this section of workers plays a very important role in our economy.

Agricultural workers who are key to the development of agriculture are also not covered under any social security scheme. The agricultural workers mostly hail from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC communities whose sufferings are beyond description.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to enact a law in order to cover the workers of unorganised sector and agricultural workers under social security scheme.

(viii) Need to increase interest rate on Provident Fund of Central Government Employees

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, the reduction of the interest rate of Provident Fund has placed the Central Government employees in a very critical condition. Most of them do not have any scope for saving other than compulsory savings under the Provident Fund Rules. Many of them depend only on income arising out of interest and have received a blow after reduction in the rate of interest, all the more so when the Government is unable to control the spiralling price level of essential commodities. These Government employees have been seriously hurt by this measure. The Government should be concerned as to how to mitigate their suffering and restore for them the benefit of higher interest rate.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item 10 of the Revised List of Business—taking into consideration of the Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 1991. The time allotted for this is one hour.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Madam, I beg to move:*

> "That the Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 be taken into consideration."

Madam, Chairperson, the Bill seeks to amend the Government of Union Territories, Act, 1963 in relation to Pondicherry; and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 in relation to the National Capital Territory of Delhi; to provide that the two Union Territories having Legislative Assemblies may be given the power and authority to borrow from market to give guarantees upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory concerned. The reason is that the said two Union Territories have their own Consolidated Funds of India but they do not have the power to borrow from the market. The Lieutenant Governors of these two Union Territories would also be allowed to exercise the power of the Government of India in this regard. In addition, provisions are being made for having their separate public accounts as well as their own cash balances with the Reserve Bank of India. This arrangement is envisaged to enable the Reserve Bank of India to monitor the ways and means position of these two Union Territories on day-to-day basis and bring them within the normal discipline relating to limitations and regulations of overdrafts already applicable in respect of these Governments. This will also enable the two Union Territories to operate their finances on their own in real terms and will encourage to observe strong financial discipline. With this, Madam, I commend this Bill to approval of this August House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Madam Chairperson, the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister is

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* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

justified. This Bill aims at amending the provisions of the Bill of 1963. Pondicherry and Delhi have been Union Territories. As per the provision of this Bill these two territories will be able to take loans from the market against their consolidated funds and deposit the amounts in the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank will keep a constant vigil on their accounts. Some special officers of Delhi and Pondicherry will have the right to withdraw the money from the accounts. They will do so after due consultations. My humble submission is that the Governments of Delhi and Pondicherry can issue bonds for education sector. They can also adopt lottery system to collect money. If some development works have to be taken up. the Governments of Delhi and Pondicherry can raise money through lottery system.

I want this and you should also think about it that at times even State Governments try to good rate of interest. Lucky Schemes and several other schemes have been introduced by the Post and Telegraph department under which it has been announced to give golden and silver coins to those who deposit a sum of five or ten thousand rupees under these schemes. Similarly, it has also been announced to give exemption of a lump sum amount of rupees one thousand for those who deposit one lakh rupees. Likewise, if there is a provision of good rate of interest and attractive schemes in the name of education and development. Then Delhi and Pondicherry governments can surely be able to raise money. You can think of issuing bonds but the ruling parties at the Centre and in Delhi and Pondicherry are different, so who will give guaranty of repayment? The guaranty has to be given either by the Central Government or by the State Government. But when there is no co-ordination between the Government and State Governments, how will then the money of the people be returned. You should consider this point also. This is also my request. You can raise money through bonds, lotteries and attractive schemes. This is the right method adopted by the Government. Delhi and Pondicherry are short of funds and the Government has given them rights on the basis of which they can raise money from the public against their security deposits in the Reserve Bank. I welcome this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lottery is banned in Delhi.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Lottery is not totally banned and lotteries of several States are still drawn.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has moved amendments in the two Bills concerning Centre-State and the National capital. Earlier there were two laws. One was concerning the union territory and the other law of 1991 was concerning the national capital. He now seeks amendments in both the Bills. There are State Assemblies in Delhi and Pondicherry. A demand is being made in both the States to accord them the status of Independent Separate Statehood why they are not being accorded the status of independent statehood? Those States have consolidated fund and state assemblies but they have no right to take loans from the market. Therefore, this Bill has been brought to confer this right on them. They have no right to take loans against the consolidated fund, but he wants to give this right. Delhi has an outstanding loan of Rs. five thousand forty six crore and it has to pay Rs. 1570 crore annually as interest. Delhi is already under the heavy pressure of loan and he says that he intends to further enhance the borrowing capacity of Delhi and he wants that the State should have the right to take loans according to the article of the Constitution.

The problem of Delhi is that the population of Delhi in 1911 when it became the capital was four lakh which has gone up to 1 crore 46 lakh. What is the position of drinking water facility? Delhi requires 5 million litre water daily but only 3 million litre of water is available per day. This requirement will go up to 7 million litre by 2011. What is the condition of the capital of the country? There is a crisis of water and electricity.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, yesterday I went to Timarpur where Jhuggies of the scheduled caste people are located. The CPWD employees had blocked their road. Thousands of people were ready for courting arrest. On the other side the police personnel were engaged in tackling with terrorists on 15th August, the road of that side was blocked. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister as to where the wards of thousands of people of that area should go for schooling. How will they go to the market, how will they go for work? When I went to the Police Station the police officers asked to register cases against them but I asked them to break the police cordon and said that I was the government. At my instance the order was given to release them.

I am aware that thousands of jhuggi-dwellers are labourers and factory workers. Those who have contributed in constructing Delhi why are they being rooted out. Lakhs of such people have come to Delhi to work. A master plan for Delhi was formulated at the time of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. Thereafter, another masterplan was formulated and small industries were sought to be shifted to Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the name of pollution.

Lakhs of labourers working in those small industries have been rendered jobless. The Government had stated that those living in J.J. Colonies will not be removed without offering any options to them but they are being removed. I have seen it from my own eyes. Sh. V.P. Singh had got it stopped by sitting on Dharana and launching a movement in December 2000. Their children are on the roads and they are crying their hearts out. The Government has got no options. This Government does not have any concerns for poor. The influential people are illegally occupying sanik farms and nobody has any time to reach those poor people. There are several institutions such as MCD, DDA, NDMC etc. resembling with 10-20 headed monsters and are out to remove them. These people have been rehabilitated in Narela where there is no drinking water, power supply, sanitation and schools. When poor people are being meted out such a treatment in the capital, their business and industries are closed then what to talk about the poor people of other places. The Urban Development Minister is Shri Jagmohan. People in Gujarat have been destroyed by the earthquake and in Delhi people have been ruined by Shri Jagmohan's arbitrary style of functioning.

Mr. Chairman Sir, hon'ble Speaker Sir had convened a meeting in this regard where the Government had stated that they were acting as per the dictates of the Supreme Court, I would like to state that this is not the government but bureaucratic rule. The Government means that it has to see as to how its people are living and if they have any problems. This is all because of Delhi's rules.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, it is the Congress Government that is ruling in the national capital region of Delhi.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Congress Government is the subordinate one and the Bill to give powers to this government to enable it to take loans has been introduced by this Government. The Delhi state government has a huge loan of 5046 crores against it and it has to pay 1500 crores of interest thereon annually. You can well imagine the fate of such a government. You still say that it is the Congress Government. Anyone may be ruling there but the conditions in Delhi are obvious. Therefore, the Union Government has introduced a Bill to enable the Delhi State Government to mobilise loans.

Mr. Chairman, the number of vehicles in Delhi has surpassed the total number of vehicles in all the metros of the country together. We daily view on T.V. that content of Sulphordioxide is maximum in Delhi. Delhi has got the maximum emission of gas causing Asthama. Delhi has got the maximum difficulty in regard to potable water. How will they run the entire country when Delhi is not problems free.

Mr. Chairman, Sir at that time an engineer by the name of Lutyen had conceived the plan as to what types of trees would be planted on which roads. He had planned that on the one side tamarind trees would be planted and on the other side Neem trees would be grown. What kinds of art he had envisaged and dream at the Raiseena hills, but today things are in bad shape. Today there is a problem of living, of health in Delhi. The poor weaker people and those belonging to working class had built Delhi. Who built Delhi. It was built by the hardworking people, factory workers, industrial workers and those doing hard labour. It was not built by the big people living in posh colonies and in airconditioned houses. But over the years what has happened to Delhi. Rashtrakavi Dinker has aptly said - 'Hosh Karo Delhi Ke Devon, Aub Janata Baradasht Karne Wali Nahin Hain.' I want to demand from the Government that National Capital Delhi be given the status of full statehood. Pondicherry should also be given the status of a full statehood. Merely giving a legislative assembly and a right to borrow money to them does not mean that they are going to got other facilities and benefits. Their difficulty is not going to be solved...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Things are not as bad as in Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you speaking, do you want a more lengthy speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The people who have spoiled, are sitting on that side. Now the country is to be saved from these people. That is why through our speeches we are getting the people awakened that the country be saved from these people. They are taking the country towards destruction. It has been said - 'Mujkho Barbadi Ka Koyee Gam Nahin, Gam Hai Barbadi Ka Kyon Charcha Hua'. Whatever these people want, that is not going to happen. Members would continue to raise the concerns of crores of oppressed and hardworking people. The steering wheel of the country is in their hands. The people driving the vehicle of the country and controlling the country are sitting on that side. We are sitting in the vehicle on the back seats. We are repeatedly cautioning them not to got to the right side because there is a danger and ditch on that side. But the steering wheel is in their hands and they can destroy the vehicle if they wish to do that. We have only

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

got the right to speak. As such I would like to caution the Government that there is a problem of potable water, electricity and sanitation in Delhi. The Yamuna river has dried up and as such the problem of electricity and water is continuing....*(Interruptions)* They will be happy by this thing only, but what will happen after floods. The arrangement of desilting in Ganga and Yamuna is not proper. There has been first rain of this season but when it will not rain then you will be exposed. Wherever it has not rained you have been exposed there. You will be exposed at remaining places. Therefore it should be passed for the welfare of poor persons and workers of Delhi. I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Madam Chairperson, as far as this Bill seeks to confer authority on the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry to borrow upon the security of the Consolidated Fund and also to provide for separate public accounts, it is a welcome measure.

For very long now, there has been a persistent demand that Pondicherry should be conferred Statehood. I do hope that this is one step in that direction but going up what the Government has been doing over these years, one finds that the Government of the day is not at all concerned about the democratic aspirations of the people of the Union Territories. It was after a long drawn-out struggle that Delhi got the status of National Capital Territory with a Legislative Assembly. It was expected, thereafter, that as time passes, more and more powers would be vested in the Government of Delhi so that they could really serve the people of the UT. Unfortunately, what we find at every step is that the present Government is out to create obstacles in the way of the working of the Government of Delhi. Maybe, they have not yet reconciled the fact that they have lost Delhi after misgovernance during their earlier period. There is always an effort on the part of the Government to pass the buck, to pass on the responsibility, for all its failures in Delhi, on the Government of Delhi.

We know that Delhi has a strange predicament in the sense that the local Government has no control over the DDA and no control over the Police. In the name of governing the Territory which constitutes the National Capital, this Government is working with a closed mind as far as the genuine aspirations and demands of the people of Delhi are concerned. Only the other day, we found that when it was primarily the failure of the Government of India to supply CNG in adequate quantity to Delhi, the blame was sought to be passed on to the Government of Delhi which has nothing to do with the matter. I should not really refer to it because it is dealt with by a different Ministry. But why I do take up this matter is just to expose and give a glimpse of the mindset of this Government. We have former Chief Ministers of Delhi - in fact, three of them, who changed hands very swiftly during the BJP period - now adorning this House. But we do not just find them giving any time come together, to try to see as to what can be done for the people of Delhi.

As I said, these are two good provisions, but then I would agree with Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh when he said that there are not enough. You have to come up further and have to have regular meetings with those people.

Now, what about other UTs? I would just say that as far as other smaller UTs are concerned, the Government just couldn't care less for them. The UTs have been handed over, in a way to bureaucracy. It was after a great struggle that, in those days, we were able to extend the provisions of two important Constitutional Amendments, the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments, to the UTs. But what has happened thereafter? No powers whatever have ever been really transferred to the people by the administration. There is a provision in the Constitution as also in the respective laws about the setting up of the State Finance Commissions which would apportion the State finances, or, in that case, finances between the administration of the UTs and the local bodies working in the UTs. Nothing of that sort has been done. The local bodies, that is, the Municipal Corporations, the *Panchayat Samities* and *Zila Parishads* are starved of funds. The only thing that they have been repeatedly told by the Government and the officers in Delhi is that they must impose more and more taxes on the people.

Coming to my own Union Territory of Chandigarh, I would like to say that it is a revenue surplus U.T. Chandigarh contributes more to the kitty of Government of India than even the adjoining Ludhiana circle, as far as income tax is concerned. Then the land there is acquired at a nominal rate. Without any substantial and tangible developmental work - though I agree that some development work is carried out — those plots are auctioned at skyrocketing prices. When people ask about the development work that should have been done before they are auctioned, they just would not bother.

The same is the case with the *Panchayat Samiti* and *Zilla Parishad*. Elections have not been held for Panchayat Samiti and elections for *Zilla Parishad* were held after we fought for that for years together. The results were notified after a gap of three years and none of the 29 items have really been transferred by the Administration to *Panchayati Raj* institutions. Similar is the predicament of all the Union Territories. We want their status to be retained as Union Territories because we want the Government of India to take care of those Union Territories which are not able to do because of lack of resources. The Union Government also wants those to remain Union Territories because it wants to retain the control over them. The officers sitting here would like to go to those places and to be treated as if they are the monarchs of the day. What are they doing for the people? That question was taken up very actively by the Estimates Committee once. Detailed recommendations were made on every aspect concerning the administration of Union Territories. But none of the recommendations were accepted. Let the hon. Minister stand up and say that they have accepted even one recommendation. Not even one recommendation was accepted. Now Pondicherry clamours for Statehood and people of Delhi want more power, not just for the sake of enjoying the power, but to effectively serve the people to ensure that their aspirations are met. But this Government is unmoved. I do hope that these provisions would set the ball rolling as far as the future of the Union Territories is concerned.

Coming back to the small Union Territories which have no Assembly on their own, is it not imperative to make those people feel that democracy works at the grassroots level, particularly when you talk of the democracy at the national and State level? You have set up Municipal Committees. The power that you give with one hand, you withdraw with the other hand. The elected representatives have no role whatsoever to play but to attend the mandatory meeting every month. There again, officers play politics because the ultimate power vests with them.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House some facts which have already been brought to the notice of the Government regarding Chandigarh. When the Municipal Corporation was created, the employees who were transferred *en masse* from the Administration to the Corporation demanded that they should be treated to have been on deputation for all purposes. It is because they found that they would not enjoy certain benefits and certain service conditions which are being enjoyed by their colleagues in the Administration, if they were to be treated as employees of the Municipal Corporation. I learnt that the Government had accepted this proposal over a year back, but nothing has been done in that regard. This is the pace at which the Government works. So far nothing has been done to bring an amendment in the Act. All that the Government has done is to confer the membership of the Corporation on the elected Member of Parliament from the Union Territory. Was that the necessity? Was that the need? The need is to make the Corporation a veritable vehicle of carrying forward people's aspirations and needs so that even in its limited domain, the Corporation could play a meaningful role. That is not being done. The other thing which has still not been done is this. I know of my Union Territory. But, perhaps, that is the position everywhere.

The other important provision incorporated in the Constitution was to set up the District Planning Boards. That has not been done. An integrated plan had to be prepared by the Panchayati Raj Institutions as also the Corporations. As far as these Union Territories are concerned, the Government of India has taken no steps. Further, there is a provision to have, what you call, the Home Minister's Advisory Committee for each of the Union Territories. I know that for the last two years since we have been in this Parliament that Committee has not been constituted. Only God knows when the Committee would be constituted. Maybe, only one or two meetings in the entire tenure of the Lok Sabha would be held. Even the local Advisory Council, which you have for the Administrator, does not meet frequently as it should. We had decided to have at least a meeting once in three months so that matters concerning the people could be taken up there. But, for months together, we do not find those meetings taking place.

There are hosts of problems which the people of these Union Territories face. So, I would request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting of the representatives of the Union Territories, Members of Parliament representing the various Union Territories, representatives of the local bodies there. Even, other important representatives of the public can be associated to really understand, to have a grasp of what those people feel like and what are their problems. For many years, the residents of the Housing Board flats in Chandigarh have been raising their voice against the total non-workability of the building bye-laws. Mr. Minister, you had extended the scheme of conversion of lease-hold rights into free-hold proprietory rights. But, along with that, you added a number of such clauses which makes it extremely difficult for any person even to apply for that. The scheme has remained a non-starter. Have you gone into all those questions? When we have to raise a Question in

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Parliament, 20 days' notice is to be given. After twenty days of notice, all that we get is the answer that the information is being sought and would be laid on the Table of the House. There is nothing to govern; nothing to goad this Government to say when that information would be laid on the Table of the House. When we refer to that Question again, we would get the same kind of information. Therefore, this is an opportunity for us to really voice our concern about the total lack of concern of the Government of India today about the welfare of the Union Territories.

The Government should rise to its responsibility and see that the Union Territories are not neglected.

With this I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar. You were not there when I called you. Please do it quickly.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): I am sorry. I would just finish within five minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Obviously, I think we need more than the allotted time of one hour if the hon. Minister has to reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, more time would be required.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The hon. Minister may not reply. It is up to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): When the National Capital Territory Bill was introduced, I was in the other House. I had opposed the idea of having a National Capital Assembly. The reason was that if Statehood was going to be given for Delhi, then would the people, who come from other States, feel that this is a National Capital of theirs? If Delhi gets Statehood, it is totally a different issue. Even then, I raised my concern that if the Government was going to link the Union Territories to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, there would be financial problems. I think we are facing this problem today.

About this Bill, which has been introduced, I would say that there is total confusion in the sense that as far as financial matters are concerned, they are with the Government of India. We have an Assembly which is controlling all the taxes that have been collected by the National Assembly. Now, the situation has arisen where the National Capital needs funds for its further development. How to process that? The Government of India has been kind enough to provide capital for the development of the National Capital. But the other States have started taking objection to this. Therefore, I think, the Government has come forward with this Bill.

This Bill, in fact, is a replica of articles 292 and 293, wherein the Constitution of India allows the Government of India to borrow and its allows the State Governments also to borrow. The Government is in a fix as far as the powers are concerned.

Madam, I will read page 2, chapter II, article 48A in the Bill:

> "The executive power of the Union extends to borrowing upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory within such limits, if any, as may, from time to time be fixed by the Parliament by law..."

The Parliament today has not fixed any law as to what should be the limit of borrowing as far as the Government of India is concerned.

May I take this opportunity to ask the hon. Minister that at least after 50 years of our Independence, are they going to come out with a Bill in the Parliament limiting the borrowing capacity of the Government of India? It has already been introduced long ao, but I do not think that it will come up. That introduction is totally different from what is envisaged in the Constitution. That is totally a different Bill. That does not fall according to article 292 because that is only for borrowing and there the borrowing, which has been defined in the Bill is totally different.

Madam, in the Assemblies and in some of the Union Territories as far as borrowing is concerned, it is an Executive act. But what amount should be borrowed, what should be the quantum of borrowing, that is the power, which the Assemblies will have to decide. As I pointed out this section, he has given these powers to the Parliament to fix it up. The proviso to it is that:

> "Provided that the powers exercisable by the Government of India under this sub-section shall also be exercisable by the Administrator subject to such conditions, if any, as the Government of India may fit to impose."

Madam, this is a contradiction. In the above para 48(a) (1), the amendment which provides 'that the power to fix the limit is given to the Parliament'. By the same

additional proviso, it is said, 'this power is given to the Administrator through the Government of India'.

This decision, now borrowing as I said, is an administrative decision. But what should be the quantum of borrowing? The quantum of borrowing is to be decided by the Parliament or by the Assemblies.

May I ask the hon. Minister, if there is a conflict between the Assembly, the Parliament and the Administrator, who is going to decide the matter? Because Parliament has not fixed it, the Assembly in its own wisdom might fix a limit, and the Administrator, in his own wisdom might fix the limit. Through these Acts, they have given powers to all the three persons. May I know, in a conflict, who is going to be the final authority as far as the limit of borrowing is concerned?

The other contradiction, which has come up in this Bill is this. They say 'that the borrowing will be on the Consolidated Fund of India'. If the Union Territory's borrowings are going to be on the Consolidated Fund of India, then what happens to the National Capital Fund, which we have under the National Capital Act and what happens to the Union Territory Fund, which we have under the Union Territory Act of 1963? These are the three clarifications which I would like to have from the hon. Minister.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Madam, I support the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

It is a welcome attempt. I have only a few suggestions. I do not want to make a long speech on that. So I will finish in less than five minutes, which you have given me.

There are three aspects. Firstly, the borrowing power has been extended to two Union Territories out of seven Union Territories, where there are Legislative Assemblies. One is the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the other is Pondicherry, where the elected Legislative Assemblies are there. The borrowing power has been extended to them. Secondly, Public Account has been created like that of the Consolidated Fund. Some more power has been given to the Administrator or the Lieutenant Governor. These are the three main aspects of this Amendment Bill for two Union Territories.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi has got a special status. Delhi's population is more than any of the Special Category States including Uttaranchal. Among the 12 Special Category States, Delhi's population is high.

So far as the Constitution of India is concerned, article 112 refers to the Consolidated Fund of India and article 202 refers to the Consolidated Fund of the States. The Constitution recognises these two Funds, namely the Consolidated Fund of India and the Consolidated Fund of the States.

Madam, the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been created through a Central Act. Public Act has been created by a Central Act, not under the Constitution, and it is in line with articles 292 and 293.

They should have the borrowing power and they should borrow it. Instead of taking it from the Government of India, the Government of India will borrow upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory in case of Pondicherry and in case of Delhi, it is upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The second part, which is most important and which has been pointed out by Shri Prakash Ambedkar, is the limit. Madam, articles 292 and 293 of the Constitution have provided this particular part, which is also here in the Central Act. It says: "Such limit, if any, has been made from time to time to be fixed by Parliament by law." This has not yet been done. The limit for borrowing has neither been fixed for the nation as a whole on the Consolidated Fund of India, nor any State has also framed that law. As a result, the debt burden of India has gone to a staggering height, and in some States, it has reached an alarming height. Now, they are in the debt trap. I can point out three States—Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In the case of Orissa, 93 per cent of its revenue has been spent on paying back interest and capital repayment and it is being done perpetually and continuously. Orissa has been declared as a deficit State. In these three States, the debt burden has gone to a staggering height. Therefore, I suggest that as soon as this Bill is passed, the Government should limit the borrowing power of both the National Capital Territory of Delhi and also that of Pondicherry. This has to be done positively. Otherwise, they will land in the same difficulty as some of the States like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have landed.

The second thing is about Public Accounts. It is a good thing. But I want to make one suggestion. I do not understand when money is going from the Consolidated Fund of India for national highway construction, why it is

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

not going to the Consolidated Fund of States directly. It goes to the Public Accounts. Why? I do not know. The C&AG should be consulted, and this would go to the Consolidated Fund of the States instead of crediting it to the Public Accounts of the States. Similarly, in the States, similar attempts should be made.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, there are so many speakers who want to speak now. If I call you, I will have to call the whole round again.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Madam, from our side. only one Member spoke.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know. That is why, I gave more time to him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I want two minutes' time only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Madam, I sought the floor as an act of goodwill towards my neighbouring State of Pondicherry whose elected representative has been unable to come here. My own constituency abuts it.

All I want to say is that it is an extremely welcome step that the Government of Pondicherry is being invested with additional powers in terms of this Bill and, therefore, welcome it. The fact is that Pondicherry has earned its right to be a full-fledged State. If a State like Arunachal Pradesh could become a full-fledged State as long ago as 14 years, there is no reason why Pondicherry, which acquired an identity in independent India, in 1954 cannot after all these years, 47 years, nearly half a century, be given that right. So, I would plead with the hon. Minister to kindly ensure that by the time Pondicherry celebrates the 50th anniversary of its joining the Indian Union, they work towards giving them full State-hood. In this regard, I would also plead with the hon. Minister not to pit the Union Government against the State Government as has happened from time to time, notably, in the area of education. There needs to be an atmosphere of good Centre-UT relations as well, not merely good Centre-State relations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Madam, I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have supported this Bill. I am also thankful to hon. Member, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who has opposed the Bill but at the same time he has given valid suggestions.

I fully agree with the concern about the poor people living in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Madam, it is for the kind information of the House. This is a Bill only to seek to give authority to both the Lieutenant Governors of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and also Pondicherry by amending the Acts of 1963 and 1991. It is only to authorise them to borrow the amounts upon the Consolidated Fund of the respective Union Territories. It is not that both the Union Territories have got their own Consolidated Funds. I would like to mention that Delhi is having the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It had an amount of Rs. 7239.59 crore in the year 2000-01. It has an amount of Rs. 7,575 crore in the year 2001-02. So far as Pondicherry is concerned, the Consolidated Fund had an amount Rs. 1,106 crore in the year 2000-01, and in the year 2001-02, it has an amount of Rs. 1,151 crore. So, by these two amendments, we are authorising both the Lieutenant Governors to borrow securities upon this Consolidated Fund by both the Union Territories.

As Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has rightly said that a number of welfare schemes have to be taken up and this was supported by the lady Member from the State of Rajasthan. They are also raising money by way of bonds and lotteries. Of course, lotteries are banned now. By borrowing the money, they are entering into many agreements and by that they are catering to the needs of the poor people. Like that, in Delhi also, by virtue of this authorisation, they can have their own welfare programmes as far as development programme is concerned. There is no contradiction so far as the provisions are concerned.

It is related only to the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territories and not to the Consolidated Fund of India.

So far as the Finance Commissions, as raised by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are concerned, the earlier Finance Commission was set up in the year 1995 and the next one is likely to be set up. The Report of the earlier Commission is being implemented.

So far as the *panchayati raj* system is concerned, it is being effectively implemented in the Union Territories to make these Union Territories self-reliant and self-ruled.

So far as giving Statehood for the National Capital Territory of Delhi is concerned, the view of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi on the proposal to grant full Statehood have been sought.

Further action would be taken on receipt of the views from the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

So far as Pondicherry is concerned, already the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly has passed a Resolution with a request to grant Statehood but with a special status. The proposal for grant of Statehood with a special status to Pondicherry has not been agreed to by the Planning Commission. The Government of Pondicherry was asked to send a special report, justification for this special status, which is awaited. After getting both these reports from both these Union Territories, it would be taken up.

This is a very simple Bill. It is intended only to give certain powers to both the Lieutenant-Governors and to open a public account to have a financial discipline to provide ways and means to the two Union Territories to realise their capacity to undertake schemes. Therefore, I request hon. Members to support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Members from treasury benches say that we do not cooperate whereas we cooperate by all means. Today we have helped in getting this Bill passed very quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many many thanks.

14.58 hrs.

ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 11. The time allotted for the Energy Conservation Bill is two hours.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The Government introduced the Energy Conservation Bill before Parliament some time back. This Bill was referred later to the Standing Committee of Parliament.

Wee are all aware—we were also discussing even this morning—that we are really short of energy in the country. The shortages of energy throughout the country are colossal. In fact, all parts of the country are suffering from commercial energy shortage, whether it is the Eastern, Western, Northern or Southern part of the country. Therefore, generating more and more energy is required.

At the same time, it is also important that while we must generate more energy, it is also necessary that we must conserve energy. It is not enough that we keep on meeting our energy requirements by creating more capacities; it is also necessary that we conserve energy and make energy resources available for us. This is why, the Government has thought it imperative to introduce this Energy Conservation Bill.

15.00 hrs.

Madam, you are aware that despite the best efforts that we have made, India continues to be one of the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

high energy consuming countries in the world. This is despite the fact that the per capita consumption of energy in India is one of the lowest in the world. If you really look at the energy efficiency of India, if you compare it with Japan, it is 3.7 times higher than that of Japan and if you compare it with the USA, it is 1.5 times higher than that of the USA. Therefore, for many reasons, we really need to have energy consumption as a mission, as a programme that all the parties in the country must pursue. To provide a legal framework to this initiative, we thought that we must introduce a proper Bill in the Parliament and that is how this Bill has been introduced.

There is one estimate which says that the potential to conserve energy in India is as high as 23 per cent. In fact, the manufacturing sector itself can save as much as 30 per cent; the agricultural sector can save as much as 25 per cent and the commercial and household sectors can save as high as another 25 per cent. Therefore, we have now decided that each of these consumers who consume more power should be — whether it is the manufacturing sector consuming 5 MW of power and above or whether it is other sector consuming 500 KV of power and above—treated as a designated customer. Those designated customers would be subjected to energy audit. The energy audit will bring out the potential for energy conservation. The implementation of this report would bring out saving of energy substantially.

We are also proposing that there should be more and more consumption standardisation and labelling for some of the household equipments like air-conditioners, geysers, heaters, microwave ovens and other household equipment which are mainly energy guzzlers. Therefore, we are proposing to two-phase approach. One is labelling, to begin with, which will create an awareness, which will be mandatory. When a consumer buys a product, he is making an informed choice that this particular equipment is, probably, going to consume more energy than what is required. There will also be mandatory requirements for all these to reduce the energy consumption over a period of time.

Madam, we are also proposing an energy consumption building code for some of the newly coming up buildings in the country. You are aware that mass housing schemes have been launched. Many housing complexes are coming up. If they follow an energy efficiency code for them, it will be very good. I say recently one building which is constructed by TERI, which is not very far from here. I would request my colleagues in the Parliament to please pay a visit to that place to find out that building does not have any air-conditioning facility and it has much better ambience than one of the best-constructed buildings using more energy. Therefore, if you can introduce a code like this, this would also bring down consumption of energy in a significant way.

As I said, when this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament, we received very good support from all the hon. Members of the Committee and they made as many as 32 very useful recommendations. I am very happy to say that we have accepted all the 32 recommendations. In fact, I am introducing some of those recommendations as official amendments and we are incorporating some of the recommendations in the rules that will be framed because they do not require a change in the law itself. We will be introducing some of the recommendations through administrative actions. I have accepted all the recommendations. In fact, I am very happy to say that the entire House was almost unanimous to introduce a Bill like this.

I would also like to add one thing here which is not even part of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. We do not intend to introduce the inspector raj. We do not want that enforcement of this law should be made in a manner that would create more hardship for the people whose premises are going to be searched or who are going to be subjected to some verification. Therefore, we are also proposing that there should be a self-regulatory organisation which should be set up. These self-regulatory organisations themselves will regulate on their own because saving energy is also making a good commercial sense. I think we have decided to follow this path.

Therefore, Madam, I would now request that this hon. House may pass this Bill unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Madam, I support this Bill. But, at the same time, I would like to make certain comments upon the way in which the Government is thinking on this subject. Actually we are going on the path of global economy. When the foreign investors are coming to India, they first of all want to know as to what are the regulations that we are having in each and every field.

They feel that India is having multiple and plenty of rules and regulations, and bureaucratic regulations are also made, and they have to jump through all these things and, in the meantime, they would be out of the market. That is the feeling of the private sector now, especially of the multinational companies which are ready to invest money in India. I feel that this job of making regulations and monitoring is to be gradually handed over to the people who are actually benefited, who are, as the hon. Minister said in the enactment, the designated consumers and the designated agencies. This should be a part of their duty; this should not be a part of the Government's duty and this should not be a part of the bureaucracy's duty.

Now, we are saying that we are going to curtail the expansion of the bureaucracy. The hon. Finance Minister had announced in his Budget Speech that the Government was going to downsize the bureaucracy and one Joint Secretary and the downward staff would be removed. Now, I feel that the Joint Secretary, who is dissected from the bureaucracy is again replanted in this Commission. This is a new method. You are not going to penalise any Joint Secretary or anybody who is working under him. He is going to be benefited by some other building, which is having better air-conditioning, more modern furniture and he will have new cars. He can purchase new cars because you have given about Rs. 20 crore as Consultative Fund and also he can spend Rs. 25 lakh immediately on office furniture. Then, there is going to be an expenditure of Rs. one crore every year.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Energy, who is very energetic, very young and very dynamic, to one point. He can think that more and more bureaucratic control should be taken away whenever the Bills are coming before Parliament. This Bill is totally a part of the bureaucratic asylum. They want to go in some other way. When they are going to retire or are at the verge of their retirement, they want to have some more free enterprise where they can meet their own friends, who will be coming as ex officio members there, sit together and make some regulations.

I find that in clauses 13 and 14, very extensive guidelines are given, but I do not find anything positive as to how you are going to make it because the word 'energy conservation' sounds very high. You have converted the Energy Management Centre to Conservation Centre. Why do you not have the same name, that is, Energy Management Centre which itself is a very good term and which gives a lot of meaning that the Centre is going to manage things which are going to be there under their control in the energy sector? But now we are making it as Conservation Centre. What conservation are they going to do? They are going to have a lot of regulations; they are going to have another police *raj*; they are going to inspect it; and they are going to send their own inspectors, whom they may call as Energy Managers. They will demand certain things. If you are violating certain rules, then you have to pay something. I feel that these are the things which should be considered.

We are not living in a colonial country where police raj should go on; we are living in a global economy. When you want to go in for a global economy, the bureaucracy should also have the same thinking. Tell people that these are the rules that we expect you to obey and if you violate them, you will be penalised by such and such method. By whom? They will be penalised by their own association, by their own agency, by their own members. We will not sit there because the bureaucracy will say 'you go like this or you travel like this'. I find this type of thinking throughout the Bill. Therefore, I would request that you may not have that type of thinking now for this Bill, but I would like to request you that while making rules, you kindly make it soft, make it clear, make it transparent and make it very quickly understandable so that the people who are coming for the business can do business and do not become lawyers to complicate their own rules where they are going to fall down.

Therefore, I would request you that you have made a very good system of making a Director-General—that is a very good thing—who can manage the things because you have taken it away from the Department so that he can manage it. But he is going to have a Bureau. He is going to be a coordinator. What is he going to coordinate? He is going to coordinate with the designated consumers and the designated agencies.

That is also defined. What job are they going to do? Their job is to recommend, utilise the existing resources and the infrastructure. In which way are they going to help the people? In which way are they going to help the people?

We have to remember that we have entered the regime of market economy where the market is going to control everything. If a refrigerator consumes less energy, then people are going to purchase that refrigerator. You need not regulate it because the market is going to regulate it. They will advertise to the effect that if you purchase this particular refrigerator, then you electricity bill will be less, and you can even utilise solar energy

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

and so on. They will advertise that the refrigerator runs on non-conventional energy. That is how the market works.

In an open market era, you want to say that you are going to look after even labelling. It is very interesting, when you read the case. It shows how we are not changing our mindset even in the age of global economy. The revolution cannot happen only in FICCI or in federations of merchants. It has to happen in the bureaucracy as well as in the legislature. I will read a section which shows how deeply we want to regulate people. It says:

> "To recommend to the Central Government the norms for process and energy consumption standards required to be notified under section 14(a);
>
> "To recommend to the Central Government the particulars required to be displayed on label, on equipment or an appliance or manner of that display under clause (d)."

Why should we undertake such a work? We are not sitting here to say that they should stick such and such label because that is the work of the market. We are thinking as if we are regulating everything, manufacturing everything and our product is going to compete with other things. Taking advantage of WTO, lots of things are being dumpted here How are you going to manage it or label it? Plenty of things are coming from China. You cannot label it because it has been sold away. In the past, we had a regulated economy and, therefore, these types of things were looked into. Now, you have to create awareness and disseminate information on efficient use of energy.

Are the people not living in the rural areas? You want to totally neglect agriculture. There is no word about agriculture in the entire Bill. There is no word about sericulture in the Bill. Do you not think that they are going to use energy? Are they not going to benefit by this? Are they not going to get the benefit out of new inventions, appliances or the apparatus which transmit energy? Without energy, nothing can happen. The state of affairs in the world we are living in is such that a man cannot take birth without the use of energy; a man cannot be cremated without the use of energy. Therefore, the entire thinking has to be changed.

Whose duty is it to promote research and development in the field of energy? We are no longer living in a socialistic pattern of society; we are living in a market-driven world. People are going to do research and they are going to come out with new things in order to compete in the market. Otherwise, they will not survive. We have an open market economy.

Then, there is this ambitious thing of coordinating with the autonomous bodies for the inclusion of such curriculum in their syllabus. The Human Resource Development Minister can address this issue. Instead of saffronising it, they can be asked to have the education in their own way. It need not be mentioned in the Bill. In clause 14, the same thing has been repeated again. It says,

> "The specific norms for process and energy consumption standards for any equipment, appliance which consumes, generates, transmits or supplies energy..."

In my opinion, we cannot do anything like this.

It is because the entire thing is going to be dumped here and it would not be possible for our officers to do it. The supervisory agencies would not be able to find out as to what are the things that are coming into the market. Therefore, we have to do away with all these things and there should not be normal regulations. There should only be broad guidelines that could be implemented very quickly by the officers. But if very stringent and very detailed regulations are made, then I am afraid that this could be one of the reasons for this country for not being able to get enough foreign investment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Natchiappan, I do not mind your speaking for a few more minutes, but you have three more speakers from your Party. You have to share time with them also.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the aspect of overlapping of State powers. Clause 15(d) says, 'designate any agency or designated agency to co-ordinae, regulate and enforce provisions of this Act within the State'. Now, the hon. Minister intends to give powers to the States so that they could co-ordinate with the Central Government and create an environment where the regulations could be made by both the people. But I am afraid that there is no State for the Central Government. The territory is totally held by the State. So it is better to give the States full powers and the Centre can guide them.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another aspect and that is - it is mentioned in clause 4 of the Bill - about the Governing Council, its

ex officio Chairperson and its *ex officio* members. I have mentioned earlier that there has been no mention of any representation from the Agriculture Department in the Governing Council. Members from the Agriculture Department have not been included as *ex officio* members. The agriculture sector is going to consume a lot of energy in all respects because we are predominantly an agricultural economy. Therefore, they should be made a part of the Governing Council so that they can also enjoy the prospective benefits and help in developing a better world. There is a provision in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission whereby a Member of the Planning Commission sits for the selection of the Members. I would like to suggest that, likewise, a Member of the Planning Commission should also be a part of that and do some thinking about the broader aspects and future development. This should not be done only for purposes of policing alone, this should have a broader aspect. The hon. Minister has included it in certain clauses of the Bill but there should be planning for development of this field.

Finally, I would like to give my suggestions regarding the penalties. In clause 26, the penalty imposed for each failure has been mentioned as rupees one lakh and this amount would multiply according to the counts. When somebody violates some regulations that costs the exchequer a few crores of rupees, in such cases the defaulter would very easily pay a lakh of rupees and get away. There should be some stringent penal provisions. If there are stringent penal provisions, then people would be afraid of violating the regulations. Clause 33, read with clause 26, mentions about the defaulting companies. I would like to ask as to who is going to implement this? It is a very vague thinking. If the fine is not paid, then it would be recovered by applying the provisions contained in the Revenue Recovery Act. It is a very old system of recovery. There should be some mechanism devised whereby very quick recovery could be done. There should be some agency like the Debt Recovery Tribunal and the like. We have to work out quickly as to how the money could be recovered from the violators at the earliest.

With these submissions, I would finally like to request the hon. Minister that a new look may be given to this Bill. However, as it is, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made very good points but you have to leave something for others as well.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I would just like to submit for the information of the House. The hon. Member has made very useful suggestions. While making introductory reforms, it was said that we intend to introduce self-regulatory framework but it is not a part of the Bill. We really wish to introduce it for the reason which the hon. Member has cited, that is to obviate the need to create a new Inspector Raj. We really do not want that and, therefore, we are really going to introduce it.

On a point of information for agriculture, it is definitely a thrust area and about 25 per cent of the potential is there in agriculture. One of the ways to reduce the consumption of electricity in agriculture is to bring about energy conservation there. We can do that by having better-manufactured products like the pumps or pumpsets. So, they are actually going to benefit us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhu, you may reply at the end. You will have a plenty of time to reply.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): I rise to support the Energy Conservation Bill, 2000. This is a very important piece of legislation. It should have been mooted quite a few years ago. Never mind, it has come now.

Every country in the world has a similar Conservation Act. Japan has it. US has it and there it was started in the seventies. Japan also had it much earlier. It is more required in India than in the advanced countries. Everybody in this House knows that there is a big gap between demand and supply. We have been trying to bridge this gap for a very long time and this Bill is one such effort or reform which will do the needful.

The scenario in the power sector is getting worse because everybody wants electricity. There were times when most of the villages did not want electricity. They did not even think that they required electricity. But now everybody wants it. In Bihar, as you know, most of the villages are still not electrified. In Rajasthan, we still have about 20 per cent villages that are not electrified.

There are two or three things which we can do. We can have a lot of power generation and bridge the gap between the demand and supply. But there is a constraint on generation. The gestation period in generation is very long. Moreover, the foreign investment in generation is not coming to the extent we require. Secondly, there are a lot of transmission and distribution losses. Everybody knows that there is a lot of theft also in this field. Big industries and even small consumers are indulged in it. They are not paying money for the utilisation of electricity. So, that is another issue.

[Shri V.P. Singh Badnore]

Coming to this piece of legislation, conservation really means that everybody, who is a consumer, should save it. Hon. Member from the other side was rightly saying the if industries save electricity, it would benefit themselves. So, they would themselves be interested in saving the electricity. What is the Government going to do?

Suppose, there are two industries in the same manufacturing line and one is consuming more electricity than the other. In such a case, I would suggest that there should be some sort of regulation like, those industries which are unnecessarily consuming more electricity should be checked. That can only be checked by a Bill of this kind. It is true that the old industries will have a problem. They will not be able to use the innovations in saving electricity.

It is because their plant is old and they have old theories. So, for those people it is going to be a problem. But they have kept a provision in the Bill for such industries to amend and change their ways. They have given them a time limit of 5 years or 10 years. Then they would start realising themselves that they are not very competitive. If they are consuming more electricity than other industries, then they become uncompetitive. So, they themselves will amend. But the legislation was required to tell and educate them. If they still do not listen, then there has to be some sort of a penalty on them because we have to conserve electricity. For developing the country, electricity is the most important thing. Without electricity nothing moves. We want to have an economic growth of seven to eight per cent. But if there is no electricity, how can we achieve this? That is why I would say that this piece of legislation should have come 20 to 25 years ago. But now that it has come, I welcome it and I congratulate the Minister.

Then, there are other things also which I want to talk about. This Bill is more educative. They will be telling the industries the ways to conserve electricity. Then, there are other things. For example, there is a provision of code in the building laws. Now, in the buildings, there would be air conditioners which people were talking about. If there are 10 air conditioners and if one of them is saving electricity and the others are not, a consumer would not know that. That is the point I want to make to my friend who was mentioning about air conditioners and refrigerators. Now, a consumer would not know which are conditioner is consuming less electricity than the other one. So, it becomes a duty of the Government to see that the manufacturer does not give any information which is wrong. All this will be labelled. If it is found that it is a wrong information, he could be penalised. If somebody goes and buys an air conditioner, and he realises that it is consuming more electricity than what has been specified on the label, he can be penalised about it. That is the work of this Bill.

Sir, lastly I will just say one thing. The Director-General of the Bureau should not be a bureaucrat but he should be a technocrat. Otherwise, IAS lobby is so strong that they want to take over everything. They want more and more jobs where they can put their Secretary and Joint Secretary level officers. Why can we not have a technocrat on it? Why do we require an IAS officer here? The Minister should see that the Director-General is a technocrat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not only be an IAS, it will be a retired IAS officer.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Madam, very rightly there is a great potential for energy conservation in agriculture. Now, if an uneducated farmer goes to buy a pump set he would be able to know, through the label, how much electricity it would consume. So, more saving can be done in the agriculture sector. Then there are some industries which have electricity as a raw material. These are the industries which need this conservation most. That is where this Bureau will really have to work hard and see that they do not consume more than what is required.

In the end, I feel that it is a very important piece of legislation. It should have come quite a few years ago. Even if it has come late, it has come at a time when we need conservation of electricity the most.

I would also like to add that electricity is one commodity which cannot be saved. You can have rationing on petrol or the CNG. But in the case of electricity, you can not store it. It has to be used when you make it. So conservation is required more in the case of electricity than in the case of any other fuel.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (Machilipatnam): Madam, thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Energy Conservation Bill. I rise to support this Bill which in all aspects is a very progressive legislation. It is often said that energy saved is energy produced. The Bill in fact reveals this very idea which is very basic and should form the cornerstone of our energy policy.

Our country is suffering from serious infrastructure bottlenecks. The first and foremost among them is in the

power sector. Besides a lot of pilferage and theft in power, transmission and distribution losses have reached alarming proportions and the wastage of energy, particularly electricity, is going unnoticed. India is chronically a power-deficit State with huge imports of oil like petroleum which is adding to our burgeoning import bill. It is therefore imperative that energy conservation should be accorded a high priority in our policy.

This Bill contains several salutary provisions like setting up of a Bureau of Energy Efficiency. It is a step in the right direction. However, the proposed Bureau should be vested with more powers to enforce measures for efficient use of energy. The National Energy Efficiency Programme which was initiated during the Eighth Plan has to be streamlined so as to make it more effective and result-oriented.

The Energy Conservation Programme had to address two aspects; one was on the supply-side saving measures and the other on the demand-side saving measures. However, the Bill has addressed only the demand-side of the problem and no measures on the supply side have been contemplated. In a country like ours where there is a huge gap between supply and demand, increased efficiency in the use of the available energy resources holds key to the problem. In this backdrop, on the supply side, steps should be taken to renovate and modernise our thermal power stations and also reduce transmission and distribution losses, which account for huge and colossal loss of energy. Our thermal power stations are using old and obsolete technology and there is an urgent need to infuse new technology and funds for improving their efficiency.

Madam, this is a very good Bill which is also necessary in view of the big gap between demand and supply. Conservation of energy is very important in every field of life. Without electricity or other types of energy, we cannot have any sort of progress in our country.

In this connection, I would like to make the following suggestions for the effective implementation of energy conservation measures. Firstly, in the Schedule of the Bill which shows the list of energy intensive industries, only a few industries have been included. It is very important and imperative that bulk consumers of energy and other energy intensive industries like railways, textiles, chemicals, transport sector, petroleum refineries, hydel power stations should also be included here.

Secondly, the Government should give import duty concessions to energy efficient equipment imported by the manufacturers so as to give fillip to the energy conservation efforts. Excise duty concessions should also be given to all those industries which are manufacturing energy saving appliances used for domestic and industrial purposes.

Thirdly, to impart professionalism in the working of the Bureau, professionals drawn from the industry and academic institutions should be included so that their expertise could be used in formulation and implementation of energy conservation strategies.

15.38 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Lastly, in the name of energy conservation, no authority should conduct surprise inspections in households, lands belonging to agriculturists, premises of the small scale industries and so and penalise them. This is one way of increasing corruption among the officials who conduct inspections on households lands of agriculturists, small scale industries and so on.

With these few words, I would conclude my speech.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patna): Sir, the subject and object of this Bill can never be opposed. The Bill dated 9th February, 2000 is being discussed today, that is, the 16th August, 2001. This shows the priorities of the present Government. As said by Shri Virendra Pal Singh, this Bill should have been discussed long back and passed. However, I will take this opportunity to point out some of the most important suggestions which the hon. Minister may kindly take into consideration and implement at the time of framing the rules. I would like to quote item No. 3 (a) (x) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons which is very important.

> "prepare educational curriculum on efficient use of energy and its conservation for educational institutions, boards, universities or autonomous bodies and co-ordinating with them for inclusion of such curriculum in their syllabus."

Incidentally, today, we are going to discuss a very important item, namely, saffronisation of education in this country. I request the hon. Minister not to give this work to the Ministry of Human Resource Development because they will introduce *Vedic* methods of conservation of energy by *yoga* and will make a mess of the Bill which has been drafted and introduced by one of the most important and esteemed Members of this House, late Shri Kumaramangalam.

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

Let us pay homage to Shri Kumaramangalam by introducing science and not saffronisation. I would request the hon. Minister to refer to para 3(v) of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It says:

> "Take necessary measures to create awareness and disseminate information for efficient use of energy and its conservation."

These two objectives are very important and maximum should be done to achieve these two objectives. Once George Bernard Shaw said:

> "From experience I have learnt that I have not learnt anything out of experience."

The same is the case here. Whenever we create a new authority, why do we always keep the headquarters at Delhi? After all, we have got a big country. We have a list of energy-intensive industries, like aluminium, fertiliser, iron and steel, cement, pulp and paper, alchemy, sugar, petroleum, chemicals etc. I would like to know whether these things are available in Delhi. We have got many States where all these industries are situated. You have got States with desert, you have got States with sea shore, you have got States with several industries, and you have got States which produce petrol. These States have got the right to have this headquarters. So, I would like to say again that it is not necessary to have the headquarters at Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

There is a contradiction in the Bill. In the Bill, dated 9th February, 2000, it is mentioned that proposed provisions would be effective from a future date after infrastructure and institutional mechanism are set up, whereas in item no. (1) (3), it is said that different dates may be kept for different provisions of this Act. I have not come across any Act where different dates are kept for different provisions. This would create confusion. Let there be one single date for the entire Act so that no loophole is left for the industrialists.

Another most important thing is the clause on penalty. We had a very bad experience in the Income Tax Department where the provision of penalty was kept. The provision was that, if the offence is proved, then the penalty will be maximum of six months' imprisonment. The maximum penalty was fixed, but the minimum was not fixed. As a result, some courts in this country used to punish the guilty up to raising of the court. The judgement would be announced at 4 o'clock and the court would be over at 5 o'clock. So, in essence, he has stayed there for only one hour. Here it is said that there would be a penalty which shall not exceed one lakh rupees. So, the officer can levy only one rupees or he can levy one thousand rupees. This again gives scope for corruption. Why can you not fix the minimum penalty? Thereafter, you can fix the maximum penalty also. If a petrol pump owner commits any default, his licence is cancelled. Then, why is the penalty so low here? That is my question

I would like to say something on the composition of the Board. As the two hon. Members who spoke before me pointed out, the Government is taking care of retired bureaucrats.

In any case, there is a representative from the each of the following Ministries. Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coal, Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Consumer Affairs. You have totally forgotten the *Gramin Vikas* and Rural Development Ministry.

India is a vast country. 70 per cent of the Indian population is even now living in the villages. You gave the figure saying that there is scope for saving and conserving energy to the extent of 25 per cent in the case of agricultural sector. One of the main items you need is fertilizer. You know where fertilizer is being used. My feeling is that the Ministry of Rural Development should be adequately represented in the composition of the Council.

One main item which is missing in the entire Governing Council is the scientist. Is this not the work of a scientist? You have not bothered to include even one scientist, as has been pointed out by my colleague Shri Vijendrapal Singh. Why should a retired IAS person necessarily head every Commission or every Board? He can be a scientist or a technocrat. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take care of it and see that at least two or three scientists are there from the Power sector. Further, agricultural scientists can be of help to the Government. Now, all the Western countries have decided that they would not purchase any foodgrains or other items which are produced by using chemical fertilizers. So, more and more countries are going to depend on organic fertilizers. If these things are not taken care of while constituting such an important Council, the very purpose of this Bill would be defeated. So, I request that the hon. Minister should take care of it. The Headquarters should be in a State where all the industries are situated. He should include scientists in the Council or Board or whatever name he must have given.

The most important thing is about penalty imposed on the corporate sector. We had our experience in the Department of Company Affairs where monetary penalty was fixed. They will pay the penalty and go on violating the rules. Mr. Minister, do not give them a free hand. I would request you to fix such stringent penalties so that any industrialist or anybody from the corporate sector should be afraid of violating the law of the land.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Energy Conservation Bill was already pending. It was referred to the committee also where it was deliberated upon and several suggestions were given. The hon'ble minister is also taking keen interest in this Bill so that power crisis could be met. He has set a good tradition. He has convened a meeting of the Members of Purvanchal and sought information from them in this regard alongwith their suggestions for meeting the power crisis. As oxygen is necessary for breathing similarly electricity is necessary for development. In Babarnama Babar had written that Indian people get light by burning wood. But today it is difficult to live without electricity. In this era of computers and I.I.T's electricity has come a necessity. The hon'ble Minister has brought the old Bill as it was felt that electricity should be conserved. I request the Government to conserve the electricity. In his poem Shri Gopal Singh Nepali had said:

"Musafiron se kya mangen, Dharati se maang, Gagan se maang."

Sun rays are the rich source of energy and these rays should be conserved. Similarly there is immense potential for energy in the tidal waves. These should also be conserved and should be put to use. The Government should also make efforts to tap and exploit the wind energy.

Energy Conservation Bill has been brought. Today there is a need to generate more power. Today during the course of Question Hour the first question was asked about tapping the Solar energy and the hon'ble Minister was replying to the question. While reply to the question he said that there will be a need to generate one lakh MW additional power capacity by 2012. For achieving this target rupees eight lakh crores are required and there is paucity of funds the target fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan was only the thirty percent thereof. In the Ninth Five Year Plan it was enhanced to forty percent from thirty percent. We also permitted 'Enron' a foreign company to invest in this sector but the end result was not upto our expectations. It had an adverse impact on our economy. People are teaching us as to how to conserve energy. What is the exact meaning of energy conservation? According to me it means to prevent misuse of energy. Pilferage of energy should be checked. We should find out as to why this misuse of energy is being done, for what purpose it is being misused and also ascertain the reasons thereof. Consumers consume electricity. They may make such misuse by ignorance or by intention or secretly. In the Bill there is a provision for power management centre under the society's registration and now that centre would be converted into the Energy Conservation Bureau and some powers will be delegated to it. Thereafter the Union Government need some powers in this regard. Who wants to draw more power and also wants to put thrust on energy conservation. It is a tussle of possessing power. However, the real problem is of generation as well as conservation of power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one point in it concerning awareness. The people should be aware of the latest technology. Such machines should be developed which can give more output with less consumption of electricity. That is to say the machines consumping higher amount of electricity should be so designed that they consume less amount of electricity. It is something like the vehicles which consume more diesel or petrol but do not give more mileage. That means there is something wrong with the engine, the machine. So wherever the research has been to achieve more output with less input of electricity that it energy conservation. Their demand is to give them more power. You have with you the absolute power. The state government and the Union Government have both power or rights. The Government wants to create a bureau. I would, however, like to know as to what would be the role of the bureau. I have heard about the Bill that it is a landmark Bill and that through this Bill the electricity crisis can be resolved to a certain extent. This is true that there is misuse of electricity and water which should not be the case. Nowadays foodgrains are being largely wasted. Pastes eat up foodgrains. Foodgrains have rotten in FCI godowns. We need to conserve them everywhere. Foodgrains should be properly utilised and Gandhian theory need to be applied in this regard. Gandhiji used to say that there should be no missue anything. He made use of the envelops received in the mail for writing purpose. Similar method should be applied for conservation of energy. You have to decide as to where and how conservation is required. The Centrally airconditioned rooms consume more electricity. Industrial Plants, iron and Steel factories require more quantum of

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

electricity. Those who consume electricity do also pay for the same. They should be made to learn that the desired production can be had even with less consumption of electricity. The people should be made aware of the technology and research in this regard. Otherwise there are cases wherein electricity is misused out of ignorance and at the same time it is also used illegally and there are incidents of theft of electricity. People commit theft of electricity and avoid payment of electricity Bill. Theft of electricity is committed by way of putting a hook on the service line as also by tempering the meter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to see the focus of the Government in relation to the energy conservation and have to decide as to what power is required to be given in order to ensure energy conservation. The big hotels are consuming more electricity. There are centrally airconditioned rooms. Even those rooms which are unoccupied are cooled by A.C. where are the provisions in this Bill to check such misuse? So what I want to say is that in this Bill there is no focus on the points which need attention. It is a different thing that there should be a thrust on production of more electricity and that there should be more investment in this sector. The actual problem is that there is shortage of energy...*(Interruptions)* They are opposing, it has not been brought forward by them, it is a pending bill and they only wanted the members of the House to pass it. Everybody favours conservation of electricity, however, more electricity should be generated. Attention should be paid to the transmission and distribution of electricity. How the farmers will conserve it when they are not provided with adequate supply of electricity. Earlier we were of the view that like Sunlight and wind, electricity will last long but these days we are being told to conserve electricity.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, conservation of other things is also essential. Not only electricity but water and foodgrains should also be conserved. All types of utilities should also be conserved. Misutilization should not take place rather all the things should be utilized in a proper manner....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, research work should be promoted to develop such machines which may help conserve electricity in big industries and hotels. The use of luxury items consuming heavy units of electricity should be restricted. Only then, we would be able to conserve electricity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvansh Babu, please wind up.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, power is required to operate all the machines. Computer cannot be operated without power.

You are repeatedly telling me to sit down, shall I be allowed to continue my speech?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you were already concluding. Your speech is deemed to be concluded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Please do not conserve so much electricity that your speech may continue next time also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is deemed to be concluded.

16.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

'Saffronisation' of Education

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the matters under rule 193 will be taken up for discussion.

[English]

Time allotted is two hours.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Is two hours time for me? I am very happy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is for the whole discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on a subject which is extremely important not only for us in this House, not only for the educational institutions or for the students community only but for the entire people and particularly, for the future of this country as according to me or some of us, that never before such diabolical attempts have been made in this country striking at the country's ethos, its culture and tradition as are being done under the present dispensation.

Sir, my hon. friends in Bharatiya Janata Party may have strong views against what I am going to say but I hope they will, at least, show tolerance to listen to what others have to say in the matter...*(Interruptions)* This is in anticipation. That will depend on your response to my request. But I would very expectantly make a special appeal to those friends in the NDA and its allies, who perhaps still have secular credentials, to ponder how their support to BJP is being utilised or rather mis-utilised for matters other than the governance of the country and how the future of the country is being mortgaged to forces of the divisiveness, darkness and backwardness affecting the unity and integrity of this country as well as the great liberal tradition that we have nurtured for years together.

This is not a routine matter that we are raising in this House. But we feel it is our duty to take all possible action to expose the sinister moves of this Government and to oppose to our utmost capacity the dangerous attempts that are being made by the forces of disunity, communalism and obscurantism from overtaking the country and particularly, spreading poison affecting the minds of younger sections, generations of our country.

Sir, it should be well known but it bears repetition that pluralism is the keynote of Indian culture and religious tolerance is the bedrock of Indian secularism.

I believe, we shall profit if I take the liberty, with your kind permission, to read out a few lines from a recent Supreme Court judgement in the case of Valasamma Paul vs. Cochin University. It refers to the provisions of our Constitution and states, 'Our Constitution created a secular State based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination.' I am reading from Volume 3 Supreme Court cases of 1996. In page 545, it is said, 'Striking a balance between the rights of the individuals and the duties and commitments of the States to establish an egalitarian, secular order'. Dr. Munshi, on behalf of the Drafting Committee, had sai and I quote:

> "Religion must be restricted to spheres which legitimately appertain to religion and the rest of life must be regulated, unified and modified in such a manner that we may evolve as early as possible a strong and consolidated nation."

It has been said in page 562, 'Pluralism is the keynote of Indian culture and religious tolerance is the badrock of Indian secularism. It is based on the belief that all religions are equally good and efficacious pathways to perfection or god realisation. It stands for a complex interpretative process in which there is transcendence of religion and yet there is a unification of multiple religions.' Interestingly, the learned judges quote from an article of Shri Arun Shourie, written in 1986. I need not read it here because he was disinvested himself now. Probably, he will disown what he wrote in 1986.

According to most of us, the greatest menace that this country is facing since this Government came into power is the continuous attempt of the *sangh parivar* to spread communal poison in young minds. We are all aware of the militant and fundamentalist activities of the RSS. Its pretension so far has been that it was a social and cultural organisation, but it now stands fully exposed as its members are actively participating in the political process. They are represented here in Parliament and the BJP is a front organisation of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, through which it participates in the parliamentary system of government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it wrong to talk about nationalism or Hinduism?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble members please take your seats. Shri Somnathji, you please continue your speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have not yet uttered the word 'Hindu'.

As I said, now RSS's members are no longer restricting themselves to what they used to call social and cultural activities. They are openly participating here. We have a very distinguished RSS ideologues sitting across us. It is very good to know that our Prime Minister, our Minister of Home Affairs and our venerable Minister of Human Resource Development are the main ideologues of the RSS in BJP and are therefore in Government.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said, 'It is no secret the *sangh* is my soul.' He visited the RSS's headquarters on the 27th August, 2000 to pay his obeisance to the *Sarsangchalak*. I believe, I have got the title correct. While on a visit to the USA, he declared, 'The post of Prime Minister may go tomorrow but I will always remain an humble *swayamsevak*.'

Sir, he has a very glorious tradition in the RSS from 1939. We read in the newspapers that at the residence

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in New Delhi, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri L.K. Advani offered a month's salary as *Guru Dakshina*. There is nothing wrong in it. I am not opposing that. Therefore, their commitment to RSS is well accepted and admitted. Now, of course, their ranks have swelled by the recruitment of a very enlightened Foreign Minister who has, quite on a non-RSS sartorial outfit, joined the drill. Probably, he is now having his ambition towards shifting to Seat No. 1 in this House.

All of them, no doubt, all these very honourable and distinguished persons — I have good, personal relations with all of them and I hope they will not deny that— have taken the—RSS pledge. What is their pledge? It is for them. They have taken the pledge. I read it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman Sir, which issue is being discussed here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble member, please do not speak while sitting and without the permission of the Chair. None of your statement will go on record. Shri Somnathji, you please continue your speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I quote from this and if there is any mistake. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi will correct me...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotra ji will certainly reply to it, he is capable of replying to this question. You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshehar): It does not mean that while replying he can go on saying anything. We are not sitting here to listen irrelevant things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotra ji will speak on behalf of BJP. You please sit down. Malhotra ji is competent to reply. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji is the spokesperson of your party. He is capable of putting forward his viewpoint in this regard. You please sit down.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: He will not comment on R.S.S., he will speak only on the subject under discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Mr. Chairman, sir, what is this, you have permitted to speak on agriculture or on foreign policy. Please clarify...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I quote and I shall certainly stand corrected by Shri Joshi if anything wrong is there.

> "Remember the Almighty God and my forebears, I take this oath. For the betterment of my sacred Hindu religion, Hindu culture and Hindu community, I will devote myself to the prosperity of my Holy Motherland. I swear that I shall serve the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh with my body, my mind, and my money. I will be faithful to this oath throughout my life."

I am adding — 'for the betterment of Hindu religion, Hindu society and Hindu community'...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas ji, please sit down, why are you standing. You started speaking without getting permission from the chair. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is what they have taken up. I respect their commitment to the RSS.

Now, the point is, in this NDA Government, which is dominated and controlled by RSS Members in the garb of BJP activists, can we conceive of an NDA Government and its policies independent of RSS thinking and RSS policies? Whatever may have been provided in their manifesto or whatever may have been provided in their so-called common programme — I do not know — but it is impossible that the RSS will not be controlling this Government and this country today. This is what is happening. And our friends, the non-BJP partners, have now become active participants to the enforcement of policies and programmes which are out to destroy this country and the process has started.

This anti-people and divisive policies of the BJP and the RSS are being implemented through the help of these

non-BJP partners...*(Interruptions)* Yes, you are a partner in this. There is no doubt.

The installation of this Government has given a big boost for the RSS and its affiliated organisation. RSS is no fool. They are cleverly utilising this opportunity.

They know that their days are also not too long, are numbered. Its control over the organisational and institutional network of the cultural and educational institutions and their bodies has been increased and since this Government has come to power, most of these important cultural and educational institutions are now controlled and governed by them. Sir, there is now a deliberate policy to saffronise the entire system of education because the RSS and BJP know, recognise and realise that the most important vehicle for their ideological thrust is to penetrate the entire system of education. Most quietly and, from their point of view, more effectively, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is playing the role. Sir, the clear intention is to use education...*(Interruptions)* If you had sat there, I would have addressed you particularly.

Mr. Chairman, the clear intention is to use education as a tool of indoctrination and to keep it as a restrictive commodity for a section of the society. Sir, I shall give you few examples of how the secular character of education in this country, which has been nurtured over the years and assiduously maintained, is now being turned into a religious-centered education which naturally tends to be obscuranist, regressive and unpredictable. What are the goals of the BJP and RSS? They are very clear. The goals are to communalise consciousness and to demobilise people from democratic polity. Now, the ample resources of the Government are at their control. These funds are being increased, the amounts have been increased and from the area of researches, they are being transferred to areas more to perpetuate their hegemony than for spread of research and development in this country. They are liberally using these funds and resources for the spread of *Hindutva* which has a specific meaning so far as BJP and RSS are concerned. Sir, in this, now the resources of the Indian Government as a whole and also the Indian capital are available to divide this country as under for the spread of their precept of *Hindutva*.

Sir, no educational or cultural organisation today is free from their assault and many of the educational and cultural institutions, most of them, have been converted into instruments for implementing the communal agenda of the *Sangh Parivar*. Sir, kindly see who are the people who are now controlling this. There are a number of prestigious institutions in this country. The Chairman of ICHR is Prof. D.R. Grover, who defended and argued on behalf of RSS on Ram Temple Shrine matter. I do not have to give their credentials; they all stand condemned. The Indian Council for Social Science Research was headed by Prof. Sondhi who had tried to exercise his own independent judgement. He has been summarily removed now. The Indian Institute of Advanced Studies is headed by Shri G.C. Pandey, a well-known sympathiser of RSS. University Grants Commission, which is now espousing astrology and *Vedic* mathematics, is headed by Dr. Hari Gautam whose RSS convictions are well-known. In Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, somebody is appointed for 10 years. He is a Member of Parliament belonging of BJP. Personally, I know him, but he has surrendered to the forces of communalism and divisiveness. Now, its another member is a very close associate of our Minister for Culture. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is headed by Dr. Rajput. Of course, his views on Indianisation, spiritualisation and nationalisation of school syllabus and value education are well-known.

The Indian Council of Philosophical Research is headed by Shri Kirit Joshi, President of Dharam Hinduja International Centre. Of course, even films are not being left out of it. The National Film Development Corporation is headed by one of our former colleagues who switched over to BJP. I do not wish to take much of your time. Please see how it is expanding recently.

Even an active RSS person on the plea of looking after NRI interests is being appointed or has been appointed — we do not know, the hon. Minister will clarify it — as NRI Adviser in the Indian Embassy in Washington whose main credential is that he is the representative, the *Sarsanghchalak*, of RSS in USA....*(Interruptions)* Of course, Sir, they can give their correct description...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: These interruptions will not go on record. This is not fair.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, how communal bias can be woven into the educational system will be clearly established if you go through the school text in BJP-ruled States and also what are now used in the *Bal Bharati* Schools and *Shishu Mandirs*, and how children

* Not recorded.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

at their most impressionable age, Mr. Chairman, Sir, are being made victims of this poisonous propaganda. It is essential that we should know, hon. Members who are not aware should know, as to what is being said....*(Interruptions)* Why do you not get some inspiration from the hon. Minister who is quitely listening and making notes? Why do you not do that? You have got an example to follow.

16.23 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, I quote from the school text. It says:

> "Our land has always been seen with greedy eyes. The story of invasion and resistance is over three thousand years long *gaurav gatha*. When this proud tradition began, it is difficult to say because no books were written at that time, but we believe that the first man was born in this land to our ancestors. These marauders were, like foreign people who came here, were like mosquitoes and flies who were crushed."

Sir, now the textbooks are written by Raju Bhaiyya, Tarun Vijay, K.C. Sudarshan, J.S. Raulat of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Among the claims they made in this book are 'the truth that the Earth revolves around the sun was given to the world by Indian scientists thousands of years ago, and India is described as a *Vedic* nation on the basic of *Vedic* texts.'

Sir, then students are tested on dubious facts such as:

> "Iran was first settled by Indians. Homer adopted Balmiki's Ramayan into an epic called Iliad. Greek philosophers were influenced by the *Vedas*. The Egyptian faith was based on Indian tradition. Ayurved is the finest medical system of the world and it naturally evolved in India. O God Jagdeeshwar, Father of this world, give me this quality, I may be born worthy to serve the Hindu, die in the cause of Hindus. If I fail to give my life for the Hindus, let me burn in hell."

Sir, this is in school text books. The students, in some classes, have been asked to draw a picture of *Akhand Bnarat*.

Sir, it further says,

> "Sati is presented as a Rajput tradition that we should be proud of. Bharat exists, has culture, learning, civilization, religion, good deeds as long as this Hindu *jati* servives, remains dominant. We are one. Our culture is one. Our tradition is one. Our life-current is one and we have but one history. The Muslim butchers are killers of cows. The Hindus who killed them are to be venerated. Their only fault being that they did it when they were asleep."

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Please tell us the title of the book from which you are reading...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will tell...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, I am just asking a clarification. Is it published by the NCERT or the Government of India?...*(Interruptions)* Is it a book written and published by the NCERT?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): NCERT has not published any such book. Therefore I would like to know from you the name of the publisher, Editor, writer and printer of the book...*(Interruptions)* Please tell their names...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, if a lie is repeated ten times, it becomes a truth...*(Interruptions)* That is what he has learned from Mao Tse Tung's Red Book...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, it is being stated that NCERT has published this book but it is not correct. I contradict it...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please tell us the name of the book from which you are quoting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, sir, we want the name of the publisher and writer of this book....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): If somebody glorifies Sati, then he will go to jail...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): You please tell us the names of publisher and writer of this book...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He will tell that, you please listen...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Has the book published in Russia been brought here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: We want to know the names of the writer and publisher of this book...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you standing? Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will certainly respond to the query made by the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, sir, if this has been written in NCERT book then our colleague Syed Shahnawaj Hussain...*(Interruptions)* He cannot speak like this.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: This discussion is going on NCERT, but the book referred here belongs to some other publisher. We want to know the title of the book, the name of its writer and publisher.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you want to know the title of the book. Now please resume your seat.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I will certainly respond to the query made by the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)* I never said that...*(Interruptions)* These are not as yet in the NCERT textbooks. I said that these are being taught in Vidya Bharati Schools and Shishu Mandirs. I can give the name of the book and the page number from which I am quoting...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Kindly tell the name of the book?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Please tell the name of the book...*(Interruptions)* who is the publisher of the book. Who is the writer of the book...*(Interruptions)*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

16.33 hrs.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia):...*(Interruptions)* *

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I said that these are Vidya Bharati School's texts which are utilised in the Vidya Bharati Schools and Shishu Mandirs...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You bring that book and quote from that. You cannot quote from the book which you are having...*(Interruptions)* Kindly tell us what is that book...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You cannot dictate to me...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You bring that Vishwa Bharati Book and quote whatever you want...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is from the series of books...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not proper. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi):** They have told that if has been expunged as ordered by the chair. Please tell us what is that has been expunged as ordered by the chair. If someone has used any unparliamentary language he would have to apologise...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything unparliamentary or objectionable, it can be expunged. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have not been able to speak even two sentences without interruption. I made a special appeal for tolerance. I made a request. I know that many friends on that side will not be able to be happy at some of my observations. But I appealed to them to have tolerance. At least, here, as you said, they have very competent persons to reply...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Somnath Chatterjee is one of the best parliamentarians of this House. I just wanted to know as to from which book he is quoting. That is what I asked. This is the rule of this House...*(Interruptions)* But that is not the book from which you have quoted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Malhotra, please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That is not the *Vidya Bharati* book.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very well. For your information. I am reading from a book which is titled, "Against Communalisation of Education, Essays Press Commentary Reportage."...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But he has quoted from *Vidya Bharati* book. Please bring that book and quote it from that book...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There are quotations from a series of textbooks which are used in Vidya Bharati Schools and Shishu Mandirs so far. They are called Sanskar Saurabh Series. Whatever I have quoted, I could lay them on the Table of the House, with your permission.

Due to constraint of time, I could not read everything. Some I have read and with your permission, I would read out something more.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Who is the writer and publisher of the book?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he would read it in such a manner how would we allow it...*(Interruptions)* The book must have been written by some person....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record except Shri Somnath Chatterjee's speech.

[Translation]

Please sit down. What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is said like this and I am quoting:

> "The day of assault on the Babri Masjid is a moment of history, the remembrance of which brings tears to every eye, on which the bugle of victory sounded."

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Please tell them to give the name of the book...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has told the name of the book. What are you doing? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would be very happy if you purchase this book and it is also good for you if you go through that book.

Sir, our culture is one.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Is it a book published by *Sahmat*?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am proud that there are some people in this country who are fighting to their bitter ends, by following the secular traditions of this country...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They do not agree with 'Sahmat'...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, please do not provoke others. Time is very important.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I salute Sahmat and I salute Safdar Hashmi who gave his life to uphold secularism in this country and to have unity and integrity of this country and its people. They are trying their best to divide and we shall not allow this division to take place at any cost...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the implementation of the communal agenda of the Sangh Parivar, which is well-known and notorious, their target is History.

That is why, they can only succeed in propagation of this poison, if they can distort history. That is why the history and the secular historians have been targeted for attack by them.

In the last History Congress, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi is somewhat allergic to the Indian History Congress, while delivering his inaugural address Prof. Amartya Sen — I hope he does not require an introduction — said and I quote:

> "Criticised the way the writing of history is manoeuvered to suit a slanted agenda in contemporary politics."

To quote him, he further said:

> "An extraordinary example of this has been the interpretation of the Ramayana, not as a great epic, but as documentary history which can be invoked to establish property rights over places and sites possessed and owned by others."

He further said:

> "History needs to be studied scientifically, which always requires tolerance of different rational approaches."

It is not acceptable to my friends opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to conclude now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What time have I got?...*(Interruptions)* Let this discussion be stopped here itself. I have not got even total 15 minutes uninterrupted...*(Interruptions)* Let us then not take part in this discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not disturb him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If this House treats this matter in this manner, I do not know what is the future of this country. We have not brought his issue for discussion as a matter of routine, as I said earlier.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): This is to drive political mileage out of it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Of course, what all is happening here is nothing else than the politics. In Parliament, what do we discuss? You are indulging in politics in the name of education and we shall not tolerate that. If we oppose it, you are imputing all sorts of motives. You have not got the minimum tolerance to hear what others have to say. What is happening in the education of this country is most dangerous. Today we are being ridiculed by the whole world. Today, the University Grants Commission is forcing the universities by doling out money to study Astrology.

The Chairman of UGC has declared that Vedic Astrology is a science and Karamkand, that is the vedic rituals, are vocational course. Vastushashtra, yogic consciousness and myths are to form part of scientific teachings. It has been mentioned in the UGC Circular, you may kindly permit me to read, whatever may be the allergy of our Minister to it, I am sorry I cannot pay heed to it. May I quote from the UGC Circular?

> "Vedic astrology is not only one of the main subjects of our traditional and classical knowledge, but this is the discipline which lets us know the events happening in human life and in the universe on time scale. It will benefit students, teachers, professionals from modern streams life doctors, architects, marketing, financial, economic and political analysts"

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Prof. Jaspal, who is not a member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and if he is, I am very proud and happy for it. I would like to quote him:

> "Now it will be possible for us to predict earthquakes more accurately than geophysicists, the weather and climate with greater accuracy without the need of ground based and satellite observations or mathematical models. All uncertainties would be wiped out by going back to our traditional wisdom of astrology. Even the mathematics we use will come from the Vedas. Why just this much only? We will be able to tell whether we are going to be mugged by a ruffian, lose money on the stock market, win an election, become a minister or marry a millionaire."

> "All this because we will finally have an accurate insight into the nature of Time and its interaction with us. Yes, astrology was done in many cultures and it is still a popular amusement amongst masses in many countries. But then, is that vedic astrology?"

Then, he says:

> "It is suggested that doctors, architects, and many other professions will gain through the study vedic astrology. Some of them might not be able to spare time to get a Ph.D in this field but uncertainties about diagnosis and treatment of disease would be removed even after a certificate or diploma course because we would know what Time has in store for the patients. Architects would demand to see the horoscopes of owners, future residents or the plot of land itself before making a final design of a building. The horoscopes would also tell them whether there would be a flood or earthquake during the occupancy of their client. Agriculture scientists will be able to suggest new strategies of sowing, planting and reaping different crops because they would be helped by accurate foreknowledge of the rainfall, temperature variations, flood, droughts or cyclones. Not only that they would also know the likely prices they are likely to get for their produce, and — why not — about the dumping or otherwise by other countries! What more can you ask of a university scholar?"

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Let us go and ban yoga in USA.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he has expressed his hope:

> "I hope no self-respecting university would ask to start such a department."

This is being advocated and we find on the Doordarshan a list of some 22 universities which are cash starved Universities. They are being offered liberal funds for the purpose of taking up courses in the Astrology and Vedic Mathematics.

Sir, all the leading mathematicians and scientists of this country held a seminar the other day here. Their appeal was to stop this fraud on our children. They said that this course of Vedic Astrology and Vedic Mathematics have more to do with promoting a particular brand of religious majoritarianism and associated obscurantist ideas than any theory of development of mathematical or scientific teaching in India. They also said that the so called "Vedic Mathematics" is neither Vedic nor Mathematics. They say that the imposition of 'vedic maths' will condemn particularly those dependent on public education to a sub-standard mathematical education and will be calamitous for them. Sir, we are proud of signatories to this Press Release.

Sir, recently two conventions were held with regard to NCERT courses. I have mentioned one. Sir, this has become a unique institution in this country. This is more for the spread of *Hindutva*. They do not bother about any rules or regulations. I am told that they are going to appoint some teachers for spoken Sanskrit. The only qualification for this post is that you have to apply. If you apply, you get the job. They have advertised it in the Employment News. Sir, the teachers who have some self-respect are leaving this institution. Somebody is appointed who is closely related to the Director of this institution for a faculty in which she has no expertise. This is what is happening. We would demand proper inquiry. But what is the scheme of things? What is going on be taught?

One gentlemen by the name Shri Atul Rawat has been appointed as a consultant. He is an activist of the RSS. He is a regular contributor to the *Organisor*. This gentleman is in the NCERT.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Please te about NCERT. If there is anything wrong with the syllab please tell specifically. We are ready to hear you, u one full hour...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has written in an article that:

"It is a reality of the world situation today that the believers of Islam are party to most of the conflicts that remain raging in the world after cold war has ended. The weapon of terrorism against civil society *per se* and specially the innocent people of other communities have also been used and misused mostly by the believers of Islam."

How can this poison be spread? It has been written by a consultant of the NCERT. I continue to quote his writing:

"The breaking of idols has been a standard practice of the Islamic past. All the evidence that include the holy Quran itself point in only one direction and that is the breaking of idols as a religious duty in Islam as was practised by none other than Prophet Mohammed himself."

These are the things which are published. The Secretary of the Ministry also writes something from his side. I do not know how a serving official who is getting money from the Consolidated Fund of India can write such trash, an anti-people piece of article. He says:

"The greatest damage to our intellectual freedom, to traditional religions has been caused especially by those which have a single holy book from which they derive their authority."

Which are these religions? How is he in office today?

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Shri N.C. Chatterjee was Pracharak of Hindu Mahasabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Somnath Chatterjee's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Since he has taken the name of my father, I have to deal with it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record except Shri Somnath Chatterjee's speech.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He was no doubt in the Hindu Mahasabha when he felt that he had to be there and his presence would be useful. But he realised that after Independence, Hindu Mahasabha had no role to play. He left that Party and came to this House supported by the Leftist Party, the Communist Party of India. He was elected to this House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is totally wrong. This should not go on record. Shri N.C. Chatterjee was to the last minute the President of Hindu Mahasabha. Please do not speak something against your own father.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said he was there. But he resigned...*(Interruptions)* Is this the way this debate would be conducted in this House?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri N. C. Chatterjee came to my elections and spoke for me. He never resigned from Hindu Mahasahba. He is dissociating with his father...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: I am proud of being the son of Shri N.C. Chatterjee. I said that he realised that the Hindu Mahasabha had no role to play in Indian Politics, he left the Hindu Mahasabha and was elected in this House twice as an independent Member supported by the Communist Party of India and other Leftist Parties. I am proud of him. Therefore, Sir, they should learn a little history. I know that, as has been said, their objective is to distort history. They believe in that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER. You please do not address them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Whom, shall I address, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are also forgetting all norms of debates in this House. We cannot have any serious discussion any longer in this House just because my learned friends have got a temporary majority here. I am very sorry that some of the non-BJP Members are sitting quietly and applauding their behaviour.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

It is a shameful conduct. They are playing it for just a few crumbs of power...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, if they interrupt like this, then we will also not allow them to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Somnath Chatterjee is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I believe, two years back, when the Conference of Education Ministers had been called by the hon. Minister, a paper containing the next probable Education Policy of the Government of India which was prepared by, so far as I know, a very good friend of our Education Minister, Shri Chitlangia, was circulated. But many of the Education Ministers of the Conference strongly objected to not only acceptance but even consideration of a paper by a private individual and there was a walk-out. And that is why, that objective of the hon. Minister did not succeed. Now, without calling any Conference of Education Ministers, without discussion with the Education Ministers, without considering the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), without discussing in Parliament and I believe without even discussing in the Consulative Committee or the Standing Committee, suddenly the National Curriculum Framework prepared by the NCERT has been distributed.

17.00 hrs.

Now, some of the BJP-ruled States are very happy. This Framework is nothing but a calculated attack on the cultural diversity which has kept intact the present social structure. That is what we strongly oppose. Nobody knew anything about this as to who prepared it, when it was prepared, and with whom it was discussed. Is it not important that different Governments in this country should know about it because, after all school education is to be left to the respective State Governments? Now, NCERT issues this Framework which is prepared by their own people who are wedded to the idea of *Hindutva* according to their own conceptions. The BJP-ruled States will accept it and introduce it. All other schools which are governed by CBSE will be asked to do it from time to time because money given is dependent on their accepting this new Curriculum. So, in the process, either because of the money that is given to the schools or because the Governments in the States, schools will be forced to do it. Part of the political campaign of this Government and Sangh Parivar is to legitimise what is called the *Aryan* origin of Indian culture and to give privilege to Sanskrit over other languages. Recently, an Indo-German Conference was held where some speeches were delivered on behalf of these authorities or bodies which really lionised Hitler and *Nazi* Germany. This National Curriculum, according to us, is the blueprint for lowering the quality of school education and for giving a narrow, sectarian and obscurantist orientation to education. This violates, the existing National Policy on Education which is accepted by the country as a whole. That is why we are strongly objecting to this. I have no time. I wanted to quote from some of these howlers as to how it has been done. I would call them howlers. Lo and behold, what we find is that unitl it was taken up by recent Convention, orgnised by *Sahmat* in Delhi, everybody kept quiet. I am proud of *Sahmat* and I congratulate them. I take it that our worthy friends here are not fighting for the *Hindu Rashtra*. They are quietly accepting this on the plea of keeping the Government alive, just to enjoy the crumbs of power. This is the role of some of our friends here. The whole emphasis of this Curriculum is nothing but spreading *hindutva*, dividing the nation on the basis of religion and indoctrinating poisonous propaganda in the receptive minds of school-going students. This will be a disaster for the country. We will oppose it. We will expose the diabolical and sinister move of this Government. We shall oppose it inside the House and outside the House. Any right-thinking member of the society in this country will never accept this deliberate attempt to *saffronise* education and thereby polluting the life of this country. This is a dangerous trend. We have no doubt that this country will never accept this. I appeal to the Members on the other side not be swayed only by the so-called support to the Government because of their connection with the *Sangh Parivar*. Think of the future. Think of our boys and girls who will grow up as citizens of this country.

What will be their outlook? What will happen to the secular traditions of this country? Who are the people who will occupy the position of poorer in this country? I would like to know whether the minorities will have any rights. Do you have any concern for their feelings, for

* Not recorded.

their susceptibilities? In the name of education, the worst type of obscurantism and religious fundamentalism is sought to be brought in...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I strongly urge everybody in this House—particularly those who believe in the unity and integrity of this country, who believe in unity in diversity, who believe in the development of the country on a path which our constitution makers, some of whom are the greatest minds, had contemplated and laid down - to consider this. What Swami Vivekananda said about Astrology? Kindly see it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the time allotted to this subject is two yours. I think, more than one hour is over.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, just give me one second.

MR. SPEAKER: Already, one hour is over.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I request you not to be unfair to me...*(Interruptions)* Swami Vivekananda says that who believe in astrology, they should go to a doctor, take good food, take rest and go to sleep. I am quoting a saying of Swami Vivekananda. It says:

> "You will find that astrology and all these mystical things are generally signs of a week mind; therefore, as soon as they are becoming prominent in our minds, we should see a physician, take good food and rest".

Lord Gautama Buddha said this:

> "Star-gazing and astrology, forecasting lucky or unlucky events by signs, prognosticating good or evil, all these are things forbidden."

They do not follow Lord Gautama Buddha's teachings. They are now forsaking even Swami Vivekananda. They have now the Rajputs, the Sudarshans and what not who are out to destroy the unity of this country, the great secular traditions of this country. They are out to establish a *Hindu Rashtra* in this country. It will not be in the body-politic of this country that this will be tolerated. I can tell them that people have come to realise these people. My friends, today, you have lost all moral and political support in this country. Your Prime Minister is threatening to resign. The economic condition of this country has failed...*(Interruptions)* This Government has become synonymous with corruption. This is a Government of scams! This is a Government which the people of this country will never accept. This move and the method that they have adopted is through education. They are trying to poison this country through this. It will never meet with any success. We shall fight and we shall win. That is what I wish to say.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the first time that I have been disappointed by the speech of Shri Somnath Chatterjee. In a speech of about one hour and ten minutes he did not say a single word about saffronisation of Education. These are two books by N.C.E.R.T.

[English]

> "National Curriculum Framework for school Education and Salient Features and Summary."

[Translation]

Whatever he has said in his speech has not been mentioned in the book. If you allow me I can quote it. Somnath Chatterjee I am very much astonished. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I must tell you what people are talking about the saffronisation of Education No person can be recruited to the post of peon to Professor without getting permission from the Cadre. They have changed the reading material of books from Ramkrishna Mission to such an extent that they would have to seek the Supreme Court to get protection as minorities. Leftist's ideology is being spread.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new type of history is being taught in West Bengal. I am surprised at what is being spread by communist party, I feel surprised when Congress men make fun of it. They propage the history of 1942. It tells about the contribution of communist party in the struggle of independence. Their contribution in labour agitations....*(Interruptions)* The history thus published includes. 'Transfer of power' in British Government. Communist people at that time were getting congressmen arrested and putting them behind the bars and they were assisting to be hanged....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): This is totally wrong...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except Dr. Malhotra's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether Communist party had not called** Subash Chandra Bose Had Mahatma Gandhi not been called an Imperialist agent. Now Mahatma Gandhiji were and with us. Congress party is not following the same line now, so now Sonia Gandhi is going to move on political lines in cooperation with Communist Party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Communists were totally against the 1942 struggle. They opposed it and worked with the English. They joined hands with China during India-China war. They are creating totally wrong history...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress party should have thought ten times before doing so. Shri Somnath Chatterjee had submitted that I have full faith in 'Sahmat'. 'Sahmat' had made a good contribution. Congress were making fun of it. But I would like to make a simple question. People have faith in Balmiki Ramayan and Tulsi Ramayana. All people including Soniaji and every Congress leader watch Ramlila but Sahmat shows of Ramlila. But on the contrary Ram and Sita were brother and sister as per 'Sahmat' was brother and sister married? Government money is spent everywhere to do such shows. You always support such type of activities of Sahmat...*(Interruptions)* Please try to understand what Sahmat is quoting. Understand what you are doing. They were attacking on Indian Culture. Were Ram and Sita brother and sister? Are you agree with this? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to discuss about N.C.E.R.T. They have not said anything about this. You have mentioned about the implementation of moral education. They are introducing Naxism and Facism. They are trying to bring Hinduism through moral education in India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Joint Standing Committee had been constituted by both the Houses of Parliament. The Chairman of the Committee was Shri S.B. Chauvan. That committee consisted of 45 members from both the Houses. They included members from Communist party.

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

They have given unanimous report. Here is that report of both the Houses.

[Translation]

I would like to quote those recommendations and also quote the N.C.E.R.T. books. Both of these books have the same spirit. Whether the N.C.E.R.T. is wrong about that Muslims of communist party had prepared a consensus report and submitted it to the Standing parliamentary Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.B. Chauvan and people there were making complaints that they are propagating Hinduism.

[English]

I will read out from that.

[Translation]

I am not reading 'Sahmat' in line with you. I would like to read out the report of the Standing Committee. It is of 1999 when N.C.E.R.T. had prepared a draft Report. I would like to read out both the books. It is the preface of report.

[English]

I quote:

"Our young generation under the growing influence of negative aspect of western culture is stranded on the crossroads, not able to decide which direction to take." "In order to preserve, maintain and advance the position of our country in the world, it is imperative that there should be a comprehensive programme of value education. Starting from the pre-primary level, embracing the entire spectrum of educational process, the committee is aware..."

[Translation]

He has quoted the previous committees. In 1948-49, Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister. And the Education Policy was formulated in 1964, 1966 and 1968, Indiraji was the Prime Minister. In 1992, Narsimha Raoji was the Prime Minister. He has quoted those committees. All these committees have suggested that we should have moral education and value based education, and it should be taught in schools.

[English]

It says further:

"In ancient times, in *Gurukuls*, emphasis used to be primarily on building the character of a student. Today, right from the schools up to the professional

colleges, emphasis is on acquiring techniques and not values..."

"Truth-*satya*, righteous conduct-*dharma*, peace-*shanti*, love-*prem*, and non-violence-*ahimsa* are the core universal values which can be identified as the foundation stone on which the value based education programme is to be built up..."

[Translation]

This committee has 45 Members and you are condemning its report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to say something on this. First of all, it was a Committee headed by Shri Shankarrao Chavan, who was not a Member of this House. It was the Standing Committee on Education and that Standing Committee on Education also has not given a Report according to the views of the Chairman....*(Interruptions)* You have kindly yielded. Let me complete.

Moreover, what is being read out here cannot be objected to. It is value-based education. In 1986, a Committee was appointed to consider as to how new kind of education could be imparted to the students. I was one of the Members. I was sitting in that Committee from the Science Ministry. What was discussed in that Committee was that it was not possible to give technical education and scientific education but it was very difficult to give value education, and we shall have to go deep into it. Moreover, emphasis is on value-based. And if any reference was made to any religion, there was no reference to one religion. It says: 'all religions'. That is the pluralistic attitude towards life. This should not be quoted in a manner...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am coming to that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please do not interrupt him. Let him quote. This was a unanimous Report. It was signed by Shri Shankarrao Chavan. There was no note of dissent. Hon. Members belonging to all parties were there. I can read out their names. None of them had opposed it. If the verbatim quote is given from the Report and from NCERT frame of curriculum, why is it being opposed? That is my question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have yielded. Let me complete. This has to be presented in a fashion that no wrong impression will be created. Shri Shankarrao Chavan belongs to one Party but all the Members of the Committee do not belong to one Party. Now, emphasis is on value-based education, emphasis on pluralism, and the objection taken is that you are talking in terms of the one religion...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are not talking about one religion...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We are not saying about it. Let him complete....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not objecting but the objection taken in this debate is if you emphasise on only one religion, then there is no end...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member himself has been the Speaker of the House and he is misinterrupting it to this extent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please let me say. Now let me have my say.

[Translation]

What are you saying...*(Interruptions)* I only want to let me know the difference between this report and the report of the NCERT...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Let me now quote it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Now, I am not objecting to anything. I am only saying when you said of Shankar Rao Chauhan, he is from the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)* You should have said, 'Education Committee'.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has given the report.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, this has been mentioned in the beginning of the report of the committee, which he has written as its Chairman. The report is as follows:-

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[English]

I the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Parliament Standing Committee on Human Resource Development..."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You say Standing Committee and not Shankar Rao Chauhan Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: This is Standing Committee only.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is what I am saying.. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You are saying that 45 members of the Standing Committee comprises of Members of both the Houses and Members of all the parties together have been in the committee.

[English]

This is a House Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You said that.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I never said that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you have not said that, then I have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he said only Standing Committee.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, they constituted a sub-committee first. The report was drafted therein and then it was taken to the full-fledged committee which approved it. Subsequently, it was laid on the table of the House. They introduced it in January, 1999 and it was signed by Shri S.B. Chauhan, Chairman of the Committee. What I am saying is that they have even mentioned religious education also. They have said that all the religions should be taught if NCERT made any recommendations fully based on what has been said in that, it does not mean that it is pro-Hindutva and consequently the country has been thrown to the dogs or it is the symbol of animal of Nazism and Fascism. So many things are being said. Madhavraoji frequently complaints that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are not being taken seriously. What is wrong if the NCERT made its recommendations solely based on the recommendations made by one of the Standing Committee....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patna): What is written in 'Gaurav Gatha' and 'Itihas Ga[illegible]ase let us know...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes sure. I will...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Should I narrate Gaurav Gatha and Itihas Gatha right now?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are discussing NCERT and its books at the moment. We are discussing the saffronisation of books by the Government. But we are not discussing what is being taught in mosques, madrasas and Mandirs. Nobody is interested in discussing as to who is teaching what in schools that there is saffronisation of education in Madrasas. If I start quoting what is being taught there, you will feel embarrassed. This is not the issue here as to what Talibans are being taught. The question is whether the Government is saffronizing education, Somnathji tried his best to provoke. His speech focussed on the theme that why our allies are supporting us? Why they are in favour of a Hindu Nation. They all were the members of the committee of Chavan Saheb, you were also the members and the members of the Communist party were also there.

[English]

Even the Communist Members were there. The Muslim Members were there.

[Translation]

They, not we, have written that all the religions should be taught. It is said that the teachings of all the religions should be imparted. Who says that preaching of Hindu religion only be taught. All the religions have one and the same message. This is why, I wanted to say that they are unnecessarily creating a mountain of a molehill. I do not know whether it is a fact or not, but the newspapers have revealed that the Congress President was present in the Youth Congress Rally that alleged that there was communalisation of education. And even the text-books are not free from it. I do not know on what ground did they say so. No NCERT book has been changed so far. The only allegation is that why no change has been effected in the NCERT books? Have you seen the text-books? The Marxist Historians and the British Historians both maliciously conspired to establish that our ancestors had no culture at all of their own that they were illiterate, foolish, quarrelsome and pastoral nomades what is written in Vedas and Upnishedas is mere folk songs of Shepherds. It was their conspiracy to teach us all the ill-things about our ancestors.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will you quote that here?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would not say anything without quoting. I am going to quote it.

[Translation]

I was saying, that this was a conspiracy because the British knew that if they would have said, that the culture of India was great, how could they have stayed in here. Marxist know that there was no room for communism in a country with great nationalistic feelings and with a rich cultural heritage. Together, they conspired to establish that we had no history no culture at all. Here is a book in my hand.

[English]

It is called 'History and Civics: A textbook' by Romila Thapar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Is it an NCERT book?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a NCERT book....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* They are not being taught books of Sahmat, they are being taught NCERT books. Prominent historians of the world have written that "Aryans came from outside India that they were aggressors". This is a wrong theory. India was the native land of Aryans. This theory should be accepted. I quote from NCERT book:

[English]

"The Aryans came from outside India, probably from North-Eastern Iran and region around the Caspian Sea. The Aryans came as pastoral nomads, that is they kept large herds of cattle. It was their means of livelihood. They wandered from place to place." (And later on it says what is most objectionable). "In fact, for special guests, beef was served as a mark of honour, although in later centuries Brahman was forbidden to eat beef."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I challenge Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to go before any collection of accepted historians and find that to be wrong...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He has not yielded. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri R. Sharma writes in the text book that "He took a rational view of ancient society ad projects a forceful text to say that in ancient times people took beef."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it justified to teach 8 crore children of India that their ancestors used to consume beef...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: If it is true then what is wrong in teaching.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When I was speaking, you did not hear about it...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I heard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please address the Chair.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, Sir. I am addressing the Chair.

[Translation]

When Mahatma Gandhi was once asked, the said if anybody asks me the biggest form of Hindu religion, I would say Go-raksha. Go-raksha is the ground gift of India to the world. As far as Hindu is the protector of cow, there is existence of Hindu religion. In my opinion the issue of Go-raksha is more important than the issue of Swarajya. It is even bigger issue than Swarajya in some respect.

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* Not recorded.

Everyone worship cow. Can anyone of you say that your ancestors ate beef. Do the Congressmen not be[illegible] in cow worshipping? Why do want to teach this to your children...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that the West Bengal Government through a circular in 1989 stressed that those factual happenings of history should not be taught which incite religious feelings. I can quote the circular. In it, it was mentioned that it should not be taught that the Muslim invaders had demolished temples, that they committed injustice or excesses, or they resorted to forcible conversion. They may have done this to prevent animosity between Hindus and Muslims. You are sensitive to the feelings of the Muslims. But disregarding the feelings of the 84 crore Hindus, who worship cow, you write that their ancestors ate beef. Will these books be made compulsory to be read by the students? Any one can publish his works. I have no objection to it. Writing history or thesis is alright, but making it a part of curriculum is not good. Will it be compulsory to teach these things to the children? Mr. Brarji may please note, what had been written about Guru Teg Bahadur. Sikhs filed a case over this against N.C.E.R.T. It was mentioned in the course book that he was murdered because there was a difference of opinion in his family regarding his becoming Guru.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Where is this mentioned?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is mentioned in a text book written by R. Sharma. I will quote it. After that they filed a case. About a great man, who came walking from 300 miles to sacrifice himself such provoking things should not be mentioned. It should not be mentioned Guru Teg Bahadurji was beheaded, or how Guru Arjun Dev was tortured, now Bhai Matidas was severed with a saw, how Bhai Dayal Das was thrown in boiling oil...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: where is it mentioned?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will speak about other falsehoods. When something wrong was said about Lord Mahavir, the Jain Community file a case. What should be included in the text books? Text books should treat all religions equally. Negative things should not be taught. But all negative things are taught about Hindus...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You are again prevaricating.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will just now quote and also reveal the name.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: This is not an authentic book.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I quote:

[English]

"Satish Chandra's description in Medieval India of Guru Teg Bahadur's killing by the Mughals- 'According to Sikh tradition, the execution was due to the intrigues of some members of his (the Guru's) family who disputed his succession'. Aggrieved Sikhs sued NCERT."

[Translation]

The Jain Community filed a case because it is mentioned in the book that Lord Mahavira wandered about for twelve years and during this period he did not change his clothes. Later he discarded all clothes...*(Interruptions)* We are not talking about its historical veracity or otherwise.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Historians have not been able to prove that for Hindu religion Guru Teg Bahadurji here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you yielding?

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Just a minute. I shall be happy if he can please yield...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Guru Teg Bahadur's sacrifice was the sacrifice of the greatest man of India. This is what I am saying. But it was presented wrongly.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: If anyone made a comment to create differences among different religions, then the comment.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am mentioning what is written in the N.C.E.R.T.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: In which book is it mentioned.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have named it.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It has already been stated that the book is not authentic.

[English]

He may please lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Against whom there is a privilege notice. You are not being factual. You are mis-quoting.

DR VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am referring to the N.C.E.R.T. book by Shri Sharma.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Brar Saheb, he is supporting you. He is not opposing you.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: He is not prepared to listen to what has been quoted.

SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this was mentioned the N.C.E.R.T. text books prescribed for schools. Some comments were also made about Jainism. Cases were filed against these. We have tried to rectify the mistakes.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That is why I was saying. Somnath Babu made the most serious complaint that Sanskrit was being taught.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not say so.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It was alleged that only Sanskrit teachers were being appointed. Objectionable things were said about Sanskrit, that its study would usher Hinduism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I never said that.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, confusion is being created here. What is being said is not related to the issue.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has given a judgement on Sanskrit language. It says including Sanskrit in the syllabus is not against secularism. When the Constitution was being framed Dr. Ambedkar had moved an amendment, which was supported by four other Members. This amendment, to make Sanskrit the national language could not be carried through.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that objecting why Sanskrit is being taught, and alleging that teachers for spoken Sanskrit are being appointed and that this would usher in Hinduism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On spoken Sanskrit, you are going to recruit teachers. The only qualification...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is wrong in that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is the objective of that?...*(Interruptions)* Is spoken Sanskrit not a study of Sanskrit? No qualification is being prescribed...*(Interruptions)* The objective is something else....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please continue.

Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. members of Congress respect Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Perhaps they may not be having the same for Gandhiji. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said:

[English]

> "If I was asked what greatest treasure which India possesses and what is her finest heritage, I would answer unhesitatingly that it is the Sanskrit language and literature and all that it contents. This is the magnificent inheritance..."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Only Shri Nathu Ram Godse did not read these lines. Everybody else has...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He said:

> "This is the magnificient inheritance and so long as this endures and influences the life of our people and so long of the basic genius of India continues. If our race forgets the Budha, the *Upnishadas* and the great epics (*Ramayana and Mahabharata*) India would cease to be India."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard the complete speech of Somnath Babu. Her termed Sanskrit, Indian culture, Upnishads and our epics as hypocrisy and observatism.

You can read his speech...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Our course. you are the embodiment of obscurantism.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now it was mentioned and everybody had clapped. Shri Somnath Chatterjee had objected to it that astrology is being taught. Astrology is not taught now-a-days. For hundreds of years, the astrology is being taught in Sanskrit. It was taught during the time of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehruji and during the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi. At that time astrology was taught in 20 universities in Sanskrit language. At that time you did not feel that it was wrong to teach astrology. A big leader of Congress, Goswami Girdhari Laljee did not even Ph.D. in astrology. At that time astrology in university...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAMSUNSI: Shri Goswami Girdhari Lal emphasised astronomy and not astrology in the Science Congress.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Some is the astrology that is being taught these days.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Then what is the necessity of curriculam?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to clarify here that I do not presently believe in astrology. But if a person wants to study astrology and it is taught in 20 universities and in 30 Universities abroad, what objections we can have? There is no compulsion. Nobody is telling anybody that you must study it. But if one wants to study, he may study it. It is being studied for the last 50-100 years. What has happened suddenly. Why so much of hullabooloo due to astrology.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, rituals are being discussed. I wants to ask if any is there from the Congress excepting those having civil marriage, who have marriage without the rituals...*(Interruptions)* Not even a single such person would be there...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Astronomy is a science while astrology is not a science, it is something different...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: All Congressmen need not be Hindus. There are Muslims and there are people from other castes and communities. We are free from caste system.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, he is not yielding. Prof. Malhotra, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Any Congress Hindu or Communist Member may tell this. Mahatma Gandhi married with full rituals and glorified taking seven rounds of the sacred fire is there any person whose ancestors' last rites were performed without rituals. If someone says that in rituals, shlokas of Sanskrit must be pronounced correctly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way to discuss the issues in the House? Dr. Ram Chandra Dome, this is too much. What are you doing? Why should there be a running commentary?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Somnath Chatterjee opposed this he said that it destroy India if this is taught. Sir, I have been to a foreign land, all of you have gone there. Thousands of temples are there and people demand pundits who knows their rituals, who know how to perform the rites. If 84 crores of Hindus who perform rituals, are taught the same what is the objection. It is being propagated that heaven would fall. I do not know what is going to take place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): You have no excuses to give and you have no arguments to make.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sky is not going to fall down. Instead the conspirary of Communist is going

to break down. Communists stigmatised the fifty years history of India by becoming a parasite and taking away crores of rupees of Government and by teaching wrong history to the children...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, bat flys in the sky and it keeps its legs upward with a view to hold the sky from falling down. Communist Party cannot stop the impending changes, nobody can do so. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a big conspiracy has been going on for the last 50 years. Who says that vedic Mathematics would be taught without consulting Mathematician? Somnathjee has referred to many things about India's past that have wrongly been depicted at centre place and we are wrongly propagating it.

[English]

Sir, Albert Einstein said, 'we owe a lot to the Indians who taught us how to count without no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.

[Translation]

Whether it is written by Murli Manohar Joshi or anybody else or Sudarshanjee? This is written by Albert Einstein. If you do not consider Einstein to be a scientist, I cannot help anyway.

[English]

Sir, Vian Twein said, 'India is the cradle of human race; the mother history; the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition. Most valuable and the most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured in India only.

Sir, then again, Max Mueller in his 'Sacred book of the East' said, 'if I were to look over the whole world to find out a country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power and beauty that nature can bestow in some part, a very paradise of earth — I should point to India.

[Translation]

I can read out these words of several scientists and historians...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if all the great scientists of the world say that India had a glorified past that it taught culture and civilization to the world whereas our historians write that they were shephard, were wanderer and used to bury their corpse, their songs Ramayan, Mahabharat, Upanishad and vedas are songs of the shephard and sonnets. I feel that we should be ashamed of this tendency. You started with saffronisation while debate should have been focussed on Leftism. You could name it anything. But why do you insult saffron? Is saffronisation a prevented term? The topmost colour of our tricolour is saffron' it is the golden colour of rising sun in the morning; it is the colour of vitality, of fire; it was colour of Ram's flag, Krishna's flag Shivaji and Maharana Pratap's flag. How are you trying to ternish it by virtue of saffronisation? Whether is it a turn of an abuse? You should have used here sanghinisation. But as I said earlier debates should have centered on leftism, Marxism which started in Russia. Russia has destroyed all the previous explanations of Marxism. They came back on nationalism and you are still clinging to it. Can anybody tell we where is Marxism in the world? And I wonder that Somnathjee invited the Congress President to join in raising an important question. The meaning of secularism in this country is equated with revolt against Indian culture and civilization and opposing Hinduism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas, he is not yielding. You must know the procedure.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude with a couplet of Iqbal. Iqbal had wrote a famous song which is sung many times. He used following words in the song.

"Yunan-o, Mishra-o Roma Sab mit Gaye Jehan se
Ab tak magar hai baki namo nishan hamara
Kuttch baat hai ki hasti mitati nahin hamari
Sadion raha hai dushman daure Jehan hamara"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is something special that save our culture from being destroyed. But they want to destroy our existence. We have a great culture in India. I agree with you that our culture has diversity but you want to destroy that diversity. I want to say that in India we will keep it alive and enrich India. The coming century will belong to India. With these words, I oppose the statement put by him

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood. Our nationhood is the composite outcome of five thousand years of the mingling of virtually every major religion and spiritual tradition that has inspired humankind. It is this continuing synthesis which has impart to our civilisation its unique character. It is this coming together of thought and experience which has made our nationhood a continuing celebration of diversity.

The National Policy on Education adopted by Parliament states in paragraph 8(v), "In our culturally plural society, education should foster universal and eternal values oriented towards the unity and integration of our people " It goes on to say, 'Such value education should help eliminate obsurantism and religious fanaticism." As the 1986 National Policy constitutes the nationally approved framework for education sanctified by the endorsement of this highest forum of our Constitutional democracy, the Parliament of India, it is only with the consent of this Parliament that any change can be brought about in the noble and fundamental objectives of the National Policy. The 1986 National Policy was reviewed in the Tenth Lok Sahba in 1992. Some amendments were carried out in some paragraphs of the 1986 National Policy on Education, but these did not touch the core values set out in 1986—values which derived from our Constitution itself.

This House, of course, needs to remaining that our Constitution commits us to a secular republic. Notwithstanding the attempts made to inject semantic confusions on the meaning of the word secularism, I believe our jurisprudence has never had any difficulty in understanding the scope and significance of secularism in contemporary India. Therefore, when we see attempts being made to trespass on core values of our secularism in the pursuit of a particular ideology it behoves us, Members of Parliament, to alert the nation to such transgression.

We must prevent this previrsion, perversion of policy, to suit goals which may be the goals of a particular persuasion alone and not the goals of the nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Somnath Chatterjee said earlier, an abortive effort was made to undermine the secular ethos of our education at the 1998 State Education Ministers' Conference. The outcry at that time over certain items, over the agenda papers, for that particular Meet stalled the initiative. There was, at that time, some kind of vigilance from the part of the Government to see those members of the Council of Ministers who had gone out of step were actually reined in. However, I must say that the vigilance is completely missing now.

This debate has been necessitated by continuing efforts, overt and covert, to divert value systems in education into channels that do note reflect the consensus of the nation on the nature of our nationhood.

The single most disturbing step in the attempt to launch a national curriculum for school education based on the perception and prejudices of some people, of some ideologues of a certain persuasion instead of the nation as a whole. The 1986 Policy took great pride in the consensual process through which the NPE was evolved. The Central Advisory Board of Education was fully consulted in the matter and the National Development Council was convened on 29th April, 1986 to consider every aspect of every dimension of the Draft Policy before it was placed before Parliament. Indeed, it was at this very meeting that the Prime Minister of the day pronounced himself on a point which we today, 15 years later, are obliged to remind ourselves, and I quote what he said:

> "We have to see that a religious revivalism is not allowed to use our educational process as a tool for fundamentalism."

It is, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a matter of great regret that this is what precisely appears to be the motive for the secretive and non-consensual approach which is being resorted to by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to push its so-called national currriculum. The Central Advisory Board on Education is being bypassed. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is being marginalised as an institution where a favoured few are being drawn into the process, and those with differing or contrary views are being totally ignored.

The State Education Ministers have also not been asked for their views. The Inter-State Council and the National Development Council have not been consulted. The process of consultation adopted n 1986 as well as in 1991 and 1992 is singularly absent from the current exercise.

We demand, therefore, that till a broad spectrum of experts has been consulted, and the States in their generality have given their consent, the Government

should not contemplate any changes, let alone the 'U' turns, it appears to be considering with regard to the core values and national curriculum for any level of education.

18.00 hrs.

There are key references to secularism and national integration in the National Policy on Education, which must be respected. They cannot be modified by executive action; only Parliament has the right to do so. Until that happens -- I do not believe that it can ever happen — the Government must recognise that those references are essential to the Policy. They must be preserved, whether this be through the 1992 plan of action or any innovative steps this Government desires to take. As such, it is important that we recall what these references are, and I shall take the liberty to read them out.

It was declared in 1986 that:

"All educational programmes will be carried out in strict conformity with secular values."

It was further stated that:

"Education has an acculturating role, it refines sensitivities and perceptions that contribute to national cohesion."

The 1992 programme of action reinforces these general directions by including, as I quote:

"A matter of foremost priority, national integration and adherence to national values and concerns, observance of secular, scientific and moral values, inculcation of an understanding of our composite culture with its rich diversity."

There is no escaping these national imperatives. We cannot and we must not accommodate the ideological idiosyncrasies of a particular school of thought. Yet, we find that repeated efforts are being made to chip away at the bases of our education. There has been widespread concern that these efforts are being made with a specific intent, an intent which I am afraid, if implemented, is likely to push our educational system towards obscurantism, irrational prejudices and bigotry.

The House is aware of the assault mounted, for ideological reasons, on the Indian Council of Historical Research, the Indian History Congress, the Indian Philosophical Congress and the Archaeological Survey of India.

If I may say, to mix communal ideology with history textbooks and scientific facts is tantamount to playing with fire. In a country as diverse and complex as ours, such an approach is not only incorrect, but also fraught with dangerous consequences...*(Interruptions)* The House is also aware of the games being played with the NCERT and the UGC. The 'Saffronisation' of Education at all levels will be resisted by the Congress Party — I say this all the strength at my command — and I am sure that it will be resisted by all secular forces represented in this House and outside...*(Interruptions)*

Let me remind the Government that in the field of education the one glaring omission is the pursuit of universal primary education and universal literacy. Time and again, we have pledged ourselves to this goal. Instead of wasting precious time and resources by tinkering with the 'secular curriculum' content, should the Government not apply its precious energies to pursue these vitally important goals?

It has so far made absolutely no headway on the long pending Bill for making education a fundamental right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, instead of being so excessively obsessed with the past, should we not focus more sharply on the future? It is a truism to say that our children are our richest future resources. We should, therefore, engage ourselves in an endeavour to see that the careers and attitudes of our children are so shaped that they are at par with the best in the world, both in terms of technical skills and scientific temper.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we hope this debate will put the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development on notice that he cannot substitute a National Agenda with the hidden agenda. We also hope, this debate will alert the hon. Prime Minister to the need for continuous vigilance to ensure that the hidden agenda, his Party agenda after all, is not smuggled through the back door in the mistaken belief that no one is watching, because Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are watching and we will not let the Government get away with the ideological sleight of hand.

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, change of any educational curriculum is subject to Constitutional commitments. Our Constitution is committed for secular character and to maintain this sacred commitment the element of religion should not be brought in.

During the Twelfth Lok Sabha, when the Government of India wanted to introduce *Sarasvathi Vandanam* as a

[Dr (Smt.) C. Suguna Kumari]

mandatory part of the curriculum, several sections had opposed that introduction of such a prayer in the schools would give an impression that *Hindutva* is made a part of the curriculum. On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party we expressed categorically that such an attempt is not desirable in the interest of our Constitution and its commitments. Subsequently, the then HRD Minister had called for a meeting of the Minister of Education from different States. Andhra Pradesh was represented in the meeting by the then Education Minister, Shrimati Pratibha Bharati. She made our Party's stand and Government's stand very clear, that introduction of *Sarasvathi Vandanam* as a part of the curriculum is not desirable. On this occasion, we reiterate our stand that any such attempt is not desirable and the Government have got a responsibility to maintain the secular fabric of the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it's 6 O'Clock now Till when the proceedings of this House would continue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was decided in today's BAC that the House could sit up to 8.00 o'clock to finish the discussion on this subject. I hope the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing about saffronisation of education. Education is an integral part of our life. It is within the Concurrent List. In India where people of various castes and religions live, it would not be good for the country to include fanaticism and parochialism in education. Mahatma Gandhiji had said that education means to inculcate good habits. But today efforts are being made to attack the secularism nature of education in India. It is indeed a matter of concern. It is open violation of education policy passed by Parliament in 1986 and 1992. Whatever is happening in the name of Indianisation, moralisation and spiritualism is definitely a matter of concern.

18.11 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, education is an important subject but they did not bother to take Parliament and this country into confidence while incorporating changes in its syllabus. Nothing could be more despicable than to take even hundred people into confidence among the population of hundred crore on such an important question. The Minister of Human Resource Development had summoned a conference of all education Ministers of the country in October, 1998. He knows that education Ministers were not agreed to his suggestions. The most important thing in it was that the agenda on which discussion was going on Vidya Bharati an education wing of RSS had sent a note which was accepted in toto for discussion. After that conference, a conclave of nine Ministers of various States had been called and it was stated explicitly by them that they will not implement such syllabus in their States curriculum which would be based on their moralisation or spiritualisation. No effort has been made to take all people into confidence. In the conference of education Ministers it was also said that amendments in Article 29 and 30 is needed in which freedom has been given to minority to open run educational institutions. This work was done. There is no need to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party will definitely like to implement his own line of thinking. They are the disciples of Savarkar. Savarkar had said that — Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan, other castes are not only non-Indians but also anti-national.

Savarkar's views on Hinduism were based on firm philosophy. He used to say that Christians and Muslims are not partners in our great civilisation, our great Hindu culture, our joint respect of bond. They can not be called Hindu now because by adopting new religion they have abandoned the whole culture. Now their motherland could only be in Arab or in Palestine.

Sir, what is being taught in schools now-a-days. It has been mentioned in the subject of social study of class-IX in the schools of Gujarat run by Swayam Sevak Sangh that Mahmood Gajnavi had destroyed tens of thousand of temples in Kannoj because Islam teaches atrocity. I do not know whether excesses committed in Islam or not but I know one thing that Akbar had religious tolerance and had done a great job to maintain religious harmony in this country. He introduced 'Din-e-illahi' by writing all the religions. Just now Malhotraji had read out a couplet of Allaman Iqbal. What does he say about Muslims is a different question? Did he ever try to know what are the ills of Hindu religion? The people who have adopted other religion, I do not know much about Islam, but as has been reported in newspapers that so and so was not allowed to enter a particular temple, the door of the temple was closed for him. I do not know the pros and cons of Islam but allaman Iqbal has rightly said

about Islam "Ek hi suf mein khare ho gaye mahmodo ayaj, no koi banda raha, no koi banda nawaj." We should at least appreciate this tendency of Islam. The map of India which is given in the textbook of class seven has shown Bangladesh, Pakistan in it. Some area of Kashmir is in Pakistan and some area is in China. In your map of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are included. Whatever happening in this country cannot be justified at any cost.

Sir, I would like to give an example of indianisation of history. We all know that Columbus discovered America but R.S.S. says that an Indian discovered America. Vasco-de-gama had brought a ship from Africa to South who was the first person to reach southern coast of India from Africa by sea route? It is Vasco-de-gama but they say it was an Indian. Who propounded the law of gravitation, Newton but they say Arayabhatt and Bhaskarcharya. Who developed Pythogorous theorem, Pythogorous, but they say it is mentioned in Shilpsutra from the time when he was not even born.

Sir, by this way the RSS are compaigning its national awakening programme and spreading such information in the villages. This news was published in Hindustan Times dated 12 December, 2000. Vidyabharti run 14,000 schools, which are their institutions. They teach that a lot of devotees of Rama have sacrificed their lives between 1525 to 1992 to free Ram Temple. They teach that three lakh forty thousand people were killed in it but if we add the number of people killed in all wars of world the total of it would not be three lakh forty thousand. What do they want to tell the world? The district Magistrate had ordered to open the lock of Ram Mandir on 1 February, 1986. 'Shilp Pujan' for the construction of Ram Mandir was done on 30 September, 1989. Who was the first person to construct Ram Mandir at birth place of Ram? It was king Kush himself who was the son of the God Rama. Which Mughal invader destroyed the Ram Mandir in 1528 — it was Babar? When did Muslims decided to hand over Ram Mandir to Hindus—it is in 1857? Sir what they are teaching to children, they are perverting their minds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say humbly that they are trying to change the schools in the branches of R.S.S.

They are putting pressure on Universities to include the courses of Vedic mathematics and astrology in their curriculum. I want to give an example. Shri Narlikar who is the Director of Inter-University for Astronomy and Physics, a famous international institute of University Grants Commission has dismissed this effort by saying that it is neither maths nor science. The RSS people are present everywhere be it giving education, culture or history such thing has never happen in the history of India. University recruit teachers and employees for its colleges. University Grants Commission has never recruited anybody in the history of India. A news was published recently in newspapers that University Grants Commission is undertaking recruitment directly. This is nothing but to oblige RSS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to make a humble submission that efforts are being made to appoint the people of RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal everywhere. Our civilisation and culture is to live together. Secularism and religious harmony is in our blood. Their misdeed should be stopped so that dignity of India could be intact.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Today that syllabus of education is under discussion which is awaited for years. In 1964 and 1966, under the chairmanship of Prof. Kothari, a syllabus was suggested. That syllabus has been a matter of discussion for forty years and every body placed his point of view on this. I do not create what Kothari ji had said but in brief, I would like to say that during 1964 and 1966 Kothari commission discussed the issue thoroughly and explicitly. NCERT recommend inclusion of original philosophy or religions of Indian people due to commercial consideration. Another entity is religion which needs attention in terms of character. Though religion is not a sole source of development of essential value yet it is certainly a main source for the development of values. Today the most necessary thing is not religious education but the education about religion, its basic principles, the values contained there in and a comparative study of philosophies of religions. This spirit needs to be propagated in the education from this academic session even from the level of primary education. Shri Kothariji said so on 1964-1966.

In 1986 the committee, headed by hon'ble Yaspal discussed this issue and made amendments to it. After that, it was again amended in 1992. While amending process was going on, by chance, a central Education board was constituted and I was also a member of that board. The board had decided to abolish Sanskrit, as an optional subject, from the central school. On this issue, one of my hon'ble friends approaches to Supreme Court that Sanskrit should not be removed. Just now hon'ble

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

Sonia ji was asking as to what amendments were made in 1992, one instance of this amendment was that Sanskrit may be removed from three language formulae as it was an optional language. It was the amendment. Now, I would like to place the ruling of Hon'ble Supreme Court on this amendment. Let me say the ruling first and the other things later on.

Their ruling was that Sanskrit has a major role in evolution of our culture and due to this reason the importance of study of Sanskrit in our government education policy has been shown. To make only Sanskrit as an option subject and not giving recognition to Arabic, Persian is not, in my way, against the original principle of secularism. Therefore, the first objection raised by court have no substance. We given instruction to Board to include Sanskrit an optional subject in syllabus under consideration. In 1992, the then Minister of Human Resource hon'ble Shri Arjun Singh was kind enough in respect of the culture of this country. Sahamat organised an exhibition at Ayodhya in which Ram and Sita were presented as brother and sister. The central government gave Rs. 15 lacs as assistance to this exhibition. This ruling of supreme court come at the time of Shri Arjun Singh. Supreme Court has given another ruling also. It says that Sanskrit has been called the incarnation of Indian culture and civilisation. Thereafter, according to commission, in the eyes of the people of this great country Sanskrit is a uniting force between different people of this nation. According to the commission it is the greatest achievement of the journey from Kerala to Kashmir and to saurashtra. During journey the commission found that though people of this country, differ from each other, however, they are proud of this fact that they share the same heritage and that heritage is Sanskrit. They told this regarding commission constituted on Sanskrit in 1957.

There are two Sanskrit Universities in the country and they have not been established for the last three years. The syllabus also include Puran, Ved, astrology and rituals also. All these subjects are taught in these two universities and other six universities running in six states. In 1992 when Supreme Court gave directions, the then government and the Human Resource Development Minister Shri Arjun Singh took a decision that the moreover Sanskrit as a subject may be taught...*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. Its your compulsion that you cannot sit down nor can you listen to. If I am wrong, please remind that in your turn. You are a senior leader. Why you are behaving lives this? I said nothing objectionable. During the tenure of Hon'ble Shri Arjun Singh memorial Sanskrit was included by UGC and all colleges were given instruction to teach it. In that memoir Sanskrit rituals were to be taught that how worship is done, how marriage is solemnised and now other rituals?...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about rituals.

Here, Madam has talked about secularism. He has been living in India for many years. It would be better if she tries to grasp the sentiments of secularism of India, that it been better if she has taken notice of what depicted above your chair. Had hon'ble Soniaji read that it would have been better. Our member should also read what has been written there one bulb is light up there. It reads!

"Dharam chakra Pravartanay." i.e for running the weel of religion."

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Both, her mother-in-law and husband lost their lives for saving secularism. What are you talking?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Thanks for information.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why saints become so angry?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: You do not prescribe the code of conduct for saints. This has been written on the seat of Hon'ble Speaker which means that we are here to run the wheel of religion in the country and in the world, this is written in saffron colour. Not in any other colour.

Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, it is written about the seat of Chief justice of Supreme Court that one who defends religion, religion defends him. I would like to say the congressmen that they have no knowledge of secularism. Smt. Indira Gandhi had said that secularism means to opposition of religion. It means equal treatment to all religions and all religions should be respected equally. Here, it is said because it is being included in the syllabus of NCERT. It has been said in those books that knowledge of all religions will be given. Imparting knowledge about all religions is necessary because if we know about all religions there would be no clash between religions and we will get a chance of know each other...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, he is misquoting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhuria, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND, SWAMI: You do not make a noise. I am telling you that I have studied Bible and Quaran also. I quote a sentence from Bible which reads as:

[English]

Heavens will be inherited by those who have heavens in their hearts.

[Translation]

Goswami Tulsidasji interprets it in these words:

Nirmal Mandan tu Mohe Pawa, mohe chhal, kapat na bhava.

(You will get me with clear heart, I don't like deceit cheating.) then there is no difference between Bible and Ramayan. So, we should identify those points that the what religion is. Today if we teach Gita, Upnishad, Bible or Quaran which unites that nation, then what is wrong? I would also like to say the when Gandhiji used to began prayer, at the outset he reiterated sentences from the books of all religions.

By this, the message goes in the country that it is a secular nation and there is a coordination among all communities...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhuria, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, it is a fact that RSS people were involved in that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Brar, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people don't have the knowledge about religion. That is why, the people who did not know about the religion, started interpreting about religion in this country. So, religious fundamentalism is taking its root. I would like to submit that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Those who committed murders want to atone for their sins.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, he is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Now, I am speaking, you please get ready to listen to me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When we were speaking, you people should have also listen to.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: I also listened to you. Your problem is that you were not listened to, that is why you don't want to listen to us. You are a veteran and affable leader of this House. Rather we should get your protection, but you are taking revenge on us. This is not fair. A senior member is taking revenge on a junior member. The talk of national unity cannot be done by such a feeling of revenge. I would like to submit that the talk of astrology...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are giving us lectures now as how to behave...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swami, please address the chair.

[Translation]

Your time is about to finish.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about astrology. Right now, my friend Dr. Malhotra said that the marriage ceremony can not be performed without rituals. I don't know that...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, Swamiji, you please address the chair. Now three Members are still left.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I want to touch upon another point. I very much remember that the last rites of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were performed as per Hindu Vedic rituals. Even their ashes were immersed in Sangam in Allahabad. It shows that all the ceremonies were performed with Vedic rituals.

I have great respect for Sonia ji. Even she could not leave the temptation to take bath in the Ganga river on the occasion of Kumbh. She could not take dip into the Ganga river but she touched Ganga with her feet. She did not even miss the right of the saints there. She touched the feet of Shankaracharya Swami swaroopanand...*(Interruptions)* This is happening in your personal life. We can use astrology in public life. Even today, I can tell you as to what time there would be sunrise and sunset in the next year on today's date. We can predict this by astrology...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is not astrology...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: If we had used astrology for calculation of time, Meteorology, summer and rain forecast...*(Interruptions)* I know your problem. Chezeviski had said that the rule of czars was destined to go but they got the credit free of cost...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Please tell me when will the end of BJP come in the next year.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Brar Sahib, I can tell you, I can predict your future...*(Interruptions)* I do not talk about forecast, which is inherent in the calculation of astrology. So far the question of circulating the curriculum is concerned, I do not think that the honourable Minister has spared any means in order to circulate this. It was circulated and I tell you as to whom it was circulated. It was sent to all the State Ministers of H.R.D., RIEs and J.D., P.S.S.C.I.V.I., experts, all newspapers, Ministers of education of all the States, important institutions, all Directors, N.G.Os. It was even sent to newspapers. Since last year, i.e. December, 2000, it is being propagated. A lot of debate and discussion has taken place on it which did not happen before. A discussion on politics takes place in Parliament. Can anybody tell me if there has been a discussion on curriculum in the Parliament before. Parliament does not discuss curriculum. Parliament only discusses politics and it has already been discussed. I would like to submit that a small committee was constituted on the values outlined by Shri Chauhan. Shri Ajit Jogi ji, Shri Bairagai ji and Sanyasi ji were in it. Jogi was Shri Ajit Jogi, Bairagi was Shri Balkavi Bairagi and I was also there. At that time, there was a discussion that religion is a instrument through which we should search those common points of all the religions and include them in the education, so that the country can be tied to the thread of unity. It came to picture even at that time. I would like to submit that we should forget the problems of states in the matter of education. We would see that the documents, curriculum presented by NCERT now do not favour anybody; they are impartial, nationalistic, humanistic, spiritualistic, devoted to culture and it has clear philosophy to enhance the qualities in people encourage them and understand their moral responsibility and I respect the philosophy. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is a secular country. This decision was not taken in hurry that our country should be secular. When this country got freedom, the then Constituent Assembly and those great leaders who sacrificed their life for the freedom of this country took a decision that this should be a secular country. As regards the meaning of a secular country, there is a mention in Quran-A-Pak- "Lakum Dinkeum Vale Yadeen" i.e. my religion is for me, your religion is for you. You pursue your religion, allow us to pursue our religion— This is the definition of secularism...*(Interruptions)* You people do not know anything, pardon me. I do not want to indulge in any dispute...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

We do not have time, why do you disturb like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chaubey ji, there are many senior members in the House and you get up in between and start speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chaubey ji, what are you doing? What is wrong with you today?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such an erudite speech is going on through which we are learning how to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: We will teach completely...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: He will now teach us? He has come here to teach us. We are not students here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They will yield, if you have to say something.

[English]

Nothing will go on record excepting the speech of Shri Rashid Alvi.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, what are you doing?

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: I am touching the right point. If you allow this, we would be considered student. You are giving him this permission and I oppose this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are merely wasting the time. You stand on your own will and start your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is unfortunate that there are some elected members of the House who only make interruptions and do not let the House work in a smooth manner, they are here to make noise only...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is submitting that you are giving permission. He is challenging your authority...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you behaving in a correct manner?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They rush to well of the House everyday and don't obey your instructions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: He is very learned man? You are allowing him...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi please address me, the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please resume your seat. We do not have time. We have to sit up to 8 o'clock and then conclude this debate.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I should have been allowed to make my submission. But instead of me, he is speaking...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let us forget all this. This House should have a decent debate. Nobody can speak without the permission of the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can start afresh.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I should be given permission to make my submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed. But don't provoke.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I am not provoking. I am silent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please come to the point. Please speak on your topic.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I am deeply pained to state that after fifty fours years of Independence, I still demand a debate on the topic of secularism in the House and do not get permission. I am not being allowed to say that this is a secular country and this country must remain secular. What type of education should be given to the children of secular country. Instead of considering this issue, the syllabus which is being introduced in Uttar Pradesh, would not make any country secular. It has been introduced so as to implement the hidden agenda of Hindutva as has been explained by the Congress President just now.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they talk about value based education. What type of value based education are they talking about? They speak about religion. I would like to

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

know as to which type of religion they are talking about? In Gita Lord Krishna has taught Arjun there are two type of politics. The first type of politics is followed for the king of the country and the other is followed for the cause of truth. But whenever wrong type of politics gets a start, loyality loses its meaning and when such is the state of affairs, politics becomes just falsehood. Today the politics being played by Bhartiya Janata Party is not politics, it is falsehood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the eleventh class syllabus in Gujarat has a lesson which says.

[English]

'Islam teaches only atrocities'.

[Translation]

Is this the lesson that you want to impart to the children? Sanskrit book of Ninth class says:

[English]

'Thousands of Muslims, the followers of Islam, go to Mecca to worship the Shiv ling.'

[Translation]

The Muslims who go to Mecca for Haj, go there for worshipping. Shivling and not for Hari. This is the course you are teaching there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is not being taught there.

[Translation]

He is talking about the pre 1988 position.

[English]

It should not go on record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I am from Gujarat. It is in the textbook of Standard IX in Gujarat...*(Interruptions)* I have got quotations from that book. I am from Gujarat. I can show it to you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, this course says that Babri Masjid was demolished because Namaj never been observed there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where are you quoting from? Are you quoting from the textbook?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, this is Ninth class text book...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please resume your seat. I am here to conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, are you quoting from some textbook?

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This is the information given by the Parliament Library...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to authenticate whatever you are quoting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This information has been given by the Parliament Library.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is always disturbing the House. How can he deny the right of an hon. Member to speak here?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, he is on a point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Under which rule is he raising his point of order?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I will ask him that question. Please resume your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please tell me under what rule you are raising the point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Please tell the rule...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Any reference is raised here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Alvi, I am here to conduct the House. Dr. Malhotra, please tell the rule under which you are raising the point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Rule 376...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me deal with one point of order first.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)* My point is this that do not refer from any book, from any paper or library, he should give reference of...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct to say that children are being taught that they should go to Mecca for worshipping shivling...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me give the ruling. He has not quoted any rule. Shri Rashid Alvi, whatever you are reading or quoting, are going to authenticate it?

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Yes Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the proof of it. I am allowing him.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This book had been published during Congress regime.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is authenticating it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has complained to the Ministry of Human Resource Development as far as the Gujarati books are concerned. A fax message was sent from the Ministry to the Government of Gujarat and the Government of Gujarat had admitted that they have made a mistake and they would rectify it...*(Interruptions)* It is there in the reply of the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the hon. Minister wants to speak.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, there was a question in the Parliament, in the Upper House by hon. Member, Shri K.K. Birla and one other hon. Member. That complaint was transmitted to them. They have rectified those mistakes. But this mistake was not in that. The question was about certain mistakes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a fresh mistake.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I would like to tell on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: While giving your reply you can tell it. I am allowing hon. Member Shri Rashid Alvi to go on record as he is authenticating what he is quoting. I will allow him to go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, if he has to authenticate whatever he has quoted, then, I think, many of the quotations made earlier should also be authenticated. I insist that they should also be authenticated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Whatever quotations made by the earlier speakers should also be authenticated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whoever quotes here from any textbook or anywhere else, it has to be authenticated and it should go on record.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, only when a Member from the minorities is speaking, it is like this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is rather various statement that Shivling is in Mecca...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is a very serious thing. Do not put it on record...*(Interruptions)*

This will create unnecessary tension. It is no use to make such things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Such things should not be uttered here; should not be recorded. Why should there be such things?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: To say that children are taught that people go to Mecca to have darshan of Shivling...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When it is written, he is authenticating it. What is wrong with that?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, is he authenticating that the BJP has allowed this book? It is not so...*(Interruptions)* I say that it is the biggest untruth which has never been done. The BJP will never do it....*(Interruptions)* It is the Congress-prepared textbook which he is referring.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, since he is quoting the Book he is doing it with the full sense of responsibility. He is referring to a document...*(Interruptions)* He does not have the book with him. He is referring to the document. What is wrong in it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He is quoting from a document...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is quoting.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He does not have the book with him. He is referring from the material...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, when he is quoting, he is quoting from that text-book.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This is the document given by the Parliament Library...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That material is provided by Parliament Library...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, everybody is quoting from books...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those people who have quoted from any text-book, they have to authenticate it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It is baseless, it should be refuted. No school book contains such matter. I refute this matter regarding Shivling in Mecca...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a limit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rashid Alvi speaks.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rashid Alvi speaks.

*...(Interruptions)***

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If such matter is included in the school books, Gujarat would face violence...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It has been written here, that is why I am reading it.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are defending it.

[English]

You are defending this sort of a thing. You should be ashamed of this. No BJP man will ever do this. The Congress Party is doing it.

[Translation]

You should be ashamed for defending it saying that Mecca-Madina has Shivling.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Can he speak whatever he likes?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing?

[English]

Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already resumed his seat. I am asking him to continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing? Please resume your seat. Let him continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Are you quoting from a book published by Gujarat Education Board under Education Department of Government of Gujarat?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, hon. Minister, while giving reply, can reply to it. Why are you taking up the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is stated in the curriculum of Gujarat and I am quoting it from there that people go to Macca to worship Shivling...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if anything is said which is not proper. You are here to delete it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what I am telling you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are not the deciding authority...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: How can they stop him from speaking?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How should I control this House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if we have to speak what they like to hear, then forget about this Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: They stopped Somnath Chatterjee from speaking in the same way, 50 people stand at the same time...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has not spoken even four sentences...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: You want to set the whole country ablaze, there is no room for doubt in this. Today, in U.P., the minority is opening new schools which...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Alvi speaks.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: They are given recognition with this condition that they will teach in those schools the courses recommended by R.S.S. and B.J.P. It is going all over U.P. and there is a conspiracy going on to change the whole history and system of U.P. It is possible, people should make history but this is first time that people are trying to change the history.

19.00 hrs.

"If you have courage stamina create new history, set a new date, earlier history cannot be changed, pages of dates cannot be changed. In a book of courses in U.P. I have heard myself at Doordarshan, that Kutub minar was built by Kutub-din-Aibak but also said that it was built by Prithvi Raj Chauhan. This is an attempt to change the history. They never went to Kutub-minar to see how many verses are written therefrom bottom to top. Had they gone there to see they would not have said so. You cannot change the dates by writing your name on a monument which has been built by other...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Please resume your seat, we do not have time to waste.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sanskrit is going to be made compulsory. I am not against Sanskrit. Mr. Joshi knows that my younger sister is M.A. in Sanskrit and Ph.D. in Hindi, but Sanskrit cannot be made compulsory subject. An educationist of Delhi University, Shri Anil Sadgopal has said:

[English]

"Why Sanskrit is an important subject and should be taught to those pursuing a subject where knowledge of Sanskrit is relevant. It should not be made compulsory at all."

[Translation]

It cannot be possible to make Sanskrit a compulsory subject for you. Those who wish to study they should be taught. Astrology cannot be made compulsory. Just before now our friend Swami Chinmayanand said that through astrology we cannot predict hundred years in advance that when the sun will rise and set in future. It is done through mathematics and not through astrology and astrology takes help of mathematics. But it's a bad thing that the whole B.J.P. government is running on astrology. An astrologer is called to fix the date for Prime Minister to take oaths. What measures should be adopted and what not. Recently Dr. Joshi has nominated Dr. K.G. Rastogi in two Boards. Your R.S.S. Chief, Shri K. Sudarshan told about Shri Rastogi, "He is a true soldier of RSS." Why he is a true soldier is that some persons were running behind a beautiful young girl during communal riots and he said that he had finished her; issue was ended so that no dispute arose with her. This is an authentic report which I am narrating in the House. You have nominated him in two Boards. I would like to know what will Shri Rastogi do in the field of education; why he was nominated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Rastogi is not a member of any Committee or any Board...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: He is accepting this...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He has resigned.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It may be that he ceased to be member today, but you had nominated him. I will send a copy of this appointment to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARYA: Did you nominated him or not?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He resigned. He is no longer a member of any committee or Board...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Those things should be taught through education which will make the fate of both the children and the nation there may be some disputed things in history but they are not good for innocent children. The syllabus of children should be made such that they may become our future because they are our future. Entire responsibility of this nation goes to the soldiers of these future generations. If future generation is destroyed this country will be destroyed. Such is our country which includes more than 4000 castes and 325 dialects. If a man from Arunachal Pradesh comes to Connaught place people take him to be a foreigner, there are different languages, different dresses and different examples in this country and in such cases if they will emphasise to teach the same course for all this is not possible. This will mar this country. So, I would like to appeal you that the fundamental rights given in the constitution should be given respect. I suggest that you should constitute a committee of members of Parliament which includes members of different parties. They will decide the syllabi of schools and colleges of this country. By chance fortunately you have come to power with slogan of Ram but it does not mean that you will impose a different syllabus on the children of this nation. In the end I would like to say this more. In this country only a man with secular image can be the Prime Minister Vajpayee jee, by chance, has 19-20 secular images. So, he was elected Prime Minister. You are a Prime Ministerial candidate. If you want to make your dream a reality you should make your image secular.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has initiated discussion on saffronisation in this House under rule 193. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has been awarded best Parliamentarian award. Education must be discussed in this House rather it should be given more importance. Today unemployment is increasing in the country day by day. The challenges are ahead, whether it be due to globalisation or sick industries or increasing population. I expect that Shri Somnath Chatterjee may have started discussion in this regard in this House under rule 193.

Sir, I could not understand the meaning of safronisation so far. Shri Somnath Chatterjee's statement also does not mention that unfortunately, whatever is discussed in this House is attached with politics directly whether he is the member of this side or of that side...*(Interruptions)* There may be dispute in every house but nobody leaves the House to go elsewhere...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, here we are discussing safronisation. I agree with Shri Alvijee totally that we cannot change the history but which history, which history we are discussing in the House. Who has written history? I regret that on the plea of secularism we are slowly forgetting ourselves. It is a fact that we are going to forget our own existence. It might be the matter of amendment why we are forgetting ourselves. India has a rich history and we feel proud of that.

Sir, today whatever education we are getting we have to think on this issue seriously. Whether the education, we are getting today, can make us competent to accept the challenges of future or make us to stand against it firmly. So many times we discuss and the data are placed before us we see that not even ten percent of the people pay income tax willingly. Most of the people think how to evade that tax. I am saying this in this House because after 50 years of independence we lack the love and respect for our country in our hearts and it has decreased in place of increasing.

We seek lack of nationalism due to which objectionable things have happened sometimes in the name of religion and sometimes in the name of regional dispute. There is politics behind all this.

Sir, I would like to cite an example to the House. We always talk of secularism and say that our country is secular. While framing the constitution, secularism was not added, it came later. There is no mention of secularism in the original constitution but according to our political convenience we take various decisions. The Congress Party was in power in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)* At that time Barrister Baba Saheb Bhosle was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. When he was Chief Minister there people belonging to minority class had raised objections about a lesson of a book. Everybody feels proud over the history of Maharashtra.

There was a lesson on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It was mentioned therein how Shivaji Maharaj had killed Afjalkhan. There was also a picture in that context. Somebody objected that if this lesson is taught-people belonging to minorities would feel offended. Just now hon'ble Alvi said that nobody can change the history. But

everything was done and for political benefits that lesson was deleted from that book. Such things keep happening.

19.16 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRADHAN YADAV *in the Chair*)

Today we are talking of saffronisation. What is the meaning of saffronisation? It is the flag of our Sanatan Dharma and it was accepted by people belonging to all sects in the country. This includes Buddhist and Jains who have saffron flags...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Please do not mix Jainism and Buddhism with Hindusim...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I am not talking about the colour but about the sentiments behind it. Let's talk about that. So do not mix Buddhism and Hinduism...*(Interruptions)* There is no saffronisation in Buddhism. Saffronisation is there in Hinduism only.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: What is the colour of clothes which Buddhist priests wear? Buddhist religious teachers wear saffron coloured clothes.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Please do not talk of Buddhism...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: We talk about such things only for political reasons and nothing else.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the partition of India took place in the name of religion. I do not want to go into its history but no Hindu leader had ever demanded this partition....*(Interruptions)* Hindustan was devided in the name of religion. ...*(Interruptions)* I totally agree that people of various religions, castes and languages live in our country but to abuse the majority of the country, by calling them Hindu to insult them by calling them 'Hinduvadi', to insult their God and Goddess is not secularism...*(Interruptions)* Today secularism is diverting towards this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, we respect Hindu religion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, your submission is not being recorded in the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, your submission is not being recorded in the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was born in Hindu religion. To feel proud of the religion in which I have been born is not a sin or offence. It is wrong to say that to be born a Hindu is a crime.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Nobody said so.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Today such allegations are being made on us and the people who believe in Hinduism are being treated as criminals. Where it is regarded as a crime. In India Hinduism is regarded as a crime, as curse and as an abuse what is this? Hinduism would continue further...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Hinduism will remain even if he is no more there.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hinduism would continue even if I am not there. There will be no marxism in future...*(Interruptions)* From the day this Government came to power there is same talk about hidden agenda. Children are the future of this country, what idea and impression they are going to give to their children? If a student of a primary school is asked to do a prayer then controvery is raised over it. What is wrong in Saraswati Vandana? We worship Saraswati as Goddess of Education...*(Interruptions)* He does not believe in this but the people who believe in Islam...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: TDP said that it is not right.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I would not like to indulge myself in this debate? If the children of Muslims go to study in Madarsa and they are asked to do the prayer of Islam, there is nothing wrong in it?...*(Interruptions)* then what is wrong in Saraswati Vandana?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdas Ji, please sit down. Your submission is not being recorded in the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)* *

* Not recorded.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Efforts are being made to change the image of this country in the name of secularism. What will be its benefit?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is not fair.

[Translation]

You are getting up again and again without my permission and thus interrupting the House. Please sit down.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the name of Swami Vivekanand has been mentioned here. He had said that two religion cannot fight each other. 'Dharma' can only fight with 'Adharma'. On the name of secularism you are taking the side of 'Adharma'...*(Interruptions)* 'Adharma' means a person who lives in this country but has is faithful to another country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you getting up again and again. Mr. Rasthrapal please sit down.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is 'Adharma' to have faith in another country and it is necessary to fight against this 'Adharma'. We are sad because we are living like criminals in our own country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Geete, you conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, here religion is used for political advantage...*(Interruptions)* They are forgetting their own country. Mr. Chairman, sir saffronisation is the soul of this country and you cannot destroy it. So, I oppose the discussion initiated by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Prof. V.K. Malhotra, as well as Swami Chinmayanand asked us to point out where is the *saffronisation* in the national curriculum framework for school education presented by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi on the birth anniversary of the greatest secularist that this country has seen after Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. And, I wish to begin with the very first sentence, the very first line of the preface to this document which takes us to the heart of the kind of *saffronisation* that is being attempted, for in the first line it says:

> "The Indian nation is striving to discover new and effective ways to educate its children."

No, Sir, the Indian nation is not striving for this. It is the BJP that is striving for the new ways in education because, Sir, this nation decided, as long ago as 1986, through a National Policy for Education that was placed before Parliament, accepted by Parliament, modified again by Parliament in 1992 as to what are the new effective ways of educating our children.

Sir, to discover this new and effective ways of subterfuging our children the BJP way, the hon. Minister has resorted to subterfuge. The Minister has twisted the paragraph 11.5 of the preface — it is not written by him but written, on his direction, by the Director of the NCERT, and has to adopt it for himself — of the 1986 Policy to give himself a justification for his subterfuge. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have brought with me the original text of paragraph 11.5 and I would like to read the first sentence to you. Please listen to this very carefully. It says:

> "The implementation of the various parameters of the new policy must be reviewed every five years."

It is not the Policy that has to reviewed every five years. Moreover, what is the purpose of the review? That is stated in the plan of action of 1992 and quoted in the second paragraph of the preface where it says that the fundamental need is for the modernisation of the curriculum. Modernisation through *Jyotir Vighyan!* Modernisation through degrees in Karmakand! Modernisation through vedic Mathematics! Sir, the thrust of the proposed new national curriculum is not the mundane business of implementing the parameters of the National Policy on Education or the National Curriculum Framework of 1988 — 13 years old — but fundamentally towards altering these parameters and altering the content.

Sir, consider this sentence from page vii (small Roman letters) — he is still using Roman letters despite going into the Vedic Mathematics — of the preface where you have this marvelous sentence. He says: 'Indigenousness' — I do not know where Dr. Rajput gets his English from. But he says:

> "Indigenousness of the curriculum therefore is being strongly recommended. It has therefore, stressed the need to get education rooted in Indian reality."

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

This is in your preface and I find Professor V.K. Malhotra has fled the scene. Sir, the answer to this nonsense — I say it with responsibility — was given by the hon. Minister's predecessor in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1992 when Shri Arjun Singh said, and I hope I can quote from the records of the Rajya Sabha:

> "I was very distressed, Madam, to hear from an hon. Member that this Policy was relic of our colonial past and we had not made any departure from the policies that were pursued during the British colonial rule. In all humility but firmly, I would like to refute this insinuation. Let us be aware that after we achieved Independence, eminent people in the sphere of education, persons like Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, persons like Dr. Kothari were given the responsibility to review and recommend changes in the policies and programmes for education in an Independent India."

He further said:

> "I just cannot image that anyone could even suggest that persons of such eminence adopted the colonial past the framework for the education of a free India."

Does Professor Joshi regard himself as a greater freedom fighter or a greater Minister of Education than Maulana Abul Kalam Azad? Does he regard himself as greater educationist than Dr. Kothari? Indeed! Does he regard himself as a greater Hindu than Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan? Sir, this Minister's objective is not indigenisation but saffronisation and because he cannot saffronise by securing a national consensus on a new national policy of education, he is smuggling it by subterfuge his bizarre of what is good for our children.

Sir, I challenge the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the National Development Council on education as Rajivji did in April, 1986 to discuss the new direction in which Professor Joshi wishes to take our children's education. And if the Prime Minister wisely wishes to have nothing to do with his colleague's divisive ways in education, then I challenge the hon. Minister to convene the Sate Education Minister's Conference as the one he convened in 1988 at which the hon. Minister was humiliated by his state counterparts and repudiated by his own Prime Minister. Let the nation see whether the Minister's saffron agenda can get the endorsement of even his NDA partners such as the TDP, let alone the nation as a whole. Is that not why the Ministry of Human Resource Development has failed for the last three years to even constitute the Central Advisory Board for Education? This is the first time since 1935 that the nation has been so long without a Central Advisory Board for Education.

I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to paragraph 10.2 of the National Policy on Education, 1986 which he is duty bound to implement, whether he likes it or not. I am again reading paragraph 10.2 from the authentic text which says:

"The Central Advisory Board for Education will play a pivotal role in reviewing educational development, determining the changes required to improve the system and monitoring implementation."

It is said 'pivotal role'. Mr. Minister, why have you tried to pull the wool over the types of the nation by listing in your acknowledgments here, at such great and misleading length, all those whom you claim to have consulted? They count for nothing compared to the Central Advisory Board for Education which has been given a pivotal role by the National Education Policy in making any significant changes. You do not dare to go to the Central Advisory Board for Education because it will throw out of the window your partisan and motivated right to twist the minds of our children and saffronise their souls. This Parliament will never accept such saffronisation of education.

Your preface claims a very special awareness of India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. If you have this pride really of this awareness, then why had you given an exclusive place of pride to Sanskrit — or Sanskrit, as you refer to and write it in English? Referring to Soniaji'a intervention, His Holiness Swami Chinmayananda brought up here the origin of Sanskrit in our current Education Policy.

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to paragraph 5.33 of the 1986 Policy a copy of which I have here with me. Paragraph 5.33 days:

> "Efforts will be made to delve into India's ancient fund of knowledge and to relate it to contemporary reality. This effort will imply the development of facilities for the intensive study of Sanskrit and other classical languages."

The Education Policy of 1986, as reiterated in 1992, links the study of Sanskrit to the study of other classical languages. And in the 1992 review, the revised policy formulations, one more sentence is added to the original paragraph 5.33 and that sentence reads like this:

"An autonomous commission will be established to foster and improve teaching, study and research in Sanskrit."

And that is why, Swami Chinmayanand stopped but it actually said "in Sanskrit and other classical languages". Why did Swami Chinmayananda forget that? And what are these classical languages?

I got with me the Plan of Action of 1992. I refer to para 18.7.5 which is about monitoring and evaluation. It is at page 186. What are these classical languages? The position is made completely clear. It says:

"A Committee comprising representatives of the Department of Education, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishtan and NGOs working in the field of Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic languages would be constituted to monitor and evaluate implementation of schemes for the promotion of Sanskrit and other classical languages. Similar arrangements would have to be made at the State level."

The 1986 Policy, the 1992 modifications and the Plan of Action of 1992 make it abundantly clear that we regard Sanskrit as one of at least three classical languages that are spoken and used in India and need to nurtured, namely Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. But what have you done? You have referred to Arabic and Persian as foreign languages. I would draw your attention to page 55 of the National Curriculum. In section 2.8.5, under the heading 'Foreign Languages', you have said 'foreign languages like Arabic and Persian'. How can you change it?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Do you think that Arabic and Persian are Indian languages?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes. This is exactly what we mean by *saffronisation*. I am glad that this point has come up.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sanskrit is mentioned in our Constitution, but not Arabic and Persian. Constitution-makers specifically referred Sanskrit in the Constitution.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I did not interrupt when Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra spoke. Twice I have yielded to him. I am not going to yield to him anymore.

This is exactly what we mean by *saffronisation*. Through the National Policy on Education of 1986 which was passed by this Parliament when BJP had only two Members and through the 1992 Plan of Action, we regarded Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic as classical languages that needed to be promoted in our educational system. What Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has made completely overt is what Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi was trying to smuggle it in a completely covert way. I would like to ask this question notwithstanding Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's intervention. I am asking this question to the hon. Minister. Does the hon. Minister accept or not accept that the religions which originated in the Middle-East are an inalienable part of India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage? Do you accept *Ahle Kitab* as much part of Advisasis, the Dravidians and the Aryans? If so, how can Arabic and Persian and for that matter Latin, Pali, indeed even Tamil, be any less indigenous or any less classical than Sanskrit? All these are classical languages?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In the fourteen national languages, Arabic and Persian do not find a place...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This is what I mean by subterfuge....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Kindly go to the people of India and tell them that Persian and Arabic are Indian languages...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We have been going to the people of India since 1885, for the last 116 years, telling them that we regard Muslims whose holy books are written in Arabic and Persian are very much part of ourselves...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is twisting of the fact. He is saying that Arabic and Persian are Indian languages...*(Interruptions)* This is the conflict. You tell the people of India about it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat. They are not yielding.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have heard their answer. I have not heard it from the Minister. But I have heard it from his supporters. It is quite clear that their answer is that Sanskrit is an indigenous classical language because 85 per cent are Hindus of this country and only 15 per cent or less are...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish it. You say that 85 per cent of the population of this country are Hindus and less than 15 per cent the 'Ahele Kitaab'. That only underlines the basic difference between that side and this side. They are 85 per cent Indians. We are hundred per cent Indians! That is the big difference.

The National Curriculum Framework then goes on to say at page 3:

> "A sizeable segment of the contemporary Indian society seems to have distanced itself from the religio-philosophic ethos, the awareness of the social design and the understanding of the heritage of the past."

Mr. Minister, I suggest that you look into yourself to discover who is distanced from our ethos: you and your saffron brand of Hindutva or Dr. Radhakrishnan whose monumental work "*The Hindu Way of Life*" is quite alien to your curious brand of Hindutva. Further, you say at page 13:

> "Why our children know about Newton? They do not know about Aryabhata. They do know about computer but they do not know about the advent of concept of Zero or the decimal system."

I do not know about the Minister's children. But everyone of our children know and my eldest daughter who is a first-class graduate in Mathematics, knows that it was India which gave the world the concept of the zero and eschewed the world civilisation from the constriction of Roman numerals. Let me read to you a few sentences from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's celebration of Indian mathematics from his book, "*The Discovery of India*", from pages 216 to 221 published even before we became Independent. He said:

19.48 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

"The astonishing progress that the Indians had made in mathematics is now well known and it is recognised that the foundations of modern arithmetic and algebra were laid long ago in India. Probably, to begin with, there was some kind of geometrical algebra used for making figures for Vedic altars. The adoption of Zero and the decimal place value system in India unbarred the gates of the mind to rapid progress in arithmetic and algebra. These and other advances in mathematics are contained in books written by a succession of eminent mathematicians from the fifth to the twelfth century A.C. There are earlier books also such as *Baudhayana*, c.8th century B.C., *Apastamba* and *Katyayana* both of c.5th century B.C. which deal with geometrical problems, especially with triangles, rectangles, and squares. But the earliest extant book on algebra is by the famous astronomer Aryabhata who was born in," Does the hon. Minister know this?, "AC 476. He wrote this book on astronomy and mathematics when he was only 23 years old. Aryabhata, who was sometimes called the inventor of algebra must have relied, partly at least, on the works of his predecessors. The next great name in Indian mathematics is that of Bhaskara I, (AC 522) and he was followed by Brahmagupta (AC 628), who was also a famous astronomer and who stated the laws applying to *shunya* or zero and made other notable advances. The last great name is that of Bhaskara II, who was born in A.C. 1114. He wrote three books on astronomy, algebra and arithmetic. His book on arithmetic is known as Lilavati which is an odd name for a treatise on mathematics, as it is the name of a women."

There are frequent references in the book to a young girl who is addressed as 'O Leelavati' and is then instructed on the problems stated. It is believed, without any definite proof that Leelavati was Bhaskara's daughter. The style of the book is clear and simple and suitable for young persons to understand. This book is of 1940s. The book is still used and partly for its style, in Sanskrit schools. So, what is this? Is not it much more accurate, much more elegant and certainly more grammatical than the NCERT recycling worn out cliché?

Sir, their national curriculum claims to be based on the 81st Report of the Standing Committee chaired by Shri S.B. Chavan and Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra made a great play of this, where I ask, the hon. Minister and I ask him to answer this. Anywhere in the Chavan Committee Report does one come across the kind of priceless nonsense that we see at page 18 under the section 'Education for Value Development'? I quote that:

> "Self-recognition would come to them through proper value education that would facilitate their spiritual march for the level of sub-consciousness to that of super-consciousness."

Is this a national curriculum framework or *Swamijis Pravachana*? Now, please see two pages down. I take page 20, it says and I quote:

"All steps must be taken to ensure that no rituals are propagated in the name of education."

He said this himself. Then what is one to say of his University Grants Commission propagating degrees in *Purohitya*? If that is not rituals and before he rushes to answers, I would like to request the hon. Minister not to...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: On which page it is?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is on page 20 of the National Education Document.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Where is it?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He should check himself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Goel, you are the next speaker, you can quote it at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Goel, we do not have much time, please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is the last paragraph. I am ready from there.

Before the hon. Minister rushes to answer, may I just put on suggestion to him that he should not forget that an 'Aiyar' is as good a *purohit* as a 'Joshi'. Faced with severe criticism about his fantastical concepts of Emotional Quotient (EO) and Spiritual Quotient (SQ) in preference to the well established Intelligence Quotient (IQ), in his final draft he has said at page 27 and he has brought up the question of Multiple Intelligence (MI).

I congratulate him. It is fair enough. But their editing is so poor that having given up the concept of EQ and SQ at page 27, he turns up to page 34 and says that 'we must acquire basic life skills and high standards of Intelligence Quotient, Emotional Quotient and Spiritual Quotient. They do not even know what they are talking about.

The first paper had it on page 27 and the screamed and knocked it out and they cannot even spend their time to find whether it figures anywhere else. These days we have computers and you just have to fill EQ and SQ and it will show you all the pages that you think of.

I close, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, since I heard your bell, with this priceless gem. It is a real priceless gem from page 128, the last paragraph, of this monument to educational illiteracy, the proposed national curriculum framework. Please listen carefully to this, it will amuse you, who knows it might even instruct you, but I assure you it will totally confuse you and tell you what does this mean. I am quoting word by word:

"Idealistic policy perception and the uncouth realities of implementation must converge and rest on pillars firmly rooted in intelligence thoughts, pragmatic vision and unshakeable commitment."

What does this gibberish mean? How can this House accept that this proposed National Curriculum Framework has the consent of the best minds of this country? It is such a mismatch of BA-failed philosophy, mixed metaphors and embarrassing solecisms is taken as the curriculum for the future of our children.

Sir, this is really my last word. Please do not press the bell again. No wonder, 128 of the best and the brightest academics of this nation—I have got a full list here—which is exactly equally to this 128-pages of rubbish, have rubbished this draft, and in a Press Release on the eve of our Independence Day said, 'Stop the fraud on our children.' I need say no more. Please stop this fraud on our children.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Justice Iyer has withdrawn it later...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the next speaker is Shri Vijay Goel. Let there be order in the House

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we can sit up to 8'o clock and not beyond that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only two or three speakers are there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is an important matter. It cannot be done...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The Speaker has announced that we would sit up to 8 p.m....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have decided to sit up to 8 p.m. There are two or three speakers. Let them speak tomorrow and after that, the Minister can reply...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, in the BAC it was decided that we would complete this discussion today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We will sit up to 8 o'clock today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided in the BAC that this discussion should conclude today. Let us hear Shri Vijay Goel.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has presented a good speech by citing number of quotations. Why I am saying so because his presentation was good though it was not related to the subject. I have not risen for defending my point. I have risen to congratulate Mr. Education Minister and Officers of NCERT that if this is saffronisation then this education is all the more compulsory for students.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: What do you mean by saffronisation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alvi ji, please sit down.

[English]

Please do not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: There could not have been a better curriculum than what has been prepared by those educationist and officers. There was a Parliamentary Standing Committee consisting of 45 Members of Parliament. A prominent leader of Congress, Shri S.B. Chavan was its Chairman, Members of all parties were there in the Committee. All the Members including S.B. Chavan attended meetings of that committee. That Standing Committee adopted its report after so much deliberations. I would like to read out what Shri S.B. Chavan has written.

[English]

"The Committee considered and adopted the Report submitted by the Sub-Committee."...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Shri Malhotra ji has already made this point. You should speak something new.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will the report of Standing Committee will be implemented in toto...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time 4 hours had been allotted for this subject 1.5 hours out of 4 hours had been wasted in disturbance.

...*(Interruptions)*

20.00 hrs.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: You want to make fun of the report of Standing Committee. There should be a discussion in Parliament on the report of the Standing Committee. Thereafter a letter was written to all the Chief Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He will continue tomorrow....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete his speech please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, it is already 8 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At least let him complete.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He will take another 10-20 minutes' time. He can speak tomorrow.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: He has already completed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, he has not completed. He has just now started his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want to hear him. He will speak for a longer time. I think we will take up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members we have spent so far four hours but two-and-a-half hours' time

was spent on discussion and one-and-a-half hours' time was spent on only interruption. This is the situation.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That would equally apply to everybody.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to equal it?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, I do not want but it should be understood.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He can continue tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I would like to ask the opposition whether no deliberations were held on the report of this committee, whether proposed documents were not sent to the Chief Ministers, whether the Ministers of the States were not called, whether editors of the newspapers were not consulted with I have got the whole list...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We were called on 29th January and you had cancelled that meeting on 27th January. After that, full seventh months have passed, but not even once honourable Minister dared to call the meetings of Education Ministers of all the States...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I would like to say that there have been consultations on high-level. All have been consulted with. Even the Education Minister of West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There might have been consultations at RSS level...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I don't understand why we should not consult RSS...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, please address the Chair. I am telling you, do not create problem for you and to me also.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, it is 8 o'clock, the discussion on this subject may be continued tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please resume your seat. Let him complete his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I am speaking on the points which Shri Somnath Chatterjee has raised. I am not provoking anybody...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak in brief.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I am talking about the subject only. I don't think that there is anything wrong in consulting RSS. I am a member of RSS and I am proud of it. People have approved of our policies, that is why we are in power and the opposition has been rejected, that is why these people are out of power...*(Interruptions)* The education, sacraments and patriotism love for motherland which I have inherited...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have got only 23 per cent votes and you say that you have got majority.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Congress has ruled with 40 per cent votes only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The elections of U.P. would decide your fate...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The RSS people should come in uniform so that we can identify them. If the RSS guys are sincere, they should come with their Lathi and Topi so that we can identify them.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I have been in RSS since when I was a small child. It is the RSS only, which has infused in me the moral values and the sentiments of patriotism. I want that its teachings should flourish...*(Interruptions)* We people say—"Namste Sada Vatsale Matrabhume Tavya Hindubhume Sukham Vardhitoaham. Mahamangle Punyebhume Tavdharthe Patatvesh Kayo Nameste Nameste. Prabho Shaktiman Hindurashtradugbhuta, Emme Sadarm Tavam Namamo Vayam."

[Shri Vijay Goel]

Oh my motherland, I always salute these. Oh Hindu land, it is here only where I was born and brought up in luxuries. Oh Holy Land, My body should be dedicated for your welfare only. I salute you innumerable times. Oh, almighty God; Oh the creator of Hindu Rashtra, I salute you respectfully...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The whole House seems to be very restless.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, please let him complete his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I am making this point only because when 'Somnath Da' spoke about RSS that poison is being spread, thereby spoiling young generation...*(Interruptions)* They have talked about secularism. I hail from that area of Chandni Chowk where a large number of Muslims are there. I have won twice from this area. There is no problem at all. There are such schools where people are willing to read Gita-whether they are Muslim, people understand this culture. On the other hand, they people only provoke. Whatever the procedure has been adopted by NCERT, all have been consulted and included therein. One Minister of West Bengal was in it, probably his name was Kanti Bhai. Their suggestions were included in it.

Sir, I would like to tell you honestly about what has been written in para number 13 of the S.B. Chavan report. The main thing is that in this report nothing has been stated about religious preaching and education of religion. Difference between both the concepts should be understood. He has mentioned all the religions and not any particular religion.

[English]

"Another aspect that must be given some thought is religion, which is the most misused and misunderstood concept. The process of making the students acquainted with..."*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What are you reading?.. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is reading from the Report of the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Goelji, what are you saying?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am speaking on the subject only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you quoting?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: This is S.B. Chavan report. He was chairman of the Standing Committee...*(Interruptions)* I am not insulting anyone...*(Interruptions)* In wider consultation, a discussion was held with Ministers of Education and Chief Ministers of various states. At that time, some suggestions were given by Education Minister of West Bengal which have also been included in this report....*(Interruptions)* I am reading it out for your information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have staged a walk out...*(Interruptions)* They all have staged walk out in protest.

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: These are two different meetings. He is referring to the meeting convened by the NCERT. The Education Ministers' Conference that you are referring to was held in 1998. That is not the meting the referring to. He is referring to some process that was initiated by NCERT.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How the report of Standing Committee has come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Hon'ble Minister is saying something else and he is giving a different version.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever it may, he is authenticating whatever he is quoting. That is all.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am a new Member to Parliament. You can disturb me...*(Interruptions)* I was referring to Shri Kantibhai, NCERT has appointed its consultant...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Just now you have said that it is from the report of the Standing Committee. Please tell me what this paper is?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please do not disturb now. He has already said that it is from the report.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is contradictory. Hon'ble Minister was saying something different. He is saying another thing. We should know what paper is being read...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: It seems that hon'ble Members have not read this national curriculum. This national curriculum has been prepared after receiving the report of Standing Committee which was based on the outcome of the debates held by NCERT with Ministers of Education, Chief Ministers of various states and Editors. I am reading out the para number 13 of the report of the Standing Committee Shri S.B. Chavan was Chairman of this Committee. I was telling about Kantibhai, during the meeting with the Minister of Education...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Education of West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not Kantibhai but Kanti Biswal.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: That may be Kanti Biswal...*(Interruptions)* The report I was reading...*(Interruptions)* Dada, it is good that you can interrupt speech of any Member and prevent him from speaking. Member like me has to think twice when a Senior Member like you, who is also in panel of Chairmen, interrupt my speech. You are one of the best parliamentarian and Member of panel of Chairmen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: A comprehensive debate was held by NCERT before formulating this curriculum. As some Members are criticizing it today, I would like to say that it is not fair to politicize this matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, it is already 8 O'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear him. Let him, at least, conclude his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, you are inviting trouble by looking at them and talking to them directly. Why do you not address the Chair?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Secondly, NCERT pondered over various aspects of the curriculum and only two points have been raised by Members of opposition parties. But so far, not a single line has been quoted by any Member of Opposition parties which could reveal that moral values have not been included and only saffronisation has been promoted in the curriculum. Nothing such has been quoted by the Members which reveals that the curriculum is going to affect adversely the future generation. We should congratulate those learned persons who have worked hard for preparing this new curriculum. Several points were taken into consideration while preparing the new curriculum such as creating a society where everyone gets an equal opportunity in justifiable manner. Secondly, according importance to Indian Contribution in development of World Civilization, thirdly, preparation of such a curriculum which may help in bringing out similarities of various cultures and traditions. The fourth point was to reduce the burden on students and abolish the system of pass fail. But now a days, tendency of smelling conspiracy in study of culture and tradition has developed. Leaving all these points, only two points have been raised here by the Members of opposition parties. The first point is about teaching moral values and second is regarding providing information about various religions.

As mafia groups remain active in the field of crime...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, is he quoting something or giving an opinion of his own?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Pawanji, whenever I quote anything, I will tell you which line is from which book.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Not him, but you should tell that to the House.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: As mafia groups remain active in the field of crime in the same way in the name of secularism, some people have been active in the field of education of the last 40-50 years...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is highly objectionable. He is condemning the last 40 years of education system...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is highly objectionable...*(Interruptions)* He is telling us *mafias*. This is highly objectionable...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, this is highly objectionable...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is highly objectionable and this should be expunged from record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is referring to the last 40 years of...*(Interruptions)* This is very objectionable. He is referring to *mafia* taking over education for the last 40 years...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is telling us *mafia*. This is highly objectionable...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let met find out what he said.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This should be removed from record...*(Interruptions)* This should not go on record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: We are not *mafias*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this should not form part of the record...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing unparliamentary. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He is condemning the entire education system of the last 40 years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, if there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it. Let us finish his speech and then disperse. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: His remarks should be withdrawn. Are all people from Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan to Dr. Kothari *mafias*?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, if there is anything objectionable or unparliamentary, I will expunge it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He should be asked to withdraw his remarks and apologise...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Who has been addressed as mafia by him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he should with draw his remarks and apologise...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: From Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan to Dr. Kothari, everybody has been accused by him. Are they *mafias*?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHRIA: Sir, he should withdraw his remarks...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given the ruling that if there is anything that is objectionable and unparliamentary, I will expunge it. Please let us wait till he completes his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: The vested interests of these people happen to be in danger in the last three years due to the change of the central government. And that is why these people have raised the issue of saffronisation

of education although there is nothing of this sort. When the state of West Bengal can forcefully teach about the personalities like Karl Marx, Lenin and stalin then why the central Government can not teach its students about great personalities. This is my son's diary of fifth standard, which contains the details of holidays. How would you define the holidays of Diwali, Dushehra, Holi, Id mentioned in this diary? The Government have also announced Mahashivratri, Ramnavmi, Mahavir Jayanti, Buddha poornima, Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, Diwali, Dushera, Id-ul-juha, Moharram, Milad-ul-Nabi, birthday of Prophet Mohammed as holidays.

Shouldn't my son know about the sikh or the Muslim religion when we are observing birthday of Guru Nanak, or prophet Mohammed as holidays? Why then have the schools been closed on these days?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please let me speak. Holidays on all these festival have been announced so that the children, in their houses, may get information regarding these great personalities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had gone to London in the recent past and had the opportunity to visit a schools. And in that school, maths was taught through Sanskrit as a medium of instruction. I have brought this book of the Ramayana and Hanuman ji from that school only, where these are taught. In our country, we people burst into big laughter when there are references to the Mahabharata, or the Ramayana, or Lord Rama, or Lord Krishna...*(Interruptions)* or when Sanskrit is quoted with Arabic, or persian etc.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, they are becoming the overlords of religion and we object to such an unjustified action of these people. Hinduism is not a religion for them, but only a source of manipulation and medium to fulfil their vested interests...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now, Shri Goel.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am quoting page 19 of the National curriculum which has been prepared on national basis.

[English]

"What is required today is not religious education, but education about religion and their basics. The Chavan Committee of 1999 strongly urges education about religions as an instrument of social and religious harmony."

[Translation]

I request the hon. Members that every action should not be seen as politically motivated.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now because your time limit is over.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am giving an example. Justice Krishna Iyer had written a letter to the Chairman of the Education committee' that education was being saffronised, but no sooner did the NCERT chairman — Shri Rajput ji gave his reply, Justice Krishna Iyer immediately wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister stating that all his doubts were cleared and the entire work was going on very well.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Since when have you become an adviser of Justice Krishna Iyer?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Well, I do not know, but one thing is sure that you cannot become Justice Krishna Iyer because one cannot leave the line once adopted by him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is one committee of the schools 'National Progressive' which has 100 schools as its members another committee named — 'Action committee of unaided Recognised Schools has 250 schools as its members. No hon. Member has ever raised any point with regard to the education system of these two committees, rather it has been said that the curriculum prepared by the NCERT and the Ministry of Education is good and appropriate. They have also said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What have they said? Please read it out.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am going to read it but this I had talked to its General Secretary. He has said that this curriculum is being implemented everywhere...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Vijay Goel]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am noticing it for the first time that whatever one says, he should have the written document to that effect. If the hon. Member wants it a practice in the House, I do not have any objection.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Nobody in the country has come out saying a word in support of what the NCERT has done.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now you please adjourn the House as he does not have anything to speak.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it hardly matters as to what I have to speak or what I do not have to speak, but the people have forced the congress party to opposition benches. There should not be any politics in education in the interest of the country. There was a time when congress was a good party and used to support every progressive step, but today they are supporting these policies to satisfy people and make their vote banks.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You are doing the same thing and all this is being done for the same purpose.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please tell me as to what TDP has said?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as people are united here, you may assume that everything, said has been right and nothing is wrong. The allies may disintegrate some day but that day for you to feel happy has yet not come.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will have to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, senior persons speak in between.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you speak to them directly, they would also do so. There is no use of us being here.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that our opposition Member may kindly go through the entire documents of the NCERT and think over the matter calmly. They will not find even a single line wrong in these documents. The Government is open minded. If anything is required to be changed, for the educational benefit of our children, our hon. Minister of education is a very open minded and open hearted person you can give your suggestions to him. But please do not criticize the decisions of the standing committee here. Hon. Brother it is no matter for you the congress party to be happy, as when the congress people applaud you, you forget that you do not want to drink their tea even. Jai hind, Jai Bharat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please adjourn the House now, rest of the work would be done tomorrow.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please adjourn the House now.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

20.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 17, 2001/Sravana 26, 1923 (Saka)

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